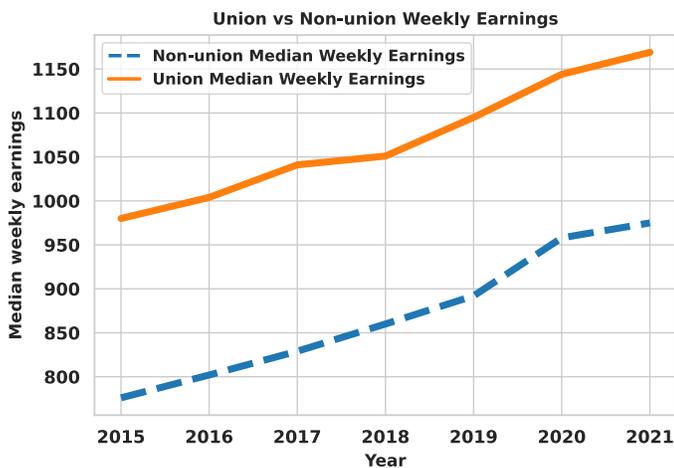


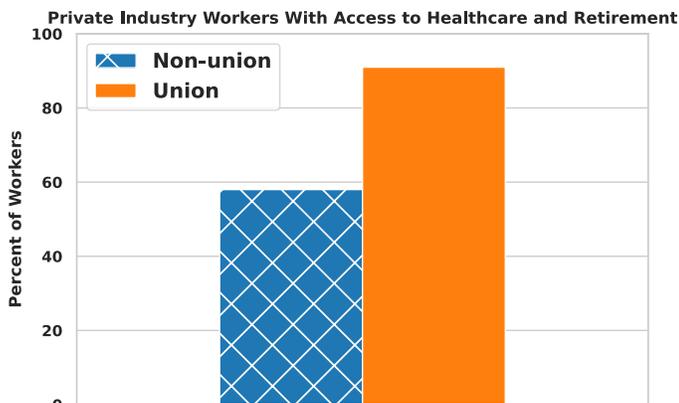
What Is a Union?

Unions are a legal form of organized labor that has been around for hundreds of years. Unions are founded on a concept called **collective bargaining**. Collective bargaining is a simple idea, if you go to your boss and say "I want a \$2/hour raise, or I will stop working today", it's simply an inconvenience for him to find someone else. But, if you and every other worker at the company go and say, "we want a \$2/hour raise or we will all stop working today", well, that means the company won't run that day, so your boss has a lot more pressure to give you all the raise. When workers refuse to work in this manner, it's called a **strike**. In summary, unions make it cheaper for your boss to pay you more, rather than fire you. Thus, workers represented by unions make more than non-union workers.



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics: <https://beta.bls.gov/dataQuery/find?fq=survey:X581u550&s=popularity:D>

Union workers also have better benefits

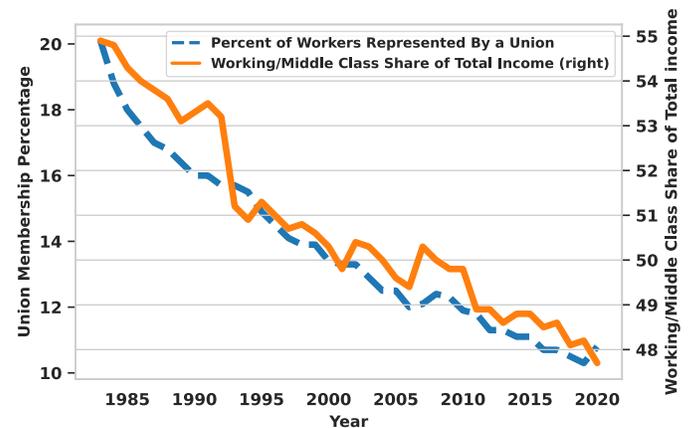


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics: [https://beta.bls.gov/dataQuery/find?st=0&r=20&fq=survey:\[nb\]3more=0](https://beta.bls.gov/dataQuery/find?st=0&r=20&fq=survey:[nb]3more=0)

Common Union Myths:

"Labor unions are no longer needed"

Worker conditions have been in decline in tandem with the fall of unionization for years, and wage theft is the most significant form of theft in the U.S. by a significant margin. Unions are needed more than ever. As the number of workers represented by unions falls, so does the share of income going to the working and middle classes.



Sources - union membership data: <https://beta.bls.gov/dataViewer/view/timeseries/LU0204899600>
Income: <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-income-households.html>

"Unions just collect dues/take your money/ etc."

Union dues are the money unions take from workers to run their operations. Union dues typically hover around 1-2% of income. While union effectiveness varies, we have established that unions increase worker take-home pay by significantly more than 1-2%, before even considering benefits such as retirement and health insurance, which are also more common for workers with unions.

"Unions reduce jobs from coming in"

There is no evidence to support this, and is often used by businesses trying to stop unions from forming (as it is in their best interests to keep workers from getting paid fair wages). In fact, in many industries, such as construction, unions ensure that there is work for their members.