

Made in America: The Prison Wage Gap

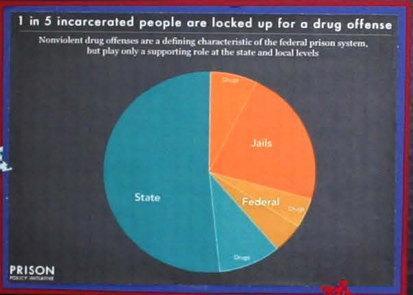
The Captive Workforce
"100% of able-bodied sentenced federal prisoners are required to work in the prison," there is no vacation time, personal days, or sick leave, or overtime pay. There is no worker's compensation, or minimum wage, no worker's union. (PPI, 2003)

"That mass incarceration would create a huge captive workforce was anticipated long before the US prison population reached its peak—at a time when the concept of 'rehabilitation' was still considered part of the mission of prisons." (Eik & Sloan, 2011)



What is, "The Box?"

While the federal minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour, inmate workers average minimum wage in the United States is \$4.73 per day. In an eight hour work day, that comes to approximately \$0.60 an hour. (Hrenchir, 2013)



"Outside the Walls"

Job/Occupation	Job Description	Average Entry Wage
Dental Laboratory Tech	Manufacturing customized crowns, bridges, dentures, etc.	\$19.00 per hour
Print Production	Produce textbooks, music books, novels, user manuals, etc.	\$14.50 per hour
Food Processing	Processing packaging anything from school lunches to fast-food.	\$12.50 per hour
Call Center Worker	Fielding customer service calls for corporations from Sprint to Antrim.	\$14.00 per hour
Equipment Manufacturer	Manufacturing military and police gear such as uniforms, targets, etc.	\$13 to \$19.00 per hour
Carpenter	Construct and repair building frameworks and structures, etc.	\$20 to \$35.00 per hour
Electrician	Install and maintain electrical power systems, and control systems.	\$25 to \$45.00 per hour
Service Canine Trainer	Train service dogs to assist individuals with disabilities.	\$10 to \$12.00 per hour

Introduction
For more than the past two decades, the United States has been experiencing an era of mass incarceration. Representing just 5% of the world's inhabitants, the United States is responsible for 25% of the world's incarcerated population (Macarow, 2016). Due to mass incarceration, an unprecedented number of American citizens have been processed, imprisoned, and systematically oppressed through the criminal justice system and Prison Industrial Complex (PIC) is the name of big business, otherwise known as the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC). Employed by ALEC, the PIC produces a large and vulnerable captive workforce labeled as criminals and stripped of their rights as American citizens and workers, an interaction comparable to slavery, and characteristically consequential to the lives of the prisoners, as well as their families, even post-imprisonment. This is the face of prison labor, this is the face of modern day slavery.

The Prison Industrial Complex is a term used to describe the overlapping of government interests and industry that use surveillance, policing, and imprisonment tactics as solutions to economic, social, and political problems (Critical Resistance, 2017).



UNICOR Federal Prison Industries employs prisoners at 89 different factories across the country to do all kinds of work from manufacturing furniture, textiles, solar panels, missile parts, and gear used by the police and military to running call centers for sales, tele-marketing and customer-service-related jobs. The minimum UNICOR wage ranges from \$0.23 to \$1.15 per hour. In the year 2001 alone, UNICOR sales totaled \$583.5 million dollars, \$308 million of which came from the US Department of Defense. The average cost of incarcerating a single federal prisoner is about \$29,000. (PPI, 2003)

In 1994, GOP Congressional candidate Jack Metcalf hired prisoners from Washington State to call and remind voters that he was pro-death-penalty. (Dinam, 2015)

PRIDE is a privately-held profit corporation that employs inmates out of Florida to manufacture processed beef, pork and chicken used in school lunches and fast food establishments. (USDL, 2015)



"ALEC has proven expertly capable of devising endless ways to help private corporations benefit from the country's massive prison population." (Eik & Sloan, 2011)



- American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC)**
- Altria Group
 - Amazon
 - American Bull Coalition
 - American Express
 - American Credit Union
 - Ardurium-Bauch Compaction Inc.
 - Aurion
 - Bank of America
 - Bevco Corp.
 - Bowling
 - Best Buy
 - CenturyLink
 - CashAmerica
 - Cherwin Corp.
 - Cisco-Cala Company
 - Coldwell Banker
 - Conquest
 - Crown Brewing Company
 - Convention Corporations of America
 - Country Health Care
 - Crown Holdings, Inc.
 - Crown Industries
 - CVS
 - Dragon
 - Edgewise
 - EL Lilly and Co.
 - ExpressMailExpedis
 - FedEx
 - Ford Motor Co.
 - Genie Corp.
 - GEICO
 - General Electric
 - GenPro Products
 - Georgie
 - Hunter Design
 - Huayuan
 - Ideal Image Development
 - Independent Mining Co.
 - Inval
 - JC Penney Co.
 - John Deere and Co.
 - Johanna & Johnson
 - Koch Industries
 - Lowe's Companies, Inc.
 - Many Key Companies
 - Marlboro Contract Services Inc.
 - McDonald's Corporation
 - Miramont
 - Multi Oil Corporation
 - Mutuals
 - Noranda
 - OCIA
 - Outback Steak House
 - Oxmark.com
 - PARADE
 - Probody Energy
 - Proton
 - Pylon Holdings
 - Paycom
 - Pfizer Inc.
 - PICOP Corporation
 - Playa Dodge Corp.
 - Pliny Martin Companies
 - Puritan National Gas
 - Raytheon Company
 - Sadie Man
 - Sava Law Corporation
 - Shell Oil Company
 - Sony Corp.
 - State Farm Insurance Co.
 - T-Mobile
 - Truist RealEstate
 - Trickett
 - Thom Watson Cable
 - Triguard
 - United Airlines
 - UnitedHealth Group
 - United Parcel Service (UPS)
 - United States Steel Corporation
 - Verizon
 - Via
 - Waldgreen
 - Wal-Mart
 - Wells Fargo
 - Yahoo!
 - Yelp



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