



Minimum Wage – *Real World Facts*

Read these excerpts from a Heritage Foundation report; it contains some need-to-know facts about Minimum Wage. You will see that for the really poor in the U.S. the issue is not a low wage job, it is having no job at all!

MYTH #1 – There are Hordes of Minimum Wage Workers

Very few Americans are actually working for the federal minimum wage – it's just 2.9 percent of all workers in the United States.

In other words, 97 percent of American workers make more than minimum wage

MYTH #2– The Working Poor Getting by on Minimum Wage

More than half of minimum-wage workers are between the ages of 16 and 24. These young people tend to work part-time, and a majority of them are enrolled in school at the same time.

MYTH #3– Minimum Wage Earners Trapped in Poverty

The average family income of a minimum-wage worker is more than \$53,000 a year. How is this possible at \$7.25 an hour?....

Three-fourths of workers 25 and older earning the minimum wage live above the poverty line. In fact, 62 percent have incomes over 150 percent of the poverty line.

MYTH #4– Lifelong Minimum-Wage Earners

Two-thirds of minimum-wage workers earn a raise within a year. As they gain experience and employment skills, they become more productive and can command higher wages.

MYTH #5 – More Single Parents on Minimum-Wage

Very few single parents are working full-time in minimum wage jobs. A greater proportion of employees in the overall workforce (5.6 percent) are single parents working full-time jobs, while for minimum-wage workers that proportion is 4 percent – because so many minimum-wage workers are secondary earners

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<http://blog.heritage.org/2013/03/05/busting-5-myths-about-the-minimum-wage/?ac=1>