Summary of Research on the Minimum Wage

The minimum wage reduces employment.

Currie and Fallick (1993), Gallasch (1975), Gardner (1981), Peterson (1957), Peterson and Stewart (1969).

• The minimum wage reduces employment more among teenagers than adults.

Adie (1973); Brown, Gilroy and Kohen (1981a, 1981b); Fleisher (1981); Hammermesh (1982); Meyer and Wise (1981, 1983a); Minimum Wage Study Commission (1981); Neumark and Wascher (1992); Ragan (1977); Vandenbrink (1987); Welch (1974, 1978); Welch and Cunningham (1978).

• The minimum wage reduces employment most among black teenage males.

Al-Salam, Quester, and Welch (1981), Iden (1980), Mincer (1976), Moore (1971), Ragan (1977), Williams (1977a, 1977b).

• The minimum wage helped South African whites at the expense of blacks.

Bauer (1959).

• The minimum wage hurts blacks generally.

Behrman, Sickles and Taubman (1983); Linneman (1982).

• The minimum wage hurts the unskilled.

Krumm (1981).

The minimum wage hurts low wage workers.

Brozen (1962), Cox and Oaxaca (1986), Gordon (1981).

• The minimum wage hurts low wage workers particularly during cyclical downturns.

Kosters and Welch (1972), Welch (1974).

• The minimum wage increases job turnover.

Hall (1982).

• The minimum wage reduces average earnings of young workers.

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Meyer and Wise (1983b).
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• The minimum wage drives workers into uncovered jobs, thus lowering wages in those sectors.

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Brozen (1962), Tauchen (1981), Welch (1974).
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• The minimum wage reduces employment in low-wage industries, such as retailing.

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Cotterman (1981), Douty (1960), Fleisher (1981), Hammermesh (1981), Peterson (1981).
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• The minimum wage hurts small businesses generally.

Kaun (1965).

The minimum wage causes employers to cut back on training.

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Hashimoto (1981, 1982), Leighton and Mincer (1981), Ragan (1981).
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• The minimum wage has long-term effects on skills and lifetime earnings.

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Brozen (1969), Feldstein (1973).
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• The minimum wage leads employers to cut back on fringe benefits.

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McKenzie (1980), Wessels (1980).
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The minimum wage encourages employers to install labor-saving devices.

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Trapani and Moroney (1981).
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• The minimum wage hurts low-wage regions, such as the South and rural areas.

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Colberg (1960, 1981), Krumm (1981).
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• The minimum wage increases the number of people on welfare.

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Brandon (1995), Leffler (1978).
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The minimum wage hurts the poor generally.

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Stigler (1946).
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• The minimum wage does little to reduce poverty.

Bonilla (1992), Brown (1988), Johnson and Browning (1983), Kohen and Gilroy (1981), Parsons (1980), Smith and Vavrichek (1987).

• The minimum wage helps upper income families.

Bell (1981), Datcher and Loury (1981), Johnson and Browning (1981), Kohen and Gilroy (1981).

• The minimum wage helps unions.

Linneman (1982), Cox and Oaxaca (1982).

• The minimum wage lowers the capital stock.

McCulloch (1981).

• The minimum wage increases inflationary pressure.

Adams (1987), Brozen (1966), Gramlich (1976), Grossman (1983).

• The minimum wage increases teenage crime rates.

Hashimoto (1987), Phillips (1981).

• The minimum wage encourages employers to hire illegal aliens.

Beranek (1982).

• Few workers are permanently stuck at the minimum wage.

Brozen (1969), Smith and Vavrichek (1992).

• The minimum wage has had a massive impact on unemployment in Puerto Rico.

Freeman and Freeman (1991), Rottenberg (1981b).

• The minimum wage has reduced employment in foreign countries.

Canada: Forrest (1982); Chile: Corbo (1981); Costa Rica: Gregory (1981); France: Rosa (1981).