

US Bartender Statistics

BARTENDING FAQs

How much does a bartender make per hour?

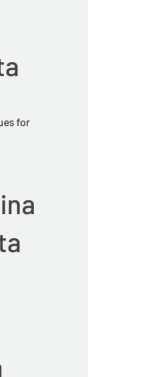
A bartender earns an average of **\$12.00** per hour sans tips. The top percentile earns an average of \$22.93 an hour while the lowest 10% earns approximately \$8.63 per hour. See the top paying cities and states below.

How much do bartenders make in tips?

Location and the time of the work shift affect how much bartenders earn in tips. Per shift, they can earn anywhere between \$40 in tips on a slow night in a small town bar up to as much as \$1000 on busy nights in a high-end big-city nightclub.

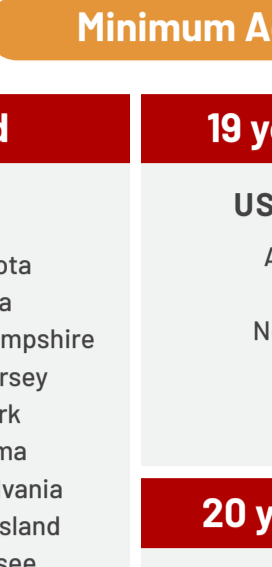
Do you need a license to work as a bartender?

If you live in **Alabama, Delaware, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin**, you will be required to pass an alcohol awareness program and get your bartending license to work as a bartender.



What are the duties of a bartender?

A bartender's responsibilities include: customer service, pouring and serving a wide range of alcoholic and nonalcoholic drinks, collecting payments, checking IDs, cleaning and operating the bar, and monitoring the intoxication levels of customers.



How old do you have to be to become a bartender in the United States?

In some states, you can work as a bartender at 18. However, each state has its own age requirements to permit individuals to serve alcohol. Check with your state's appointed agency.

Minimum Age for Bartending

18 years old	19 years old	21 years old
US STATE Colorado Connecticut Florida Georgia Hawaii Illinois Iowa Louisiana Maine Maryland Massachusetts Michigan	US STATE Arizona Idaho Nebraska 20 years old US STATE Kentucky	US STATE Alabama Alaska Arkansas California Delaware Indiana Kansas Mississippi Missouri Nevada New Mexico North Carolina North Dakota Ohio Oregon South Carolina South Dakota Utah Virginia Washington West Virginia Wyoming

BARTENDER EMPLOYMENT FACTS

As of 2020, there are approximately **492,300 people** employed as a bartender in the United States.

Jobs in bartending are expected to grow at a rate of **32% from 2020 to 2030**, much faster than the average of other occupations.

The top 5 industries that hire the most bartenders



Top industries where bartenders are earning the most:

- Traveler Accommodation (Hotels, Casinos, Bed-and-breakfast inns, etc.)
- Employment Services
- Grantmaking and Giving Services
- Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods

52% of bartenders work full-time

48% of bartenders work part-time

Number of years bartenders stay on the job

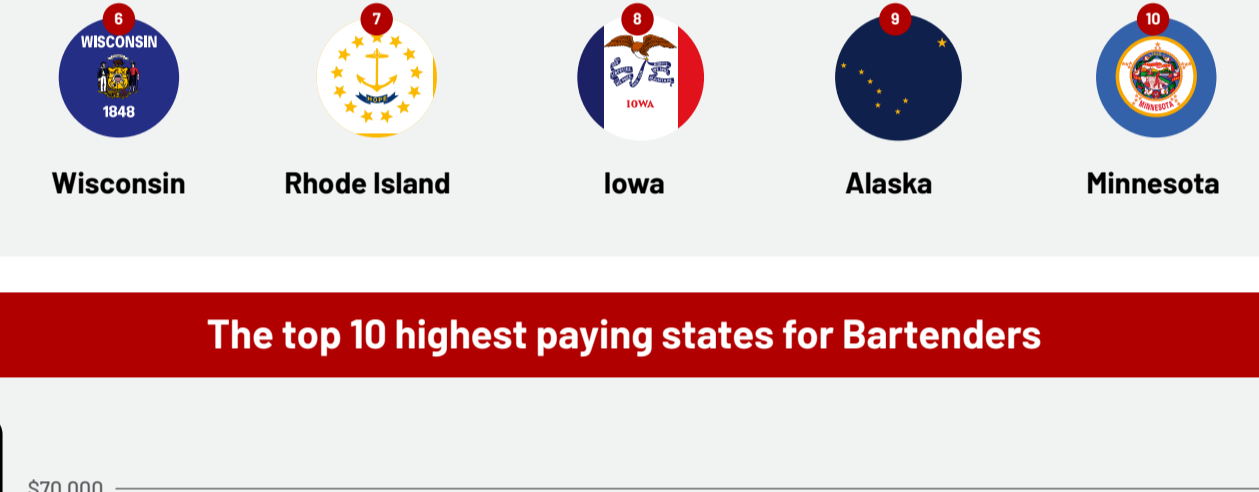


Top 5 reasons bartenders leave the profession

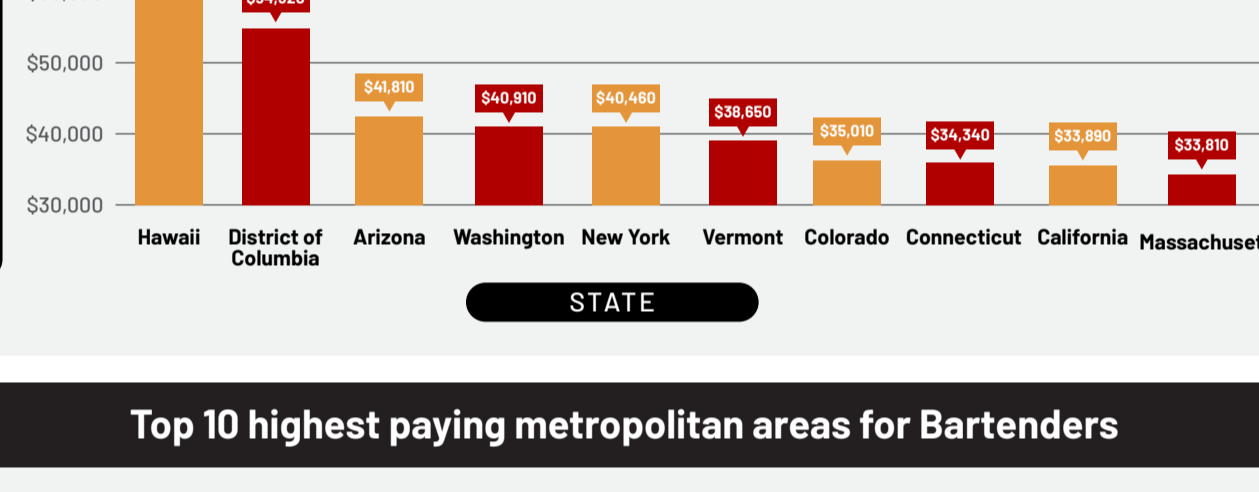
- Lack of creative freedom
- Unstable income
- Communication failure with management
- Personal relocation
- Harassment/retaliation

THE BEST STATES TO WORK IN AS A BARTENDER

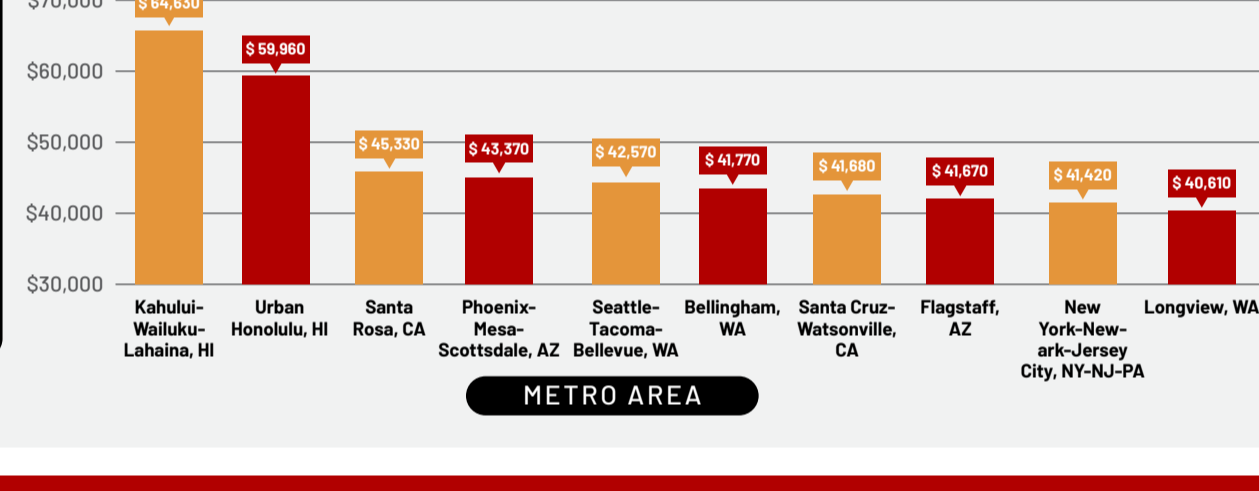
The top 10 states that hire the most number of bartenders are



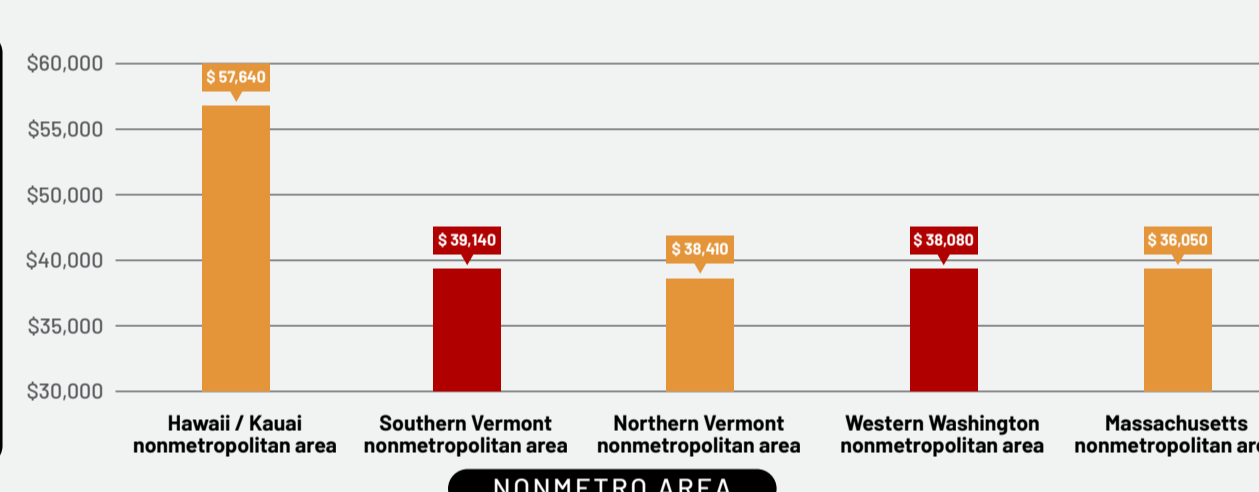
The top 10 states with the highest concentration of employed bartenders compared to the national average are



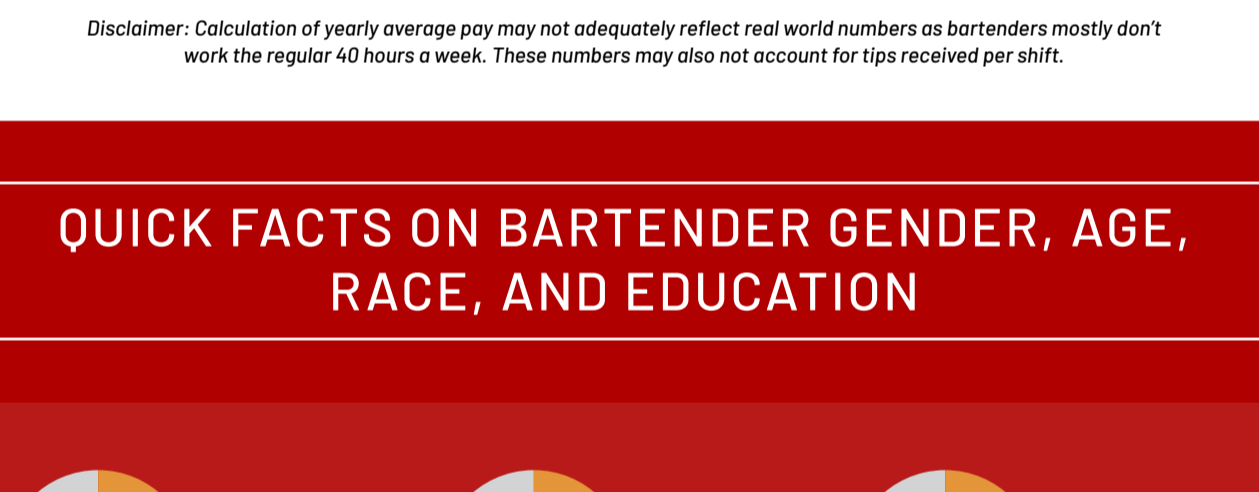
The top 10 highest paying states for Bartenders



Top 10 highest paying metropolitan areas for Bartenders



Top 5 highest paying nonmetropolitan areas for Bartenders



Disclaimer: Calculation of yearly average pay may not adequately reflect real world numbers as bartenders mostly don't work the regular 40 hours a week. These numbers may also not account for tips received per shift.

QUICK FACTS ON BARTENDER GENDER, AGE, RACE, AND EDUCATION

- 50%** of all bartenders identify as women
- 46.5%** identify as men
- 3.5%** are of unknown genders

THE AVERAGE AGE OF A BARTENDER IS 36 YEARS OLD

- 38%** of employed bartenders are 40 years old or older
- 34%** are age 20 to 30
- 24%** are between 30 to 40 years old

- 65.9%** of bartenders are white
- 14.5%** are Hispanic
- 9.4%** are African American
- 45%** of bartenders have bachelor's degrees
- 24%** have associate degrees
- 24%** have diplomas

COMMON BARTENDING INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

- What do you like about bartending?
- What do you think are the responsibilities of a bartender?
- Tell me about your previous bartending experience.
- Have you gone through alcohol awareness training?
- What's your favorite drink to make?
- How would you make an [Insert Recipe name here]?
- How would you deal with a situation where:
 - a customer had too much to drink?
 - you believe somebody is using a fake ID?
 - multiple customers are demanding your attention?
- How do you upsell?
- Are you willing to work flexible shifts?
- How will you keep yourself busy on slow nights?
- Were you in a situation where you made a mistake? If so, tell me how you handled it.

TOP 25 DRINKS A BARTENDER SHOULD LEARN TO MAKE

PRO TIP! Focus on making certain drinks well instead of memorizing a hundred recipes.

- Black Russian**
2 parts vodka and 1 part coffee liqueur
- Bloody Mary**
2 parts vodka, 4 parts tomato juice, 3/4 parts lemon juice, with preferred dashes of Tabasco & Worcestershire sauce, and salt & pepper to taste
- Champagne Cocktail**
a cube of sugar, bitters, and champagne on top
- Cosmopolitan**
1 1/2 parts citrus vodka, 1/2 parts triple sec, 1/4 parts simple syrup, 1/2 parts fresh lime juice, and 3/4 parts cranberry juice
- Daiquiri**
1 1/2 parts light rum, 3/4 parts lime juice, and another 3/4 parts simple syrup
- Irish Coffee**
2 teaspoons of brown sugar, 4 parts hot coffee, 1 1/2 parts Irish whiskey, and 1 part lightly-whipped heavy cream
- Mai-Tai**
1 part white rum, 1/2 parts orange curacao liqueur, 1 part lime juice, 1 1/2 parts orange syrup, 1/4 parts simple syrup, 1 part dark rum
- Manhattan**
2 parts rye or bourbon, 1 part sweet vermouth, and dashes of Angostura bitters
- The Martini**
2 parts gin, 3/4 parts dry vermouth, lemon zest twist
- Mojito**
wedged limes, mint leaves, 2 tablespoons of white sugar, 1/2 parts white rum, 4 parts club soda
- Negroni**
equal parts gin, sweet vermouth, and Campari
- Old-Fashioned**
1/2 teaspoon of sugar, three dashes of bitters, and 2 parts bourbon or rye whiskey
- Pina Colada**
frozen pineapple chunks, 1/2 parts of white rum, and 3/4 parts of coconut milk
- Margarita**
lime wedges, kosher salt, 4 parts tequila, 2 parts triple sec, and 1 1/2 parts fresh lime juice
- Mimosa**
equal parts sparkling wine and chilled orange juice
- Moscow Mule**
2 parts vodka, 1/2 parts fresh lime juice, and 4 parts ginger beer
- Whiskey Sour**
2 parts whiskey, 3/4 parts lemon juice, and another 3/4 parts simple syrup
- White Russian**
1 1/2 parts vodka, 3/4 parts coffee liqueur, and 3/4 parts cream
- Gimlet**
2 1/2 parts gin and 3/4 parts lime cordial
- Boulevardier**
1 1/2 parts bourbon whiskey, 1 part sweet vermouth, and 1 part Campari
- Sazerac**
a sugar cube, dashes of Peychaud's bitters, 2 parts rye whiskey, and 1/4 parts anise liqueur
- Gin and Tonic**
2 parts gin, and 4 to 6 parts tonic water
- Kamikaze**
1 1/2 parts vodka, 1 part triple sec, and 1 part lime juice
- Long Island Iced Tea**
1 part sour mix, 1 part cola, and 1/2 parts of each: gin, light rum, vodka, blanco tequila, triple sec, and sour mix
- Sidcar**
2 parts brandy, 1 part triple sec, and 3/4 parts lemon juice

References:
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