who’s not working
unemployment rate in 2018
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

who’s earning what
median weekly earnings in 2018
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

more education = more options

more hours at minimum wage needed to afford rent

How hard is it to keep a roof over your head on minimum wage? This graphic from the Low Income Housing Coalition shows how many hours it takes, working a minimum wage job, to afford a two-bedroom apartment at the average market rate.

In 2018, there was no state in which a minimum-wage worker could afford a modest two-bedroom apartment at fair market rent working a standard 40-hour week, without paying more than 30% of his or her income.

An American household must earn at least $22.10 an hour to afford a modest, two-bedroom apartment without spending more than 30% of income on rent.

* Minimum wage in Vermont = $10.78 per hour
Minimum wage in New York = $11.10 per hour

hours needed to afford an apartment:

- 60 hours a week or less
- Between 61–78 hours
- 79 hours a week or more