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Monday May 18, 2009

Study shows W.Va. union workers earn higher wages

The Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) - A new study shows West Virginia service workers make nearly \$6 more an hour if they're represented by a labor union.

West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy executive director Ted Boettner says being represented by a union also makes it more likely a worker will have health insurance and retirement benefits.

The study shows unionized service workers were paid a median wage of \$18.44 an hour from 2004 to 2007. Median pay for nonunion workers was \$12.47 an hour over the same period.

The study was conducted by John Schmitt, an economist with the Center for Economic and Policy Research in Washington, D.C.

Information from: The Charleston Gazette, <http://www.wvgazette.com>

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