

YouGov Survey: The Minimum Wage



Sample 1000 U.S. Adult Citizens
Conducted August 2 - 5, 2022
Margin of Error ±3.4%

1. To your knowledge, when was the last time the federal minimum wage was increased in the U.S.? If you aren't sure, please provide your best guess.

Less than 1 year ago	9%
1 - 3 years ago	19%
4 - 6 years ago	9%
7 - 9 years ago	8%
10 - 12 years ago	12%
13 - 15 years ago	9%
16 - 20 years ago	8%
More than 20 years ago	8%
Not sure	19%

2. To your knowledge, is your state's minimum wage the same as the federal minimum wage, or higher?

The same	35%
Higher	30%
Not sure	35%

3. Do you think there should or should not be a federal minimum wage in the United States?

Should be	60%
Should not be	25%
Not sure	16%

4. Currently, the federal minimum wage is . Do you think this is too high, too low, or about right?

Too high	3%
About right	13%
Too low	77%
Not sure	6%

5. Currently, the minimum wage in \$inputstate is . Do you think this is too high, too low, or about right?

Too high	7%
About right	24%
Too low	64%
Not sure	5%

6. Thinking about the \$7.25 hourly federal minimum wage, would you say it is set at a level that is...

Enough for someone to live a comfortable lifestyle	2%
Enough for someone to live a basic lifestyle that is sustainable throughout their life	5%
Enough for someone to live a basic lifestyle for a short period of time before they find a higher-paying job	17%
Not sustainable to live on for any period of time	70%
Not sure	6%

7. Which comes closer to your view?

No one should be paid less than the minimum wage set by the federal government	68%
There should be exceptions to minimum-wage law, so that under some circumstances people can be paid less than minimum wage	19%
Not sure	13%

8. Assuming there is a federal minimum wage, do you think employers should be required to pay the following groups of people at least minimum wage, or should they be allowed to pay them below it?

	Should be required to pay at least minimum wage	Should be allowed to pay below minimum wage	Not sure
Full-time students	72%	16%	13%
People under age 20	72%	18%	10%
Tipped employees	65%	24%	11%
Prison inmates	35%	48%	17%
Live-in domestic workers	64%	21%	15%
Non-profit workers	69%	16%	15%
Farm and agricultural workers	80%	10%	10%
Seasonal workers (such as amusement park workers)	78%	12%	10%
Creative professionals (such as actors and musicians)	74%	13%	13%
Babysitters	56%	31%	13%
Taxi drivers	74%	14%	12%
Refugees	64%	20%	16%
Workers with disabilities	78%	12%	11%

9. How often do you think employers pay minimum-wage eligible workers wages that fall below minimum wage?

Very often	22%
Somewhat often	33%
Not very often	18%
Not at all often	7%
Not sure	20%

10. How good or bad of a job do you think the government does at enforcing minimum wage laws in the U.S.?

Very good job	6%
Somewhat good job	19%
Somewhat bad job	26%
Very bad job	22%
Not sure	28%

11. Which of the following comes closest to your view? Raising the minimum wage would...

Help the economy because it gives workers more money to spend	53%
Hurt the economy because it would raise the cost of hiring for businesses	22%
Won't help or hurt the economy	11%
Not sure	14%

12. Do you agree or disagree with the following:

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
The free market should determine what the minimum wage is	15%	20%	34%	14%	17%
Raising the minimum wage would cause the cost of goods and services to increase	23%	31%	27%	12%	7%
Minimum wage jobs should only be a stepping stone to higher-paying jobs	29%	28%	25%	10%	8%
Raising the minimum wage would result in higher unemployment by reducing the number of workers that employers can afford to hire	15%	21%	28%	22%	15%
The minimum wage should be adjusted based on inflation (the cost of goods and services)	35%	28%	21%	8%	8%
The minimum wage should vary based on the cost of living in different areas	24%	34%	22%	11%	10%
The minimum wage should be high enough to encourage people currently on welfare to seek out jobs	38%	33%	18%	5%	5%
The minimum wage should be adjusted automatically based on economic conditions	26%	27%	25%	12%	10%
The salaries of executives should be capped so that they can only earn a certain amount more than their lowest-paid employees	37%	20%	21%	9%	13%

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Raising the minimum wage would reduce government spending on financial aid for poor and low-income individuals	17%	27%	26%	15%	15%
Raising the minimum wage would increase employee retention and reduce hiring and training costs	27%	28%	29%	9%	7%
Raising the minimum wage would increase the discretionary spending of millions of workers, resulting in greater profits for retailers and other businesses	23%	28%	27%	11%	10%

13. Have you ever worked for minimum wage?

Yes, I currently do	5%
Yes, in the past but not currently	73%
No	16%
Not sure	6%

14. Throughout your life, how many years have you worked a job that paid minimum wage?

Asked of people who say they've worked for minimum wage

1 year or less	19%
2 - 3 years	27%
4 - 5 years	22%
6 - 10 years	14%
11 - 20 years	8%
More than 20 years	4%
Not sure	6%

15. Do you have any friends or family who currently work for the minimum wage?

Yes	30%
No	46%
Not sure	23%

16. Compared to Great Britain, do you think the U.S. has... ?

A higher minimum wage	9%
About the same minimum wage	14%
A lower minimum wage	36%
Not sure	42%

17. Do you think most workers earning the federal minimum wage are younger than 25, or older than 25?

Most are younger than 25	41%
Most are 25 and older	26%
Not sure	33%

Interviewing Dates	August 2 - 5, 2022
Target population	U.S. citizens, aged 18 and over.
Sampling method	Respondents were selected from YouGov’s opt-in Internet panel using sample matching. A random sample (stratified by gender, age, race, education, geographic region, and voter registration) was selected from the 2019 American Community Survey.
Weighting	The sample was weighted according to gender, age, race, education, 2020 election turnout and Presidential vote, baseline party identification, and current voter registration status. Demographic weighting targets come from the 2019 American Community Survey. Baseline party identification is the respondent’s most recent answer given prior to March 15, 2022, and is weighted to the estimated distribution at that time (33% Democratic, 28% Republican). The weights range from 0.259 to 5.644, with a mean of 1 and a standard deviation of 0.45.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.4% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	53 questions not reported.