

January 2022 Issue

# MTA Newsletter

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Your Weekly guide to everything happening on the Hill



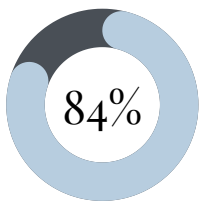
## Inflation

January 24, 2022

Inflation has increased by 7% just in December and is the highest recording ever in the last four decades. Many small business owners, 82% in one survey, want the government to provide federal relief. Inflation is continually hurting businesses with one survey showing that 76% of business owners say that inflation has negatively impacted the financial health of their business in the last 6 months. [Read more.](#)

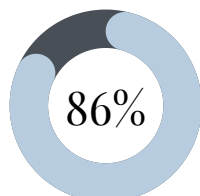
Inside, we also talk about:

Vaccine Mandate, Minimum Wage-2 Certifications-3,4



84% of business owners say inflationary pressures have increased in the last 6 months

86% of business owners support congress reauthorizing the COVID- Economic Injury Disaster Loan





## Vaccine Mandate

January 21, 2022

There have been three vaccine mandates put into place by the Biden administration. Currently the Supreme Court has blocked the OSHA from passing a mandate that would require private employers with over 100 employees to mandate their employees get vaccinated. The second mandate required all health care professionals that receive Medicare and Medicaid funding from the federal government to be vaccinated and that mandate was allowed by the Supreme Court. The last mandate has just been put into place by Biden and it requires all federal contractors to be vaccinated. This mandate has not been ruled on yet. There has been a case brought up in the 11th circuit challenging the mandate, but a decision has not been made. It is predicted that the 11th circuit won't decide until late February or early March. In the meantime if you are a federal contractor that has contracts covered by the mandate make sure that you have processes in place to collect vaccine information, and provide resources to allow for your employees to get vaccinated. For more information [read here](#). To see if you have contracts covered under the mandate [read here](#).

## Minimum Wage Increase

January 17, 2022

President Biden in April of this past year signed an executive order that would raise the hourly minimum wage to \$15.00. This is set to go into effect at the end of January 2022. The US Department of Labor has published a [Field Assistance Bulletin \(FAB\)](#) to help with any questions regarding the executive order. Contracts covered under the executive order (taken from the FAB):

- procurement contracts for construction covered by the Davis-Bacon Act (DBA)
- service contracts covered by the Service Contract Act (SCA)
- concessions contracts
- contracts entered with the Federal Government in connection with Federal property or lands and related to offering services for Federal employees, their dependents, or the general public.

Workers that are covered by the executive order:

- workers whose wages under the contract are governed by the FLSA, SCA, or DBA; and
- workers employed on or in connection with a covered contract.

For more information [read here](#).



# NDAA for FY22

January 3, 2022

The National Defense Authorization Act for the 2022 fiscal year was presented and signed by Biden. Some provisions to note include:

- Section 834 establishes a merit-based pilot program to help accelerate procurement in innovative technologies. Technologies by small businesses and nontraditional defense contractors will be prioritized.
- Section 861-867 establishes that there will be an increased focus on funding small business innovation research programs.

For a list of the most important changes in the NDAA FY2022 [read here](#).

## New Certification

January 11, 2022

Starting in the new year certain federal contractors will be required to certify that they have an affirmative action program for each establishment. Before the new year, this certification was not required unless the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Program asked for it. Contractors that have to follow this new regulation include contractors that have a service contract worth more \$50,000 or more and that have at least 50 employees. OFCCP is not currently requiring construction contractors to certify AAP compliance though this could change. Registration for OFCCP access starts on February 1 and certification begins March 31. The deadline for this certifying compliance with AAP is June 30, 2022. [Read more here](#). To learn more about AAP [click here](#).

## JOB APPLICATION

Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offense?

**Ban the BOX**

## Ban-the-Box Law

December 2021

Starting as of December 2021, federal contractors are no longer able to ask potential employees about previous criminal history. This new regulation is a part of the Fair Chance Act, which was pit into motion in 2019, but has only now been signed. It's been enacted for the purpose of combatting the criminal-justice system which has been shown to disproportionately incarcerate black and brown men. The concept is that if it is against regulation to ask about criminal history then these men will be given better opportunities to gain employment. The law has been criticized. For more information on that [read here](#).





## Cybersecurity Compliance

January 19, 2022

Cybersecurity compliance was defined by the defense industry two years ago and the regulation was called the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC). These regulations were previously postponed due to the pandemic, but now the regulations have been modified to be the CMMC 2.0. It is important to note that this regulation is not yet enacted. Under this new regulation all defense contractors are subject to the regulations with a slight difference in classification of contractors. There are three distinct classifications that have different compliance requirements to learn more where your business falls read here. A new certification process has also been implemented that allows for self-certification for level 1 and level 2 contractors that don't handle CUI critical to national security. This compliance is not yet required and will probably be another 2 to 3 years to be enacted. Firms are encouraged though to start the process. [Read more.](#)

## Things to look for in the coming months:

- *Tax and spending bill*
- *Government funding appropriations*
- *Vaccine Mandates*
- *Build Back Better Act*

[Read more.](#)



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