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Panama Legal News

January **2024**

New minimum wage increase that will apply in the Republic of Panama for the next two years.

By means of **Decree No.1 of 10 January 2024** (the "Decree"), the new minimum wage rates per hour are set throughout the national territory, according to the economic activity, occupation and the size of companies.

The minimum wage is defined as the lowest amount of money that the employer must pay the employee, set per unit of time, for the region, activity or profession in question. The monthly wage that each employee must receive, will depend on the number of hours per week that has been agreed in the employment contract.

It should be noted that, we are not facing a general wage increase, but rather aimed at those employees who receive minimum wages, or whose current rate is below the new minimum wage due to such increase.

The Decree will result in an increase based on the following percentages:

- 4.5% for small businesses
- 6.0% for large companies
- 7.0% for companies in the banana sector

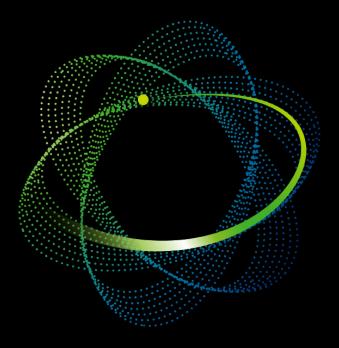
No changes were made in connection with the classification of the country's districts, Region 1 and Region 2. In addition, it is worth mentioning that, some activities have the same rate applicable to both regions.

The specific rate per hour, corresponding to each activity, profession and region can be verified at the following official link: <u>https://www.gacetaoficial.gob.pa/</u> pdfTemp/29946_A/102409.pdf



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