

**BRAD AVAKIAN**  
**COMMISSIONER**



**DOUG MCKEAN**  
**Deputy Commissioner**

**BUREAU OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES**

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

Unless specifically exempted by state law, prevailing wage rates are the minimum wages that must be paid to all workers employed on all public works. These rates are determined using data collected from a statewide construction industry wage survey conducted by the Oregon Employment Department of occupations and crafts performing commercial building and heavy and highway construction in 14 geographic regions of the state.

Although this construction industry survey is normally conducted on an annual basis, due to the number of concerns I heard expressed about the efficiency and methodology of the survey, I postponed the 2009 survey and asked the legislatively-established Prevailing Wage Advisory Committee (PWAC) to review the survey process and make recommendations to me for improvements and increased data validity. It is my goal that the most accurate data possible be collected by this survey and with the least amount of disruption to contractors' businesses.

Based on the recommendations received from the PWAC and Oregon Employment Department, several revisions to the survey methodology and process are being made. The revised survey will be sent out to contractors in July. New rates based on this survey data will be published in January, 2011. (Detailed information regarding these survey revisions is available on BOLI's website at [www.oregon.gov/BOLI/WHD/PWR/.](http://www.oregon.gov/BOLI/WHD/PWR/))

A separate publication, entitled "*Definitions of Covered Occupations for Public Works Contracts in Oregon,*" provides occupational definitions used to classify the duties performed on public works projects. Another publication, entitled "*PREVAILNG 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. These publications are available upon request and are also available electronically at [www.oregon.gov/boli](http://www.oregon.gov/boli).

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.

Brad Avakian, Commissioner  
Bureau of Labor and Industries