Data: describe where your data are sourced from, what the main variables of interest are, and do some preliminary data analysis (e.g. plotting) as appropriate

Our data has come from multiple sources. Our minimum wage data came from Kaggle.com, who stripped it from the United States Department of Labor. This data broke down the minimum wage by state every year from 1968-2020. The important points of data from this set are the state minimum wage, federal minimum wage, and the effective minimum wage which is the higher of the two for each year. If the state minimum wage is lower than the federal minimum wage, then the federal minimum wage is the effective minimum wage. We took our employment and hence our unemployment rates from FRED, which were grouped by state and by year. We compiled them into a large CSV and used it to perform our analysis. The most important data point from this CSV is obviously the unemployment rate, which was used along with minimum wage in our regression analysis.

We also consulted some prior analyses of our question or of similar questions, like “Effects of the Minimum Wage on Employment Dynamics” by Jonathan Meer and Jeremy West and “Using Federal Minimum Wages to Identify the Impact of Minimum Wages on Employment and Earnings across the U.S. States” by Yusuf Soner Baskaya and Yona Rubinstein. These helped us formulate the hypothesis that unemployment and minimum wage are positively related. Both papers discuss and support this with evidence, which inspired us to perform similar analyses. We particularly wanted to break it down to a state level, where we found that this hypothesis holds true.