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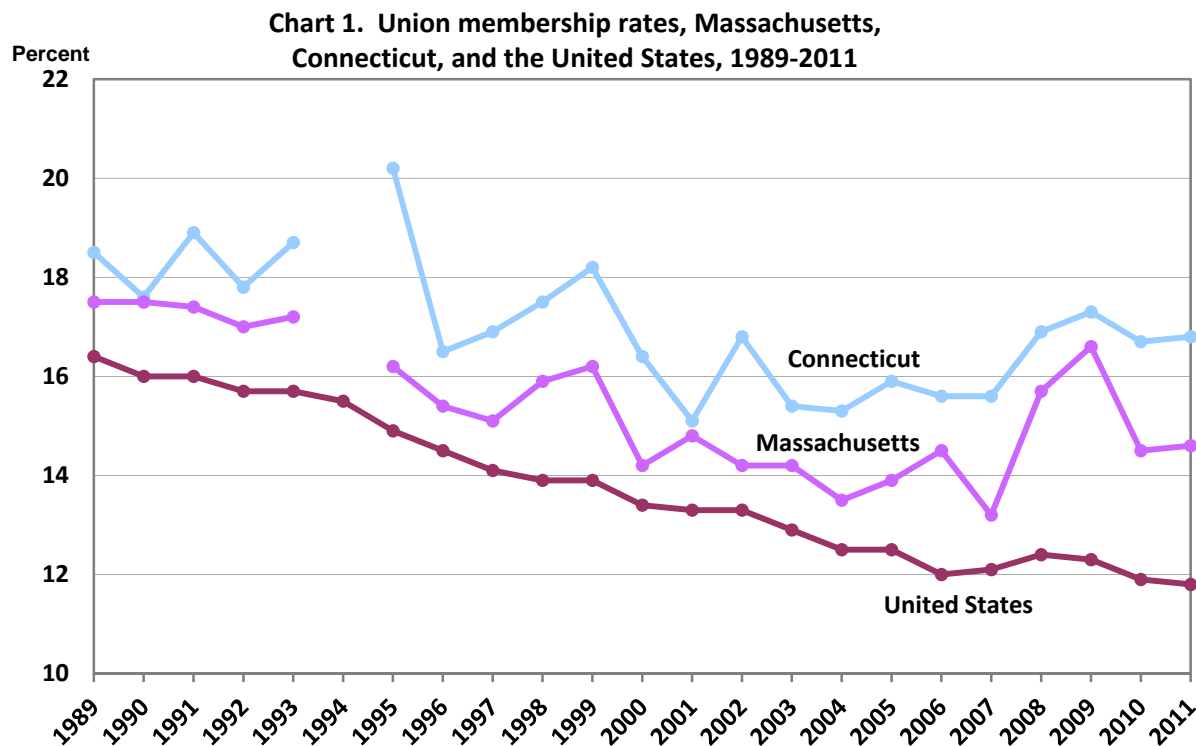
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UNION MEMBERSHIP IN MASSACHUSETTS AND CONNECTICUT - 2011

In 2011, union members accounted for 14.6 percent of wage and salary workers in Massachusetts and 16.8 percent in Connecticut compared to 14.5 and 16.7 percent, respectively, in 2010, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Acting Regional Commissioner Joyce A. Sweeney noted that both states had union membership rates above the U.S. average of 11.8 percent in 2011, with Connecticut's rate ranking ninth highest in the nation. (See chart 1 and table A.) In fact, the union membership rates in these two states have always exceeded the national average throughout the history of the series which begin in 1989, the first year for which comparable state data are available.



NOTE: State data not available for 1994.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Massachusetts had 422,000 union members in 2011 and Connecticut, 259,000. An additional 23,000 wage and salary workers in Massachusetts and 13,000 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, 14.8 million wage and salary workers were union members in 2011 and 1.5 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, 1989-2011 (numbers in thousands)

Year	Total employed	Members of unions ¹		Represented by unions ²	
		Total	Percent of employed	Total	Percent of employed
Massachusetts					
1989	2,725	478	17.5	513	18.8
1990	2,735	479	17.5	513	18.8
1991	2,557	445	17.4	479	18.7
1992	2,557	434	17.0	468	18.3
1993	2,642	453	17.2	487	18.4
1994	-	-	-	-	-
1995	2,649	428	16.2	471	17.8
1996	2,703	415	15.4	455	16.8
1997	2,794	423	15.1	463	16.6
1998	2,844	453	15.9	494	17.4
1999	2,875	465	16.2	492	17.1
2000	2,907	414	14.2	461	15.9
2001	2,933	433	14.8	469	16.0
2002	2,999	427	14.2	464	15.5
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
Connecticut					
1989	1,533	284	18.5	297	19.4
1990	1,573	277	17.6	309	19.7
1991	1,548	292	18.9	310	20.0
1992	1,500	267	17.8	285	19.0
1993	1,500	281	18.7	300	20.0
1994	-	-	-	-	-
1995	1,427	288	20.2	296	20.7
1996	1,454	239	16.5	250	17.2
1997	1,469	248	16.9	262	17.9
1998	1,501	263	17.5	272	18.1
1999	1,455	264	18.2	279	19.2
2000	1,572	258	16.4	276	17.6
2001	1,537	232	15.1	243	15.8
2002	1,534	258	16.8	271	17.7
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

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

²Data 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.

– Data not available for 1994.

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 2011, 21 states had union membership rates above the U.S. average of 11.8 percent. (See table 1.) Of 12 states with union membership rates above 15.0 percent, 4 were located in the Northeast, 3 in the Midwest, and the remaining 5 bordered the Pacific Ocean. (See chart 2.) New York had the highest rate (24.1 percent), followed by Alaska (22.1 percent), Hawaii (21.5 percent), and Washington (19.0 percent). Among the New England states, Rhode Island and Vermont joined Massachusetts and Connecticut with union membership rates above the national average.

Twenty-nine states and the District of Columbia had union membership rates below the national average in 2011. Seven of these states, all in the South, had union membership rates below 5.0 percent, with North Carolina having the lowest, 2.9 percent. The next lowest rates were recorded in South Carolina (3.4 percent), Georgia (3.9 percent), Arkansas (4.2 percent), Louisiana (4.5 percent), and Tennessee and Virginia (4.6 percent each).

Over half of the 14.8 million union members in the United States lived in just seven states (California, 2.4 million; New York, 1.9 million; Illinois, 0.9 million; Pennsylvania, 0.8 million; Michigan, 0.7 million; and New Jersey and Ohio, 0.6 million each), though these states accounted for only 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, despite having 4.4 million fewer wage and salary employees statewide, Massachusetts, with 422,000 union members, had almost as many as Florida with 460,000. On the other hand, though Connecticut and Louisiana had a similar number of wage and salary workers, Connecticut had more than three times as many union members—259,000 versus 77,000.

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 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.

For personal assistance or further information on union membership, as well as other Bureau data, contact the New England (Boston) Information Office at 617-565-2327 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET. Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 617-565-2072, 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, 2010-2011 annual averages
(Numbers in thousands)

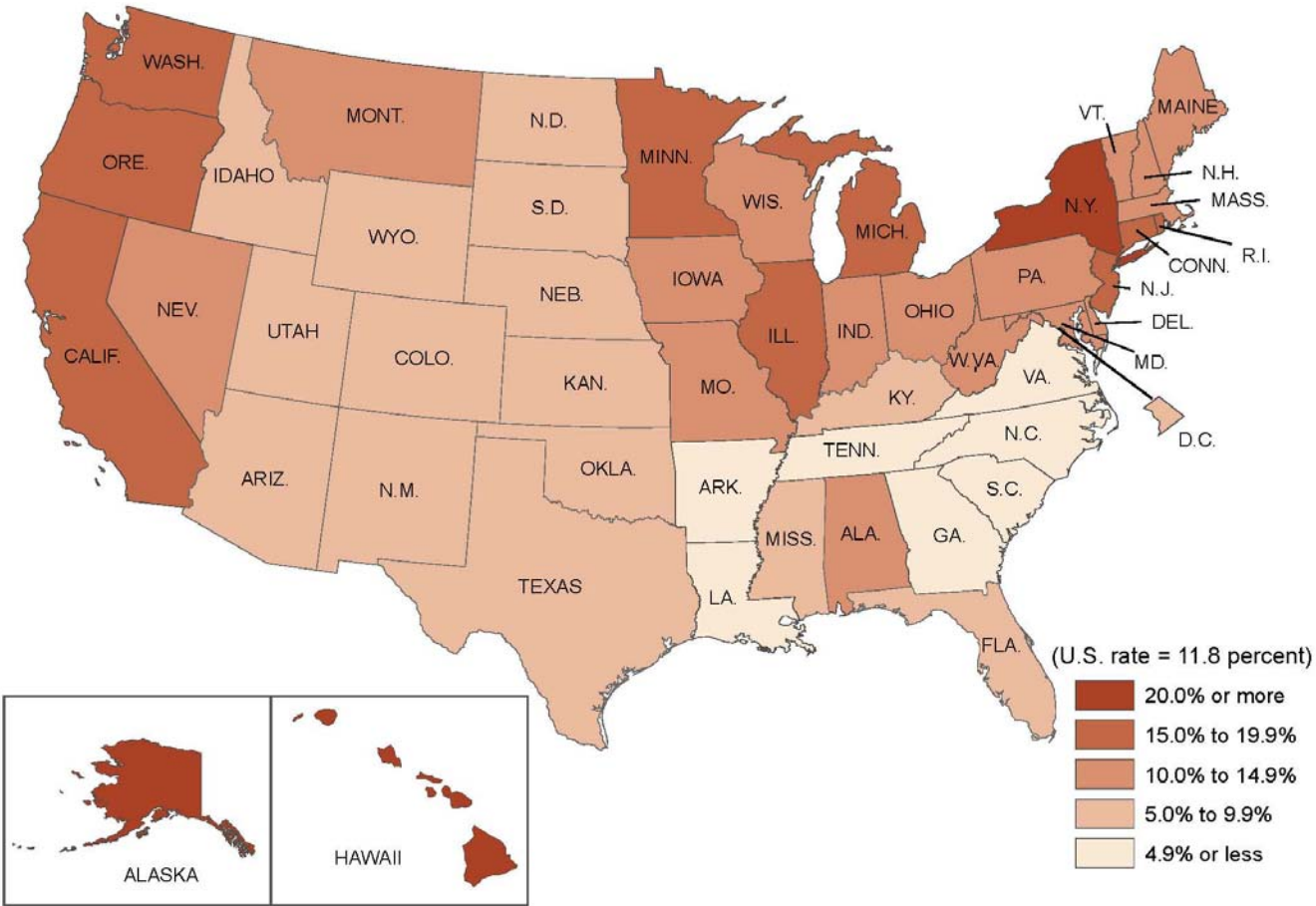
State	2010					2011				
	Total employed	Members of unions ¹		Represented by unions ²		Total employed	Members of unions ¹		Represented by unions ²	
		Total	Percent of employed	Total	Percent of employed		Total	Percent of employed	Total	Percent of employed
Alabama	1,809	183	10.1	203	11.2	1,781	178	10.0	193	10.8
Alaska	295	68	22.9	73	24.8	306	68	22.1	73	23.7
Arizona	2,507	161	6.4	203	8.1	2,493	149	6.0	183	7.3
Arkansas	1,082	44	4.0	59	5.4	1,116	47	4.2	57	5.1
California	13,892	2,431	17.5	2,578	18.6	13,931	2,379	17.1	2,532	18.2
Colorado	2,130	140	6.6	171	8.0	2,186	179	8.2	203	9.3
Connecticut	1,549	258	16.7	270	17.4	1,542	259	16.8	272	17.7
Delaware	352	40	11.4	44	12.5	370	39	10.5	42	11.2
District of Columbia	287	26	9.0	30	10.5	281	23	8.3	28	9.9
Florida	7,033	392	5.6	488	6.9	7,283	460	6.3	557	7.6
Georgia	3,792	153	4.0	191	5.0	3,876	153	3.9	185	4.8
Hawaii	511	111	21.8	120	23.5	525	113	21.5	118	22.5
Idaho	584	42	7.1	50	8.6	594	31	5.1	36	6.1
Illinois	5,434	844	15.5	891	16.4	5,408	876	16.2	929	17.2
Indiana	2,554	279	10.9	313	12.2	2,681	302	11.3	333	12.4
Iowa	1,393	158	11.4	192	13.8	1,386	155	11.2	187	13.5
Kansas	1,222	84	6.8	111	9.1	1,268	97	7.6	128	10.1
Kentucky	1,642	147	8.9	166	10.1	1,678	150	8.9	173	10.3
Louisiana	1,742	76	4.3	96	5.5	1,717	77	4.5	91	5.3
Maine	543	63	11.6	71	13.0	554	63	11.3	74	13.4
Maryland	2,558	296	11.6	329	12.9	2,549	316	12.4	348	13.7
Massachusetts	2,866	415	14.5	446	15.6	2,882	422	14.6	445	15.4
Michigan	3,806	627	16.5	659	17.3	3,838	671	17.5	703	18.3
Minnesota	2,468	385	15.6	397	16.1	2,461	371	15.1	390	15.8
Mississippi	1,037	46	4.5	58	5.6	1,081	54	5.0	73	6.8
Missouri	2,469	244	9.9	274	11.1	2,531	275	10.9	316	12.5
Montana	364	46	12.7	52	14.4	377	49	13.0	55	14.6
Nebraska	813	75	9.3	96	11.8	828	65	7.9	83	10.0
Nevada	1,012	151	15.0	170	16.8	1,050	154	14.6	175	16.6
New Hampshire	622	63	10.2	73	11.7	617	68	11.1	77	12.5
New Jersey	3,734	637	17.1	660	17.7	3,816	615	16.1	641	16.8
New Mexico	750	55	7.3	72	9.7	726	49	6.8	65	9.0
New York	8,078	1,959	24.2	2,099	26.0	7,920	1,906	24.1	2,068	26.1
North Carolina	3,686	117	3.2	180	4.9	3,589	105	2.9	149	4.1
North Dakota	313	23	7.4	28	9.1	318	20	6.3	27	8.6
Ohio	4,787	655	13.7	702	14.7	4,813	647	13.4	706	14.7
Oklahoma	1,418	77	5.5	99	6.9	1,458	94	6.4	113	7.7
Oregon	1,515	245	16.2	268	17.7	1,574	270	17.1	286	18.1
Pennsylvania	5,224	770	14.7	831	15.9	5,348	779	14.6	846	15.8
Rhode Island	456	75	16.4	79	17.4	453	79	17.4	81	17.9
South Carolina	1,713	80	4.6	107	6.2	1,726	59	3.4	86	5.0
South Dakota	357	20	5.6	24	6.6	359	18	5.1	23	6.5
Tennessee	2,477	115	4.7	142	5.8	2,504	115	4.6	139	5.6
Texas	10,025	545	5.4	677	6.7	10,214	534	5.2	643	6.3
Utah	1,144	75	6.5	96	8.4	1,150	67	5.8	82	7.1
Vermont	289	34	11.8	40	13.6	290	35	12.0	39	13.5
Virginia	3,473	161	4.6	196	5.7	3,550	163	4.6	198	5.6
Washington	2,837	552	19.4	605	21.3	2,727	517	19.0	557	20.4
West Virginia	677	100	14.8	111	16.5	672	93	13.8	102	15.2
Wisconsin	2,508	355	14.2	380	15.1	2,538	339	13.3	358	14.1
Wyoming	246	18	7.4	21	8.4	250	18	7.2	21	8.4

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.

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.

Chart 2. Union membership rates by state, 2011 annual averages



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics