Workers Need a Seat at the Innovation Table

BY EDWARD WYTKIND
EWYTKIND@GMAIL.COM
@EDWYTKIND
Top 1 percent incomes grew five times as fast as bottom 90 percent incomes

Change in real annual average household income, by income group, 1979–2015

Notes: Data are for comprehensive income, including market income, social insurance benefits, and means-tested transfers. Average income for the bottom 90th was constructed using a simple weighted average of the bottom four quintiles and the 91–90th deciles.

Productivity grew six times faster than hourly compensation between 1979 and 2017

Productivity growth and hourly compensation growth, 1948–2017

Notes: Data are for compensation (wages and benefits) of production/nonsupervisory workers in the private sector and net productivity of the total economy. “Net productivity” is the growth of output of goods and services less depreciation per hour worked.

Source: EPI analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics and Bureau of Economic Analysis data. Updated from Figure A in Bivens et al. 2014.
As union membership declines, income inequality rises
Union membership and share of income going to the top 10%, 1917–2015


Economic Policy Institute
A Better Path Forward

- Authoritative Research Concludes Mass Workforce Disruption
- Labor Mkt Spending Must Rise
- National Innovation Policy
- Workers **Must** Have a Seat at the Innovation Table
  - Through Unions, Engage Early in Innovation Process
  - Shape the Future of Jobs and Work
  - Negotiate for Share of Productivity & Financial Gains from Innovation
  - Tech Should Upskill, not De-skill Workers – Training Commitment Must be Real