

News from the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry

January 2023

Blissenbach named commissioner of DLI

Governor Tim Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan announced on Dec. 21, 2022, that Nicole Blissenbach has been named commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI).

"I am excited that Commissioner Nicole Blissenbach will continue to lead the Department of Labor and Industry," said Walz. "From successfully overseeing the Frontline Worker Pay program to improving workplace safety for Minnesotans across the state, she is the right person to fight for and represent Minnesota's workers."



"I am grateful to Commissioner Blissenbach for stepping up to serve and improve the health and safety of Minnesota's workers," said Flanagan. "As commissioner, she will continue the important work that she has already started to ensure safe and respectful workplaces for all workers."

"My career has been devoted to helping workers understand and enforce their rights and amplify their voices in the workplace," said Blissenbach. "I wholeheartedly believe in the Department of Labor and Industry's mission and look forward to continue working with the agency's dedicated staff members to advance the goals of our agency and the Walz-Flanagan administration."

[Read the full news release.](#)

Women's Economic Security Act report released

DLI is responsible for the enforcement of five provisions of the Women's Economic Security Act (WESA), passed by the Legislature in 2014 and revised in 2021. WESA is a comprehensive employee protection law designed to protect and promote opportunities for women in the workplace



Each year, DLI creates a report outline DLI investigative data and outcomes related to its enforcement of WESA for the most recent year and since the law's adoption in spring 2014.

Recently, DLI published a report with data from September 2021 through August 2022. Read the report at

dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/WESA_annual_report_2022.pdf.

New year, new minimum-wage rates as of Jan. 1, 2023

Minnesota's minimum-wage rates were adjusted for inflation on Jan. 1, 2023, to \$10.59 an hour for large employers and \$8.63 an hour for other state minimum wages.

As of Jan. 1, 2023:

- Large employers – with annual gross revenues of at least \$500,000 – must pay at least \$10.59 an hour.
- Small employers – with annual gross revenues less than \$500,000 – must pay at least \$8.63 an hour.

- The training wage rate, \$8.63 an hour, may be paid to employees younger than 20 years of age for the first 90 consecutive days of employment.
- The youth wage rate, \$8.63 an hour, may be paid to employees younger than 18 years of age.

The state minimum-wage rates will not apply to work performed in the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, which have higher minimum-wage rates.

[Read the full news release.](#)

Learn about Minnesota Dual-Training Pipeline

Minnesota Dual-Training Pipeline helps employers create or enhance a competency based, earn-and-learn dual-training approach to meeting their workforce needs. With Pipeline, workers receive a combination of related instruction paired with on-the-job training. [Attend a Pipeline event to learn more about the program.](#)

COMPACT newsletter published

The [December 2022 edition of COMPACT](#), the quarterly newsletter from DLI's Workers' Compensation Division, was published online Dec. 19. This edition includes: 2022 Workers' Compensation System Report released; new members sought for Medical Services Review Board and Rehabilitation Review Panel; Work Comp Campus training and OSHA recordkeeping training available; Minnesota workplace injury and illness rate decreases; and more.

New edition of the CCLD Review newsletter available

Read about the 50th anniversary of the State Building Code, continuing education reminders, enforcement actions and more in the [new CCLD Review newsletter](#).

MNOSHA fatality, serious-injury investigation summaries online

Each month, Minnesota OSHA (MNOSHA) Compliance publishes current, updated summaries of its fatality investigations and serious-injury investigations.

For the federal-fiscal-year that began Oct. 1, 2022, MNOSHA has investigated three fatalities through Dec. 27.

The information provided about each investigation is: the inspection number, date of incident and worksite city; the type of business and number of employees; a description of the event; and the outcome of the MNOSHA Compliance investigation.

- [View the summaries.](#)

The Department of Labor and Industry ensures Minnesota's work and living environments are equitable, healthy and safe.