

National Minimum Wage Information

Entitlement to the National Minimum Wage

Most workers in the UK over compulsory school leaving age are legally entitled to be paid at least the NMW and all employers have to pay it to you if you are entitled to it. It makes no difference:

- If you are paid weekly or monthly, by cheque, in cash or in another way
- If you work full time, part time or any other working pattern
- If you work at your employer's own premises or elsewhere
- What size your employer is
- Where you work in the UK

You are entitled to the NMW even if you sign a contract agreeing to be paid at a lower rate. This is regardless of whether you sign of your own free will or because your employer persuades or makes you. The contract will have no legal effect and you must still be paid the proper rate.

Current rates

Rates from 1 October 2010

From 1 October 2010 new rates and age bands will apply.

- £5.93 - the rate for workers aged 21 and over
- £4.92 - the 18-20 rate
- £3.64 - the 16-17 rate
- New minimum wage of £2.50 per hour for apprentices who are either under 19 or in the first year of their apprenticeship

If you are of compulsory school age you are not entitled to the NMW. Some of your other employment rights are also different.

For help and support on the national minimum wage contact the pay and works rights helpline on 08009172368

Information taken from www.direct.gov.uk