THE MINIMUM WAGE PARADOX



PROBLEM

- A Minimum wage is supposed to redistribute money from rich to poor
- However, economists disagree about whether it actually does so. With some advocating that decreases employment and hurts the economy

Portuguese Example:



around 910 euros

The **average salary** in Lisbon is around 910 euros, which is the highest in **Portugal**. The **average** wages in **Portugal** are still rather low figures for Western European standards.



QUESTIONS (



Are countries with min wage better off?



How's min wage growth across countries?

- 2001-2018
- OECD countries
- Relationship with Average wage, Equality (GINI index), Unemployment rate and GDP per capita growth rates



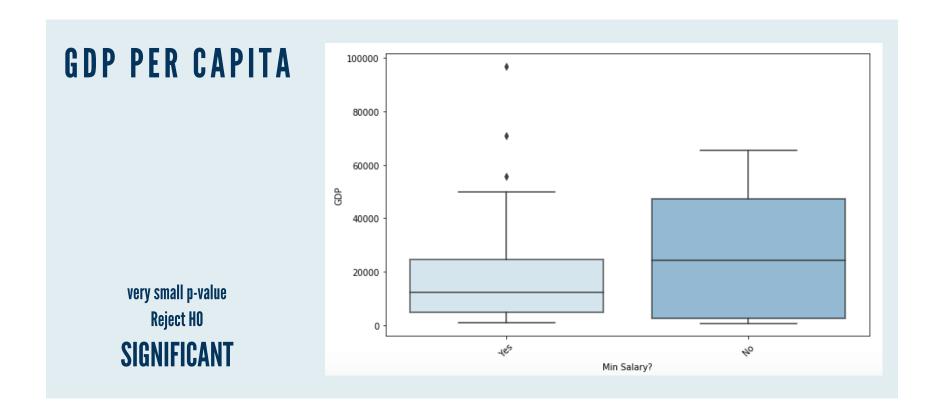
How has Min to Average wage gap changed over time?

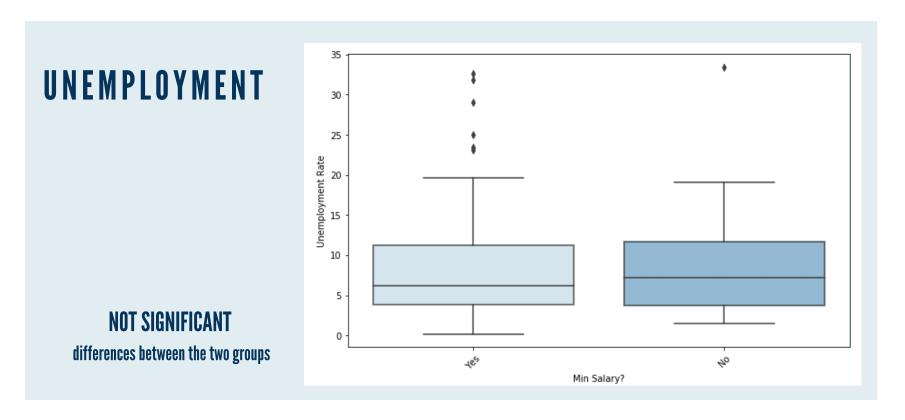
- 2001-2018
- Portugal, USD and Estonia Analysis

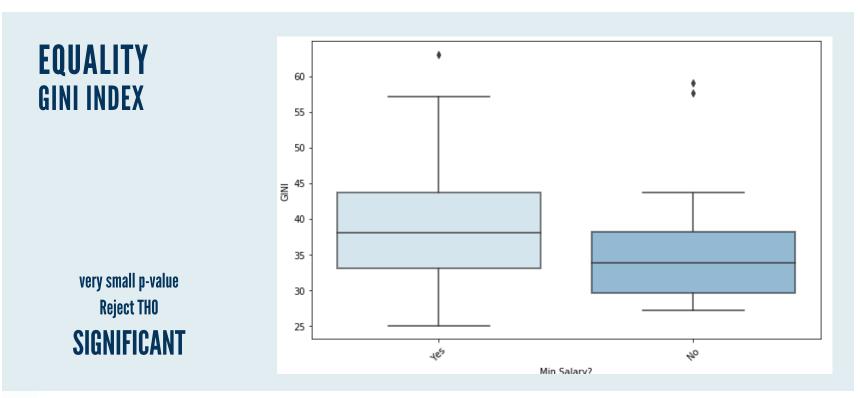
DATA GATHERING, CLEANING AND EXPLORATION

4 WEB SCAPPING MACHINES,
252 DATASETS,
8000 LINES OF CODE AND
43,098 HOURS LATER.....

ARE COUNTRIES WITH MIN WAGE BETTER OFF? ANOVA ANALYSIS (133 countries)

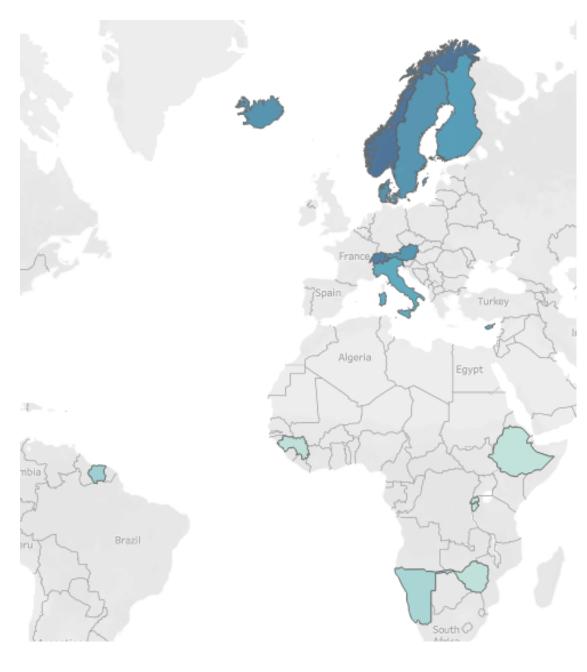






ARE COUNTRIES WITH MIN WAGE BETTER OFF?





SALARY GROWTH 2001 - 2018

Test: Min Wage growth

Significantly related

Not related

GDP growth

Unemployment

Av Wage growth

Inequality

CROSS COUNTRY ANALYSIS (OECD 35 COUNTRIES)

| Country | Min Wage Growth | 2001-2018 GDP growth | Unemployment Rate | GINI | Av Wage Growth | Min/Av Ratio growth rate |
|-----------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Australia | 16.0237 | 27.491426 | 6.20 | 35.8 | 16.094705 | -5.118670 |
| Belgium | 0.0143 | 18.251767 | 5.30 | 27.7 | 3.997763 | -7.283712 |
| Canada | 39.4627 | 30.228721 | 13.00 | 34.0 | 24.557601 | 21.828746 |
| Chile | 62.3705 | 57.242910 | 8.20 | 46.6 | 29.462581 | 6.501163 |

Test: Average Wage growth

Significantly related

Not related

GDP growth (bigger t value and R-squared)

Unemployment

Min Wage growth

Inequality

MINIMUM/AVERAGE WAGE

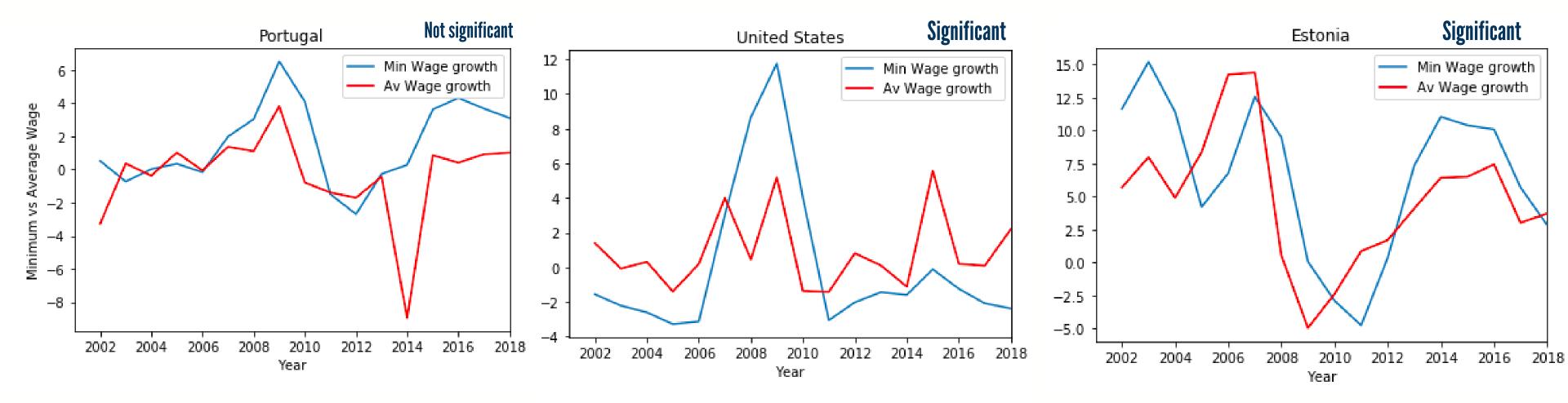
Min/Av. Wage Ratio 0.60 Colombia 0.55 0.50 France 0.45 **Portugal** 0.40 **Estonia** 0.35 0.30 0.25 USA 2001 2002 2010 2012 2013 2015 2016

Years

2001 vs 2018

There are **significant**differences between the two periods of time

MIN vs AVERAGE WAGE GROWTH



MAIN TAKEAWAYS



Countries **without** established Minimum Wage are better off (GDP per capita & GINI index)



Overall, there is a **significant increase** in Min/Average Wage ratio **Av. Salary** seems to be better indicator of the country's growth **Min. Wage** a better indicator of inequality



There is **no world-wide magical formula** for Min Wage establishment and decision-making

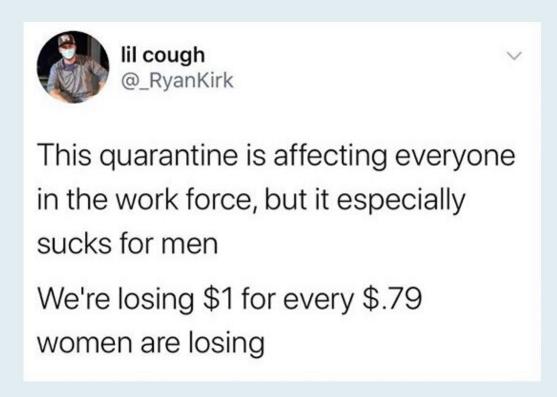


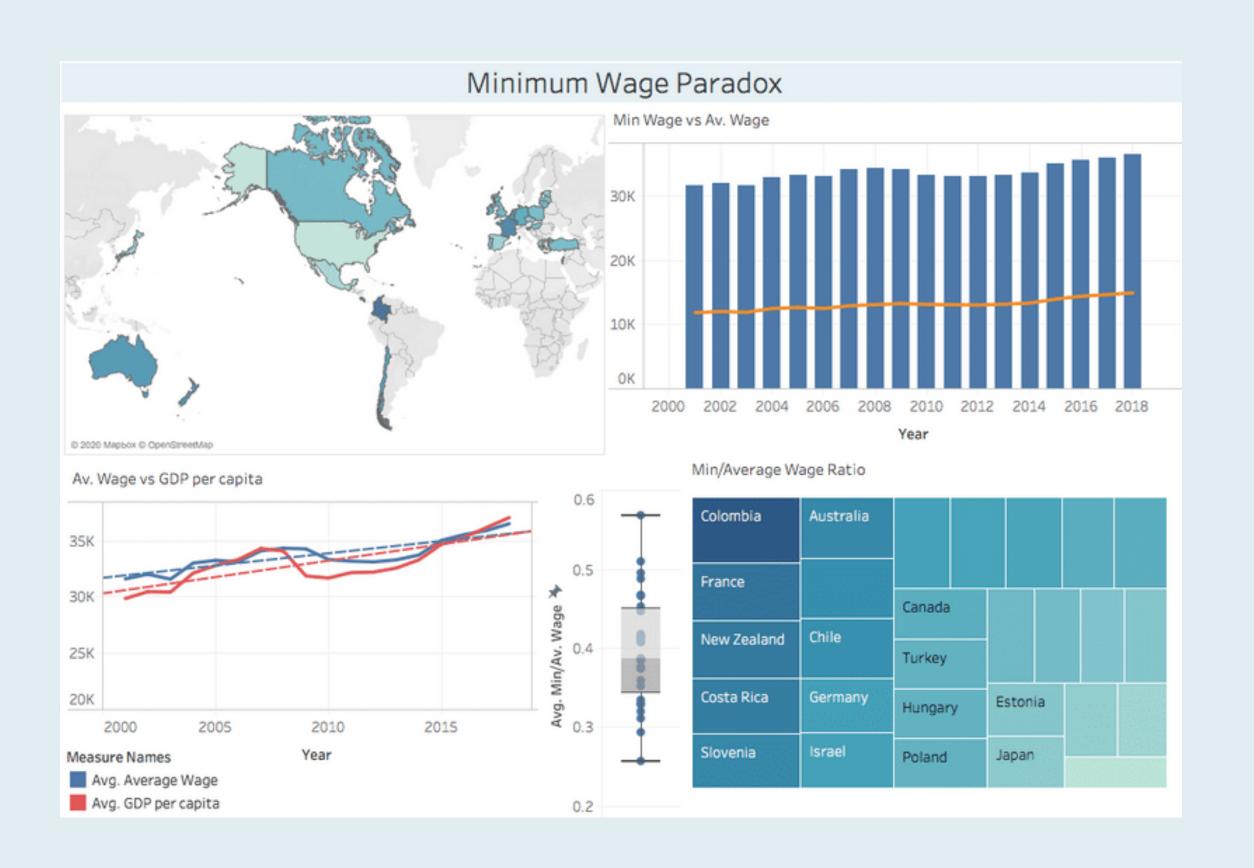
DIFFICULTIES

- Very few observations for the over time analysis
- Too complex and conceptual topic
- Causality relationship Does min wage impact GDP growth or the other way around?

FURTHER WORK

- Time Series
- Decomposing GINI Index
- Wage differences (e.g. gender pay gap)





QUESTIONS?

THANKS LUKE!

