

**DAN GARDNER**  
**COMMISSIONER**



**ANNETTE TALBOT**  
**Deputy Commissioner**

**BUREAU OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES**

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In January and July of each year, the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries publishes the prevailing wage rates that are required to be paid to workers on public works contracts in the state of Oregon. Quarterly updates are published in April and October.

These rates are determined using data collected from an annual statewide construction industry wage survey of occupations and crafts performing commercial building and heavy and highway construction in 14 geographic regions of the state. The 2005 survey collected over one million hours of data for over 33,000 journeyman workers.

Since beginning my term as labor commissioner in January, 2003, I have sought the comments and suggestions of the public and construction industry for improvements to the survey process. I continue to encourage such input to ensure that the most accurate data possible is collected.

Prevailing wage rates are the minimum wages that must be paid to all workers employed in the construction, reconstruction, major renovation or painting of all public works, unless specifically exempted by state law. Copies of these rates must be incorporated into all bid specifications when the advertisement for such public works contracts is issued. A provision that prevailing wage rates must be paid must also appear in the contract. The rates in effect at the time the bid specifications are first advertised are those that apply for the duration of the project, with one exception: If, during the bidding process, the prevailing wage rates change, the public contracting agency has the option of amending the bid specifications to reflect such changes.

Effective January 1, 2006, Senate Bill 477, passed by the 2005 Legislature, requires the higher of either the state prevailing wage rates or federal Davis-Bacon rates to be paid to workers on projects in Oregon subject to **both** the state PWR law and federal Davis-Bacon Act. SB 477 further requires the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries to compare state and federal rates for each occupation in each locality in the state, and publish and make available information showing which rate is higher for each occupation.

A separate publication, entitled "*PREVAILING WAGE RATES for Public Works Contracts in Oregon subject to BOTH the state PWR and federal Davis-Bacon Act*" provides the applicable rates to be paid to workers on projects subject to **both** the state Prevailing Wage Rate law and federal Davis-Bacon Act. This publication is available upon request and is also available electronically at [www.oregon.gov/boli](http://www.oregon.gov/boli).

If you identify any errors in the rates published, or if you have any questions regarding application of the state PWR law or the applicable rates to be paid on any project, contact the bureau's Prevailing Wage Coordinator in Portland at (971) 673-0839.

Dan Gardner  
Commissioner  
Bureau of Labor and Industries