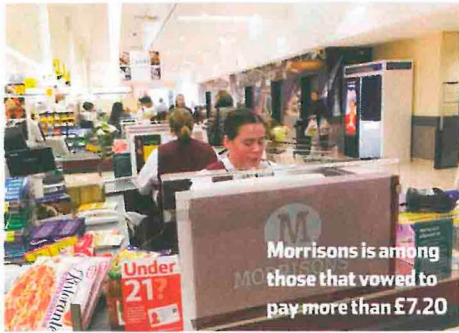


ANALYSIS

The national living wage came into force this month and retailers have been jockeying for position



NATIONAL LIVING WAGE

Which retailers are paying the most?

Chancellor George Osborne's national living wage came into force earlier this month, but retailers had long been jockeying for position.

As the issues of pay, benefits and staff productivity climbed higher up boardroom agendas, retailers have been keen to make a mark when it comes to increasing their hourly rates of pay.

Although Osborne outlined a rate of £7.20 per hour, Swedish furniture specialist Ikea became the first UK retailer to pledge to pay staff the rates that the Living Wage Foundation has been campaigning for – £7.85, or £9.15 per hour to people working in London.

Oliver Bonas, Lidl, Aldi and Morrisons were among other retailers that vowed to pay their staff more than £7.20 per hour.

But the new mandatory rate has forced retailers such as Tesco, Wilko and B&Q to change tack over premium Sunday and bank holiday pay – moves that have sparked a backlash online towards B&Q owner Kingfisher.

Retailers have been keen to make a mark when it comes to increasing their hourly rates of pay

RetailWeek data

LIVING WAGE LEAGUE TABLE



NB: Figures relate to all full-time staff

LIVING WAGE KEY FACTS



Minimum wage earners have moved to the living wage, receiving a 50p-an-hour pay rise. The living wage is due to reach £9 an hour by 2020.

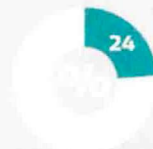
THIS EQUATES TO: (UK wide figures)



IMPACT OF THE LIVING WAGE (Retail & leisure sector only)



84% of company leaders say the introduction of the living wage and failure to change Sunday trading laws will make the UK a less attractive place to do business.



Only 24% of company leaders say the living wage will have an overall positive impact.



31% of respondents are budgeting to take account of the £9 target for 2020

Sources: Institute of Fiscal Studies, Resolution Foundation, Alix Partners