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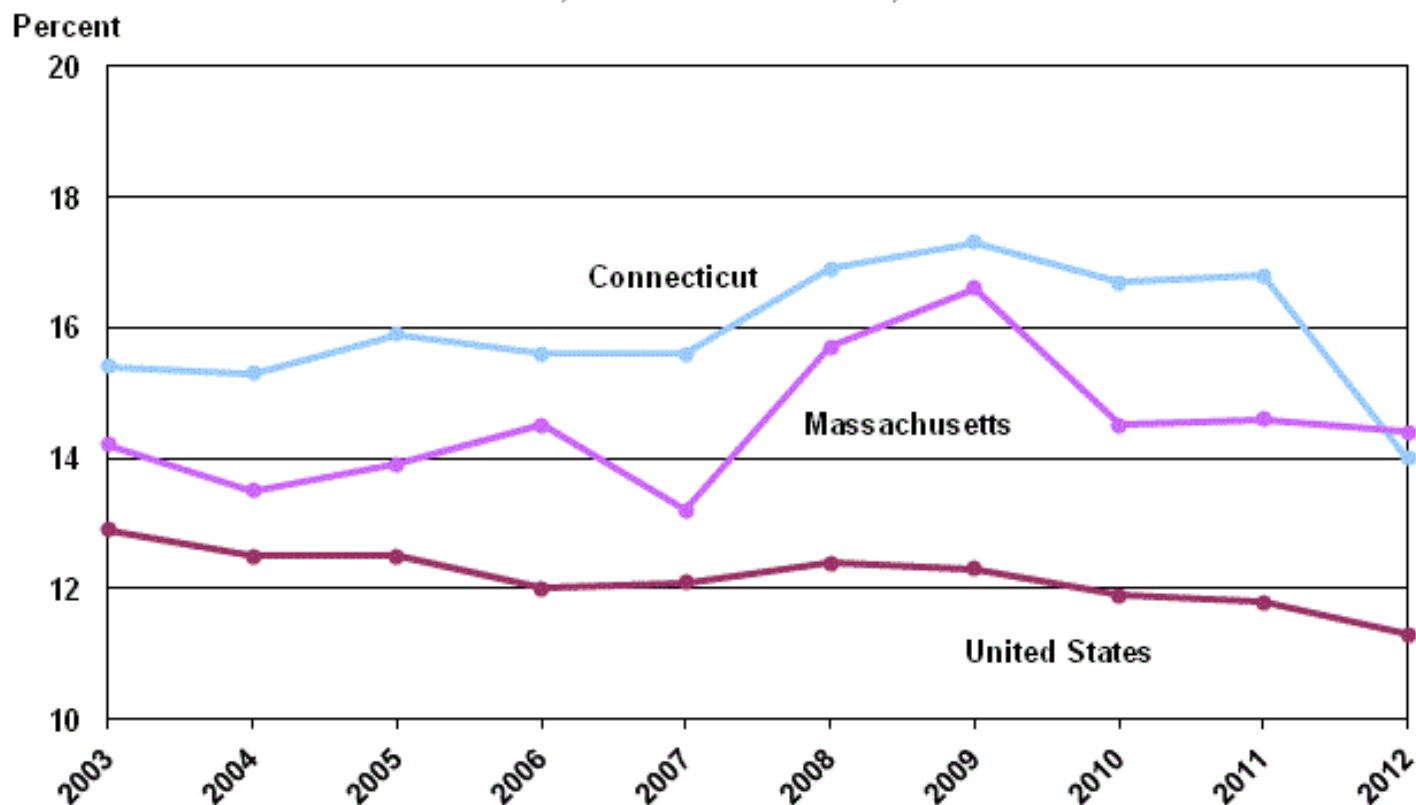
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Union Membership in Massachusetts and Connecticut - 2012

In 2012, union members accounted for 14.4 percent of wage and salary workers in Massachusetts and 14.0 percent in Connecticut compared to 14.6 and 16.8 percent, respectively, in 2011, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Deborah A. Brown noted that both states had union membership rates above the U.S. average of 11.3 percent in 2012. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) In fact, the union membership rates in these two states have always exceeded the national average throughout since the series began in 1989, the first year for which comparable state data are available.

Chart 1. Union membership rates, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and the United States, 2003-2012



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Massachusetts had 417,000 union members in 2012 and Connecticut, 216,000. An additional 53,000 wage and salary workers in Massachusetts and 16,000 in Connecticut were represented by a union on their main job or were covered by an employee association or contract while not union members themselves. (See [table A.](#)) Nationwide, 14.4 million wage and salary workers were union members in 2012 and 1.6 million wage and salary 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 Massachusetts and Connecticut, annual averages, 2003-2012 (numbers in thousands)

Year	Total employed	Members of unions ⁽¹⁾		Represented by unions ⁽²⁾	
		Total	Percent of employed	Total	Percent of employed
Massachusetts					
2003	2,925	416	14.2	454	15.5
2004	2,920	393	13.5	430	14.7
2005	2,886	402	13.9	431	14.9
2006	2,859	414	14.5	438	15.3
2007	2,882	379	13.2	402	14.0
2008	2,909	458	15.7	491	16.9
2009	2,864	476	16.6	516	18.0
2010	2,866	415	14.5	446	15.6
2011	2,882	422	14.6	445	15.4
2012	2,896	417	14.4	470	16.2
Connecticut					
2003	1,489	229	15.4	244	16.4
2004	1,539	235	15.3	256	16.6
2005	1,550	247	15.9	263	17.0
2006	1,591	247	15.6	263	17.0
2007	1,617	253	15.6	269	16.6
2008	1,625	275	16.9	291	17.9
2009	1,538	265	17.3	282	18.4
2010	1,549	258	16.7	270	17.4
2011	1,542	259	16.8	272	17.7
2012	1,541	216	14.0	232	15.1

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 are not members but whose jobs are covered by a union or employee association contract.

NOTE: Data refer to the sole or principal job of full-and part-time 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 the January data.

In 2012, 19 states had union membership rates above the U.S. average, of which 9 had rates above 15 percent. (See [table 1.](#)) Of the 9 states with the highest rates, 3 were located in the Northeast, 1 in the Midwest, and the remaining 5 bordered the Pacific Ocean. (See [chart 2.](#)) New York had the highest rate (23.2 percent), followed by Alaska (22.4 percent), Hawaii (21.6 percent), and Washington (18.5 percent). In fact, New York has had the highest membership rate in the nation for 16 of the past 18 years.

Thirty-one states and the District of Columbia had union membership rates below the national average of 11.3 percent in 2012. Eight of these states had union membership rates below 5.0 percent, with North Carolina having the lowest, 2.9 percent. The next lowest rates were recorded in Arkansas (3.2 percent), South Carolina (3.3 percent), and Mississippi (4.3 percent).

About half of the 14.4 million union members in the United States lived in just seven states (California, 2.5 million; New York, 1.8 million; Illinois, 0.8 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 state wage and salary employment level and the union membership rate. For example, with a union membership rate of 5.7 percent, Texas had about one-third as many union members as New York, despite having 2.7 million more wage and salary employees. North Carolina and Hawaii had comparable numbers of union members (112,000 and 116,000, respectively), though North Carolina's wage and salary employment level (3.8 million) was nearly seven times that of Hawaii (537,000).

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 eligible 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 with data for earlier years because of the introduction of updated population controls used in the CPS. These updated controls have little or no effect on unemployment rates and other ratios, such as union membership rates. For technical documentation and related information, including reliability of the CPS estimates, see www.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm.

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

Definitions

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

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

Represented by unions. Data refer to both union members and workers who report 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. Union membership and earnings data exclude all self-employed workers, both those with incorporated businesses as well as those with unincorporated businesses.

Table 1. Union affiliation of employed wage and salary workers by state, 2011-2012 (Numbers in thousands)

State	2011					2012				
	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	1,781	178	10.0	193	10.8	1,807	166	9.2	190	10.5
Alaska	306	68	22.1	73	23.7	298	67	22.4	71	23.9
Arizona	2,493	149	6.0	183	7.3	2,434	125	5.1	159	6.5
Arkansas	1,116	47	4.2	57	5.1	1,157	37	3.2	43	3.7
California	13,931	2,379	17.1	2,532	18.2	14,483	2,489	17.2	2,666	18.4
Colorado	2,186	179	8.2	203	9.3	2,165	169	7.8	190	8.8
Connecticut	1,542	259	16.8	272	17.7	1,541	216	14.0	232	15.1
Delaware	370	39	10.5	42	11.2	377	39	10.4	44	11.8
District of Columbia	281	23	8.3	28	9.9	309	27	8.6	32	10.3
Florida	7,283	460	6.3	557	7.6	7,602	440	5.8	555	7.3
Georgia	3,876	153	3.9	185	4.8	3,914	171	4.4	210	5.4
Hawaii	525	113	21.5	118	22.5	537	116	21.6	124	23.2
Idaho	594	31	5.1	36	6.1	613	29	4.8	36	5.8
Illinois	5,408	876	16.2	929	17.2	5,486	801	14.6	852	15.5
Indiana	2,681	302	11.3	333	12.4	2,702	246	9.1	269	10.0
Iowa	1,386	155	11.2	187	13.5	1,390	145	10.4	172	12.4
Kansas	1,268	97	7.6	128	10.1	1,248	85	6.8	105	8.4
Kentucky	1,678	150	8.9	173	10.3	1,742	174	10.0	198	11.4
Louisiana	1,717	77	4.5	91	5.3	1,733	107	6.2	130	7.5
Maine	554	63	11.3	74	13.4	559	64	11.5	78	13.9
Maryland	2,549	316	12.4	348	13.7	2,636	280	10.6	325	12.3
Massachusetts	2,882	422	14.6	445	15.4	2,896	417	14.4	470	16.2
Michigan	3,838	671	17.5	703	18.3	3,785	629	16.6	648	17.1
Minnesota	2,461	371	15.1	390	15.8	2,465	351	14.2	368	14.9
Mississippi	1,081	54	5.0	73	6.8	1,113	48	4.3	64	5.7
Missouri	2,531	275	10.9	316	12.5	2,507	224	8.9	253	10.1
Montana	377	49	13.0	55	14.6	392	54	13.9	65	16.5
Nebraska	828	65	7.9	83	10.0	864	52	6.0	70	8.1
Nevada	1,050	154	14.6	175	16.6	1,101	162	14.7	181	16.4
New Hampshire	617	68	11.1	77	12.5	621	65	10.5	74	12.0
New Jersey	3,816	615	16.1	641	16.8	3,796	611	16.1	636	16.8
New Mexico	726	49	6.8	65	9.0	780	50	6.5	68	8.7
New York	7,920	1,906	24.1	2,068	26.1	7,936	1,841	23.2	1,975	24.9
North Carolina	3,589	105	2.9	149	4.1	3,805	112	2.9	162	4.3
North Dakota	318	20	6.3	27	8.6	329	20	6.1	27	8.2
Ohio	4,813	647	13.4	706	14.7	4,800	604	12.6	665	13.9
Oklahoma	1,458	94	6.4	113	7.7	1,531	115	7.5	140	9.1
Oregon	1,574	270	17.1	286	18.1	1,526	240	15.7	250	16.4
Pennsylvania	5,348	779	14.6	846	15.8	5,452	734	13.5	787	14.4
Rhode Island	453	79	17.4	81	17.9	455	81	17.8	84	18.4
South Carolina	1,726	59	3.4	86	5.0	1,773	58	3.3	82	4.6
South Dakota	359	18	5.1	23	6.5	351	20	5.6	24	6.7
Tennessee	2,504	115	4.6	139	5.6	2,586	124	4.8	152	5.9
Texas	10,214	534	5.2	643	6.3	10,590	599	5.7	721	6.8
Utah	1,150	67	5.8	82	7.1	1,179	61	5.2	77	6.6
Vermont	290	35	12.0	39	13.5	288	31	10.7	38	13.1
Virginia	3,550	163	4.6	198	5.6	3,592	159	4.4	197	5.5
Washington	2,727	517	19.0	557	20.4	2,776	513	18.5	541	19.5
West Virginia	672	93	13.8	102	15.2	697	84	12.1	91	13.1
Wisconsin	2,538	339	13.3	358	14.1	2,605	293	11.2	312	12.0
Wyoming	250	18	7.2	21	8.4	252	17	6.7	20	8.1

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

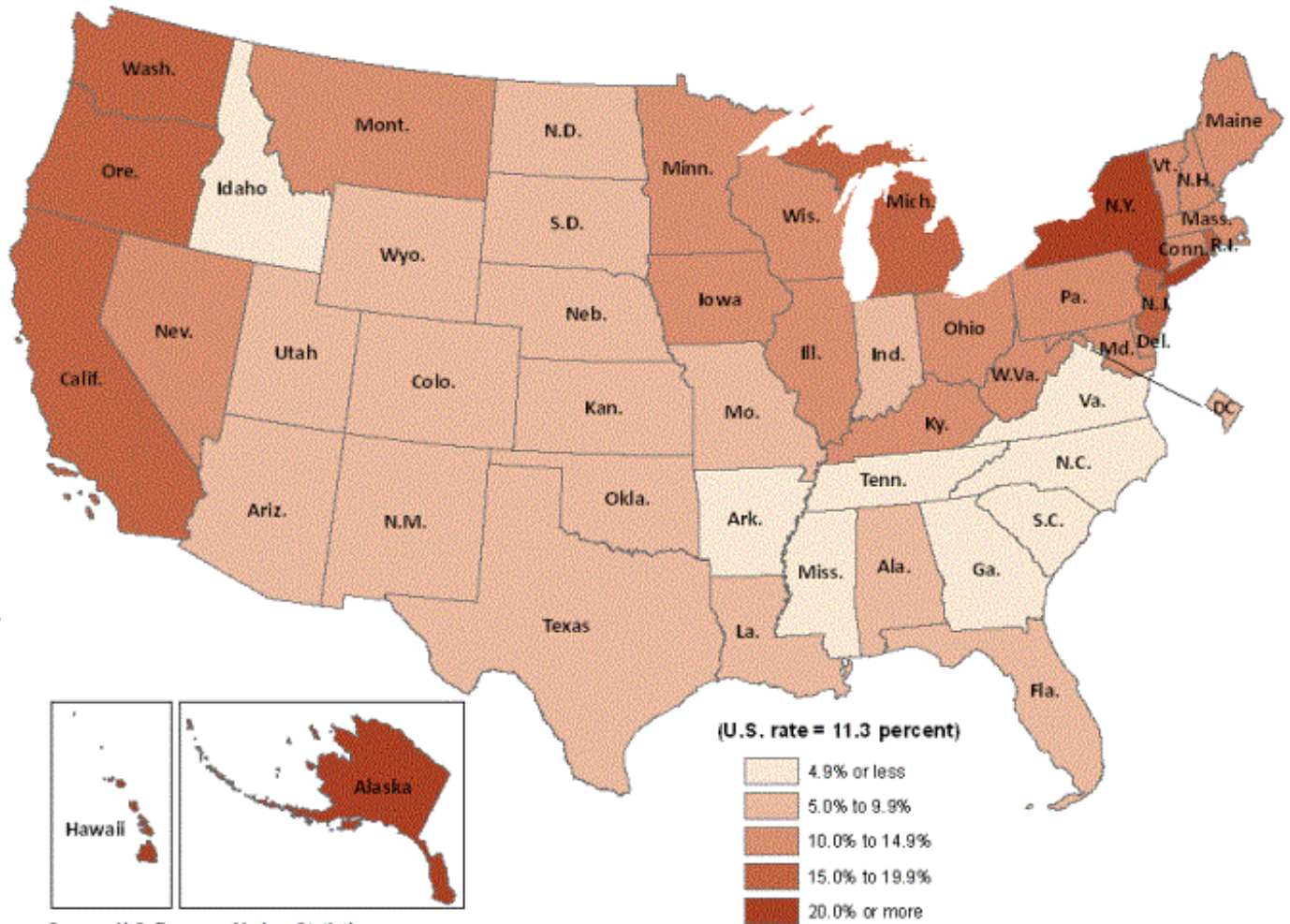
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Chart 2. Union membership rates by state, 2012 annual averages



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics