

Labor Unions

SALT LAKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Contents

- Labor Unions
- National Labor Relations Act of 1935
- Why did it start?
- NLRB and AFL
- Number of Americans in unions
- How it affects businesses
- Why are labor unions good?
- Why are labor unions bad?

Labor Unions

- A group of people that usually share a profession.
- These groups of people share a common interest.
- Many kinds of goals these unions can have
- What Unions would do if businesses do not reach an agreement.



Picture 1: Workers on Strike ([History.com](https://www.history.com), 1920)

National Labor Relations Act of 1935 (NLRA)

- Started in the interest of helping labor unions
- Before this act was passed workers would just go on strike
- NLRB represents labor unions
- NLRB is a federal agency



Picture 1: NLRB logo ([NLRB](#), 2021)

Why did labor unions start?

- Workers wanted rights
- Workers wanted a fair wage
- Workers wanted better hours
- Unsafe or Unsanitary conditions



Picture 1: Federation of Labor
([History.com](https://www.history.com), 1886)

What do NLRB and AFL do?



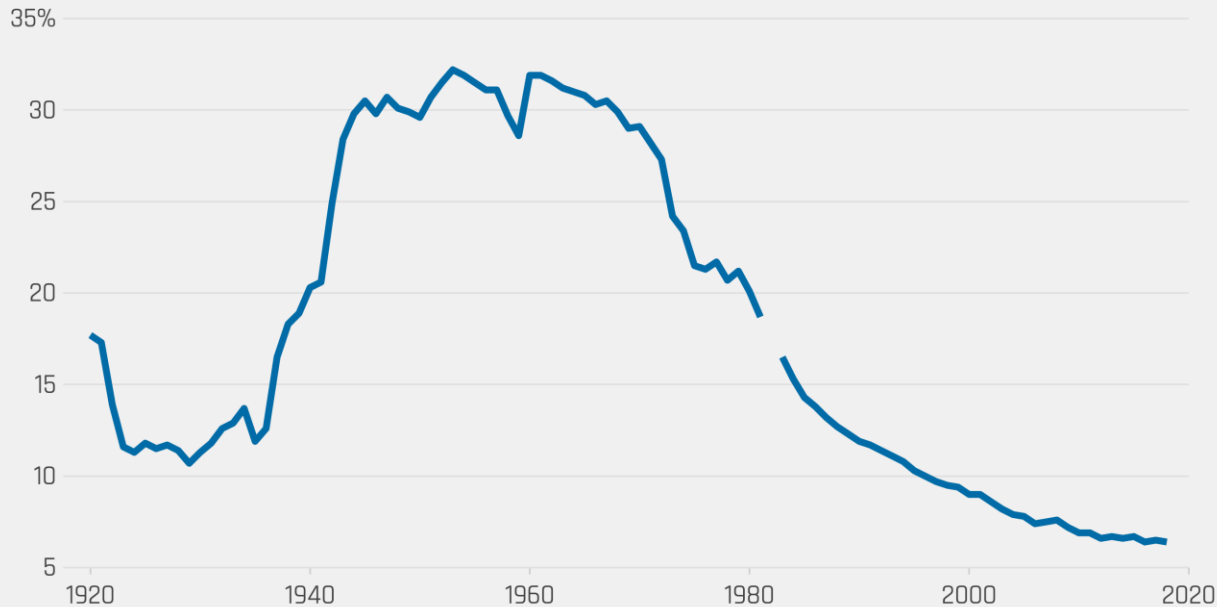
- NLRB represents labor unions legally
- AFL founded in 1886
- AFL represents labor unions as a whole

Picture 1: AFL logo ([AFLCIO.org](https://aflcio.org), 2017)

Population of labor unions

The rise and fall of private-sector unions in the United States

Union membership as a percent of the U.S. private-sector workforce, 1920-2018



Source: Barry Eidlin, Labor and the Class Idea in the United States and Canada [New York: Cambridge University Press, 2018], Appendix A.

- There were more unions in the mid 1900's compared to now
- Businesses have found ways to prevent unions

How do labor unions affect businesses?

- Labor unions can negotiate positive outcomes for their benefit.
- Businesses would make less money

A photograph showing a group of people at a protest. In the foreground, a man in a blue suit and tie is smiling and holding a large blue sign with a red border. The sign has the text "STAND WITH WORKERS" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. To the right of the text is a white silhouette of three people standing together. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people and a building with columns.

Picture 1: Workers protesting ([USA Today](#), 2018)

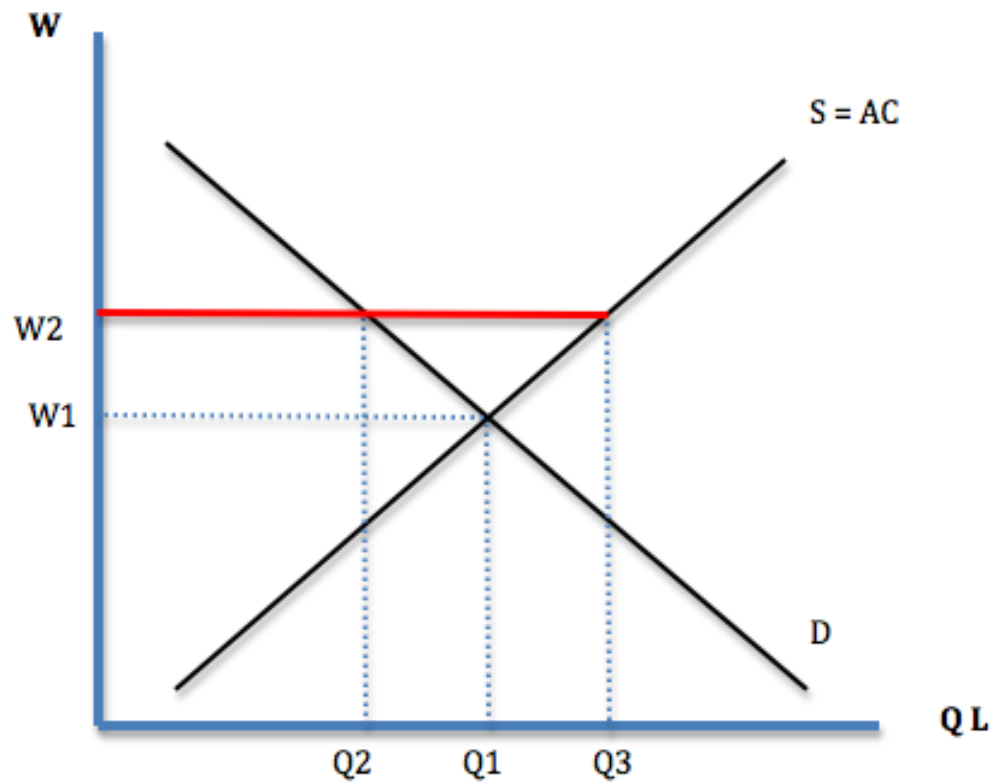
Why are labor unions good

- Workers may feel they are not getting paid enough to keep up with inflation
- Workers are not safe at their jobs
- Labor unions only benefit workers positively



Picture 1: Labor Management art ([Flickr](#), 2011)

How can labor unions bad?



www.economicshelp.org

Picture 1: effect of having a wage higher than equilibrium(Economicshelp.org, 2019)

- If wages are too high, it can cause unemployment
- If workers are getting a wage higher than the equilibrium wage, then the company be unable to employ more people.
- low morale due to disputes
- Inflation



Conclusion

- Labor unions can have a positive effect on workers benefits and wages
- Labor unions have organizations and laws that protect them
- Labor unions can have a negative effect as well

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