

**From:** Rob Duffey  
**To:** [Michael Reich](#); [Caldirola-Davis, Carlo](#)  
**Cc:** [Lemke, William](#); [Jacqueline Sullivan](#)  
**Subject:** RE: AP story  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 20, 2017 4:31:05 PM

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Full Associated Press story is up, and it's strong. Running in the New York Times, the Washington Post, and dozens of other outlets:

# Study: Seattle minimum wage hasn't cut jobs

BY GENE JOHNSON *Associated Press*

## SEATTLE

Seattle's \$15-an-hour minimum wage law has boosted pay for restaurant workers without costing jobs, according to a study released Tuesday.

The report, from the University of California at Berkeley's Institute for Research on Labor and Employment, is certain to add to the debate as activists around the country push for increases in local, state and federal minimum wages.

The report (<https://goo.gl/MyXD23>) is the first in a series of reviews in which the institute is examining jurisdictions that have raised their minimum wages.

It focused on food service jobs, which some critics said could be disproportionately affected if increased wages forced restaurants to cut workers' hours. Author Michael Reich said that hasn't been the case.

The results should give more confidence to other jurisdictions around the country that have adopted \$15-an-hour laws, he said.

"We were surprised," Reich said Tuesday. "The results were so much clearer than is often the case."

Last year, University of Washington researchers found mixed results for the Seattle law, which phases in an increase to \$15 an hour by 2021. They said the law appeared to have slightly reduced the employment rate of low-wage workers even as it boosted pay.

But the new research, based on data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, determined that "employment effects" in restaurants "were not statistically

distinguishable from zero."

Meanwhile, every 10 percent minimum wage increase in Seattle — up to \$13, which is as high as Seattle's minimum went during the study period — increased wages nearly 1 percent in food services overall and 2.3 percent in limited-service restaurants, such as fast-food chains, the report said.

The pay increases weren't higher because many restaurant employees were already making more than minimum wage, and because many full-serve restaurants appeared to be taking advantage of a "tip credit" that allowed them to pay workers who are routinely tipped less than they otherwise would have, Reich said.

The restaurant industry cautioned against extrapolating from the results how minimum wages would affect other cities, considering Seattle's booming tech sector and economy generally.

"A study in one of the wealthiest cities in the U.S. does not reflect the impact drastic minimum wage increases could have across the country and should not be relied upon as this discussion continues - especially considering other studies have refuted these results," Leslie Shedd, vice president of the National Restaurant Association, said in an emailed statement.

Tuesday marked the three-year anniversary of Seattle's law, and Mayor Ed Murray welcomed the study.

"When we passed the \$15 minimum wage, we were warned the economy would tank, jobs would dry up, and employers would flee," Murray said. "Today, Seattle's economy is the strongest it has ever been, unemployment is at a historically low rate, and employers are competing for employees."

Seattle's unemployment rate fell to 2.6 percent over the last two years, Murray said, and restaurants were among the city's fastest growing industries, with more than 33,000 workers in 2016.

**From:** Michael Reich [mailto:michaelreich.prof@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 20, 2017 6:25 PM

**To:** Caldirola-Davis, Carlo <Carlo.Caldirola-Davis@seattle.gov>

**Cc:** Rob Duffey <Rob.Duffey@berlinrosen.com>; Lemke, William <William.Lemke@seattle.gov>; Jacqueline Sullivan <jsullivan@berkeley.edu>

**Subject:** Re: AP story

You are welcome. I just had a good call with Janet Tu of the Times. Her story will go up tonight.

On Tue, Jun 20, 2017 at 2:40 PM, Caldirola-Davis, Carlo <[Carlo.Caldirola-Davis@seattle.gov](mailto:Carlo.Caldirola-Davis@seattle.gov)> wrote:

Big thanks to everybody, especially Michael and his team.

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**From:** Sylvia Allegretto <[allegretto@berkeley.edu](mailto:allegretto@berkeley.edu)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 20, 2017 1:08:25 PM  
**To:** Caldirola-Davis, Carlo; [ecamacho@library.berkeley.edu](mailto:ecamacho@library.berkeley.edu)  
**Cc:** 'Rob Duffey'; 'Michael Reich'; 'Jacqueline Sullivan'; Lemke, William  
**Subject:** RE: AP story

It is up now.

**Sylvia A. Allegretto, PhD**

Economist  
Co-chair, Center on Wage & Employment Dynamics  
Institute for Research on Labor & Employment  
University of California, Berkeley  
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**From:** Caldirola-Davis, Carlo [mailto:[Carlo.Caldirola-Davis@Seattle.Gov](mailto:Carlo.Caldirola-Davis@Seattle.Gov)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 20, 2017 12:57 PM  
**To:** [ecamacho@library.berkeley.edu](mailto:ecamacho@library.berkeley.edu)  
**Cc:** Sylvia Allegretto; Rob Duffey; Michael Reich; Jacqueline Sullivan; Lemke, William  
**Subject:** RE: AP story

Do you know when the page will be up? It's still an error.

**From:** Elizabeth del Rocío Camacho [<mailto:ecamacho@library.berkeley.edu>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 20, 2017 9:55 AM  
**To:** Caldirola-Davis, Carlo <[Carlo.Caldirola-Davis@Seattle.Gov](mailto:Carlo.Caldirola-Davis@Seattle.Gov)>  
**Cc:** Sylvia Allegretto <[allegretto@berkeley.edu](mailto:allegretto@berkeley.edu)>; Rob Duffey <[Rob.Duffey@berlinrosen.com](mailto:Rob.Duffey@berlinrosen.com)>; Michael Reich <[michaelreich.prof@gmail.com](mailto:michaelreich.prof@gmail.com)>; Jacqueline Sullivan <[jsullivan@berkeley.edu](mailto:jsullivan@berkeley.edu)>; Lemke, William <[William.Lemke@seattle.gov](mailto:William.Lemke@seattle.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: AP story

Hello Carlo,

Here the link to the page where it will be:  
<http://irle.berkeley.edu/seattles-minimum-wage-experience-2015-16>

Best,

Elizabeth del Rocío Camacho  
Web Administrator  
Institute for Research on Labor and Employment  
University of California, Berkeley  
[\(510\) 679-8480](tel:5106798480)  
[irle.berkeley.edu](http://irle.berkeley.edu)

On Tue, Jun 20, 2017 at 9:12 AM, Caldirola-Davis, Carlo <[Carlo.Caldirola-Davis@seattle.gov](mailto:Carlo.Caldirola-Davis@seattle.gov)> wrote:

What's the link?

Thanks!

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**From:** Sylvia Allegretto [mailto:[allegretto@berkeley.edu](mailto:allegretto@berkeley.edu)]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 19, 2017 4:58 PM  
**To:** Rob Duffey <[Rob.Duffey@berlinrosen.com](mailto:Rob.Duffey@berlinrosen.com)>  
**Cc:** Caldirola-Davis, Carlo <[Carlo.Caldirola-Davis@Seattle.Gov](mailto:Carlo.Caldirola-Davis@Seattle.Gov)>; Michael Reich <[michaelreich.prof@gmail.com](mailto:michaelreich.prof@gmail.com)>; Elizabeth del Rocío Camacho <[ecamacho@library.berkeley.edu](mailto:ecamacho@library.berkeley.edu)>; Jacqueline Sullivan <[jsullivan@berkeley.edu](mailto:jsullivan@berkeley.edu)>  
**Subject:** Re: AP story

Even though the brief isn't posted yet I believe we have the link.

Sylvia A Allegretto

On Jun 19, 2017, at 4:45 PM, Rob Duffey <[Rob.Duffey@berlinrosen.com](mailto:Rob.Duffey@berlinrosen.com)> wrote:

That should work. The AP story will come out by 1 p.m. PST at the latest.

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**From:** Caldirola-Davis, Carlo [[Carlo.Caldirola-Davis@Seattle.Gov](mailto:Carlo.Caldirola-Davis@Seattle.Gov)]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 19, 2017 7:44 PM  
**To:** Michael Reich; Rob Duffey  
**Cc:** Elizabeth del Rocío Camacho; Jacqueline Sullivan; Sylvia Allegretto  
**Subject:** Re: AP story

Correct. PR probably will go out around 1:15, and we want to include a link to your study.

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**From:** Michael Reich <[michaelreich.prof@gmail.com](mailto:michaelreich.prof@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 19, 2017 4:43:02 PM  
**To:** Rob Duffey; Caldirola-Davis, Carlo  
**Cc:** Elizabeth del Rocío Camacho; Jacqueline Sullivan; Sylvia Allegretto

**Subject:** Re: AP story

The AP reporter and I have a call set for tomorrow morning at 9:30 PST.

I believe the current plan is to do the roll-out at 1 pm PST on Tuesday. Is that right?

On Mon, Jun 19, 2017 at 4:40 PM, Rob Duffey

<[Rob.Duffey@berlinrosen.com](mailto:Rob.Duffey@berlinrosen.com)> wrote:

Yup. Spoke with the reporter. We're going to give him the morning to get the story done, give him time to interview Jared Bernstein and other validators. But he's still calling you ASAP, Michael.

Very sorry for the last minute pause on the roll out, all.

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**From:** Michael Reich [[michaelreich.prof@gmail.com](mailto:michaelreich.prof@gmail.com)]

**Sent:** Monday, June 19, 2017 7:33 PM

**To:** Elizabeth del Rocío Camacho; Jacqueline Sullivan; Sylvia Allegretto; Rob Duffey

**Subject:** Fwd: AP story

See below. Looks like we may need to delay the online roll-out to allow the AP reporter more time to file his story. Will let you know when. OK?

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Rob Duffey <[Rob.Duffey@berlinrosen.com](mailto:Rob.Duffey@berlinrosen.com)>

**Date:** Mon, Jun 19, 2017 at 4:27 PM

**Subject:** AP story

**To:** Paul Sonn <[psonn@nelp.org](mailto:psonn@nelp.org)>, Michael Reich

<[michaelreich.prof@gmail.com](mailto:michaelreich.prof@gmail.com)>

Just heard from reporter that a police shooting may force him to miss the embargo deadline, which means we wouldn't see a story on the East Coast until the late afternoon. Disappointing -- but we were pitching this on a tight timeline.

Do we know when the mayor's event will be -- meaning when's the latest we could hold for the reporter exclusively on the story? And can we press pause on the online roll-out on the Berkeley webpage if necessary?

Thanks, all. Sorry for the back and forth.

--

Michael Reich

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