

Healthcare

One recent study shows that, between 1970 and 2016, the earnings that laborers received fell twenty-one per cent. But their total compensation, taken to include the cost of their benefits (in particular, health care), rose sixty-eight per cent. Increases in health-care costs have devoured take-home pay for those below median income.

At the same time, the system practically begs employers to reduce the number of less skilled workers they hire, by outsourcing or automating their positions.

Atul Gawande, New Yorker, March 16, 2020