

CHAMBER SUPPORT & ADVICE

From April 2026

The Minimum Wage for workers aged 21 and over will rise in line with recommendations from the government's independent adviser. From April, workers over 21 will see a 4.1% increase to their minimum wage, bringing it up to £12.71 an hour.

Workers aged 18 to 20 will get a bigger increase of 8.5%, to £10.85 an hour, and 16 and 17-year-olds will get a 6% increase to £8 an hour.

New minimum wage hourly rates, from 1 April 2026:

- National Living Wage (over-21s): £12.71 (+ £0.50) (+4.1%)
- 18 to 20-year-olds: £10.85 (+ £0.85) (+8.5%)
- 16/17s and apprentice rate: £8 (+ £0.45) (+6%)

Announcing the changes, Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves said:

"I know that the cost of living is still the number one issue for working people and that the economy isn't working well enough for those on the lowest incomes.

Too many people are still struggling to make ends meet and that has to change. That's why I'm announcing that we will raise the national living wage and also the national minimum wage, so that those on low incomes are properly rewarded for their hard work.

These changes are going to benefit many young people across our country, getting their first job."