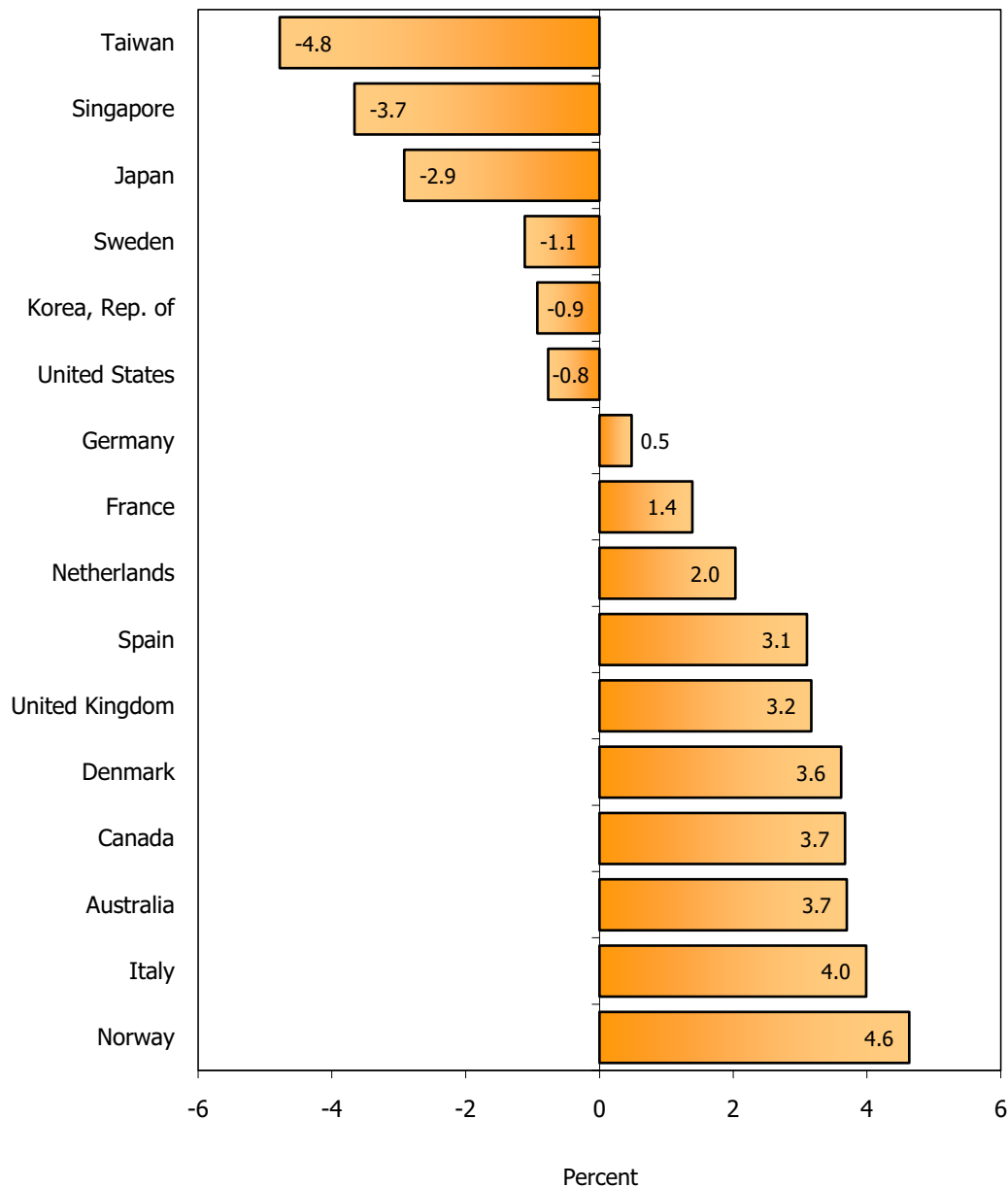


### 3.6 Average annual growth rates for manufacturing unit labor costs in U.S. dollars, 1997-2007

- Unit labor costs (ULC) are a component of total production costs and product prices. Declines in ULC indicate that an economy is becoming more cost-competitive.
- ULC declined over the period in more than one-third of the economies, including the United States.



**NOTE:** Unit labor costs are defined as the cost of labor compensation per unit of output.

**SOURCE:** Bureau of Labor Statistics.