



Township of Bernards

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PREVAILING WAGE INCREASE EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024

Effective July 1, the municipal prevailing wage threshold will rise from \$16,263 to **\$19,375**, meaning contracts awarded directly by municipal governing bodies must be valued at this amount or more to be covered by the [New Jersey Prevailing Wage Act](#). Municipal government contracts below the threshold are not subject to the Act.

Municipal Prevailing Wage thresholds adjust every five years based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). All other public agencies, including at the county level, municipal boards of education, and utility authorities, remain under a prevailing wage threshold of \$2,000, which does not adjust.

“The established wages under the Prevailing Wage Act ensure equitable compensation for workers, while leveling the playing field among employers,” said Robert Asaro-Angelo, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (NJLDR). “It is important that our municipalities uphold their obligations under the law, which aligns these wages with industry standards to prevent the erosion of skilled labor while promoting economic fairness.”

Prevailing wage rates are based on the collective bargaining agreements established for a particular craft or trade where public work is performed. In New Jersey, these rates vary by county and by the type of work performed. Current and archived prevailing wage rates are available on the [NJLDR website](#).

Applicable rates are those wages and fringe benefits in effect on the date the contract is awarded to a general contractor. All pre-determined rate increases listed must be paid, beginning on the dates specified. All rates are in effect for two years, at which time a new rate determination must be selected from the date of expiration.

Contractors interested in bidding on or engaging in public work subject to the Prevailing Wage Act must [register](#) with the NJLDR's Division of Wage and Hour Compliance as required by the [Public Works Contractor Registration Act](#).

"Public work" means construction, reconstruction, demolition, alteration, custom fabrication, or repair work, or maintenance work, including painting and decorating, done under contract and paid for in whole or in part out of the funds of a public body, except work performed under a rehabilitation program. "Public work" shall also mean construction, reconstruction, demolition, alteration, custom fabrication, or repair work, done on any property or premises, whether or not the work is paid for from public funds, if, at the time of the entering into of the contract the property or premises is owned by the public body or:

Maintenance work" means the repair of existing facilities when the size, type or extent of such facilities is not thereby changed or increased. "Maintenance work" also means any work on a maintenance-related project that exceeds the scope of work and capabilities of in-house maintenance personnel, requires the solicitation of bids, and has an aggregate value exceeding \$50,000.

For more information, visit: www.nj.gov/labor/wageandhour/prevailing-rates/public-works/