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Study Shows Union Workers in W.Va. Earn More

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Posted: 8:18 AM May 18, 2009
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Reporter: The Associated Press
Email Address: news@wsaz.com

6 comments

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.

A | A | A

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.

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Posted by: fed up on May 19, 2009 at 02:55 PM

Come on, these unions make me sick. Yeah, they make the most money but most of it goes to the crooks at the top (management). How can you tell me the union workers deserve to make \$60.00 bucks an hour for slapping wheels on a car.....and you wonder why these automakers are going under. Too much complaining and not enough working!

Posted by: Keith on May 19, 2009 at 08:36 AM

Perhaps so, I confess I am a union member Pablo but what I dont understand is of all the states that are in dire trouble, Michigan, New York, Cahleeforneeuh, i.e., going bankrupt and going to get bailed out, they are all heavily unionized. Of all the industries that are struggling mightily for their lives, airlines, automobile, two of the largest, are heavily unionized. The exception is the quasi government railroad industry. I concede the wages are higher but overall the only union I see as a success is the government, and of course when you deal with the DMV you see how great an experience that is. I think sometimes unions have been too successful, like the selective strike tactic employed by the UAW against the Big 3 historically, that won so many contracts that were out of step with the times and the market. Now they are haunting us all, with those negotiated legacy costs adding over 1500 to the price of a new UAW car, how can they possibly hope to compete. And just look at WV.

Posted by: Pablo on May 18, 2009 at 12:36 PM

Is anyone really surprised at this? Unions are the way to go.

Posted by: Taxpayer Joe on May 18, 2009 at 12:13 PM

Duhhhh, union wages and benefits are a no brainer. Unions were created to represent workers.

Posted by: Scott on May 18, 2009 at 11:54 AM

Thats why you people need to unionize!!! I'm a union work and proud of it, I work hard for my dollar, and you probably due to thats why u need a union to represent you. We need to stop sending jobs over seas keep our dollars in the US and quit shopping ChinaMart (Wal-Mart)

Posted by: Ashley on May 18, 2009 at 09:20 AM

I would be interested to know what the take home pay is. Gross pay is irrelevant.

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