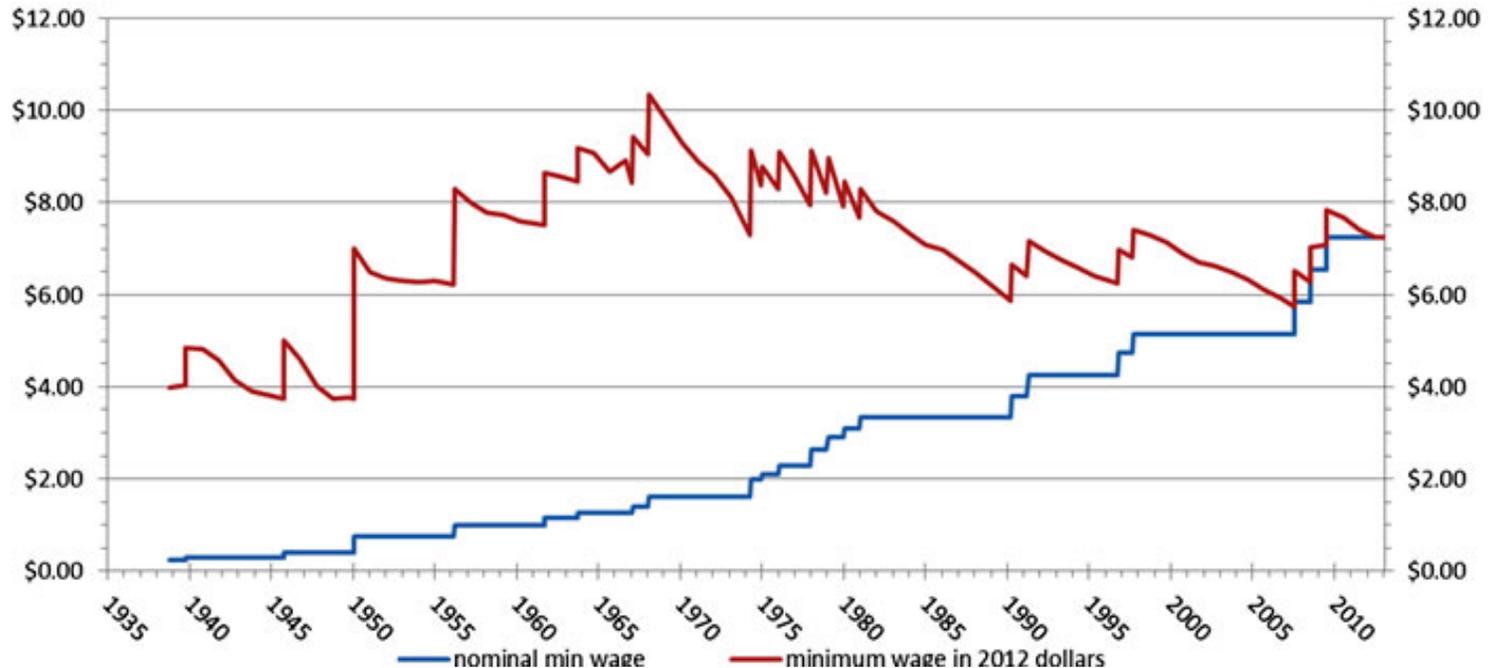


The real minimum wage falls as inflation rises, representing less purchasing power for minimum wage earnings

Minimum wage from 1938 to 2012

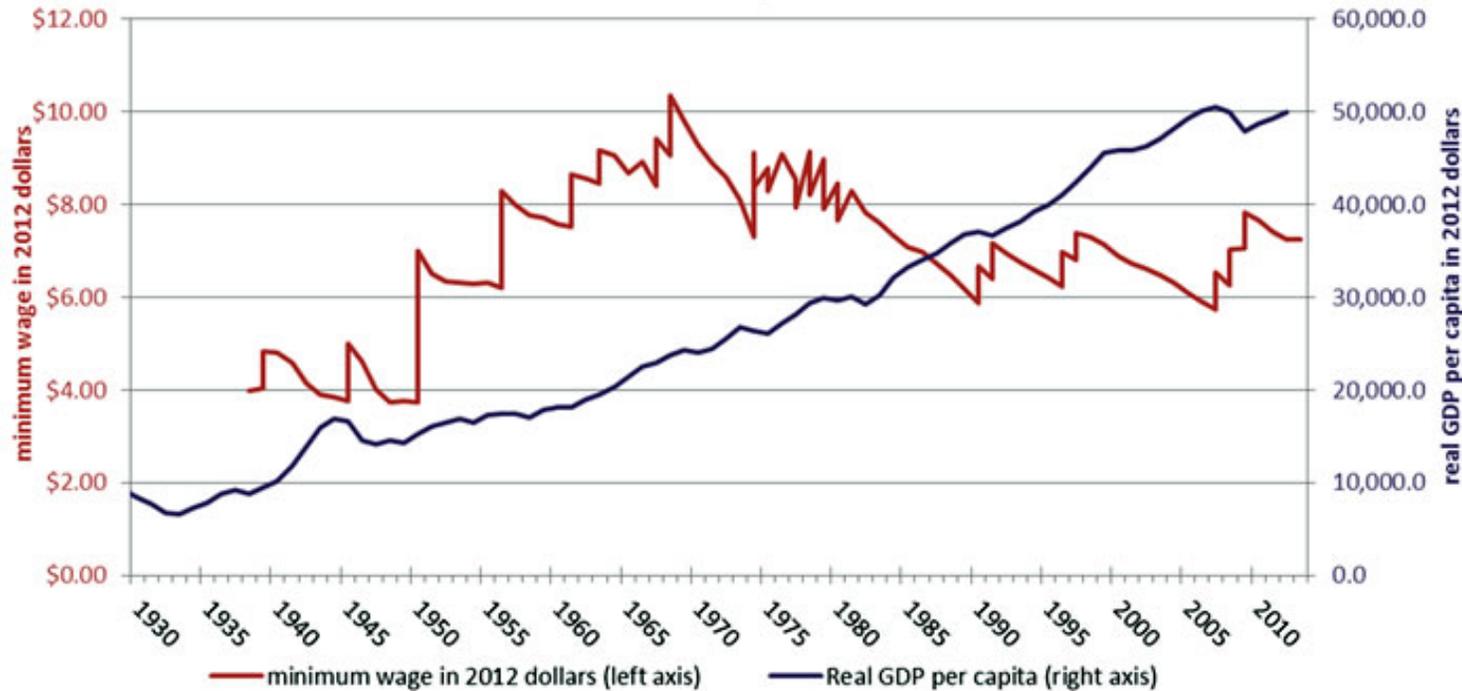
in nominal dollars and inflation-adjusted 2012 dollars



[View the minimum wage from 1938 to 2012 data](#)

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Wage & Hour Division, www.dol.gov/whd/minwage/chart.htm

¹Inflation adjusted using CPI-W, annual averages 1938 to 2012, bls.gov/cpi



[View the real GDP per capita compared to real minimum wage, 1930 to 2012 data](#)

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, www.bea.gov

Mid-year population estimates from U.S. Census Bureau, www.census.gov

¹In 2012 dollars, Chained GDP Deflator

²In 2012 dollars CPI-W, annual averages 1928 to 2012, bls.gov/cpi