

May Day 2016

Main peaceful demonstrations

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Main violent protests

1 Los Angeles

In Los Angeles, hundreds of people marched in a rally that took aim at Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump for his anti-illegal immigration platform that includes building a wall along the U.S. border with Mexico.

2 Portland, S. Francisco, Oakland

Large events also took place in Portland, San Francisco and Oakland. Hundreds of workers rallied along cities' streets in support of immigrant and workers' rights and to demand justice for several men killed by city police.

3 São Paulo

Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff join Sao Paulo's rally announcing to tens of thousands of backers that she will beef up a flagship social program, reduce the impact of income tax and build another 25,000 new low-price homes.

4 London

Labour Party leader Corbyn joined thousands of people at a rally in central London, using the occasion to condemn the progress of far-right groups throughout Europe: he said the party is united against the far-right and against racism.

5 Berlin and Hamburg

Thousands of people in the German cities of Berlin and Hamburg were participating in demonstrations. The protests were peaceful, with police reporting only minor incidents of violence.

6 Moscow

Tens of thousands of people marched across Moscow's Red Square in a pro-Kremlin workers' rally. The slogans focused on wages and jobs for young professionals and clearly criticized Putin's government for falling living standards.

7 Seoul

Tens of thousands of South Koreans took part in rallies to criticise labour reforms pushed by the government and to call for a higher minimum wage. Labour activists say the reform bill will make it easier for companies to lay off workers.

8 Taipei

In Taipei labor unions took to the streets with a march to call on the government: thousands of protesters from different labor groups staged a rally on a street to ask for raising minimum wage and shorter working hours.

9 Manila

About 2,000 left-wing protesters scuffled with riot police, who used shields and a water cannon to try to prevent the demonstrators from getting near the U.S. Embassy. Labor leaders said 20 protesters were injured.

10 Istanbul

Thousands of demonstrators rallied in an authorized area of Istanbul while police cracked down on other protests. Police used tear gas and water cannons on demonstrators trying to reach Taksim Square. One man died.

11 Plauen

A group of around 500 right-wing protesters marched in the city, while 1,500 of left-wingers also gathered, resulting in clashes between opposing demonstrators: police used water cannon against protesters.

12 Turin

Police had to interfere when far-left protesters staged a demonstration to oppose supporters of the ruling Democratic Party, who had gathered in the city. The protesters lit flares and held banners denouncing the Prime Minister.

13 Montreal

Several hundred anticapitalist demonstrators marched through the streets of Montreal. The rally turned violent after protesters started throwing projectiles and breaking windows at a downtown police station.

14 Seattle

What began as peaceful protests for immigration and workers rights erupted into violence when anti-capitalist demonstrators began throwing rocks and bottles, clashing with Seattle police: 9 arrested, 5 officers hurt.

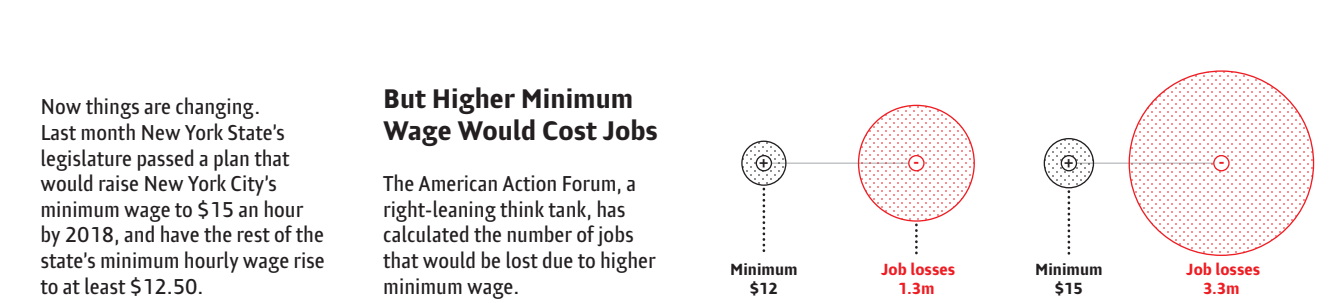
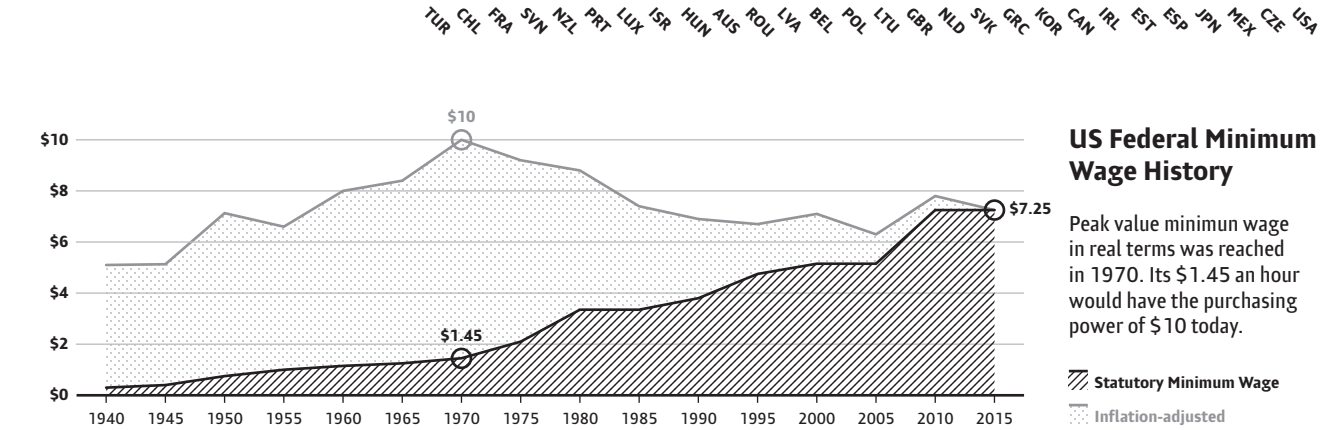
15 Paris and France

The celebrations coincided with nationwide escalating protests against labor law reforms. The CGT labor union said there were more than 70,000 protesters in Paris alone. Clashes with police were reported.

Since March 31, hundreds of thousands of predominantly young protesters all over France have struggled against the reform; here are some points: new provisions regarding working hours, social dialogue, layoffs and working conditions

Minimum-Wage Madness

On November 29, 2012, New York City's fast food workers took to the streets to demand fair pay. It was the beginning of a movement dubbed 'Fight for \$15'. The employees earned anywhere from \$7.50 to \$8.50, which put them below the poverty line. Though the protests received national coverage, many thought such a drastic wage increase to be a pipe dream.



But Higher Minimum Wage Would Cost Jobs

The American Action Forum, a right-leaning think tank, has calculated the number of jobs that would be lost due to higher minimum wage.

Minimum \$12

Job losses 1.3m

Minimum \$15

Job losses 3.3m

The World's Most Miserable Economies

The misery index is an economic indicator – created by economist Arthur Okun – that helps determine how the average citizen is doing economically and it is calculated by adding the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate to the annual inflation rate.

Venezuela Has an Unhappy First Place

Rank	Country	Misery Index
#1	Venezuela	155
#2	Argentina	38
#3	South Africa	25
#4	Greece	25
#5	Ukraine	22

Inflation (dark green)
Unemployment (light green)

Thanks to off-the-charts inflation, Venezuela will probably retain the dubious honor of being the most miserable economy in 2016. Galloping inflation at an annual average of 98.3% last year alongside 6.8% unemployment earned the South American country the runaway top spot on the 2015 misery index.

In Addition to the Economic Crisis, the Energy Crisis

In a desperate attempt to save electricity, drought-stricken Venezuela has introduced a new concept to the workplace calendar: the five-day weekend. The president Nicolás Maduro announced that public employees will work only two days a week and that in the most populous states there will be continuous power outages.

Country	Rank 2016	Misery IDX	Rank 2015	Misery IDX
Venezuela	1	159.7	1	105.1
Argentina	2	39.9	5	22.1
South Africa	3	32.0	3	30.2
Greece	4	27.0	4	23.4
Ukraine	5	26.3	2	57.8
Spain	6	21.2	6	21.6
Serbia	7	20.9	-	-
Turkey	8	18.8	8	17.9
Brazil	9	16.8	11	15.8
Kazakhstan	10	16.7	9	17.3
Croatia	11	16.7	17	11.6
Uruguay	12	16.5	10	16.2
Cyprus	13	15.7	13	13.5
Russia	14	14.5	7	21.1
Colombia	15	14.5	12	13.9
Portugal	16	12.5	14	13.0
Costa Rica	17	12.1	22	10.4
Italy	18	12.0	16	12.0
Slovakia	19	11.4	18	11.2
Euro Area	20	11.2	19	10.9
France	21	11.1	21	10.5
Indonesia	22	11.0	15	12.4
Lithuania	23	10.9	29	8.8
Latvia	24	10.9	31	8.2
Chile	25	10.7	20	10.6
Finland	26	10.4	27	9.2
Poland	27	10.1	42	6.6
Belgium	28	9.9	28	9.0
Peru	29	9.8	24	10.0
Slovenia	30	9.7	30	8.6
Ireland	31	9.6	26	9.3
Ecuador	32	9.3	23	10.0
Bulgaria	33	9.3	25	9.4
Philippines	34	9.0	33	7.7
Hungary	35	9.0	39	6.9
Sri Lanka	36	8.7	-	-
Canada	37	8.6	32	8.0
Australia	38	8.2	34	7.6
Sweden	39	8.0	36	7.4
Estonia	40	7.9	47	5.7
Netherlands	41	7.8	35	7.5
New Zeland	42	7.7	46	6.1
Germany	43	7.5	40	6.7
Czech Republic	44	7.4	37	7.1
Mexico	45	7.4	38	7.1
Austria	46	7.4	51	5.4
El Salvador	47	7.3	-	-
Luxembourg	48	7.3	41	6.6
Norway	49	6.9	43	6.5
Iceland	50	6.4	50	5.4
United States	51	6.4	53	4.6
Malaysia	52	6.3	52	5.2
Romania	53	6.3	45	6.3
U. Kingdom	54	6.2	48	5.5
Hong Kong	55	6.0	44	6.3
Denmark	56	5.9	55	4.3
China	57	5.8	49	5.5
South Korea	58	5.0	54	4.3
Taiwan	59	4.8	57	3.5
Japan	60	4.0	56	4.2
Switzerland	61	3.2	58	2.2
Singapore	62	2.6	59	1.4
Thailand	63	2.2	60	0.0

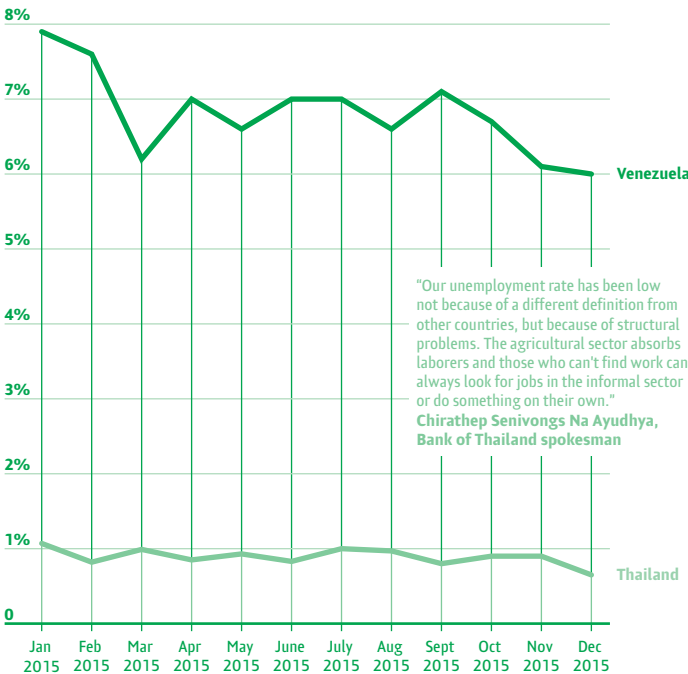
Sources: Bloomberg surveys, national data for countries listed

The ranking of 63 economies is compiled by adding a country's jobless rate and inflation, a long-standing calculation in which a higher score indicates more misery. Venezuela's 159.7 tally for the 2016 misery quadruples the next-worst ranking Argentina.

The world's happiest economies this year will look quite similar to last year's rankings. Thailand, in part due to unique structural issues that allow more people to count as employed, will stay as least miserable.

The Distance Between Venezuela and Thailand

Unemployment Rate in 2015



Impressum

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A Basic Income Is Smarter Than a Minimum Wage

What Would Happen If We Just Gave People Free Money?

A basic income is an income unconditionally granted to all on an individual basis, without means test or work requirement. It is being paid to individuals rather than households and irrespective of any income from other sources. This could potentially help eradicate poverty.

Basic income is not a single idea but a family of closely related ideas, which go by an assortment of names: universal basic income, unconditional basic income, guaranteed annual income, citizen's income, negative income tax etc.

