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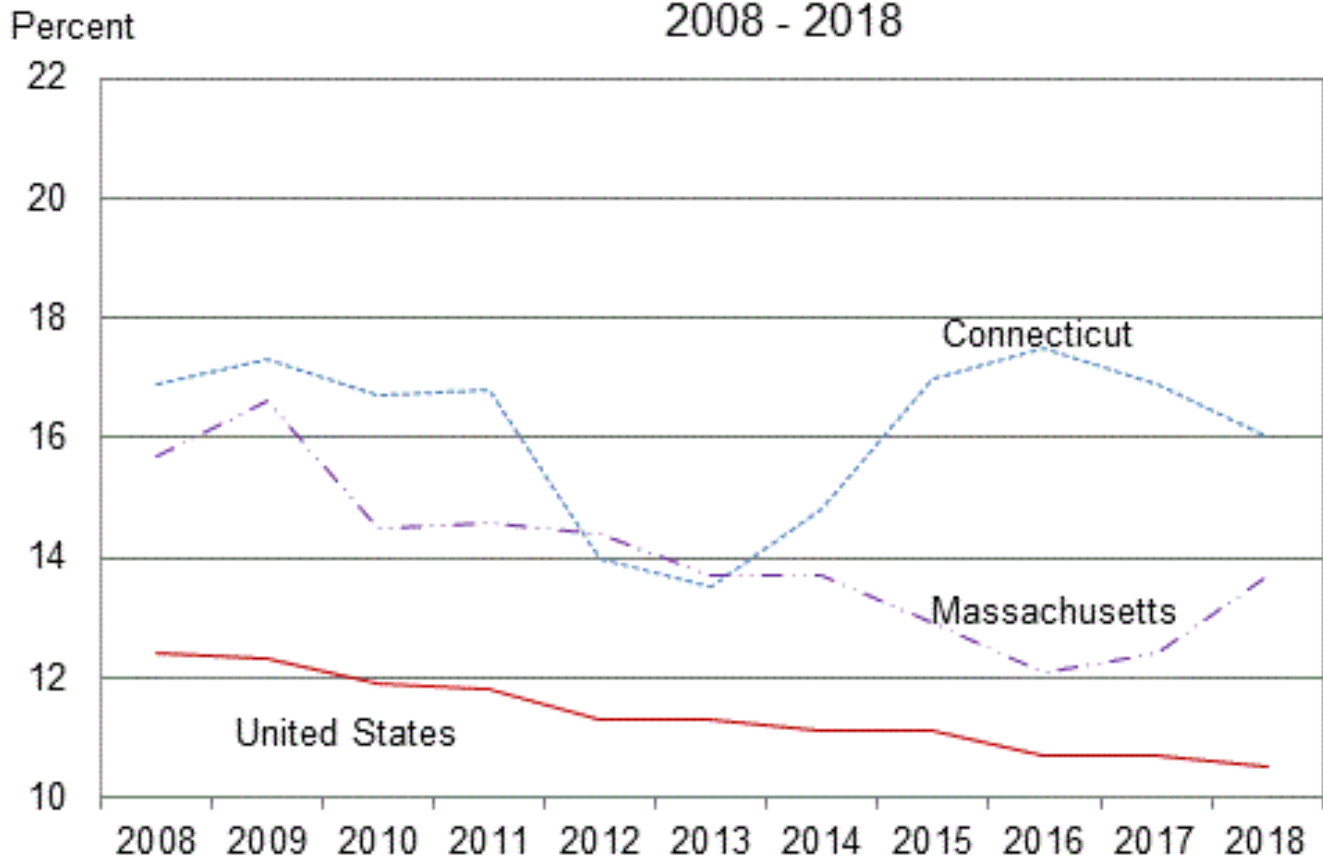
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Union Membership in Massachusetts and Connecticut — 2018

In 2018, union members accounted for 13.7 percent of wage and salary workers in Massachusetts and 16.0 percent in Connecticut compared to 12.4 and 16.9 percent, respectively, in 2017, 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 10.5 percent in 2018. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) In fact, the union membership rates in these two states have exceeded the national average 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, 2008 - 2018



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Massachusetts had 464,000 union members in 2018 and Connecticut, 268,000. An additional 29,000 wage and salary workers in Massachusetts and 12,000 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, 14.7 million wage and salary workers were union members in 2018, 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, 2008-2018 (numbers in thousands)

Year	Total employed	Members of Unions ⁽¹⁾		Represented by Unions ⁽²⁾	
		Total	Percent of employed	Total	Percent of employed
Massachusetts					
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
2013	2,940	401	13.7	430	14.6
2014	3,036	415	13.7	445	14.7
2015	3,103	402	12.9	441	14.2
2016	3,158	381	12.1	407	12.9

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table A. Union affiliation of employed wage and salary workers in Massachusetts and Connecticut, annual averages, 2008-2018 (numbers in thousands) - Continued

Year	Total employed	Members of Unions ⁽¹⁾		Represented by Unions ⁽²⁾	
		Total	Percent of employed	Total	Percent of employed
2017	3,231	401	12.4	431	13.3
2018	3,397	464	13.7	493	14.5
Connecticut					
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
2013	1,535	207	13.5	220	14.3
2014	1,564	231	14.8	245	15.7
2015	1,587	269	17.0	277	17.4
2016	1,568	275	17.5	288	18.4
2017	1,645	278	16.9	295	17.9
2018	1,677	268	16.0	280	16.7

Footnotes:

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

(2) Data refer to both members of a labor 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 2018, 29 states and the District of Columbia had union membership rates below that of the U.S. average, 10.5 percent, while 20 states had rates above it and 1 state had the same rate. All states in both the East South Central and West South Central divisions had union membership rates below the national average, while all states in both the Middle Atlantic and Pacific divisions had rates above it.

Eight states had union membership rates below 5.0 percent in 2018. North Carolina and South Carolina had the lowest rate (2.7 percent each). The next lowest rates were in Utah (4.1 percent) and Texas and Virginia (4.3 percent each). Two states had union membership rates over 20.0 percent in 2018: Hawaii (23.1 percent) and New York (22.3 percent). (See [table 1](#) and the map).

The largest numbers of union members lived in California (2.4 million) and New York (1.9 million). Over half of the 14.7 million union members in the U.S. lived in just seven states (California, 2.4 million; New York, 1.9 million; Illinois, 0.8 million; Pennsylvania, 0.7 million; and Michigan, Ohio, and Washington, 0.6 million each), though these states accounted for only about one-third of wage and salary employment nationally.

Technical Note

The estimates in this release are obtained from the Current Population Survey (CPS), which provides 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 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.

Beginning in January of each year, data reflect revised population controls used in the CPS. Additional information about population controls is available on the BLS website at <https://www.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm>.

Information about the reliability of data from the CPS and guidance on estimating standard errors is available at www.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm#reliability.

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.

Union membership rate. Data refer to the proportion of total wage and salary workers who are union members.

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.

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.

Table 1. Union affiliation of employed wage and salary workers by state, 2017-2018 annual averages (numbers in thousands)

State	2017					2018				
	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	1,869	138	7.4	152	8.1	1,950	180	9.2	196	10.1
Alaska.....	304	55	18.1	59	19.4	299	55	18.5	60	20.0
Arizona	2,805	111	4.0	145	5.2	2,943	156	5.3	191	6.5
Arkansas	1,209	62	5.1	74	6.1	1,176	56	4.8	62	5.3
California	16,064	2,491	15.5	2,708	16.9	16,399	2,405	14.7	2,587	15.8
Colorado.....	2,494	238	9.6	273	11.0	2,564	281	11.0	307	12.0
Connecticut.....	1,645	278	16.9	295	17.9	1,677	268	16.0	280	16.7
Delaware.....	425	45	10.7	48	11.2	434	45	10.3	47	10.8
District of Columbia.....	347	34	9.8	40	11.5	354	35	9.9	41	11.6
Florida	8,573	480	5.6	570	6.6	8,702	484	5.6	588	6.8
Georgia.....	4,342	173	4.0	217	5.0	4,466	201	4.5	249	5.6
Hawaii.....	605	129	21.3	139	22.9	601	139	23.1	146	24.3
Idaho	723	35	4.8	42	5.8	733	34	4.7	41	5.6
Illinois	5,516	827	15.0	872	15.8	5,694	786	13.8	839	14.7
Indiana.....	2,987	266	8.9	289	9.7	3,049	269	8.8	283	9.3
Iowa.....	1,475	104	7.0	127	8.6	1,461	113	7.7	129	8.8
Kansas	1,296	101	7.8	131	10.1	1,283	90	7.0	129	10.1
Kentucky.....	1,810	174	9.6	232	12.8	1,812	161	8.9	207	11.4
Louisiana.....	1,780	78	4.4	96	5.4	1,785	89	5.0	104	5.8
Maine.....	576	66	11.4	81	14.0	573	74	12.9	85	14.8
Maryland.....	2,772	299	10.8	326	11.8	2,784	307	11.0	336	12.1
Massachusetts.....	3,231	401	12.4	431	13.3	3,397	464	13.7	493	14.5
Michigan.....	4,230	658	15.6	711	16.8	4,320	625	14.5	663	15.4
Minnesota.....	2,693	411	15.2	428	15.9	2,634	395	15.0	421	16.0
Mississippi.....	1,106	59	5.3	77	7.0	1,121	58	5.1	80	7.1
Missouri.....	2,613	226	8.7	265	10.1	2,675	251	9.4	283	10.6
Montana.....	419	50	11.9	57	13.6	427	50	11.8	60	14.0
Nebraska.....	858	70	8.2	78	9.1	882	59	6.6	71	8.0
Nevada.....	1,290	164	12.7	189	14.6	1,376	191	13.9	216	15.7
New Hampshire.....	642	72	11.3	83	13.0	664	68	10.2	77	11.6
New Jersey.....	3,898	630	16.2	665	17.1	3,935	587	14.9	639	16.2
New Mexico.....	769	52	6.7	63	8.3	812	56	6.8	67	8.2
New York.....	8,472	2,017	23.8	2,148	25.3	8,404	1,872	22.3	2,027	24.1
North Carolina.....	4,305	145	3.4	171	4.0	4,331	118	2.7	174	4.0
North Dakota.....	356	18	5.1	24	6.8	343	18	5.2	23	6.7
Ohio.....	5,062	635	12.5	688	13.6	5,054	639	12.6	722	14.3
Oklahoma.....	1,536	84	5.5	108	7.1	1,583	90	5.7	117	7.4
Oregon.....	1,763	262	14.9	277	15.7	1,738	242	13.9	256	14.7
Pennsylvania.....	5,543	665	12.0	723	13.0	5,575	701	12.6	748	13.4
Rhode Island.....	486	78	16.1	84	17.2	479	83	17.4	89	18.5
South Carolina.....	1,986	52	2.6	78	3.9	2,016	55	2.7	72	3.6
South Dakota.....	380	20	5.4	25	6.7	387	22	5.6	28	7.1
Tennessee.....	2,728	155	5.7	176	6.4	2,816	155	5.5	179	6.4
Texas.....	11,626	543	4.7	669	5.8	11,989	512	4.3	653	5.4
Utah.....	1,375	54	3.9	74	5.4	1,343	56	4.1	76	5.7
Vermont.....	288	32	11.0	35	12.1	291	31	10.5	34	11.6
Virginia.....	3,801	176	4.6	222	5.8	3,875	168	4.3	213	5.5
Washington.....	3,112	584	18.8	630	20.2	3,270	649	19.8	671	20.5
West Virginia.....	683	75	11.0	82	11.9	684	68	10.0	74	10.8
Wisconsin.....	2,778	230	8.3	250	9.0	2,700	219	8.1	233	8.6
Wyoming.....	243	15	6.0	16	6.7	235	15	6.5	18	7.7

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

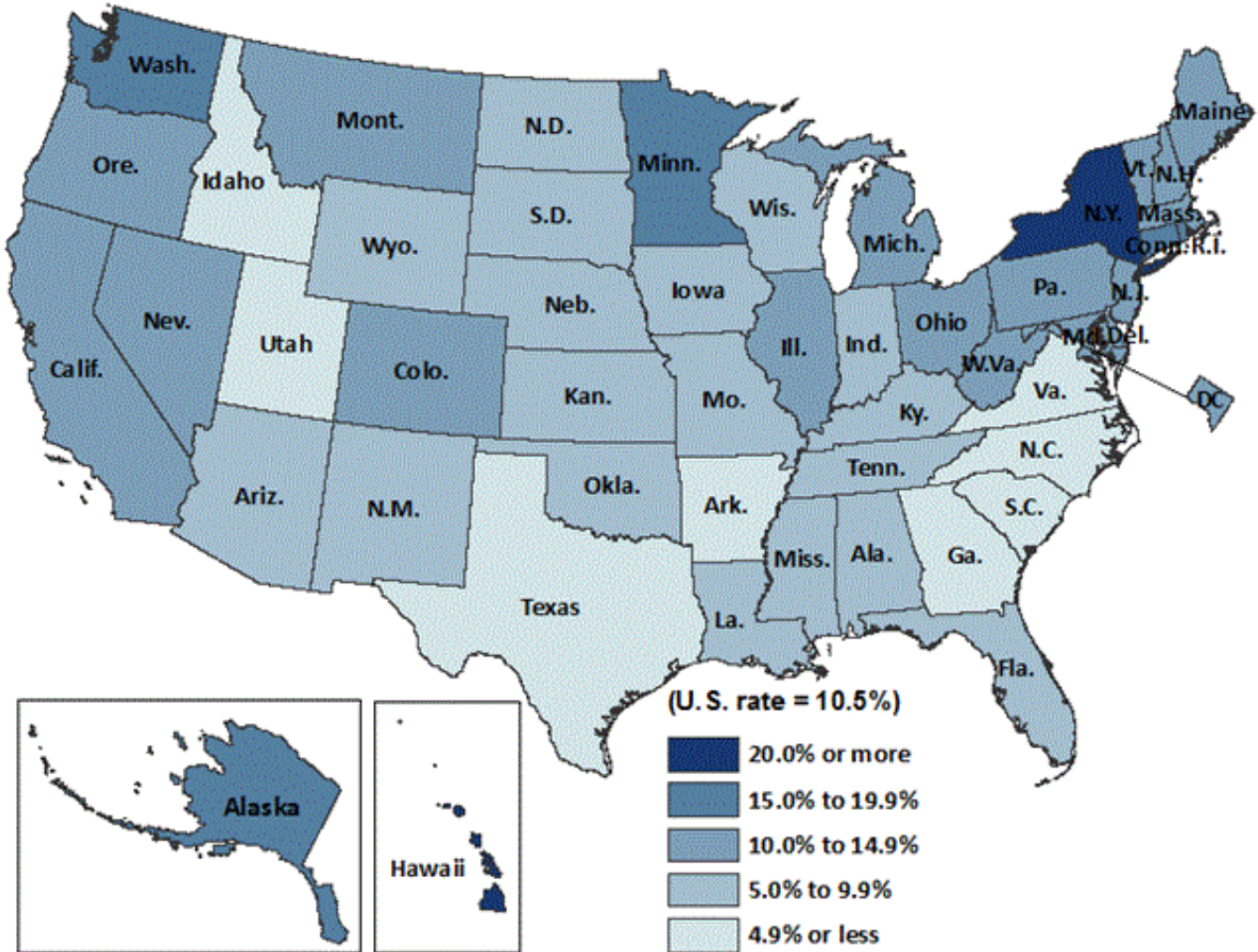
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Chart 2. Union membership rates by state, 2018 annual averages



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.