



**For Release: Wednesday, February 12, 2020**

**20-181-ATL**

SOUTHEAST INFORMATION OFFICE: Atlanta, Ga.

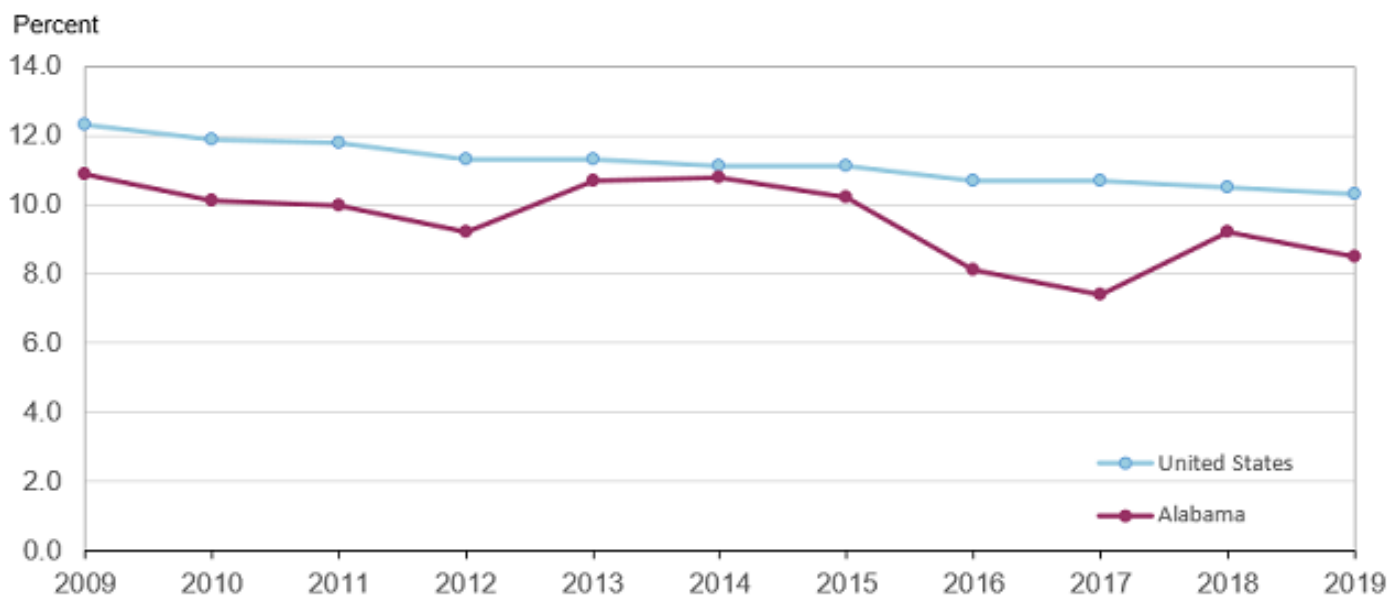
Technical information: (404) 893-4222 BLSInfoAtlanta@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/southeast

Media contact: (404) 893-4220

## Union Members in Alabama – 2019

In 2019, union members accounted for 8.5 percent of wage and salary workers in Alabama, compared with 9.2 percent in 2018, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that the union membership rate for the state was at its peak in 1993, when it averaged 14.7 percent, and at its low point in 2017 at 7.4 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) Nationwide, union members accounted for 10.3 percent of employed wage and salary workers in 2019, down by 0.2 percentage point from 2018. Since 1989, when comparable state data became available, union membership rates in Alabama have been below the U.S. average.

**Chart 1. Members of unions as a percent of employed in the United States and Alabama, 2009–2019**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Alabama had 173,000 union members in 2019. In addition to these members, another 26,000 wage and salary workers in Alabama were represented by a union on their main job or covered by an employee association or contract while not union members themselves. (See [table A.](#)) Nationwide, 14.6 million wage and salary workers were union members in 2019 and 1.8 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 Alabama, annual averages, 2009–2019 (numbers in thousands)**

| Year       | Total employed | Members of unions <sup>(1)</sup> |                     | Represented by unions <sup>(2)</sup> |                     |
|------------|----------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
|            |                | Total                            | Percent of employed | Total                                | Percent of employed |
| 2009 ..... | 1,763          | 191                              | 10.9                | 212                                  | 12.0                |
| 2010 ..... | 1,809          | 183                              | 10.1                | 203                                  | 11.2                |
| 2011 ..... | 1,781          | 178                              | 10.0                | 193                                  | 10.8                |
| 2012 ..... | 1,807          | 166                              | 9.2                 | 190                                  | 10.5                |
| 2013 ..... | 1,894          | 203                              | 10.7                | 222                                  | 11.7                |
| 2014 ..... | 1,887          | 204                              | 10.8                | 228                                  | 12.1                |
| 2015 ..... | 1,863          | 190                              | 10.2                | 204                                  | 11.0                |
| 2016 ..... | 1,895          | 153                              | 8.1                 | 170                                  | 9.0                 |
| 2017 ..... | 1,869          | 138                              | 7.4                 | 152                                  | 8.1                 |
| 2018 ..... | 1,950          | 180                              | 9.2                 | 196                                  | 10.1                |
| 2019 ..... | 2,041          | 173                              | 8.5                 | 199                                  | 9.8                 |

Footnotes:

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

(2) 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.

Note: Data refer to the sole or principal job of full- and part-time wage and salary workers. All self-employed workers are excluded, both those with incorporated businesses as well as those with unincorporated businesses. Updated population controls are introduced annually with the release of January data.

In 2019, 28 states and the District of Columbia had union membership rates below that of the U.S. average, 10.3 percent, while 21 states had rates above it and 1 state had the same rate. (See [table 1](#).) Eight states had union membership rates below 5.0 percent in 2019. South Carolina and North Carolina had the lowest rates (2.2 percent and 2.3 percent, respectively). The next lowest rates were in Texas and Virginia (4.0 percent each). Two states had union membership rates over 20.0 percent in 2019: Hawaii (23.5 percent) and New York (21.0 percent). (See [chart 2](#).)

Over half of the 14.6 million union members in the U.S. lived in just seven states (California, 2.5 million; New York, 1.7 million; Illinois, 0.8 million; Pennsylvania, 0.7 million; and New Jersey, 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 [www.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm#pop](http://www.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm#pop).

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](http://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, 2018-2019 annual averages (numbers in thousands)**

| State                      | 2018           |                      |                     |                          |                     | 2019           |                      |                     |                          |                     |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
|                            | 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 .....              | 1,950          | 180                  | 9.2                 | 196                      | 10.1                | 2,041          | 173                  | 8.5                 | 199                      | 9.8                 |
| Alaska .....               | 299            | 55                   | 18.5                | 60                       | 20.0                | 282            | 48                   | 17.1                | 53                       | 18.7                |
| Arizona .....              | 2,943          | 156                  | 5.3                 | 191                      | 6.5                 | 3,028          | 174                  | 5.7                 | 214                      | 7.1                 |
| Arkansas .....             | 1,176          | 56                   | 4.8                 | 62                       | 5.3                 | 1,200          | 62                   | 5.2                 | 71                       | 5.9                 |
| California .....           | 16,399         | 2,405                | 14.7                | 2,587                    | 15.8                | 16,485         | 2,504                | 15.2                | 2,726                    | 16.5                |
| Colorado .....             | 2,564          | 281                  | 11.0                | 307                      | 12.0                | 2,631          | 237                  | 9.0                 | 259                      | 9.8                 |
| Connecticut .....          | 1,677          | 268                  | 16.0                | 280                      | 16.7                | 1,680          | 244                  | 14.5                | 269                      | 16.0                |
| Delaware .....             | 434            | 45                   | 10.3                | 47                       | 10.8                | 432            | 38                   | 8.7                 | 43                       | 9.9                 |
| District of Columbia ..... | 354            | 35                   | 9.9                 | 41                       | 11.6                | 361            | 34                   | 9.3                 | 37                       | 10.2                |
| Florida .....              | 8,702          | 484                  | 5.6                 | 588                      | 6.8                 | 8,827          | 551                  | 6.2                 | 667                      | 7.6                 |
| Georgia .....              | 4,466          | 201                  | 4.5                 | 249                      | 5.6                 | 4,422          | 180                  | 4.1                 | 223                      | 5.0                 |
| Hawaii .....               | 601            | 139                  | 23.1                | 146                      | 24.3                | 574            | 135                  | 23.5                | 147                      | 25.5                |
| Idaho .....                | 733            | 34                   | 4.7                 | 41                       | 5.6                 | 764            | 37                   | 4.9                 | 46                       | 6.0                 |
| Illinois .....             | 5,694          | 786                  | 13.8                | 839                      | 14.7                | 5,658          | 771                  | 13.6                | 832                      | 14.7                |
| Indiana .....              | 3,049          | 269                  | 8.8                 | 283                      | 9.3                 | 3,007          | 249                  | 8.3                 | 296                      | 9.8                 |
| Iowa .....                 | 1,461          | 113                  | 7.7                 | 129                      | 8.8                 | 1,543          | 97                   | 6.3                 | 122                      | 7.9                 |
| Kansas .....               | 1,283          | 90                   | 7.0                 | 129                      | 10.1                | 1,280          | 112                  | 8.7                 | 130                      | 10.1                |
| Kentucky .....             | 1,812          | 161                  | 8.9                 | 207                      | 11.4                | 1,786          | 144                  | 8.0                 | 169                      | 9.5                 |
| Louisiana .....            | 1,785          | 89                   | 5.0                 | 104                      | 5.8                 | 1,784          | 94                   | 5.3                 | 108                      | 6.1                 |
| Maine .....                | 573            | 74                   | 12.9                | 85                       | 14.8                | 588            | 69                   | 11.8                | 81                       | 13.7                |
| Maryland .....             | 2,784          | 307                  | 11.0                | 336                      | 12.1                | 2,912          | 330                  | 11.3                | 371                      | 12.8                |
| Massachusetts .....        | 3,397          | 464                  | 13.7                | 493                      | 14.5                | 3,397          | 406                  | 12.0                | 449                      | 13.2                |
| Michigan .....             | 4,320          | 625                  | 14.5                | 663                      | 15.4                | 4,323          | 589                  | 13.6                | 648                      | 15.0                |
| Minnesota .....            | 2,634          | 395                  | 15.0                | 421                      | 16.0                | 2,662          | 364                  | 13.7                | 381                      | 14.3                |
| Mississippi .....          | 1,121          | 58                   | 5.1                 | 80                       | 7.1                 | 1,105          | 70                   | 6.3                 | 93                       | 8.4                 |
| Missouri .....             | 2,675          | 251                  | 9.4                 | 283                      | 10.6                | 2,661          | 297                  | 11.1                | 333                      | 12.5                |
| Montana .....              | 427            | 50                   | 11.8                | 60                       | 14.0                | 437            | 46                   | 10.5                | 52                       | 12.0                |
| Nebraska .....             | 882            | 59                   | 6.6                 | 71                       | 8.0                 | 894            | 75                   | 8.4                 | 86                       | 9.6                 |
| Nevada .....               | 1,376          | 191                  | 13.9                | 216                      | 15.7                | 1,379          | 201                  | 14.6                | 222                      | 16.1                |
| New Hampshire .....        | 664            | 68                   | 10.2                | 77                       | 11.6                | 677            | 69                   | 10.3                | 79                       | 11.6                |
| New Jersey .....           | 3,935          | 587                  | 14.9                | 639                      | 16.2                | 4,094          | 642                  | 15.7                | 712                      | 17.4                |
| New Mexico .....           | 812            | 56                   | 6.8                 | 67                       | 8.2                 | 813            | 58                   | 7.1                 | 72                       | 8.8                 |
| New York .....             | 8,404          | 1,872                | 22.3                | 2,027                    | 24.1                | 8,253          | 1,732                | 21.0                | 1,877                    | 22.7                |
| North Carolina .....       | 4,331          | 118                  | 2.7                 | 174                      | 4.0                 | 4,396          | 102                  | 2.3                 | 150                      | 3.4                 |
| North Dakota .....         | 343            | 18                   | 5.2                 | 23                       | 6.7                 | 356            | 21                   | 6.0                 | 27                       | 7.5                 |
| Ohio .....                 | 5,054          | 639                  | 12.6                | 722                      | 14.3                | 5,127          | 610                  | 11.9                | 673                      | 13.1                |
| Oklahoma .....             | 1,583          | 90                   | 5.7                 | 117                      | 7.4                 | 1,554          | 96                   | 6.2                 | 123                      | 7.9                 |
| Oregon .....               | 1,738          | 242                  | 13.9                | 256                      | 14.7                | 1,772          | 255                  | 14.4                | 277                      | 15.7                |
| Pennsylvania .....         | 5,575          | 701                  | 12.6                | 748                      | 13.4                | 5,642          | 676                  | 12.0                | 740                      | 13.1                |
| Rhode Island .....         | 479            | 83                   | 17.4                | 89                       | 18.5                | 475            | 83                   | 17.4                | 90                       | 19.0                |
| South Carolina .....       | 2,016          | 55                   | 2.7                 | 72                       | 3.6                 | 2,140          | 47                   | 2.2                 | 59                       | 2.7                 |
| South Dakota .....         | 387            | 22                   | 5.6                 | 28                       | 7.1                 | 395            | 22                   | 5.6                 | 26                       | 6.7                 |
| Tennessee .....            | 2,816          | 155                  | 5.5                 | 179                      | 6.4                 | 2,947          | 135                  | 4.6                 | 162                      | 5.5                 |
| Texas .....                | 11,989         | 512                  | 4.3                 | 653                      | 5.4                 | 12,334         | 497                  | 4.0                 | 642                      | 5.2                 |
| Utah .....                 | 1,343          | 56                   | 4.1                 | 76                       | 5.7                 | 1,409          | 62                   | 4.4                 | 83                       | 5.9                 |
| Vermont .....              | 291            | 31                   | 10.5                | 34                       | 11.6                | 290            | 33                   | 11.2                | 35                       | 12.0                |
| Virginia .....             | 3,875          | 168                  | 4.3                 | 213                      | 5.5                 | 3,881          | 156                  | 4.0                 | 201                      | 5.2                 |
| Washington .....           | 3,270          | 649                  | 19.8                | 671                      | 20.5                | 3,393          | 638                  | 18.8                | 684                      | 20.2                |
| West Virginia .....        | 684            | 68                   | 10.0                | 74                       | 10.8                | 704            | 72                   | 10.2                | 78                       | 11.1                |
| Wisconsin .....            | 2,700          | 219                  | 8.1                 | 233                      | 8.6                 | 2,698          | 218                  | 8.1                 | 245                      | 9.1                 |
| Wyoming .....              | 235            | 15                   | 6.5                 | 18                       | 7.7                 | 243            | 18                   | 7.3                 | 21                       | 8.7                 |

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

