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Minimum Wage

In all over the world there's different incomes and different lifestyles. We have people that are living on **less than \$1** a day , then we got people living on \$10 a day and others on \$100 a day and it goes on and on. In this life , society is broken into social classes , we usually just mention three: high class , middle class and low class . But if we want to be technical about it , there's actually six especially in the United states:

Upper class

New money

Middle class

Working class

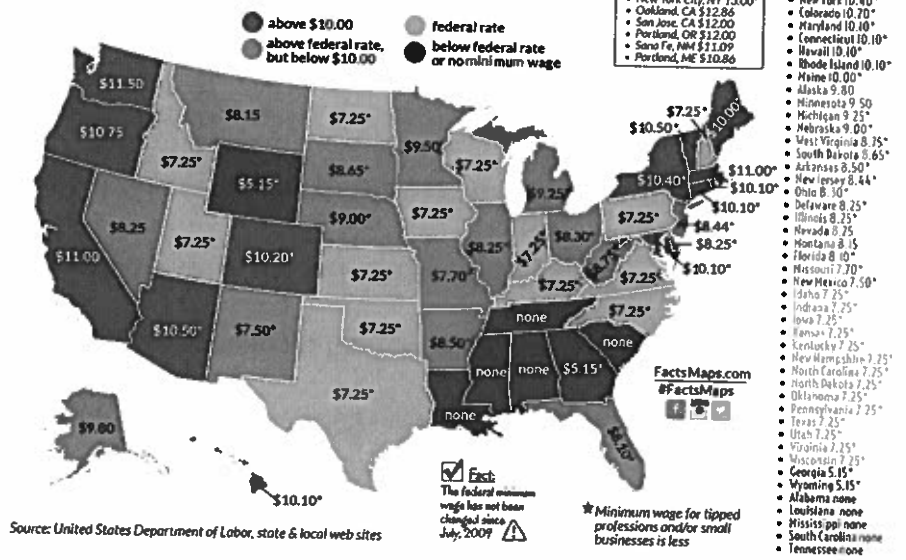
Working poor

Poverty level

The majority of us are in between or in working class and working poor. There some of us that are fortunate enough to be in the working class but not as much people are in the social class, but that's as high as it gets and it's still not enough. The

Upper Class, which makes up about one percent of the U.S. population, generally consists of those with inherited wealth (old money). Most people part of the upper class may also have a recognizable family name, such as Rockefeller, DuPont, or Kennedy. These people might work but they don't rely on the job, that's the difference . "The working class comprises **between 30% and 35%** of the population, roughly the same percentages as the lower middle class." So that's about 65-70% of people in the united states, that's the majority of the population in this country. "Current estimates on poverty in the U.S. According to the Census Bureau, **18.5 million** people reported deep poverty, which means a household income below 50 percent of their 2017 poverty threshold. These individuals represented an estimated **5.7 percent** of all Americans and **46.7 percent** of those in poverty." (Semega, J; Fontenot, KR; Kollar, MA. [Income and Poverty in the United States: 2017](#). Census Bureau, September 2018.) The people in the working class and working poor are people that live paycheck after paycheck , they don't live they **survive**. Little over a half of the population struggle financially , even with minimum wage, minimum wage is basically "the lowest remuneration that employers can legally pay their workers," that simply means it's the lowest they can pay you

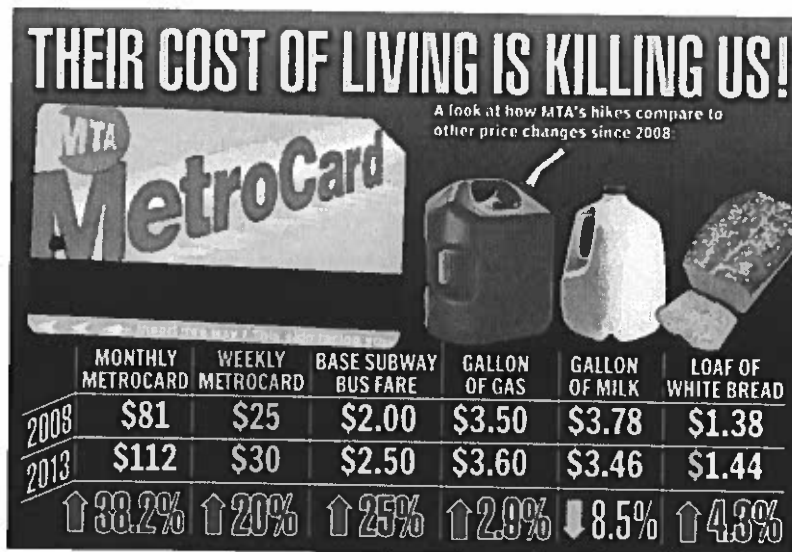
Minimum Wage by U.S. State as of July 1, 2018



New York is above \$10 but still one of the most expensive cities in the world to live in

Let's talk about New York for a little , New York is expensive as I mentioned before . Whether you live in manhattan or any of the rest of the boroughs , the cost of living is high!!! There's people getting charged \$2,500+ for a two bedroom apartment monthly! Now if you have a really well paying job then that isn't a problem but the truth is most people as I said before are in middle low class , working class and working poor. \$2,500 on rent is a everyday struggle. And minimum wage isn't fixing that struggle, and one of the main reasons is that rent

goes up , everything else gets more expensive . The government thinks raising up the minimum wage to \$15 (New York) is fixing the problem meanwhile raising the MTA , the cost of rent , the cost of food , and clothing . In reality you are still in the same position you were , just with a couple of dollars more but doesn't change anything because your still short in money .

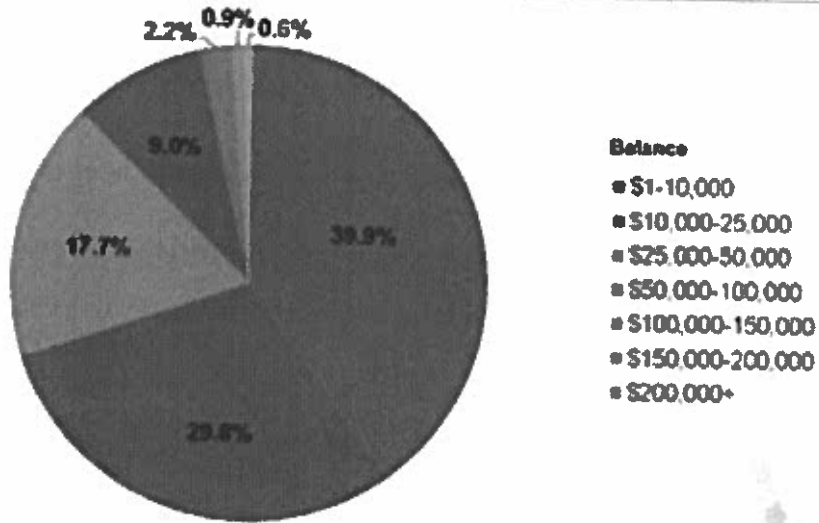


Now a bus far is \$2.75 and a monthly metrocard is \$127. The rest varies .

Now poverty is all around the world , but in these expensive cities it's worse and these college students can't afford to pay off their expenses with minimum wage. There's college students that are moving out from their parents house or just young adults that want to be independent and live of on their own but instead of enjoying

the new chapter in their life , they're struggling and stressing about having the rent money on time , and extra bills that have to be paid off ,that's a big problem also.

Distribution of U S Student Loan Debt Balance as of Q4 2012



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of NY

Debt owed by college students

Average Tuition & Fees
2012-2013



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This is tuition alone!! This is a lot of money for college students and this is why most of the time students get loans and fall into debt. So when the minimum wage went up , you would think that would be better for the employees, but it didn't change things much.

Does NYC's minimum wage get to be enough for a comfortable way of living? Who gets paid only the minimum in NYC? What can be done so that the wage rate is only more fair and affordable for families to live with the right amount of comfort economically speaking? According to an article written in **The Epoch Times** by one their seniors writers Charlotte Cuthbertson "A shortage of talent for mid-skill jobs in New York City is linked to low wages and an inadequate education system... A mid-skill job is one that requires a high school diploma and a post-school certificate, but not necessarily a four-year degree." This can mean a lot of things, not only that the majority are not the best educated person which can affect the way they choose when an important work decision need to be made, some may not even know or understand what some of the legal aspects that their job entails. This is important because there could be misunderstanding on some of the rights and obligations that can end up in high tax charge or not good salary because of a not firm schedule.

Given the fact that in NYC most of the basic need are a little bit too overpriced is safe to say that a minimum wage job is not going to be enough when it comes to

providing for a family. In NYC some of the struggles people faces everyday is the very expensive rent for an apartment, the visits to the doctor are quite expensive even when a person has health care, water, electricity, gas, food personal needs and more add to amount due by the end of every month. NYC's government have created some solutions for this problems, for example, housing in NYC is pretty reliable, you paid certain amount and the government pays the remaining on your apartment rent. Food stamps, provided every once in a month to buy most of the essentials for personal care and alimentation. But, even though this sounds great to make sure that people do not struggle as much, some people still do, college tuition is on the clouds, even for public colleges. Some people are not available to get some of this "Governmental support" because they make enough, not taking in consideration the big amounts Federal and State tax take of your paycheck. Yes, they assure a better running of some of our daily public services, but do they? Parks still dirty, Public transportation still hold a last generation technology, roads very bumpy for no reason, road work that is in process for years, where is all our money going? Some people argue that it goes to our retirement, and it surely is, but how much of it if current benefiteres do not much of what was taken and still not enough. Some say that it ensure we do not have to struggle when one gets old, and although is a marvelous plan, nothing ensures we will make it to our elder years when we run great danger in certain areas that should be been taken care of with our money.

Minimum wage doesn't seem to affect people who start off at a higher status. But it is effecting what could possibly be the most important type of people..college students. They are the people who although are busy obtaining a degree that will hopefully make them successful in the future, are struggling currently trying to pay off all the expenses it takes to even get that degree. We all know how insanely expensive college can be. Students need to be able to find a way to pay for all those expenses. Some get their money from parents, others work multiple jobs to try and help, and some get loans from the bank. In an article from CNBC Make It, it is said that, "Today, 70 percent of college students graduate with a significant amount of loans," and that, "When they graduate, the average student loan borrower has \$37,172 in student loans." many college students say they work multiple jobs in order to try and pay off all that debt. But without a very good resume, minimum wage is just about all they get. And with only \$15.00p/hr, it is almost impossible to be able to balance your money. That can add on so much stress for a student, especially when their main priority should be focused on studying and getting good grades. It messes with their ability to think clearly and manage their time and effort because both school and work end up fighting over which is more important. Turner said in an article for Yr, "The time I would have been able to spend studying had I not been working probably would have helped my grades a lot, People have to work so much in undergrad to make up the cost of their life. It has a serious effect on grades, social life, and everything because you can see a dramatic increase in my

grades from when I was working 15-20 hours per week to when I was working max 10 hours. So I could only imagine what it looked like if I had zero jobs." If the cost of minimum wage could increase, think of all the more dedication that would be put in to studying and working on a degree to help earn good money in the future. As for the people who take out loans, students are left with so much debt that has to be paid off after graduating college, that is doesn't look good for people who are looking to do business with you. It goes towards your credit and people aren't willing to sell you things if they feel you can't pay them back. And your credit score holds a lot of meaning when it comes to the world of business. This can cost you a high paying job and you might just end up working minimum wage. And we all know how that turned out.

In conclusion the level of high rate in taxes and expenses in the city could make it almost impossible for a teenager to move out and attend college at the same time . Students can't afford to pay off their expenses with minimum wage. Minimum wage now is \$15 per hour with a tax rate of 8.87% in NYC that only increases over the years making no good changes for us lower middle class students . Paying back student loan , and not receiving any type of assistance to help you pay for college like financial aid could make you rethink twice if it's really worth it. In the big red apple poverty is very common , we work to survive not much to live and it's our sad reality. Being a college student and working a 9-5 everyday is not enough to help cover for our expenses.