

**Economic  
Policy  
Institute**

# **The Road to a Just Economy**

**Highlights of EPI's recent accomplishments**

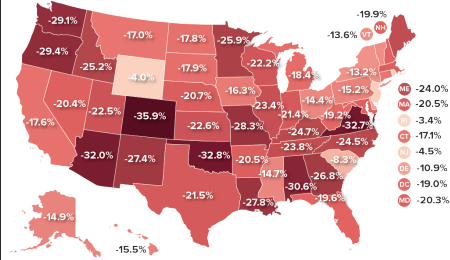
## Making the case for change with solid data

EPI's charts, maps, and infographics are used by members of Congress, journalists, researchers on economic and social issues, students, grassroots organizations, and others. EPI's data reinforces the message that policy choices have consequences that impact real lives.



### HIGHLIGHTS

#### How underpaid are teachers in your state?

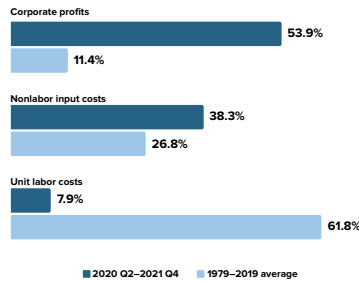


Source: Economic Policy Institute

See “The Teacher Pay Penalty Has Hit a New High” (August 16, 2022).

[go.epi.org/teacherpay22](https://www.economicpolicyinstitute.org/teacherpay22)

#### What is causing inflation?

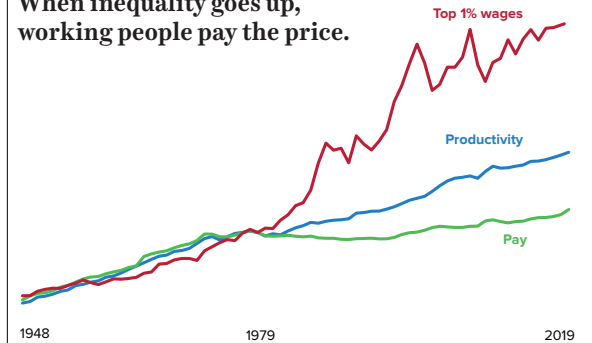


Source: Economic Policy Institute

See “Corporate Profits Have Contributed Disproportionately to Inflation” (April 21, 2022).

[go.epi.org/inflationblog](https://www.economicpolicyinstitute.org/inflationblog)

#### When inequality goes up, working people pay the price.



Source: Economic Policy Institute

See “The Productivity–Pay Gap” (updated October 2022).

[go.epi.org/productivitypaygap](https://www.economicpolicyinstitute.org/productivitypaygap)

Visit [epi.org/signup](https://www.economicpolicyinstitute.org/signup) to be sent our latest charts.

## Empowering workers to fight for economic justice

It's no coincidence that economic inequality has risen in tandem with the decline of organized labor. Deliberate policy choices have led to the erosion of worker bargaining power, and EPI is committed to the reversal of these policies and the empowerment of workers.



### HIGHLIGHTS

**Showing unions are good for workers.** EPI research found that union workers fared far better than their nonunion peers during the pandemic. They were more likely to receive pay through periods of closure and their jobs were more secure. [go.epi.org/unionspandemic](https://go.epi.org/unionspandemic)

**Showing unions are good for communities.** EPI found a correlation between higher levels of unionization in states and a range of economic, personal, and democratic well-being measures. In the same way unions give workers a voice at work, the data suggest that unions also give workers a voice in shaping their communities. Where workers have this power, states have more equitable economic structures, social structures, and democracies. [go.epi.org/unionshealth](https://go.epi.org/unionshealth)

**Emphasizing the need for a strong NLRB to protect unionization efforts.** In a Working Economics Blog post, EPI's policy team made a strong case for increased federal funding for the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). The NLRB is the body responsible for protecting workers' right to organize and collectively bargain. Yet years of chronic underfunding have undermined the Board's enforcement capability and its ability to fulfill its statutory responsibility, to the detriment of workers and the economy. [go.epi.org/nlrhealth](https://go.epi.org/nlrhealth)

**Spotlighting Amazon's union-busting.** EPI has been tracking the efforts of Amazon workers to unionize their workplaces and the resistance they've encountered. How policymakers respond to Amazon's tactics could have major implications for other union organizing efforts across the country. [go.epi.org/amazonbusting](https://go.epi.org/amazonbusting)





## Advancing progressive policies

The pandemic laid bare many of the injustices in our economy and made clear the urgent need for change. At the same time, programs like the American Rescue Plan demonstrated the positive impact that progressive policies can have on the lives of working people. EPI uses research and data analysis to make a compelling case for worker-friendly policies.

### HIGHLIGHTS

**Drawing attention to gig workers' poor working conditions and low pay.** EPI and the Shift Project released the findings of a national survey showing that gig workers—working for digital platform companies such as Uber, Lyft, and DoorDash—are paid low wages and face economic insecurity at high rates. This is largely due to their misclassification as independent contractors instead of employees. The survey's findings were used to develop messaging to oppose misclassification of gig workers and push back against efforts to create a third class of workers.

[go.epi.org/gigsurvey](https://go.epi.org/gigsurvey)

**Analyzing data for the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).** EPI produced research and data on the jobs that would be supported by the IIJA. The research was distributed to members of Congress and proved instrumental to the bill's passage. In September 2022, EPI's Adam Hersh was invited

to testify before the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on EPI's findings and the importance of public infrastructure investment.

[go.epi.org/IIJA](https://go.epi.org/IIJA)

**Supporting overtime for farmworkers.** EPI's policy team contributed to a successful campaign in New York state that gave farmworkers the right to overtime pay after 40 hours in a week.

[go.epi.org/farmworkers](https://go.epi.org/farmworkers)

**Testifying before Congress.** EPI researchers and subject matter experts testified before Congress six times during the first nine months of 2022. The hearings ranged from issues on retirement security to the impacts of corporate power on workers and consumers to assessing the H-2 visa program.

[go.epi.org/testimony](https://go.epi.org/testimony)



## Advancing racial, gender, and economic justice

A truly fair economy will leave no one behind. EPI's Program on Race, Ethnicity, and the Economy (PREE) identifies the systemic problems impacting Black, brown, and women workers and proposes solutions. PREE has become a nationally recognized leader on intersecting issues of race, ethnicity, gender, and economics.

### HIGHLIGHTS

**Releasing a resource guide to combat racism.** PREE produced a groundbreaking online resource guide, *Advancing Anti-racist Economic Research and Policy*. Designed to be accessible to a wider audience of researchers, policymakers, organizers, activists, advocates, journalists, and others, the guide seeks to strengthen anti-racist research and policy work by challenging assumptions and norms and exploring emerging frameworks for data gathering and analysis.  
[go.epi.org/anti-racist-policy-research](https://go.epi.org/anti-racist-policy-research)

**The guide includes an interactive chartbook** that depicts racial/ethnic disparities observed through: (1) population demographics; (2) civic engagement; (3) labor market outcomes; (4) income, poverty, and wealth; and (5) health. The findings are bracing, as they show how much more work we need to do to address long-standing and persistent racial inequities.  
[go.epi.org/arpr-chartbook](https://go.epi.org/arpr-chartbook)

Following publication of the online resource guide, PREE staff were invited to lead a closed-door briefing on “Frameworks for Anti-racist Policymaking” for the Democratic leadership, members, and senior staff of the House Committee on Education and Labor and the Joint Economic Committee.

**Testifying before Congress.** PREE Director Valerie Wilson testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee on Economic Disparity and Fairness in Growth in January 2022. She noted that policies often fall short in their attempts to address long-standing racial disparities in employment and wages because they do little to reform biased or discriminatory structures and systems. Wilson's testimony helped influence the Core Policy Strategies and Recommendations to be included in the Committee's final report.

[go.epi.org/wilson-testimony](https://go.epi.org/wilson-testimony)



## Partnering with local allies to build a fair economy

EPI's Economic Analysis and Research Network (EARN) is a network of research, policy, and advocacy groups working on economic justice issues at the local level in states and communities across the country.

### HIGHLIGHTS

**In close collaboration with grassroots and community organizations**, EARN's network of state-level policy research groups help secure critical and novel protections for workers. EPI's research, technical assistance, and capacity-building grants to the network provided the resources needed for EARN groups to make a difference.

- EARN partners and a grassroots partner secured ARPA funds for wage theft co-enforcement in an Iowa county;
- Members in New York, Colorado, and the District of Columbia secured groundbreaking joblessness supports for undocumented immigrants;
- Our Virginia partner helped win new collective bargaining rights for public employees in multiple cities and counties in the state;
- Maryland's EARN group was part of the coalition that won paid family and medical leave there;

- EARN groups in New York played helped secure new labor protections for delivery service workers in New York City and improved overtime protections for farmworkers across the state; and,
- Numerous other EARN members have helped ensure federal funds from the American Rescue Plan and other COVID-relief bills have been used to support public sector workers, such as in Austin, TX, where our EARN group helped establish a \$20 minimum wage for city employees.

EARN staff at EPI also produced foundational research on workers at nursing homes and residential care facilities, and the need to raise wages for all care workers, that EARN partners are using to support policy efforts to build a stronger and more equitable care economy.

[go.epi.org/statehchwages](https://go.epi.org/statehchwages)

For more information, see [earn.us](https://earn.us)

C-SPAN

CNN

The Atlantic

VICE

POLITICO

## Shaping the conversation around economic justice

EPI research was cited hundreds of times last year in outlets such as the New York Times, the Associated Press, CNN, MSNBC, and other major broadcast networks.

WIXIOS

The New York Times

npr

FFPOSTI

BUSTLE

Vox

ABC NEWS

Bloomberg

MSNBC

The Boston Globe

THE NEW YORKER

VOA

abc NEWS

The Washington Post

### HIGHLIGHTS

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**256,750+ followers**

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YouTube, and Instagram

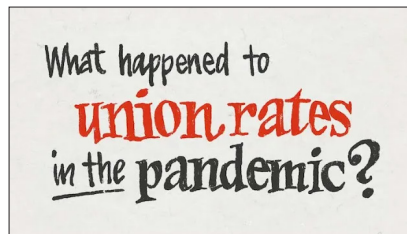
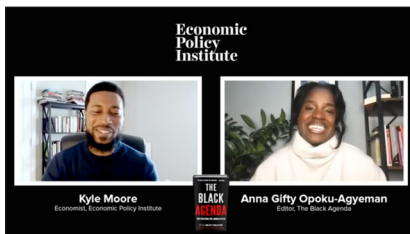
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