

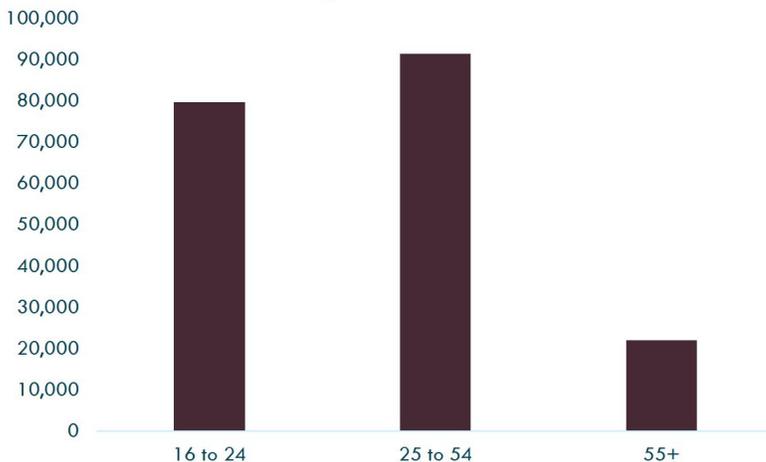
Policy brief: Senate Bill 162 would boost wages for more than 1 in 10 Louisiana workers

The best anti-poverty program is a job that pays a living wage. But here in Louisiana, far too many workers are struggling to afford basic needs because their jobs don't pay enough. [Senate Bill 162](#) would address this by requiring that workers be paid at least \$8.50 per hour starting in 2020. At a time when [42 percent of Louisiana households](#) are financially struggling, this simple policy change can boost local economies by giving hundreds of thousands of hard-working Louisianans what they need most: a raise.

Although it only allows for a modest increase in earnings for workers in low-wage jobs, SB 162 would have a substantial impact on working families in Louisiana:

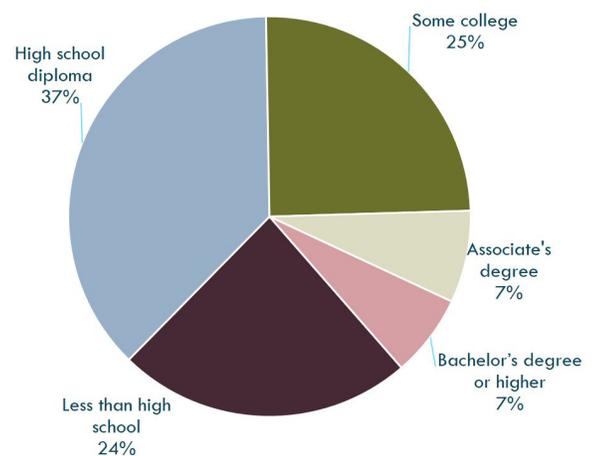
- More than 71,000 Louisiana workers would get an immediate raise once the \$8.50 wage kicks in, as their current wages fall below that threshold.
- Another 122,000 workers earn slightly above \$8.50 an hour, but would also see their paychecks increase as the higher minimum puts upward pressure on their wages.
- More than 54,000 of the workers who would get a raise are married or single parents. About 105,000 Louisiana children would benefit as their parents earn more.
- Nearly two-thirds (65.5 percent) of the workers who would receive a wage increase are women. Fourteen percent of all female workers in the state would see their wages rise as a result of the bill.
- 113,000 workers who would benefit are 25 years of age or older and 90 percent work more than 20 hours per week.
- More than 27,000 of the workers who would benefit have a college degree.
- The average annual pay raise for directly affected workers (currently earning below \$8.50) would be nearly \$1,700.

Largest share of workers affected by minimum wage increase would be "prime age" workers



Source: Economic Policy Institute analysis of Current Population Survey

4 in 10 workers who would benefit from a minimum wage increase have attended or graduated from college



Source: Economic Policy Institute analysis of Current Population Survey

[Research suggests](#) that modest increases in the minimum wage will have no negative effect on jobs. In fact, a minimum wage increase would pump \$159 million dollars in additional wages into the state's economy each year by giving workers more money to spend at local businesses, which could in turn lead to job creation.

Number of people affected by an increase to \$8.50 per hour

CATEGORY	ESTIMATED WORKFORCE	DIRECTLY AFFECTED	INDIRECTLY AFFECTED	TOTAL AFFECTED	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL AFFECTED
Total	1,811,774	71,206	122,037	193,243	100.0%
Sex					
Female	901,128	42,215	84,335	126,550	65.5%
Male	910,646	28,992	37,702	66,693	34.5%
Age					
20+	1,753,505	58,455	110,133	168,589	87.2%
Under 20	58,268	12,751	11,903	24,654	12.8%
16 to 24	264,519	32,904	46,883	79,787	41.3%
25 to 39	625,574	17,259	32,441	49,700	25.7%
40 to 54	561,112	14,407	27,367	41,774	21.6%
55+	360,569	6,636	15,346	21,982	11.4%
Race/Ethnicity					
White	1,122,268	31,203	50,359	81,562	42.2%
Black	538,807	38,947	62,034	100,981	52.3%
Hispanic	84,418	1,057	5,039	6,096	3.2%
Asian or other	66,281	-	4,604	4,604	2.4%
Family structure					
Married parent	413,912	10,233	8,841	19,073	9.9%
Single parent	195,314	13,986	21,066	35,052	18.1%
Married, no kids	483,403	5,557	19,865	25,422	13.2%
Unmarried, no kids	719,145	41,431	72,264	113,695	58.8%
Family income					
less than \$14,999	196,528	26,087	38,086	64,173	33.2%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	125,172	7,476	12,308	19,784	10.2%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	198,812	7,633	13,968	21,602	11.2%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	257,607	9,525	17,771	27,296	14.1%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	343,764	5,682	13,563	19,245	10.0%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	255,270	4,835	14,159	18,993	9.8%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	261,611	3,983	7,089	11,072	5.7%
\$150,000 or more	173,010	5,986	5,093	11,079	5.7%
Industry					
Construction	132,371	1,996	1,709	3,705	1.9%
Manufacturing	145,464	2,568	4,588	7,156	3.7%
Retail	219,042	14,407	40,953	55,360	28.6%
Transport and utilities	87,480	1,853	406	2,259	1.2%
Financial activities	90,788	588	4,308	4,896	2.5%
Admin & waste management	60,785	3,033	5,241	8,274	4.3%
Professional, science, mgmt	87,396	2,226	2,675	4,901	2.5%
Education	170,958	812	1,243	2,055	1.1%
Health care	249,791	9,835	24,545	34,380	17.8%
Arts, ent, rec, accommodation	60,452	6,328	7,229	13,557	7.0%
Food & drink service	133,752	16,184	16,778	32,963	17.1%
Other	252,239	11,375	12,361	23,737	12.3%
Occupation					
Management	201,991	1,600	2,288	3,889	2.0%
Professional	401,660	4,366	6,818	11,184	5.8%
Service	352,142	33,922	43,079	77,001	39.8%
Sales	206,346	13,439	34,427	47,866	24.8%
Office, adm in support	235,997	4,122	18,582	22,704	11.7%
Construction	125,636	3,069	680	3,749	1.9%
Install, maint, repair	64,913	1,059	2,201	3,260	1.7%
Transportation	106,388	5,698	7,641	13,340	6.9%
Other	116,700	3,931	6,320	10,251	5.3%
Work hours					
Part time (< 20 hours)	69,935	8,853	10,700	19,553	10.1%
Mid time (20-34 hours)	222,864	28,761	38,581	67,341	34.8%
Full time (35+ hours)	1,518,975	33,593	72,756	106,349	55.0%
Education					
Less than high school	163,191	21,331	24,493	45,824	23.7%
High School	584,832	27,209	45,061	72,270	37.4%
Some college, no degree	369,981	13,134	34,808	47,942	24.8%
Associate's degree	173,738	3,494	10,882	14,376	7.4%
Bachelor's or higher	520,031	6,039	6,793	12,831	6.6%
Children with at least one affected parent	1,127,793	50,805	54,520	105,325	