

Table 648. Labor Union Membership by Sector: 1985 to 2008

[See headnote, Table 650. (16,996 represents 16,996,000)]

Sector	1985	1990	1995	2000	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
TOTAL (1,000)									
Wage and salary workers:									
Union members	16,996	16,740	16,360	16,258	15,472	15,685	15,359	15,670	16,098
Covered by unions	19,358	19,058	18,346	17,944	17,087	17,223	16,860	17,243	17,761
Public sector workers:									
Union members	5,743	6,485	6,927	7,111	7,267	7,430	7,378	7,557	7,832
Covered by unions	6,921	7,691	7,987	7,976	8,131	8,262	8,172	8,373	8,676
Private sector workers:									
Union members	11,253	10,255	9,432	9,148	8,205	8,255	7,981	8,114	8,265
Covered by unions	12,438	11,366	10,360	9,969	8,956	8,962	8,688	8,870	9,084
PERCENT									
Wage and salary workers:									
Union members	18.0	16.1	14.9	13.5	12.5	12.5	12.0	12.1	12.4
Covered by unions	20.5	18.3	16.7	14.9	13.8	13.7	13.1	13.3	13.7
Public sector workers:									
Union members	35.7	36.5	37.7	37.5	36.4	36.5	36.2	35.9	36.8
Covered by unions	43.1	43.3	43.5	42.0	40.7	40.5	40.1	39.8	40.7
Private sector workers:									
Union members	14.3	11.9	10.3	9.0	7.9	7.8	7.4	7.5	7.6
Covered by unions	15.9	13.2	11.3	9.8	8.6	8.5	8.1	8.2	8.4

Source: The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc., Washington, DC, *Union Membership and Earnings Data Book: Compilations from the Current Population Survey (2009 edition)*, (copyright by BNA PLUS); authored by Barry Hirsch of Georgia State University and David Macpherson of Florida State University. See also <<http://bnaplus.bna.com/LaborReports.aspx>> and <<http://www.unionstats.com>>.