

Research reveals impact of declining collective bargaining coverage

 [USA](#)

The [Economic Policy Institute](#) in the US has just published research that reveals the impact of declining union density and collective bargaining on wages. It finds, for example, that falling union membership translates to a loss of \$1.56 (€1.47) per hour worked for the average worker, the equivalent of \$3,250 (€3,070) for a full-time, full-year worker. Meanwhile, the erosion of collective bargaining lowered the median hourly wage also by \$1.56 (€1.47), a 7.9% decline (0.2% annually), from 1979 to 2017. An analysis of wage distribution found that declining unionisation had widened inequality between high-wage earners and middle-wage earners as the wages of the latter were depressed while there was little impact on high-wage earners at the 90th percentile.

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