Warm-Up

Labor



Lesson Question



Learn about labor regulation. Discover what working conditions were like before labor laws. Examine and its economic benefits today.



Words to Know

Fill in this table as you work through the lesson. You may also use the glossary to help you.

discussions between a labor union and an employer to negotiate wages, hours, and other issues
the collection of businesses that provide services to consumers rather than goods
the placing of limits or restrictions on business activity by government
the smallest hourly wage it is legal to pay a worker
pay required by law when a worker is injured on the job
to support the cause of another

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Factory Life
During the early years of industrialization:
a typical work shift was 12 to 16 hours long
factory equipment was frequently to operate.
factory owners kept wages as as possible, particularly for women and children.

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After industrialization, millions of people moved to cities to find work in factories.

- There was little government of industrial workplaces.
- Owners were to operate their businesses as they saw fit.
- Workplaces were ______, and injuries, health problems, and even death were common.

Reform

Labor reformers began to advocate for change.

- wages
- working hours
- Safer workplaces
- · Increased benefits
- End to labor

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Finding the Main Idea: The Union Movement

Underline the sentence that supports the main idea in the passage.

The trade union movement came into being as a movement of hunger. It was made necessary by conditions. It was in the beginning formed in response to a hunger for enough to eat . . . As it became possible to secure more food, other hungers demanded satisfaction . . . The demands were for more and better food, for better clothes and for better homes. It required a struggle to satisfy these needs . . . [A]t every step of the way it was necessary to overcome the stubborn opposition of employers who were resolved not to recede and not to relinquish any of the powers and privileges which they possessed.

-Samuel Gompers, 1920

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Labor Unions

Labor unions began to use **collective bargaining** to business owners on matters concerning:

with

- · working hours, wages, and overtime pay.
- health insurance, paid vacation, and other benefits.
- hiring and firing practices.
- safety.

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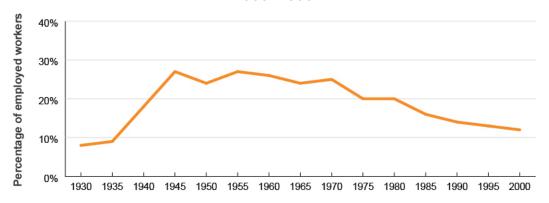
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Labor Union Membership

Circle the point on the graph that shows the highest percentage of labor union members.

Labor Union Membership in the US 1930–2000



In general, the overall trend is that the number of workers who are employed and who are employed in labor unions has actually .

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Arguments for and Against Unions

Supporters argue that unions:

- ensure that workers receive a wage.
- workers from company abuses, including unsafe working conditions.
- give workers job unfairly. and protect them from being fired

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Arguments for and Against Unions

Supporters argue that unions:

- ensure that workers receive a fair wage.
- protect workers from company abuses, including unsafe working conditions.
- give workers job
 and protect them from being fired unfairly.

Opponents argue that unions:

raise wages above

levels.

- the number of jobs available.
- prevent more qualified workers from being hired.
- sometimes discriminate against minorities and women.

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Expansion of Regulation

- 1870 Massachusetts begins to investigate conditions; other states soon follow.
- **1900** Most states pass some workplace safety laws and conduct regular inspections, but enforcement varies.
- 1908 Many states and companies create safety agencies and

1921 Forty-six states pass

laws.

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In 1911, a horrific fire broke out in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory.

- A total of workers were killed, mostly young women.
- The New York Factory Investigating Commission was created.

New Laws

The commission requested new laws, which became labor standards today.

- Requiring installation of fire alarms and systems
- · Prohibiting children under 14 from working in factories
- Increasing sanitation and standards
- · Improving lighting and ventilation
- Passing a wage

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The US Department of Labor

The United States Department of Labor was established in 1913.

- Enforces government wage and workplace safety
- Works to expand the amount of employment available
- Oversees providing to people who have disabilities

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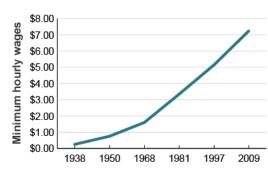
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Minimum Wage

Federal minimum wage regulations:

- · make it illegal to pay most workers than a set amount per hour.
- specify minimum and holiday pay rates.

Federal Minimum Wage 1938-2009



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Benefits and Drawbacks of Regulation

Benefits

- · Workers receive a minimum wage.
- protect workers from injury or death.
- · Workers hurt on the job receive medical care and financial assistance.
- Employers can be required to participate in unemployment

Drawbacks

Safety laws and higher wages

a business's production costs.

- Increased production costs result in higher for consumers.
- Higher wages can result in fewer job.

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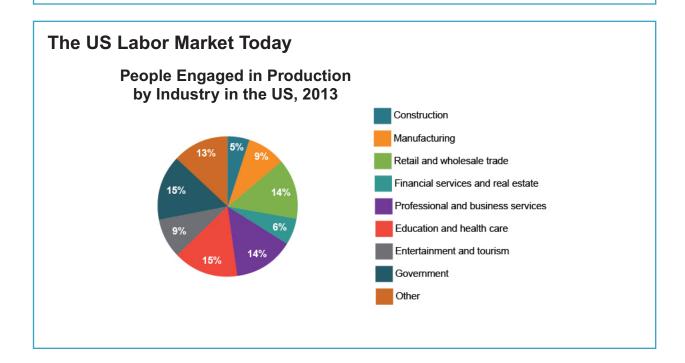
A Balancing Act Business concerns Low expenses profits Worker concerns Fair Safe workplaces

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Industry in the US

The US economy is dependent upon industries.

- Most Americans work in industries like health care, business, retail, and education.
- Manufacturing, agriculture, and energy creation are a percentage of the American labor market.



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Growing Occupation	ns	
The fastest growing occ	cupations are in the	industry.
 Physical thera 	pists	
Health-care so	ociai workers	
 Physician's as 	ssistants	
 Dental hygien 	ists	
Declining Occupation	ons	
Changing technology a	nd increased international	competition is leading to th
Changing technology as decline of some occupa	nd increased international ations.	competition is leading to th
		Textile and clothin industries
decline of some occupa	ations.	Textile and clothin industries
decline of some occupaLocal newspapers	ations.	Textile and clothin industries • New technologies a
decline of some occupa	ations.	Textile and clothin industries

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Education Outlook Training Education Only about of all · More jobs will require future jobs require a high school training or diploma or less. certified skills. · More than 30% of jobs will require Demand for qualified workers with a bachelor's or master's degree. high-tech skills is expected to College graduates earn nearly as much as those with only a high school diploma.

Summary

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Lesson Question

How did increased government regulation change business and labor in the US?



Answer

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Review: The Labor Movement

The labor movement began after the Industrial Revolution.

Unions:

- advocated for in the workplace.
- used to negotiate with business owners.

Review: Labor Regulations

Labor regulations began to be created in the early 1900s.

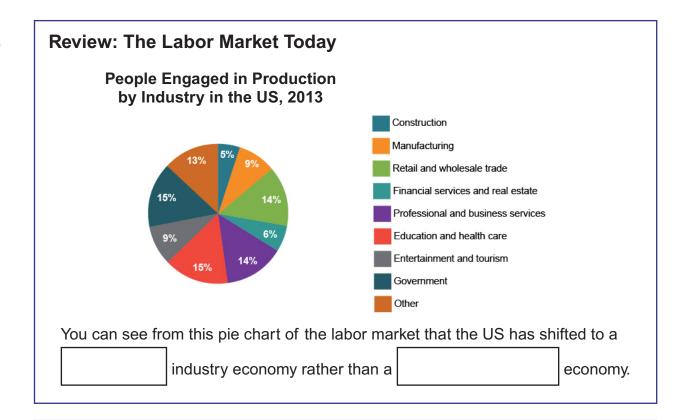
Regulations:

- created new agencies to labor rules.

Summary

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Use this space to write any questions or thoughts about this lesson.