



INCREASE IN US MINIMUM WAGE

The Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) in Washington, D.C. has reported on the pending increase in the hourly minimum wage in the United States of America. The US House of Representatives recently approved the bill that would increase the minimum wage to \$7.25 per hour over two years, setting the stage for the first minimum wage increase in almost ten years. President George Bush and the Senate Republicans have proposed a series of tax breaks for business in return for their support of the minimum wage hike.

The US House of Representatives passed the Fair Minimum Wage Act on 10 January 2007 and the US Senate passed its version on 01 February 2007 calling for a gradual increase in the minimum wage by 11 March 2009. The two bills must be reconciled in the committees before being sent to the President.

The US has a minimum wage in each state. Some counties and cities within states may observe a higher minimum wage than the rest of the state. Presently, Washington state has the highest minimum wage, while Kansas has the lowest minimum wage.

Source: POLO - Washington, DC
March 2007