

## The Benefits of Unions for Young Workers

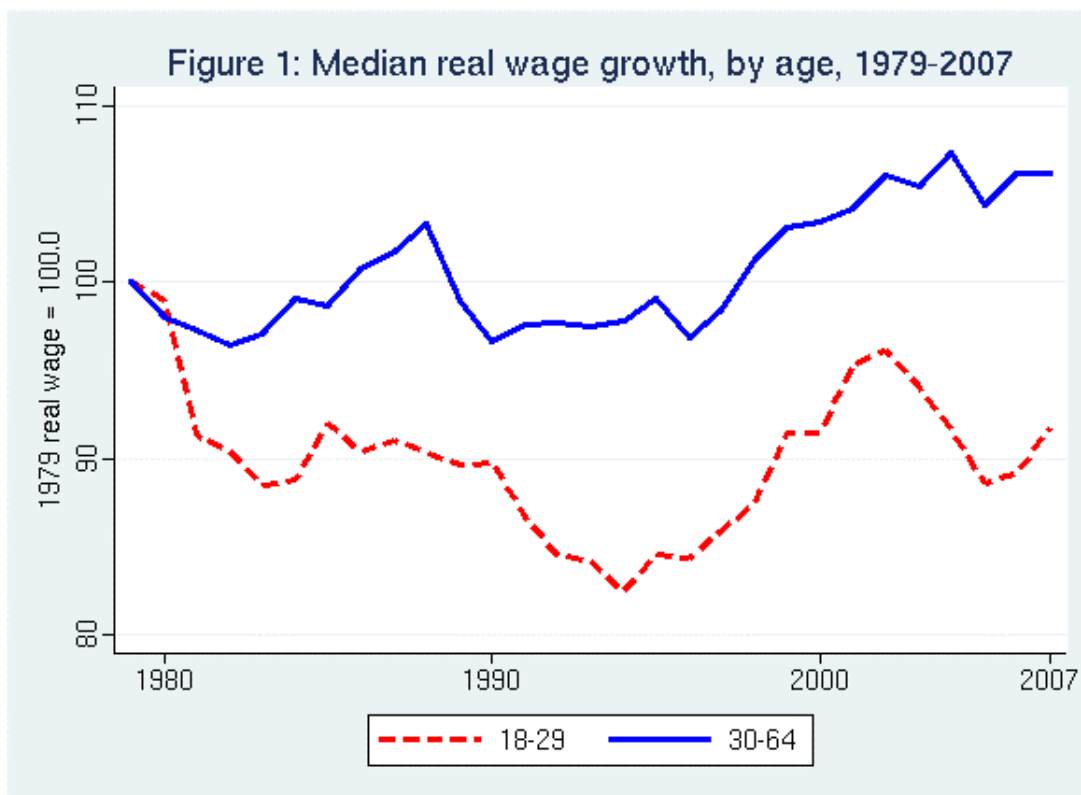
The Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR) finds a substantial boost in wages and benefits for unionized workers between the ages of 18 and 29:

- On average, **unionization raises young workers' wages by over 12% – about \$1.75 per hour** (see [www.cepr.net/index.php/publications/interactive-reports/unions-and-upward-mobility-for-young-workers](http://www.cepr.net/index.php/publications/interactive-reports/unions-and-upward-mobility-for-young-workers)).
- Young workers in unions are **about 17 percentage points more likely to have health insurance** than those not in unions.
- Young unionized workers are **about 24 percentage points more likely to be in a pension plan** than their non-union counterparts.

The benefits of unions are also high for young workers in typically low-wage occupations:

- For young workers **in low-wage occupations, unionization raises wages by over 10%**.
- Unionized young workers in low-wage occupations are **27 percentage points more likely to have health insurance** and **over 26 percentage points more likely to be in a pension plan**.

Young workers have been the hardest hit by the stagnant wage growth over the last 30 years. Despite having higher educational attainment, **the wage of the typical 18 to 29 year old worker was about 10% lower in 2007 than it had been in 1979** (see chart below).



The CEPR report, ***Dropping the Ax: Illegal Firings During Union Election Campaigns, 1951-2007*** ([www.cepr.net/index.php/publications/reports/dropping-the-ax:-illegal-firings-during-union-election-campaigns,-1951-2007](http://www.cepr.net/index.php/publications/reports/dropping-the-ax:-illegal-firings-during-union-election-campaigns,-1951-2007)), finds that **workers were illegally fired in over one-in-four union representation elections** in the 2000s.

For more information on workers and the labor market: [www.cepr.net/index.php/the-benefits-of-unionization](http://www.cepr.net/index.php/the-benefits-of-unionization).