

Document 3 “I made \$3.75 an hour”: Lyft and Uber drivers push to unionize for better pay.

For over a year Rob Mead has worked as an Uber driver in Reno, Nevada, to supplement his income as a public sector worker. Now he’s wondering if it is worth it. “After gas, added monthly rideshare insurance, wear-and-tear, constant oil changes and taxes that \$300 for 30 hours of work I thought I made in a week actually averages down to about \$90 after expenses,” said Mead.

“A few weeks ago I drove four passengers in a one-hour period. I looked at my profits and I made only \$12. It was snowing, traffic was crazy and I basically risked my life to make that \$12. After expenses I made \$3.75 that entire hour.” (...)

Uber and Lyft are planning to give some long-term drivers money to buy stock (...). But only a minority will be eligible and in the meantime drivers are organizing for better wages rather than bonuses.

“I’m not interested in what stingy package they’re going to offer,” said James Hicks, an Uber driver in Los Angeles for about four years. He has not heard anything from Uber regarding stock grants for drivers, but said he had recently had his pay slashed by the company. “You can’t tell me a billion-dollar company can’t afford to pay their drivers when all they really need to worry about is marketing and upkeep of the app.”

Michael Sainato, [theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com), March 22nd, 2019