



# Numbers that Count

## What is the county-by-county impact of raising New York's minimum wage to \$8.50 an hour?

The New York State Assembly recently voted to increase the state's minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$8.50 an hour. Over one million New York workers would benefit from such an increase. An estimated 880,000 workers who currently are paid less than \$8.50 an hour would benefit directly. About 200,000 more workers—those earning slightly more than \$8.50 an hour—would likely see an increase as a result of a spillover effect as employers seek to maintain relative wage patterns among their employees.

Statewide, the estimated 880,000 workers who would directly benefit from a minimum wage increase represent 10.1 percent of all resident New York workers. Among several of the state's larger upstate counties, the share of workers who would benefit from a minimum wage increase is well above the statewide average: in Broome County 12.6 percent of workers would benefit, in Oneida County 12.5 percent, in Erie County 11.4 percent, in Monroe County 11.1 percent and in Onondaga County 10.9 percent.

The share of workers affected by an increase is below the statewide average in the downstate suburban counties and in New York City. However, despite these lower shares, the majority of affected workers reside in the higher-cost downstate region: 352,000 New York City workers would directly benefit, as would 126,500 Long Island workers and 72,500 workers in the northern suburban counties of Westchester, Rockland, Orange and Putnam counties.

In all, 18 counties in New York State each have 10,000 or more workers who would directly benefit from an increase in the minimum wage to \$8.50 an hour.

These estimates were developed by the Fiscal Policy Institute using the 2011 Current Population Survey to generate the statewide, New York City and balance of state estimates. County estimates were generated using each county's share of low-income tax filers for 2008, the latest year for detailed tax data.

New York workers who would benefit from an increase in the minimum wage to \$8.50 an hour, by county of residence

	Annual average resident employment	Number of workers directly benefiting	Percent of workers directly benefiting
<b>New York State total</b>	<b>8,729,600</b>	<b>880,100</b>	<b>10.1%</b>
<b>New York City</b>	<b>3,592,200</b>	<b>352,000</b>	<b>9.8%</b>
Bronx	478,400	66,700	13.9%
Kings	1,011,300	105,500	10.4%
Manhattan	853,300	63,500	7.4%
Queens	1,028,000	99,500	9.7%
Richmond	221,300	16,800	7.6%
<b>Rest of State</b>	<b>5,137,300</b>	<b>528,600</b>	<b>10.3%</b>
Albany	143,000	14,700	10.3%
Allegany	21,700	2,300	10.6%
Broome	85,900	10,800	12.6%
Cattaraugus	36,800	4,300	11.7%
Cayuga	37,400	3,900	10.4%
Chautauqua	58,000	7,300	12.6%
Chemung	36,900	4,600	12.5%
Chenango	22,600	2,700	11.9%
Clinton	34,300	4,100	12.0%
Columbia	28,100	3,100	11.0%
Cortland	22,000	2,300	10.5%
Delaware	19,600	2,400	12.2%
Dutchess	134,400	12,400	9.2%
Erie	424,100	48,200	11.4%
Essex	16,000	2,000	12.5%
Franklin	20,300	2,400	11.8%
Fulton	24,100	2,800	11.6%
Genesee	29,600	3,200	10.8%
Greene	21,600	2,500	11.6%
Hamilton	2,800	300	10.7%
Herkimer	28,300	3,200	11.3%
Jefferson	44,200	5,000	11.3%
Lewis	11,300	1,200	10.6%
Livingston	29,600	3,000	10.1%
Madison	33,000	3,200	9.7%
Monroe	339,000	37,600	11.1%
Montgomery	21,400	2,900	13.6%

*In the higher-cost downstate region, 352,000 New York City workers would benefit directly —as would 126,500 Long Island workers and 72,500 workers in the northern suburban counties*

New York workers who would benefit from an increase in the minimum wage to \$8.50 an hour, by county of residence, cont.

	<b>Annual average resident employment</b>	<b>Number of workers directly benefiting</b>	<b>Percent of workers directly benefiting</b>	
<i>Among several of the state's larger upstate counties, the share of workers who would benefit is well above the statewide average</i>	Nassau	635,900	60,500	9.5%
	Niagara	100,900	12,000	11.9%
	Oneida	99,000	12,400	12.5%
	Onondaga	209,800	22,800	10.9%
	Ontario	52,100	5,400	10.4%
	Orange	160,300	15,400	9.6%
	Orleans	17,300	2,100	12.1%
	Oswego	51,600	5,900	11.4%
	Otsego	28,900	3,100	10.7%
	Putnam	50,500	3,900	7.7%
	Rensselaer	75,400	7,500	9.9%
	Rockland	145,700	13,000	8.9%
	Saratoga	108,000	9,900	9.2%
	Schenectady	68,500	7,700	11.2%
	Schoharie	14,000	1,400	10.0%
	Schuyler	9,200	1,000	10.9%
	Seneca	15,500	1,800	11.6%
	St. Lawrence	43,400	5,200	12.0%
	Steuben	40,200	5,000	12.4%
	Suffolk	721,300	66,000	9.2%
	Sullivan	31,200	3,800	12.2%
	Tioga	22,900	2,500	10.9%
	Tompkins	52,100	3,800	7.3%
	Ulster	80,500	8,900	11.1%
	Warren	32,700	3,800	11.6%
	Washington	29,700	3,000	10.1%
	Wayne	43,400	4,800	11.1%
	Westchester	440,600	40,200	9.1%
	Wyoming	18,500	2,000	10.8%
	Yates	12,200	1,400	11.5%

Source: Estimates by Fiscal Policy Institute. Current Population Survey analyzed to estimate number of workers directly affected for New York State and New York City by a minimum wage increase to \$8.50. Rest of State estimate of 528,600 is the difference between the statewide and the NYC estimates. County and NYC borough shares of affected workers based on county shares of low-income tax filers (income less than \$20,000), 2008 tax return data, New York State Tax and Finance Department.



## More information from the Fiscal Policy Institute on the minimum wage in New York State

### **Raising New York's minimum wage will boost the state economy.** January 30, 2012.

In fact, one in six New York workers would benefit if the minimum wage were increased to \$10 an hour. Includes the history of New York and federal minimum wage changes, shows the purchasing power of New York's minimum wage over the decades, and lists the 18 states with higher minimums.

[http://fiscalpolicy.org/FPI\\_BoostTheEconomyBoostTheMinimumWage\\_20120130.pdf](http://fiscalpolicy.org/FPI_BoostTheEconomyBoostTheMinimumWage_20120130.pdf).

### **N.Y. minimum wage doesn't stretch as far as it used to.** February 12, 2012.

An op ed by Frank Mauro published in the *Poughkeepsie Journal*. Also includes FPI's policy recommendation for a smooth transition to an adequate wage, indexed for inflation.

[http://www.fiscalpolicy.org/20120212\\_PoughkeepsieJournal.pdf](http://www.fiscalpolicy.org/20120212_PoughkeepsieJournal.pdf).

### **Which workers will benefit, if the New York minimum wage is raised to \$8.50 an hour?**

February 17, 2012.

This brief estimates how many workers will benefit (a million) and breaks down the data by demographic category. Includes an estimate of the positive job creation impact of an increase in the minimum wage.

[http://fiscalpolicy.org/FPI\\_NumbersThatCount\\_BenefitsOfIncreasingTheMinimumWage.pdf](http://fiscalpolicy.org/FPI_NumbersThatCount_BenefitsOfIncreasingTheMinimumWage.pdf).

### **Increasing New York State's Minimum Wage.** April 18, 2012.

Testimony presented at a public forum by Frank J. Mauro. Indicates that (1) most minimum wage workers are adults working full-time, and (2) increasing the minimum wage by reasonable amounts has neither reduced employment nor fueled inflation.

[http://fiscalpolicy.org/FPI\\_IncreasingTheMinimumWage\\_20120418.pdf](http://fiscalpolicy.org/FPI_IncreasingTheMinimumWage_20120418.pdf).

### **Raising New York State's Minimum Wage.** April 23, 2012.

Testimony presented to the New York Assembly Labor Committee by James A. Parrott. Ten reasons that an increase in the minimum wage makes sense. Cites academic experts who have carefully analyzed the employment impact of minimum wage increases.

[http://fiscalpolicy.org/FPI\\_RaisingNewYorkStatesMinimumWage\\_20120423.pdf](http://fiscalpolicy.org/FPI_RaisingNewYorkStatesMinimumWage_20120423.pdf).

### **Fact vs. Fiction on Raising New York's Minimum Wage.** May 21, 2012.

The Fiscal Policy Institute and the National Employment Law Project show that, on an after tax basis, all minimum wage workers would bring home more pay following a minimum wage increase. And, Family Health Plus eligibility is not affected for the overwhelming majority of low-wage New Yorkers.

<http://fiscalpolicy.org/NELP-FPI-fact-vs-fiction-on-raising-NYs-minimum-wage.pdf>.

The Fiscal Policy Institute is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit research and education organization committed to improving public policies and private practices to better the economic and social conditions of all New Yorkers.

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