

**Economic
Policy
Institute**



Providing workers with a path through challenging times to a more equitable economy

Highlights of EPI's recent accomplishments

Since our founding in 1986, the Economic Policy Institute has worked for an economy where all working people have good jobs, a voice at work, fair schedules, quality health care, retirement security, and realistic hopes for a better future. Our efforts to center the concerns of working Americans in economic policy debates are as urgent as ever. The global pandemic and ensuing deep economic distress have exacerbated acute systemic inequities. EPI's cutting-edge research and policy analyses provide lawmakers, opinion leaders, advocates, activists, journalists, and the public with a sound evidence base for a strong policy response—to get through the crisis and to a post-pandemic economy centered on worker power and racial and gender justice.

For more information on our work, visit [epi.org](https://www.epi.org).

Charting a course through the COVID-19 pandemic

At the outset of the crisis, EPI shifted into rapid response mode, providing an accurate and timely picture of the economic shock. Policymakers, advocates, and the media turned to us to understand the effects on workers and the threats to their health and financial security. Through reports, webinars, testimony, and countless interviews, our experts helped win protections for vulnerable workers, ensure paid sick leave, extend unemployment insurance, and identify a path to full economic recovery.



HIGHLIGHTS

In early March, EPI urged the federal government to blunt the economic pain of the pandemic by picking up the tab for COVID-19-related health spending, providing cash payments to households, and mandating paid sick leave.

go.epi.org/reliefplan

Predicting 14 million jobs lost by summer, EPI argued for \$2.1 trillion in the initial fiscal stabilization package (the CARES Act) and continues to call for more relief to boost economic demand and lower unemployment.

go.epi.org/sizeofstimulus

EPI showed how the loss of health care coverage for millions of workers “laid bare the huge uncertainty that employer-linked health insurance introduces into U.S. families’ lives.”

go.epi.org/healthinsurancelosses

EPI made the case for federal aid to state and local governments and for sustaining the \$600 increase in weekly unemployment insurance benefits. A bipartisan EPI panel of top economists linked state and local aid to protecting jobs in education and other sectors and to economic growth.

go.epi.org/aidtostates • go.epi.org/restoreui

EPI shone a light on the ways that distance learning during the pandemic is likely widening educational inequalities. In a webinar featuring Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, and Philadelphia middle school teacher Ivey Welshans, EPI researchers laid out their plan for rebuilding the U.S. education system.

go.epi.org/coveducation • go.epi.org/coveduevent

More at epi.org/research/coronavirus

Making the case for racial justice

The disproportionate impact of the coronavirus pandemic on Black and Latinx workers and the demonstrations that followed George Floyd’s murder further exposed the systemic racial and ethnic disparities in the U.S. economy. Since 2008, EPI’s Program on Race, Ethnicity, and the Economy (PREE) has worked with other EPI programs to show how persistent disparities in unemployment, wages, income, poverty, and wealth are rooted in policy choices.



HIGHLIGHTS

EPI research revealed the racial and ethnic disparities in access to health care, wealth, employment, wages, housing, income, and poverty that leave Black and Latinx workers most at risk during the coronavirus crisis.

go.epi.org/covidrace • go.epi.org/latinxworkersandcovid

During EPI’s “Reconstruction 2020” webinar, *Color of Law* author Richard Rothstein, PREE Director Valerie Wilson, and Black leaders discussed policies to value Black lives and bolster Black economic opportunity.

go.epi.org/reconstructionevent

The 1,000 participants in EPI’s “Rebuilding the House That Anti-Blackness Built” webinar learned how to build an inclusive economy centering the needs of Black women.

go.epi.org/covidresponse

EPI research on the growth in the Black–white wage gap since 2000 noted that even Black workers with advanced degrees are paid less than their white counterparts.

go.epi.org/blackwagegap • go.epi.org/blackgenderpaygap

More at epi.org/pree

Webinar Series: Panel Event

Reconstruction 2020

Valuing Black Lives and Economic Opportunities for All

July 9, 2020 • 2 pm ET / 11 am PT



Heather C. McGhee
Co-Chief, Color of Change

Richard Burkhead
Associate General Counsel for Real Estate and Finance, Hired for Humanity International, Inc.

Richard Rothstein
Distinguished Fellow, EPI

Book Event

From Here to Equality: Reparations for Black Americans in the Twenty-First Century

with William S. Darity Jr. and A. Kirsten Mullan



May 27, 2020
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. PT

Zoom webinar

Economic Justice Institute

Webinar Series Panel Event

Coronavirus Pandemic Poses Major Challenges to U.S. Students and Teachers

A plan for relief, recovery, and rebuilding

September 16, 2020
4 p.m. – 5 p.m. ET / 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. PT



Rouse Wintersgates
American Federation of Teachers, AFT-CEO

Emma Sterpa
Economic Policy Institute

Emma Weiss
Economic Policy Institute

Freya Wehrens
Business, Middle West, Alternatives School in Philadelphia

Moderator:
Theresa Lee
Economic Policy Institute

PREE Webinar

Fighting Systemic Racism for Black Workers

Tuesday, August 11, 2020
3:00–4:00 p.m. ET
12:00 noon–1:00 p.m. PST



Valerie Wilson
Director of EPI’s Program on Race, Ethnicity, and the Economy (PREE)

Jhacova Williams
Program on Race, Ethnicity, and the Economy (PREE) Economist

The EARN network: Winning worker justice in the states

EPI's Economic Analysis and Research Network (EARN) is a national network of 55 research, policy, and advocacy organizations in 43 states and the District of Columbia focused on policy issues affecting workers. Every year, EARNCon (held virtually in 2020) convenes researchers and grassroots advocates from around the country for a series of strategy sessions and trainings to advance racial and gender equity and build an inclusive, worker-centered economy.



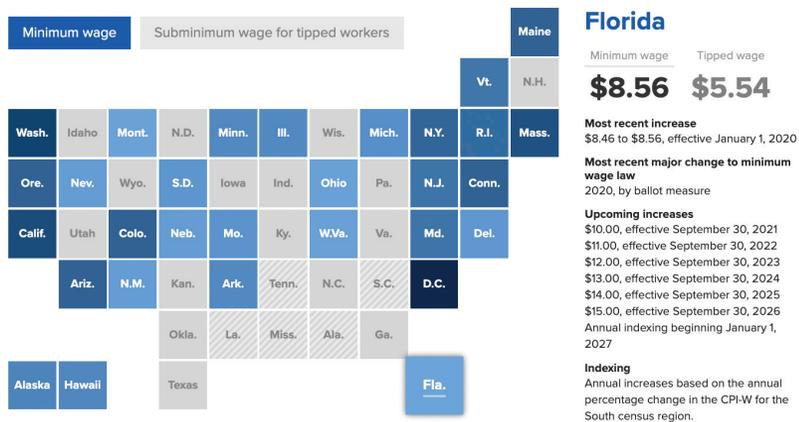
HIGHLIGHTS

In the last five years, EARN has been involved in over 30 successful minimum wage campaigns, including passage of a statewide \$15 minimum wage in Virginia—the first among Southern states—and a November ballot initiative for a \$15 minimum wage in Florida.

[epi.org/minimum-wage-tracker](https://www.epi.org/minimum-wage-tracker)

EARN in the South and **EARN in the Midwest** are recent initiatives to strengthen the progressive economic policy and grassroots infrastructures in those regions to win state and local policies that advance worker, racial, and gender justice through close EARN group and grassroots collaboration. EARN's Worker Power Project, another new initiative, bolsters state-level efforts to give workers a stronger voice on the job.

More at [earn.us](https://www.earn.us)



Building worker power

One of the strongest forces for equality and a vibrant middle class is the collective power of workers. When unions are robust, they secure rights, wages, and workplace protections that benefit all workers. When laws and institutions favor asymmetrical power of employers, however, workers lose out. In 2020, the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act passed the U.S. House thanks in part to EPI research and an EPI petition signed by more than 130 groups. During the floor vote, members of Congress cited EPI research.



HIGHLIGHTS

An EPI analysis early in 2020 showed that a weakened labor movement leads to rising economic inequality.

go.epi.org/unionsin2019

An EPI COVID-19 report explained how unionized workers have secured enhanced safety measures, additional premium pay, and paid sick time during the pandemic, and cited 12 policies that would boost worker rights, safety, and wages.

go.epi.org/unionsandcovid

EPI launched the Unequal Power project, dedicated to the memory of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, to address the faulty assumption that there is equal power between employees and employers—an assumption that persists in economics, law, political science, and philosophy. Project reports and case studies argue for frameworks that advance the rights, freedom, and power of American workers.

go.epi.org/unequalpower

A federal court struck down most of a harmful Department of Labor rule, citing EPI research on the rule's \$1 billion annual cost to workers. By narrowing the definition of a joint employer, the rule would have let more firms off the hook for violating wage and hour protections.

go.epi.org/jointemployerrule

The National Labor Relations Board resumed union elections in the spring after EPI analysis and social media blasted the suspension of elections for depriving workers of power at a time when nurses and other essential workers were being forced to work without adequate protective gear or sick leave.

go.epi.org/unionsincovid

More at [epi.org/research/unions-and-labor-standards](https://go.epi.org/research/unions-and-labor-standards)

Reaching broad audiences in the news and social media feeds

Media interviews of EPI experts hit record levels, as influential national and local outlets relied on EPI to explain the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic—and the benefits and shortcomings of the policy response. EPI has been mentioned almost 50,000 times across TV, radio, print, and online stories this year. EPI also substantially increased its social media engagement.

CSpan

CNN

The Atlantic

VICE

POLITICO

XIOS

The New York Times

npr

FFPOSTI

BUSTLE

Vox

NEWS

Bloomberg

MSNBC

The Boston Globe

THE NEW YORKER

VOA

abc NEWS

The Washington Post

HIGHLIGHTS

117,000 views

EPI videos on YouTube

221,000 followers

Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn,
Youtube, and Instagram

366,000

EPI email subscribers

1.4 million

Peak monthly page
views on epi.org

Follow [@economicpolicy](#) on all social media channels



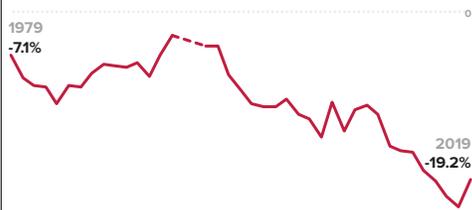
Leading the way in data sharing and visualization

Each year, EPI researchers publish hundreds of charts and maps that tell an important story in a single glance. They are interactive, so anyone can download the underlying data, and are made to share on social media. Our charts appear in tweets by thought leaders, articles by prominent journalists, books on economics, briefings by members of Congress, and even in a display case at the National Museum of American History!



HIGHLIGHTS

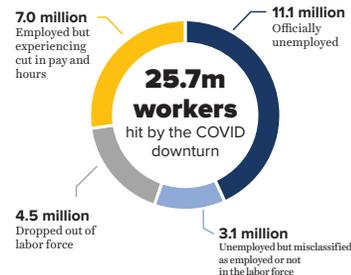
Teachers are now paid **19.2%** less than other college graduates with similar characteristics



Source: Economic Policy Institute

See *Teacher Pay Penalty Dips but Persists in 2019*, by Sylvia Allegretto and Lawrence Mishel, September 17, 2020
go.epi.org/teacherpaygap

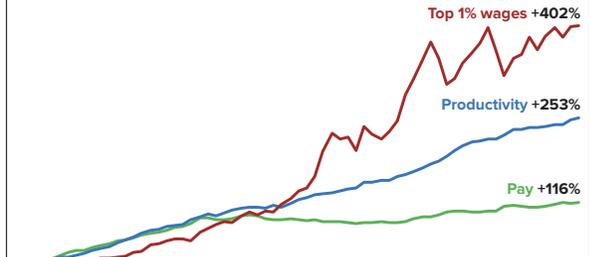
What economy will President-Elect Biden inherit?



Source: Economic Policy Institute

See "What the Next President Inherits," by Heidi Shierholz, November 6, 2020
go.epi.org/presidentelect

When inequality goes up, working people pay the price



Source: Economic Policy Institute

See *State of Working America Wages 2019*, by Elise Gould, February 20, 2020
go.epi.org/americanwages2019

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