



Recommended pay rates for live comedy (summary version)

Comedians' pay depends on factors such as experience, profile and skill, the type of performance, the venue location, capacity and ticket price. The New Zealand Comedy Guild (the Guild) has developed recommended pay rates for comedians in consultation with the industry, these are summarised here. A more detailed version of this document is available as a members-only resource from the Guild's website.

After extended consultation with the wider comedy community the Guild has decided on **the recommended minimum of \$12/min for professional shows** (to be clear, this applies to time on stage only). In larger venues, performance fees should also increase in line with ticket prices - see flow chart on following page. Recommendations have also been made for other (non-professional) shows - see table below.

All professional performances should be covered by a contract and the performer should issue an invoice for the fee. Templates are available on the Guild website.

Recommended pay rates for different types of live comedy show

Category	Ticket price	Payment for performers	Expectations of performers
Open mic	Less than \$10 (including koha/free)	MC: \$150 Other acts: unpaid	MC - engage crowd, mixture of tested and new material Unpaid spots: new/untested material.
Semi-pro	More than \$10 but less than \$20	MC: \$200 Other acts: paid at a lower rate, or only some acts paid (e.g. headliner only)	In between open mic and pro show expectations, depending on pay. See Section 3.4 of the full document.
Pro	\$20 to \$35 or higher	MC: \$300 Other acts: \$12 per minute (or higher, depending on ticket price)	High standard of performance (i.e. "gold" material) expected from all acts

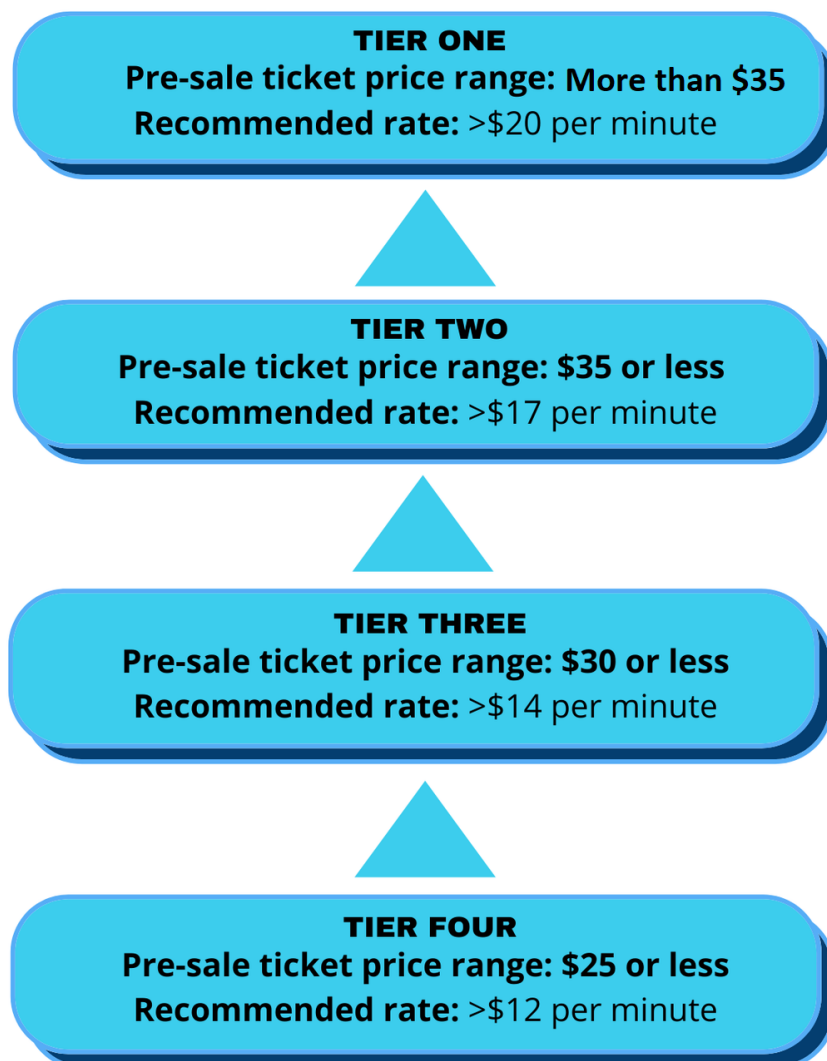
*All rates exclude GST, but include any other applicable taxes.

For charity events, comedians may choose to donate their time, but should generally only be asked to do so if other professionals involved (producers, technicians, chefs and servers) are under the same expectations.

nz comedy
guild PAYMENT FLOW CHART

This flow chart is designed to give comedians and producers an indication of what is a fair rate of pay to a performer based on the ticket price for a show. There are variables that will determine what is a fair rate (i.e. are travel and accomodation costs inclusive of pay rate).

Note: \$12 per minute rate applies to venues seating 120 or less, regardless of ticket price.



Note: ticket prices exclude booking fees paid by the customer.