

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [Unions, Wages and Hours](#)

Article Link: <https://www.nber.org/papers/w32471>

Author(s)	David Blanchflower and Alex Bryson
Publication	National Bureau of Economic Research
Publication Date	May 21, 2024

Tweet: The private sector union weekly earnings premium reflects a 10% higher hourly wage and 5% more working hours, reflecting trade unions' role in "ensuring workers receive the paid hours they desire." @D_Blanchflower @AlexanderBryson

Summary: The regression-adjusted difference between union members' and non-members' hourly earnings has been falling since the Great Recession. The union differential in weekly wages has been more stable. Although it fell by around 5 log points during COVID, it remains 15 log points [roughly 15 ppt]. This weekly earnings differential arises from a higher hourly wage of around 10 log points and longer working hours (5 log points). [Chart 3 above, which includes only the private sector; as the authors note, "The monotonic decline since the late 1970s is driven by decline in the private sector, whereas density has remained relatively stable in the public sector"]. A recent literature indicates that many workers wish to work more hours than their employer offers them. What is perhaps most striking is the [apparent] role unions play in raising hours. It is a [putative] role that has not emerged clearly from the earlier literature but is important for the welfare of workers whose consumption is dependent not only on hourly wages, but the [number of] paid hours of work.

Related Articles: US Union Members See Record Pay Raises, Outpacing Nonunion Workers and Pettis On American Labor Unions and Labor Market Conflict and the Decline of the Rust Belt

Primary Topic: Wages/Income

Topics: Academic paper, Database, Wages/Income, Workforce

PDF File

URL: <https://www.edwardconard.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Unions-Wages-And-Hours.pdf>

Permalink: <https://www.edwardconard.com/macro-roundup/the-private-sector-union-weekly-earnings-premium-reflects-a-10-higher-hourly-wage-and-5-more-working-hours-reflecting-trade-unions-role-in-ensuring-workers-receive-the-paid-hours-th?view=detail>

Featured Image Link: <https://www.edwardconard.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/21083-uni-ns-wages-and-hours-featured-thumbnail-image.png>