

REGIONAL IMPACT OF RAISING NEW HAMPSHIRE'S MINIMUM WAGE

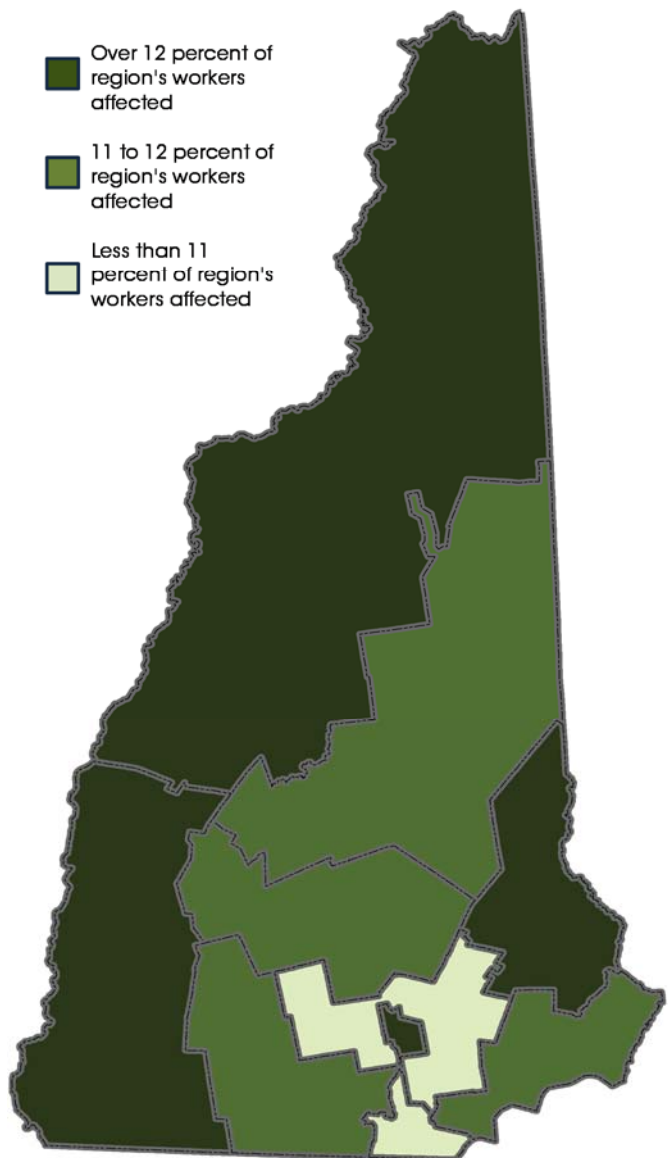
Raising New Hampshire's minimum wage would begin to build an economy that works for everyone in the Granite State, enhancing economic security for thousands of workers and helping to boost bottom lines at local businesses. In particular, raising the minimum wage to \$9.00 per hour by 2016 would increase the wages, either directly or indirectly, of nearly 76,000 New Hampshire workers, resulting in an additional \$64 million in wages, in the aggregate, being put into the state's economy over the next two years.

While the impact of a higher minimum wage would be felt throughout New Hampshire, some regions of the state would be more affected than others, due to variations in population and in the composition of local workforces. The map at right is based on the geographic regions the US Census Bureau uses for its annual American Community Survey; as it illustrates, raising the minimum wage would have the most concentrated impact in those parts of the state with the greatest density of low-wage workers.ⁱ

Overall, roughly 12 percent of the New Hampshire workforce would enjoy higher wages if the minimum wage were set at \$9 per hour. In Manchester and in Northern New Hampshire, which includes communities such as Berlin and Gorham, the share of the workforce affected by such a change in policy would exceed that statewide mark, at 15 percent and 14 percent respectively.ⁱⁱ A \$9 per hour minimum wage would also have a more concentrated impact in the Strafford

Impact of Minimum Wage Increase Would Vary by Region

*Number of workers and share of workforce directly and indirectly affected by increase in NH minimum wage to \$9.00 per hour
by US Census Bureau Public Use Microdata Area*



Region, which includes Dover and Rochester, and in Southwestern New Hampshire, home to Keene and Claremont, where 13 percent of the workforce would see direct or indirect wage gains.

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Region	Largest Cities/Towns in Region	Impact on Region's Workers		Share of Total Affected Workers Statewide
		Number Affected	Share of Workforce Affected	
Northern New Hampshire	Lebanon, Hanover, Berlin	7,530	14%	10%
Lakes Region	Laconia, Conway, Franklin	6,540	12%	9%
Strafford Region	Dover, Rochester, Durham	9,020	13%	12%
Central New Hampshire	Concord, Bow, Pembroke	5,820	11%	8%
Southwestern New Hampshire	Keene, Claremont, Swanzey	7,440	13%	10%
Western Hillsborough County	Merrimack, Milford, Amherst	6,110	12%	8%
Outer Manchester City	Derry, Londonderry, Bedford	8,010	10%	11%
Manchester City	Manchester	8,310	15%	11%
Southeastern Hillsborough County	Nashua, Hudson, Pelham	6,240	10%	8%
Seacoast Region	Salem, Portsmouth, Hampton	10,740	11%	14%
STATEWIDE TOTAL		75,760	12%	

Source: NHFPI calculations based on Economic Policy Institute analysis of Current Population Survey, American Community Survey data

The sheer number of workers affected by the minimum wage varies by region as well. The Seacoast, which, under the Census Bureau's classification system, includes Salem as well as Portsmouth and Hampton, would have the largest number of workers – over 10,700 – affected if the minimum wage were to climb to \$9 per hour. Manchester, the cities and towns surrounding it (such as Derry and Londonderry), and the Strafford Region would each have more than 8,000 workers that would benefit from such a wage hike.

To learn more about which cities and towns comprise each region and the impact that a minimum wage increase would have there, visit NHFPI's Minimum Wage Resource page and click on the link for "[Regional Impact Calculator](#)."

April 7, 2014

ⁱ The ten regions presented in this Fact Sheet are U.S. Census Bureau geographies known as "public use micro-data areas" (PUMAs). Each PUMA has a population of at least 100,000 people. PUMA boundaries follow municipal boundaries and the regions may include cities or towns from multiple counties. For more on PUMA classifications, see: <https://www.census.gov/geo/reference/puma.html>

ⁱⁱ The figures presented in this Fact Sheet are NHFPI calculations based on analyses of Current Population Survey and American Community Survey data conducted by the Economic Policy Institute, a nonpartisan think tank based in Washington, DC.