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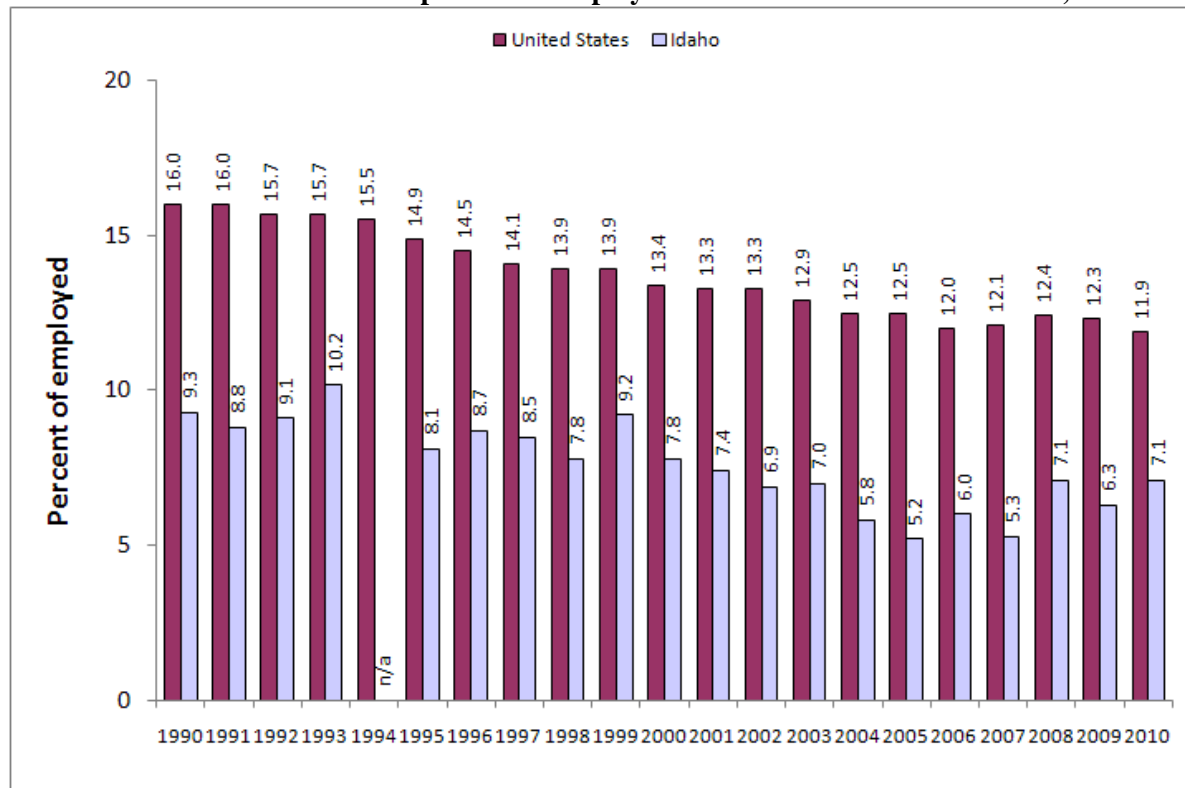
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UNION MEMBERSHIP IN IDAHO— 2010

In 2010, the number of workers belonging to a union was 42,000 in Idaho, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that union members accounted for 7.1 percent of wage and salary workers in Idaho in 2010, compared with 6.3 percent reported in 2009. At its peak in 1993, Idaho’s union membership rate was 10.2 percent.

Nationally, the number of workers belonging to a union declined by 612,000 to 14,715,000 in 2010. Union members accounted for 11.9 percent of employed wage and salary workers, down from 12.3 percent a year earlier. In 1983, the first year for which comparable national union data were available, the union membership rate was 20.1 percent. Since 1990, Idaho has had union membership rates below the U.S. average. (See chart 1.)

Chart 1. Members of unions as a percent of employed in the United States and Idaho, 1990-2010



In addition to Idaho's 42,000 wage and salary workers who were union members in 2010, another 8,000 workers were represented by a union in their main job or were covered by an employee association contract while not being union members themselves. (See table A.) Nationwide, about 14.7 million wage and salary workers were union members in 2010 and about 1.6 million wage and salary workers were represented by a union in their main job but not union members themselves.

Table A. Union affiliation of employed wage and salary workers in Idaho, annual averages, 1990-2010 (Numbers in thousands)

Year	Total employed	Members of unions[1]		Represented by unions [2]	
		Total	Percent of employed	Total	Percent of employed
1990	390	36	9.3	42	10.9
1991	405	36	8.8	43	10.7
1992	418	38	9.1	49	11.6
1993	437	44	10.2	53	12.1
1994	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1995	464	38	8.1	48	10.2
1996	489	43	8.7	52	10.7
1997	514	43	8.5	52	10.1
1998	537	42	7.8	56	10.3
1999	527	48	9.2	59	11.3
2000	527	41	7.8	49	9.3
2001	547	40	7.4	47	8.6
2002	543	38	6.9	47	8.7
2003	548	39	7.0	47	8.6
2004	561	33	5.8	44	7.9
2005	606	31	5.2	38	6.3
2006	620	37	6.0	45	7.2
2007	635	33	5.3	41	6.4
2008	602	42	7.1	48	8.0
2009	577	36	6.3	46	7.9
2010	584	42	7.1	50	8.6

[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.

n/a – Not available.

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.

In 2010, 31 states and the District of Columbia had union membership rates below that of the U.S. average, 11.9 percent, while 19 states had higher rates. (See table 1.) All states in the Middle Atlantic and Pacific divisions reported union membership rates above the national average. In contrast, all states in the East South Central and West South Central divisions had rates below that for the nation. (See chart 2.) Union membership rates declined over the year in 33 states and the District of Columbia and rose in 17 states.

Eight states had union membership rates below 5.0 percent in 2010, with North Carolina having the lowest rate (3.2 percent). The next lowest rates were recorded in Arkansas and Georgia (4.0 percent each), Louisiana (4.3 percent), Mississippi (4.5 percent), South Carolina and Virginia (4.6 percent each), and Tennessee (4.7 percent). Six states had union membership rates over 17.0 percent in 2010: New York (24.2 percent), Alaska (22.9 percent), Hawaii (21.8 percent), Washington (19.4 percent), California (17.5 percent), and New Jersey (17.1 percent).

State union membership levels depend on both the employment level and union membership rate. About half of the 14.7 million union members in the U.S. lived in just 6 states (California, 2.4 million; New York, 2.0 million; Illinois, 0.8 million; Pennsylvania, 0.8 million; Ohio, 0.7 million; and New Jersey, 0.6 million), though these states accounted for only one-third of wage and salary employment nationally.

Texas had about one-fourth as many union members as New York, despite having 1.9 million more wage and salary employees. Similarly, North Carolina and Hawaii had comparable numbers of union members (117,000 and 111,000, respectively), though North Carolina's wage and salary employment level (3.7 million) was about 7 times that of Hawaii (511,000).

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. 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 programs, contact the West Information Office at 415-625-2270 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 pm to 4:30 p.m. PT. Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-692-5200, TDD message referral phone number: 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.