



FACTS AT A GLANCE

Who Would Gain from an Increase in the Massachusetts Minimum Wage?

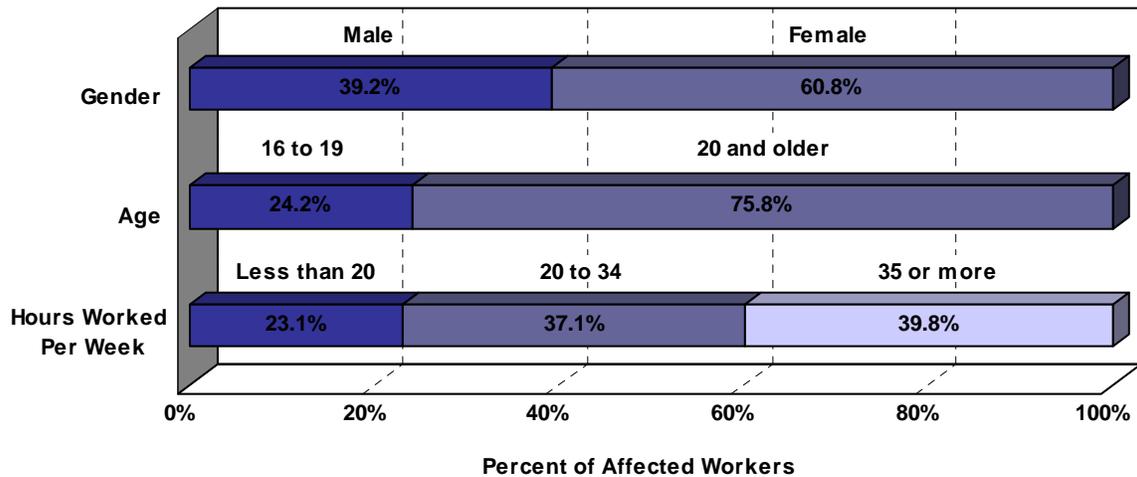
Despite efforts over the past decade to bolster the Massachusetts minimum wage, it not only remains fairly low by historic standards but also continues to be too small to enable workers to meet their most basic material needs. Further, due to past failures to index the Massachusetts minimum wage – either to inflation or to the overall growth in wages – its relative value will deteriorate further as time passes. One way to address these problems would be to increase the minimum wage to \$8.25 per hour – an increase that would be the same size as the last full increase – and then to index it to inflation to preserve its real value over time.

Increasing Massachusetts minimum wage to \$8.25 per hour and indexing it to inflation would:

- **Directly increase the wages of approximately 261,000 Massachusetts workers – or nearly nine percent of the Commonwealth’s labor force.**
- **Benefit women and adults.** Roughly 61 percent of the workers who would be affected by such an increase are women, while more than 75 percent are aged 20 and older.

Characteristics of Workers Affected by an Increase in the Minimum Wage

based on an increase from \$6.75 to \$8.25 per hour



- **Help those who need a raise the most.** The poorest 20 percent of households in Massachusetts account for just 5 percent of total earnings; the average weekly earnings for a household in this group is \$312. Households in this group would receive 36.7 percent of the additional earnings arising from an increase in the minimum wage to \$8.25 per hour. In addition, the workers who would be affected by an increase in the minimum wage provide, on average, almost 50 percent of their families’ weekly earnings. In fact, in roughly a third of all the families in which a potentially affected worker lives, that worker serves as the sole source of earnings.