



- Earnings for low- and midwage workers have generally declined or stagnated for decades. In 2016, earnings for the lowest-paid workers surpassed their 1979 level for the first time in 37 years.

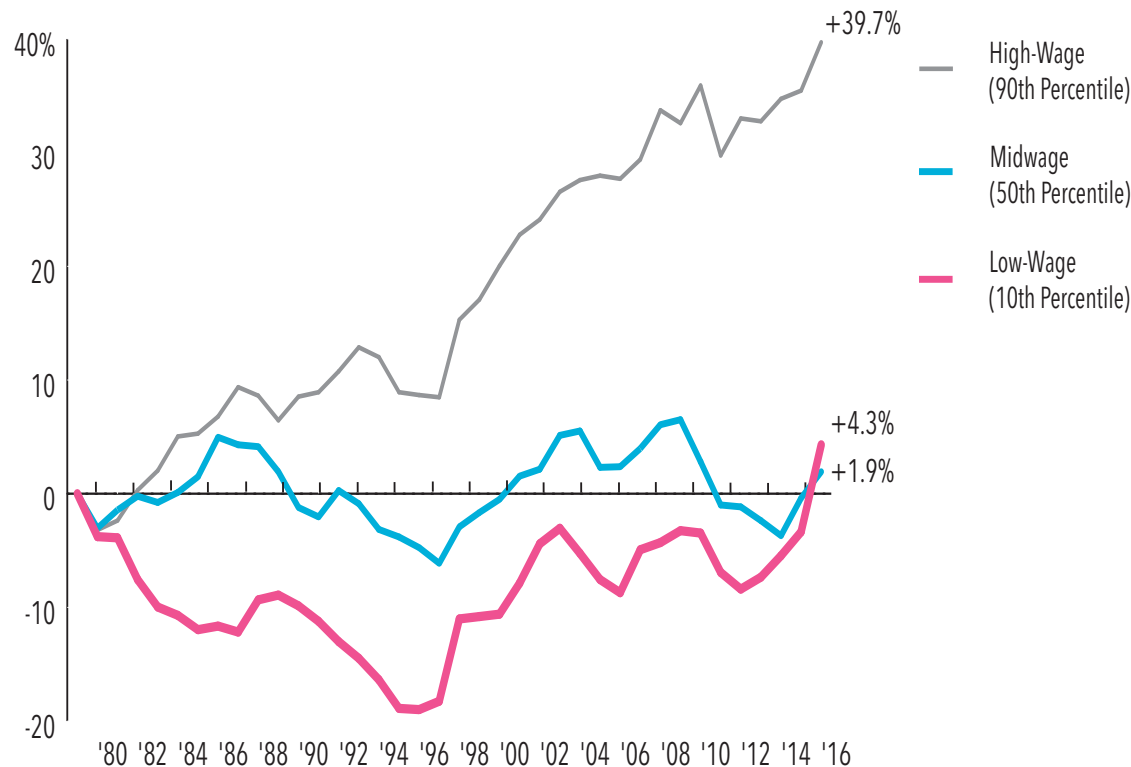
- This pay bump is largely due to the rising state minimum wage. California increased the minimum wage from \$8 to \$10 per hour between 2014 and 2016.

- Policy choices can help ensure that all workers along the income spectrum are better able to achieve economic security. Beginning January 1, 2018, the state's minimum wage increased to \$11 per hour and will rise annually until reaching \$15 per hour, boosting hourly pay for low-wage workers. At the same time, additional policies are needed to promote economic security for low- and midwage workers.

JANUARY 2018 | BY AMY ROSE

## Modest Gains for California's Low- and Midwage Workers

Percent Change in Inflation-Adjusted Hourly Wages for Workers Ages 18 to 64 Since 1979



Source: Economic Policy Institute analysis of US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey data