

# Job Seekers Out-number Living Wage Jobs



The 2009 Job Gap; Wages Under Pressure calculates:

- A living wage for Colorado and Colorado counties,
- the number and proportion of living wage job openings compared to the number of people seeking employment.

## Living Wages In Colorado Far Greater Than Minimum Wage

The living wage for a single adult is \$13.34 an hour. This is based on what is needed to meet basic needs and provides some ability to deal with emergencies and plan ahead. The living wage for a single adult with two children is \$29.71 an hour. Colorado’s \$7.28 an hour wage floor doesn’t allow a family to afford a basic standard of living in any county across the state.

## Recession crowds Colorado’s Job Market - Living Wage Jobs for Families Scarce

For every 12 job seekers, there is only one job that will pay the \$27.59 needed to support a family of four with one worker. For single parents, that ratio increases to 15:1. Of all job openings in the state, less than one third offer a wage that could support a family. For a single parent with two children, only 18 percent of job openings pay a living wage.

Colorado’s Job Gap	State Hourly Living Wage	Job Seekers per Living Wage Opening	Percent of All Job Openings Paying Less than a Living Wage
Single adult	\$13.34	4 to 1	40%
Single adult with one child	\$22.89	9 to 1	70%
Single adult with two children	\$29.71	15 to 1	82%
Two adults (one working) with two children	\$27.59	12 to 1	78%
Two adults (both working) with two children	\$37.60	*Total amount needed from two working adults	

## More Families are Falling into the Job Gap

This year’s Job Gap study relies on data from the most recent complete year – this report and the job gap figures reflect the disparity between job seekers and living wage openings at the end of 2008. However, even a partial picture of 2009’s economy shows more and more people are looking for jobs.

Between 2008 and 2009, the number of job-seekers in Colorado increased by over 50%.

The full report, including county level living wage figures can be found at [www.nwfc.org](http://www.nwfc.org)

