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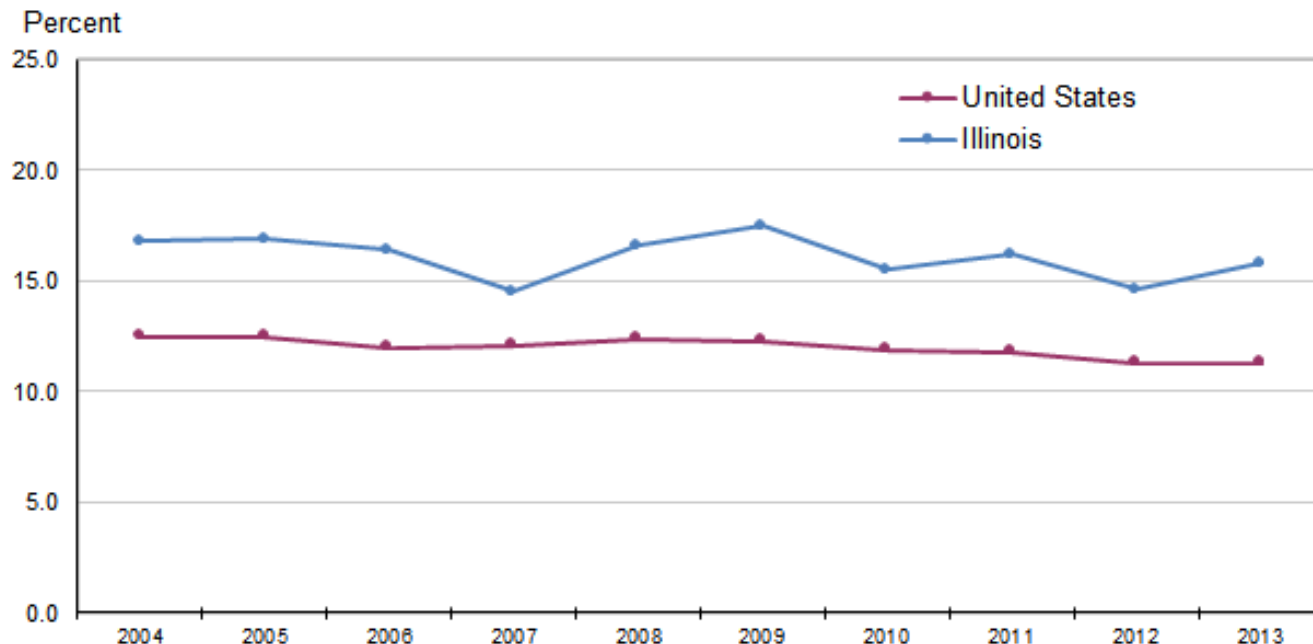
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Union Membership in Illinois – 2013

In 2013, union members accounted for 15.8 percent of wage and salary workers in Illinois, compared with 14.6 percent in 2012, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [chart 1.](#)) Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that the union membership rate for the state was at its peak in 1993 at 21.0 percent and its low point in 2007 at 14.5 percent. Nationally, union members accounted for 11.3 percent of employed wage and salary workers in 2013, the same percentage as 2012. Since 1989, when comparable state data became available, Illinois union membership rates have exceeded the U.S. average.

Chart 1. Members of unions as a percent of employed in the United States and Illinois, 2004-2013



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In addition to Illinois's 851,000 wage and salary workers who were union members in 2013, another 31,000 wage and salary workers were represented by a union on their main job or were covered by an employee association or contract while not being union members themselves. (See [table A.](#)) Nationwide, 14.5 million wage and salary workers were union members in 2013 and 1.5 million workers were not affiliated with a union but had jobs covered by a union contract.

**Table A. Union affiliation of employed wage and salary workers in Illinois, annual averages, 2004-2013
(Numbers in thousands)**

| Year | Total employed | Members of unions ⁽¹⁾ | | Represented by unions ⁽²⁾ | |
|------------|----------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| | | Total | Percent of employed | Total | Percent of employed |
| 2004 | 5,410 | 908 | 16.8 | 971 | 17.9 |
| 2005 | 5,473 | 927 | 16.9 | 965 | 17.6 |
| 2006 | 5,684 | 931 | 16.4 | 979 | 17.2 |
| 2007 | 5,802 | 842 | 14.5 | 884 | 15.2 |
| 2008 | 5,662 | 939 | 16.6 | 993 | 17.5 |
| 2009 | 5,435 | 951 | 17.5 | 997 | 18.3 |
| 2010 | 5,434 | 844 | 15.5 | 891 | 16.4 |
| 2011 | 5,408 | 876 | 16.2 | 929 | 17.2 |
| 2012 | 5,486 | 801 | 14.6 | 852 | 15.5 |
| 2013 | 5,397 | 851 | 15.8 | 882 | 16.3 |

Footnotes:

(1) Data refer to members of a labor union or an employee association similar to a union.

(2) Data refer to members of a labor union or an employee association similar to a union, as well as workers who report no union affiliation but whose jobs are covered by a union or an employee association contract.

NOTE: Data refer to the sole or principal job of full-and part-time wage and salary workers. Excluded are all self-employed workers regardless of whether or not their businesses are incorporated. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

In 2013, 20 states had union membership rates above the U.S. average, of which 9 had rates above 15 percent. (See [table 1.](#)) Of the nine states with the highest rates, two were located in the Midwest, three in the Northeast, and the remaining four bordered the Pacific Ocean. (See [chart 2.](#)) New York had the highest rate at 24.4 percent, followed by Alaska (23.1 percent) and Hawaii (22.1 percent). In fact, New York has had the highest union membership rate in the nation for 17 of the past 19 years.

Thirty states and the District of Columbia had union membership rates below the national average of 11.3 percent in 2013. Nine of these states had union membership rates below 5.0 percent with North Carolina having the lowest at 3.0 percent. The next lowest rate was recorded in Arkansas (3.5 percent), followed by Mississippi and South Carolina (both at 3.7 percent). Among the nine states with the lowest union membership rates, six were located in the South, two in the West, and one in the Midwest.

Over half of the 14.5 million union members in the U.S. lived in just seven states (California, 2.4 million; New York, 2.0 million; Illinois, 0.9 million; Pennsylvania, 0.7 million; and Michigan, New Jersey, and Ohio, 0.6 million each), though these states accounted for only about one-third of wage and salary employment nationally.

State union membership levels depend on both the union membership rate and the employment level. For example, Texas had about one-fourth as many union members as New York, despite having 2.7 million more wage and salary employees. Conversely, North Carolina and Hawaii had comparable numbers of union members (117,000 and 121,000, respectively), though North Carolina's wage and salary employment (3.9 million) was more than seven times that of Hawaii (549,000).

Technical Note

The estimates in this release are obtained from the Current Population Survey (CPS), which provides the basic information on the labor force, employment, and unemployment. The survey is conducted monthly for the Bureau of Labor Statistics by the U.S. Census Bureau from a scientifically selected national sample of about 60,000 households. The union membership and earnings data are tabulated from one-quarter of the CPS monthly sample and are limited to wage and salary workers. All self-employed workers are excluded.

Union membership data, particularly for levels, are not strictly comparable for earlier years because of the introduction of updated population controls used in the CPS. For technical documentation and related information, including reliability of the CPS estimates, see www.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm#pop.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 1-800-877-8339.

Definitions

The principal definitions used in this release are described briefly below.

Union members. Members of a labor union or an employee association similar to a union.

Represented by unions. Union members, as well as workers who have no union affiliation but whose jobs are covered by a union or an employee association contract.

Wage and salary workers. Workers who receive wages, salaries, commissions, tips, payment in kind, or piece rates. The group includes employees in both the private and public sectors, but, for the purposes of the union membership and earnings series, excludes all self-employed persons, regardless of whether or not their businesses are incorporated.

Table 1. Union affiliation of employed wage and salary workers by state, 2012-2013 annual averages (numbers in thousands)

| State | 2012 | | | | | 2013 | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| | Total employed | Members of unions ⁽¹⁾ | | Represented by unions ⁽²⁾ | | Total employed | Members of unions ⁽¹⁾ | | Represented by unions ⁽²⁾ | |
| | | Total | Percent of employed | Total | Percent of employed | | Total | Percent of employed | Total | Percent of employed |
| Alabama | 1,807 | 166 | 9.2 | 190 | 10.5 | 1,894 | 203 | 10.7 | 222 | 11.7 |
| Alaska | 298 | 67 | 22.4 | 71 | 23.9 | 306 | 71 | 23.1 | 75 | 24.5 |
| Arizona | 2,434 | 125 | 5.1 | 159 | 6.5 | 2,452 | 122 | 5.0 | 147 | 6.0 |
| Arkansas | 1,157 | 37 | 3.2 | 43 | 3.7 | 1,072 | 38 | 3.5 | 44 | 4.1 |
| California | 14,483 | 2,489 | 17.2 | 2,666 | 18.4 | 14,835 | 2,430 | 16.4 | 2,579 | 17.4 |
| Colorado | 2,165 | 169 | 7.8 | 190 | 8.8 | 2,243 | 171 | 7.6 | 207 | 9.2 |
| Connecticut | 1,541 | 216 | 14.0 | 232 | 15.1 | 1,535 | 207 | 13.5 | 220 | 14.3 |
| Delaware | 377 | 39 | 10.4 | 44 | 11.8 | 370 | 38 | 10.3 | 41 | 11.0 |
| District of Columbia | 309 | 27 | 8.6 | 32 | 10.3 | 308 | 29 | 9.3 | 34 | 11.0 |
| Florida | 7,602 | 440 | 5.8 | 555 | 7.3 | 7,655 | 414 | 5.4 | 529 | 6.9 |
| Georgia | 3,914 | 171 | 4.4 | 210 | 5.4 | 3,958 | 209 | 5.3 | 248 | 6.3 |
| Hawaii | 537 | 116 | 21.6 | 124 | 23.2 | 549 | 121 | 22.1 | 129 | 23.6 |
| Idaho | 613 | 29 | 4.8 | 36 | 5.8 | 617 | 29 | 4.7 | 36 | 5.8 |
| Illinois | 5,486 | 801 | 14.6 | 852 | 15.5 | 5,397 | 851 | 15.8 | 882 | 16.3 |
| Indiana | 2,702 | 246 | 9.1 | 269 | 10.0 | 2,682 | 249 | 9.3 | 275 | 10.3 |
| Iowa | 1,390 | 145 | 10.4 | 172 | 12.4 | 1,421 | 143 | 10.1 | 171 | 12.0 |
| Kansas | 1,248 | 85 | 6.8 | 105 | 8.4 | 1,252 | 94 | 7.5 | 106 | 8.4 |
| Kentucky | 1,742 | 174 | 10.0 | 198 | 11.4 | 1,735 | 194 | 11.2 | 226 | 13.0 |
| Louisiana | 1,733 | 107 | 6.2 | 130 | 7.5 | 1,728 | 75 | 4.3 | 95 | 5.5 |
| Maine | 559 | 64 | 11.5 | 78 | 13.9 | 574 | 64 | 11.1 | 75 | 13.1 |
| Maryland | 2,636 | 280 | 10.6 | 325 | 12.3 | 2,665 | 308 | 11.6 | 349 | 13.1 |
| Massachusetts | 2,896 | 417 | 14.4 | 470 | 16.2 | 2,940 | 401 | 13.7 | 430 | 14.6 |
| Michigan | 3,785 | 629 | 16.6 | 648 | 17.1 | 3,889 | 633 | 16.3 | 656 | 16.9 |
| Minnesota | 2,465 | 351 | 14.2 | 368 | 14.9 | 2,532 | 362 | 14.3 | 381 | 15.0 |
| Mississippi | 1,113 | 48 | 4.3 | 64 | 5.7 | 1,040 | 38 | 3.7 | 44 | 4.2 |
| Missouri | 2,507 | 224 | 8.9 | 253 | 10.1 | 2,537 | 219 | 8.6 | 264 | 10.4 |
| Montana | 392 | 54 | 13.9 | 65 | 16.5 | 403 | 52 | 13.0 | 60 | 14.8 |
| Nebraska | 864 | 52 | 6.0 | 70 | 8.1 | 870 | 63 | 7.3 | 79 | 9.0 |
| Nevada | 1,101 | 162 | 14.7 | 181 | 16.4 | 1,154 | 169 | 14.6 | 186 | 16.1 |
| New Hampshire | 621 | 65 | 10.5 | 74 | 12.0 | 623 | 60 | 9.6 | 67 | 10.7 |
| New Jersey | 3,796 | 611 | 16.1 | 636 | 16.8 | 3,814 | 611 | 16.0 | 632 | 16.6 |
| New Mexico | 780 | 50 | 6.5 | 68 | 8.7 | 751 | 46 | 6.2 | 55 | 7.3 |
| New York | 7,936 | 1,841 | 23.2 | 1,975 | 24.9 | 8,149 | 1,986 | 24.4 | 2,104 | 25.8 |
| North Carolina | 3,805 | 112 | 2.9 | 162 | 4.3 | 3,879 | 117 | 3.0 | 184 | 4.8 |
| North Dakota | 329 | 20 | 6.1 | 27 | 8.2 | 342 | 22 | 6.4 | 29 | 8.5 |
| Ohio | 4,800 | 604 | 12.6 | 665 | 13.9 | 4,786 | 605 | 12.6 | 674 | 14.1 |
| Oklahoma | 1,531 | 115 | 7.5 | 140 | 9.1 | 1,516 | 114 | 7.5 | 144 | 9.5 |
| Oregon | 1,526 | 240 | 15.7 | 250 | 16.4 | 1,504 | 208 | 13.9 | 223 | 14.8 |
| Pennsylvania | 5,452 | 734 | 13.5 | 787 | 14.4 | 5,501 | 701 | 12.7 | 754 | 13.7 |
| Rhode Island | 455 | 81 | 17.8 | 84 | 18.4 | 459 | 77 | 16.9 | 82 | 17.8 |
| South Carolina | 1,773 | 58 | 3.3 | 82 | 4.6 | 1,855 | 69 | 3.7 | 86 | 4.7 |
| South Dakota | 351 | 20 | 5.6 | 24 | 6.7 | 362 | 17 | 4.8 | 21 | 5.8 |
| Tennessee | 2,586 | 124 | 4.8 | 152 | 5.9 | 2,543 | 155 | 6.1 | 188 | 7.4 |
| Texas | 10,590 | 599 | 5.7 | 721 | 6.8 | 10,877 | 518 | 4.8 | 647 | 6.0 |
| Utah | 1,179 | 61 | 5.2 | 77 | 6.6 | 1,253 | 49 | 3.9 | 67 | 5.4 |
| Vermont | 288 | 31 | 10.7 | 38 | 13.1 | 285 | 31 | 10.9 | 38 | 13.2 |
| Virginia | 3,592 | 159 | 4.4 | 197 | 5.5 | 3,601 | 180 | 5.0 | 229 | 6.4 |
| Washington | 2,776 | 513 | 18.5 | 541 | 19.5 | 2,882 | 546 | 18.9 | 568 | 19.7 |
| West Virginia | 697 | 84 | 12.1 | 91 | 13.1 | 686 | 87 | 12.7 | 93 | 13.5 |
| Wisconsin | 2,605 | 293 | 11.2 | 312 | 12.0 | 2,569 | 317 | 12.3 | 337 | 13.1 |
| Wyoming | 252 | 17 | 6.7 | 20 | 8.1 | 259 | 15 | 5.7 | 17 | 6.4 |

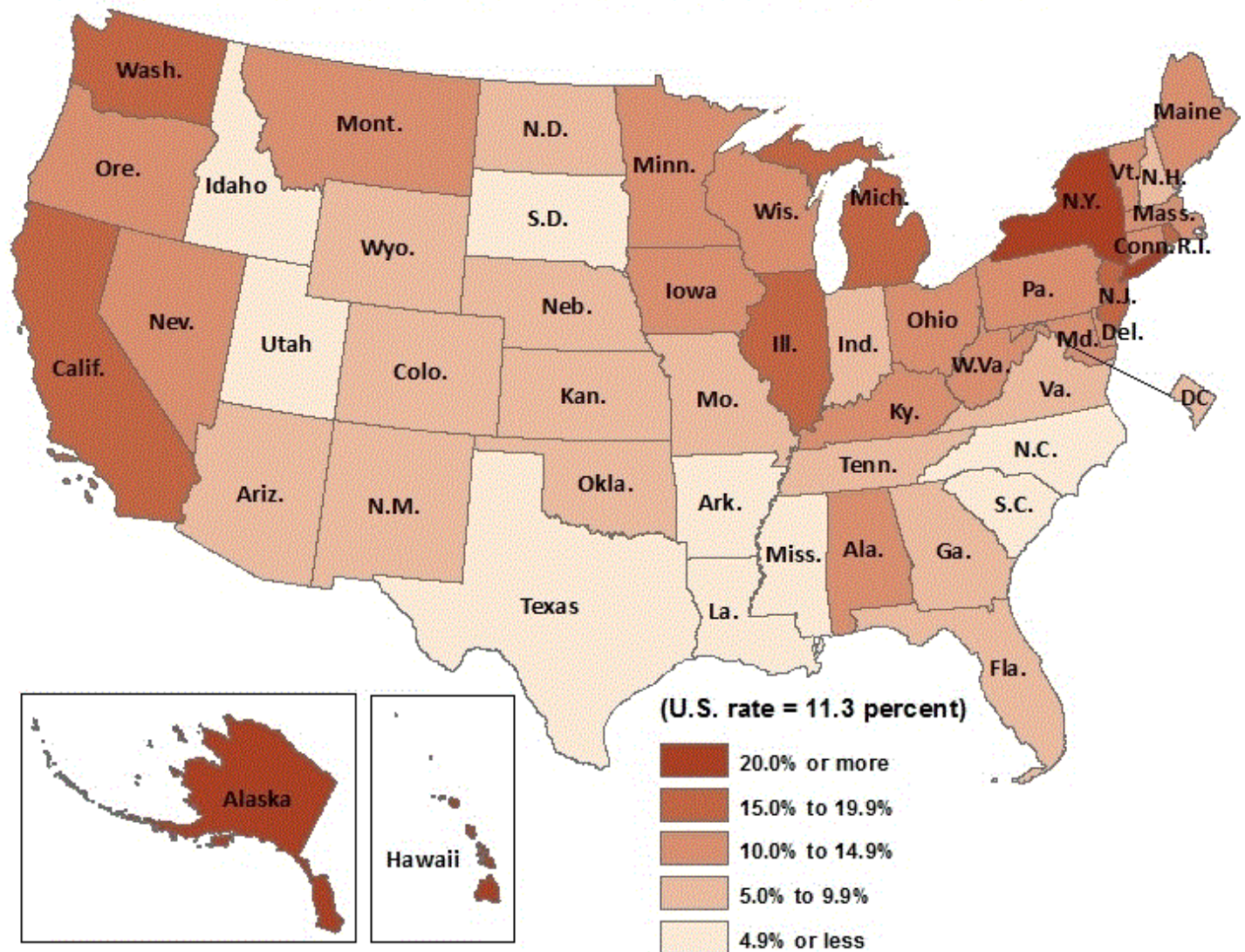
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Chart 2. Union membership rates by state, 2013 annual averages



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.