



The Union Advantage

(How do you match up?)

Union workers earn more

Wages and benefits for the average union worker in the private sector totaled \$37.02 per hour in September 2009, compared to \$26.38 an hour for the typical non-union worker.

Wages and salaries higher for union workers ...

In September, the average union worker in the private sector earned \$23.00 per hour in wage and salary income, while the average non-union worker earned \$19.03 per hour. That's a union advantage of \$3.97 per hour, or \$8,258 per year for a full-time, full-year worker.

... But benefits are the biggest union advantage

Benefits, though, are where the biggest union advantage lies. The average union worker in the private sector receives \$14.02 per hour toward their benefits package while their non-union counterpart receives only \$7.34 per hour.

Retirement and health benefits more widespread for union workers

After years of service, workers deserve a secure retirement. Unfortunately, only 51 percent of non-union workers receive retirement benefits through their employer, through either a traditional pension or a 401(k) account. In stark contrast, 86 percent of union workers have employer-provided retirement benefits. Only about half (52 percent) of non-union workers receive health care benefits through their employer. That compares with 79 percent of union workers.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Employer Costs for Employee Compensation -- September 2009" <http://www.uaw.org/organize> > Union Advantage