

HOW TO RAISE ONTARIO'S MINIMUM WAGE: AN EXPLAINER

THE AVERAGE WAGE BENCHMARK

Can we agree that Ontario's minimum wage should be set at a rate that's comparable to the rest of the province's workers? Raising the minimum wage to within 60% of the Ontario average industrial wage would achieve that goal. It's the policy goal in a number of European nations and it reflects the value of the minimum wage in France, with close competition from New Zealand, Austria, Belgium and Ireland.

- In 2012, the average industrial wage in Ontario was \$24.22.
- At \$10.25 an hour, Ontario's minimum wage was within 42% of the average industrial wage in 2013.
- If Ontario set its minimum wage to within 60% of the average industrial wage, the minimum wage would be closer to \$14.50.
- Total annual pay: \$25,427.50, before taxes.

In today's shifting economy — where income inequality has worsened and where more workers are relegated to low-wage and precarious jobs — a minimum wage benchmarked to the average industrial wage injects a sense of fairness in the job market. It makes the rate of minimum wage relative to what other workers are paid. It's also one of the many tools available to governments to help reduce income inequality.

MAKE EVERY JOB A GOOD JOB

A higher minimum wage is good for workers and business.

It's one way to help ensure every job in Ontario is a good job.

Learn more: www.policyalternatives.ca/ontario

