

---

Subject: Re: Competitive edge - too much nostalgia?  
Posted by [Bill Martinelli](#) on Tue, 02 Nov 2004 00:40:42 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Heck, JR. I wish I had answers! I see it as a combination of the wage and all the benefits. If I cost out a job the price for the labor is the hourly wage of the worker x 1.33. By adding a third to the hourly wage that's pretty close to what gets paid out in benefits. Places like China dont have that additional cost. Having said that, I think its more the fact that in places like China where there is a large difference in pay, it's more that workers make ten dollars a day instead of ten dollars an hour. Maybe when you compare US wages to places like Europe where the rates are more closely matched. Its the benefit packages that play more into effect as you say. What do you think? Having been involved with unions. do you think that th unions have pushed to increase workers compensation so much that it's priced us out of the market? I have never been involved with unions and Ive done fine. I have a lot of friends in thr trades and they are all in local unions and they are all quite happy too.

---