

Union Membership Byte 2018

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Introduction

Estimated 262,000 union members added in 2017; union share of jobs unchanged

Data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and Census Bureau show a net total of 262,000 union members added in 2017 (Bureau of Labor Statistics 2018). Overall union membership and coverage rates (the percent of jobs held by union and employee association members, and the percent of jobs covered by union and employee association contracts, respectively) did not change significantly in 2017. Union and employee association members comprise an estimated 10.7 percent of wage and salary workers in 2017, while unions and employee association contracts cover 11.9 percent of the workforce, both unchanged from 2016 (**Table 1**).

Of the net total of 262,000 union members added in 2017, 164,000 were added to the private sector and the remaining 98,000 were added to the public sector (see **Table 2** and **Figure 2**). Data show moderate increases in union membership for some groups, industries, and areas, and moderate decreases for others. Union membership increased for state government employees (+88,000), construction workers (+68,000), Hispanics (+170,000), those born outside of the United States (+81,000), those under age 35 (+201,000), those with high school or some college education (+191,000), and men (+282,000). Union membership decreased for federal government employees (-33,000), blacks (-40,000), and women (-20,000).

Changes to union membership by worker state of residence (**Table 4**) come largely from Texas (+80,000) and New York (+75,000), with additional gains in Michigan (+52,000), Minnesota (+47,000), Washington (+45,000), and Oregon (+34,000). These increases were partially offset by decreases in California (-61,000), Indiana (-37,000), Missouri (-36,000), and Iowa (-24,000). When factoring in the size of each state's workforce and looking at union membership and coverage rates, New Hampshire and Hawaii see the largest one-year increase, while Iowa and Indiana see the largest one-year decrease (see **Table 3**).

By industry group, the largest increases in union membership in 2017 are in public administration (+117,000), construction (+68,000), health care services outside of hospitals (+41,000), and retail trade (+32,000). The largest decreases are in educational services (-70,000) and transportation and warehousing (-48,000). The large drop in union membership in the educational services industry may reflect efforts to weaken public sector unions in some states; such efforts have been particularly targeted at teachers. See **Tables 5** and **6**, and **Figure 5**, for more information on recent developments in union membership and coverage by industry.

By occupation, the largest increases in union membership in 2017 are in installation, maintenance, and repair occupations (+128,000) and construction and extraction (+85,000). Among occupations identified in the broad classification used in **Tables 7** and **8**, these two have the largest percentage of male employees — around 96 percent of workers are men in 2017. The occupation with the largest decrease in union membership in 2017 is office and administrative support; 72 percent of wage and salary workers in this group are women. Differences in the gender composition of these occupations can explain much of the recent divergence in union membership rates by gender.

Longer-term Trends in Union Membership

In 1983, the first year with directly comparable data, the union member share of wage and salary workers was 20.1 percent. By 2000, the union membership rate had fallen to 13.4 percent, a decrease of 6.7 percentage points over 17 years. The union member share of jobs is still decreasing, though at a slower rate, falling 2.7 percentage points during the 17 years since 2000. Public sector employees, who are five times as likely to be union members, have seen union membership rates fall by 2.5 percentage points since 2000, falling from 36.9 percent to 34.4 percent. Private sector union membership rates have also fallen by 2.5 percentage points over the period but from a much lower base. The private sector union membership rate is currently 6.5 percent, up 0.1 percent over the past year, but well below the 9.0 percent level in 2000 (see **Figure 1**).

The most recent change brings women's union membership rate (10.0 percent) and union coverage rate (11.3 percent) to the lowest level in the period for which comparable data are available (1983 to 2017). Over this period, women have had consistently lower union membership rates than men, while men have experienced a larger overall decrease (**Figure 3**). That is, while men's union membership rate increases in 2017 and women's decreases, the long-term trend in union density is much more of a story of declining men's membership and relatively more stable women's membership.

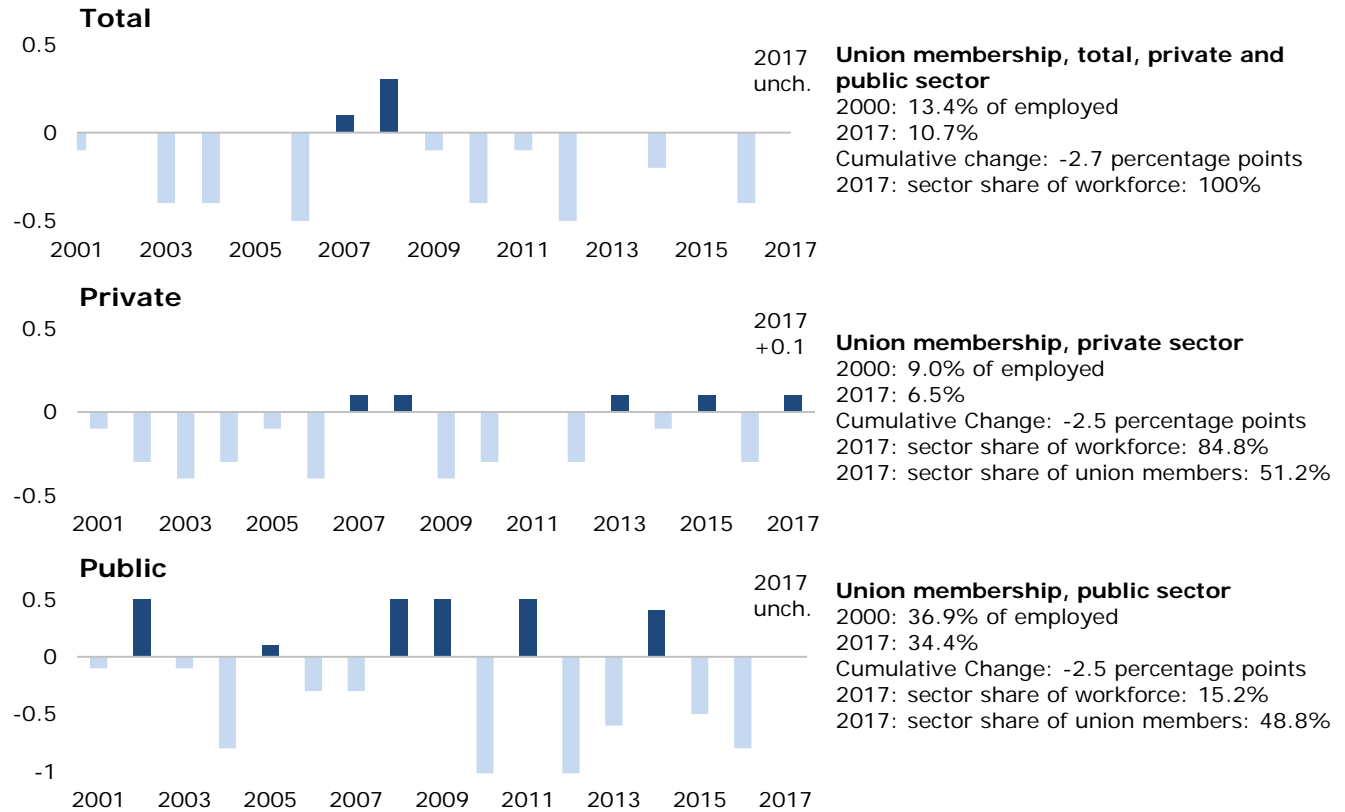
The 2017 union membership rate for blacks is the lowest on record, at 12.2 percent. In 1983, 27.1 percent of black wage and salary workers were members of unions. By 2000, the rate had fallen 10 percentage points to 17.1 percent. Despite the rapid fall in the union member share of black workers, accelerated by policies aimed at weakening labor unions, blacks are still more likely to be union members than whites, Hispanics, or Asians.

Hispanics account for 65 percent of the net union members added in 2017. The 0.5 percentage point change in the Hispanic union membership rate in 2017 is the second largest on record for the group. However, despite the recent increase, Hispanic wage and salary workers remain less likely than their white or black counterparts to be union members. Since 2000, the union membership rate has fallen 2.1 percentage points for Hispanics, 2.2 percentage points for whites, 4.9 percentage points for blacks, and 2.5 percentage points for Asians.

The 2017 data show younger workers, particularly those under the age of 35, increasing union membership much more rapidly than other age groups (**Figure 4**). More than three-quarters of net union members added in 2017 are under the age of 35. Younger workers are increasingly likely to be union members, but this is a fairly recent development. From 2000 to 2012, union membership increased for wage and salary workers age 55 and older at an average rate of 100,000 per year, but fell for workers age 35 to 54 by 182,000 per year, and fell for workers under age 35 by 76,000 per year. In contrast, since 2012, union membership increased for workers age 55 and older at an average rate of 51,000 per year, decreased for workers age 35 to 54 by 51,000 per year, and increased for workers age 35 or younger by 92,000 per year.

FIGURE 1

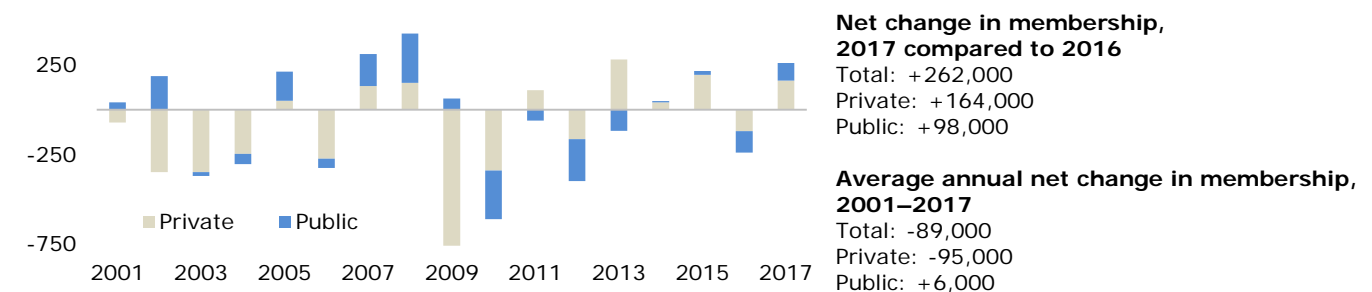
Change in Union Membership Rate from Previous Year, 2001–2017, percentage points



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics and 2017 estimate from CEPR extract from Current Population Survey (CPS) Outgoing Rotation Group (ORG).

FIGURE 2

Net Change in Union Membership from Previous Year, 2001–2017, number of members



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics and 2017 estimate from CEPR extract from Current Population Survey (CPS) Outgoing Rotation Group (ORG).

TABLE 1

Union Membership and Coverage Rates, 2016–2017

(percent of employees)

	Union Membership			Union Coverage		
	2016	2017	Change	2016	2017	Change
<i>All employees, age 16+</i>	10.7	10.7	0.0	11.9	11.9	0.0
Women	10.2	10.0	-0.2	11.5	11.3	-0.2
Men	11.2	11.4	0.2	12.3	12.5	0.2
<i>Public sector</i>	34.4	34.4	0.0	37.9	37.9	0.0
Federal	27.4	26.6	-0.8	31.1	30.9	-0.2
State	29.6	30.3	0.7	32.8	33.4	0.6
Local	40.3	40.1	-0.2	43.9	43.6	-0.3
<i>Private sector</i>	6.4	6.5	0.1	7.3	7.3	0.0
Manufacturing and mining	8.7	8.9	0.2	9.6	9.8	0.2
Construction	13.9	14.0	0.1	14.6	14.7	0.1
Health care	7.6	7.7	0.1	8.8	8.7	-0.1
<i>Race or ethnicity</i>						
White	11.0	11.1	0.1	12.2	12.2	0.0
Black	12.7	12.2	-0.5	14.3	13.6	-0.7
Hispanic	8.8	9.3	0.5	10.0	10.4	0.4
Asian	9.3	9.1	-0.2	10.4	10.2	-0.2
<i>Age</i>						
16–24	4.4	4.7	0.3	5.4	5.4	0.0
25–34	9.2	9.4	0.2	10.3	10.5	0.2
35–44	12	11.9	-0.1	13.3	13.2	-0.1
45–54	13.4	13.2	-0.2	14.8	14.5	-0.3
55–64	13.4	13.5	0.1	14.8	14.9	0.1
65+	9.5	9.5	0.0	10.7	10.5	-0.2
<i>Education</i>						
Less than high school	5.4	5.2	-0.2	6.2	5.9	-0.3
High school	9.9	10.1	0.2	10.8	11.1	0.3
Some college	10.6	10.9	0.3	11.8	11.9	0.1
College	10.4	10.3	-0.1	11.8	11.5	-0.3
Advanced Degree	16.0	15.7	-0.3	18.0	17.7	-0.3
<i>Nativity</i>						
US-born	11.2	11.2	0.0	12.5	12.4	-0.1
Foreign-born	8.2	8.4	0.2	9.3	9.6	0.3
<i>State of residency</i>						
Right-to-work state	6.3	6.3	0.0	7.5	7.5	0.0
Non right-to-work state	15.3	15.4	0.1	16.5	16.6	0.1

Source and notes: CEPR extract from Current Population Survey (CPS) Outgoing Rotation Group (ORG). Health care includes both non-hospital and hospital workers in the private sector. CEPR measures of race and ethnicity differ from BLS measures. States listed as right-to-work are based on status as of end-2017, for ease of measurement, though Kentucky and Missouri both became right-to-work during 2017.

TABLE 2

Estimates of Group Size, 2016–2017

(thousands)

	2016				2017			
	Population	Employed	Union Covered	Union Member	Population	Employed	Union Covered	Union Member
<i>Total age 16+</i>	253,537	136,131	16,264	14,549	255,079	137,912	16,436	14,811
Women	131,040	65,519	7,565	6,666	131,803	66,430	7,506	6,646
Men	122,497	70,612	8,699	7,883	123,275	71,482	8,929	8,165
<i>Public sector</i>		20,669	7,826	7,113		20,951	7,945	7,211
Federal		3,670	1,142	1,004		3,653	1,130	971
State		6,958	2,279	2,062		7,098	2,368	2,150
Local		10,041	4,404	4,046		10,199	4,445	4,089
<i>Private sector</i>		115,462	8,438	7,436		116,961	8,490	7,600
Manufacturing and mining		15,541	1,470	1,337		15,391	1,495	1,360
Construction		7,490	1,095	1,038		7,842	1,156	1,101
Health care		15,253	1,344	1,156		15,361	1,336	1,178
<i>Race or ethnicity</i>								
White	162,004	85,750	10,475	9,406	162,182	86,119	10,509	9,525
Black	31,537	16,753	2,390	2,130	31,801	17,183	2,343	2,090
Hispanic	40,662	23,088	2,304	2,028	41,321	23,659	2,472	2,198
Asian	16,294	9,097	942	843	16,590	9,356	952	851
<i>Age</i>								
16–24	38,435	18,556	994	817	38,118	18,758	1,007	873
25–34	43,508	31,761	3,274	2,907	43,914	32,406	3,417	3,052
35–44	39,888	28,523	3,786	3,426	39,964	28,741	3,800	3,414
45–54	42,369	28,801	4,269	3,847	41,823	28,644	4,154	3,780
55–64	41,311	21,783	3,220	2,911	41,743	22,398	3,327	3,033
65+	48,023	6,706	719	638	49,514	6,963	728	658
<i>Education</i>								
Less than high school	31,937	10,015	621	538	31,133	9,969	586	520
High school	75,865	37,360	4,051	3,685	75,673	37,617	4,174	3,790
Some college	69,584	39,714	4,699	4,219	69,639	39,579	4,712	4,305
College	48,608	31,285	3,688	3,266	50,606	32,524	3,729	3,335
Advanced Degree	27,542	17,755	3,203	2,839	28,026	18,222	3,232	2,859
<i>Nativity</i>								
US-born	212,205	113,293	14,131	12,679	213,590	114,728	14,209	12,860
Foreign-born	41,331	22,838	2,133	1,869	41,488	23,184	2,226	1,950
<i>State of residency</i>								
Right-to-work state	130,378	69,444	5,241	4,377	131,603	70,771	5,290	4,466
Non right-to-work state	123,159	66,687	11,022	10,171	123,475	67,141	11,145	10,344

Source and notes: CEPR extract from Current Population Survey (CPS) Outgoing Rotation Group (ORG). Health care includes both non-hospital and hospital workers in the private sector. CEPR measures of race and ethnicity differ from BLS measures. States listed as right-to-work are based on status as of end-2017, for ease of measurement, though Kentucky and Missouri both became right-to-work during 2017.

TABLE 3

Union Membership and Coverage Rates by State, 2016–2017

State	Union Membership			Union Coverage		
	2016	2017	Change	2016	2017	Change
New Hampshire	9.4	11.2	1.8	11.0	13.0	2.0
Hawaii	19.8	21.3	1.5	20.8	22.9	2.1
Oregon	13.5	14.9	1.4	15.8	15.7	-0.1
Washington	17.4	18.7	1.3	18.6	20.2	1.6
Arkansas	4.0	5.1	1.1	5.0	6.2	1.2
Michigan	14.5	15.6	1.1	15.5	16.8	1.3
Minnesota	14.2	15.2	1.0	15.1	15.9	0.8
South Carolina	1.6	2.6	1.0	2.6	3.9	1.3
Rhode Island	15.4	16.1	0.7	16.9	17.2	0.3
Texas	4.0	4.7	0.7	5.3	5.7	0.4
Nebraska	7.4	8.1	0.7	8.5	9.1	0.6
Nevada	12.0	12.7	0.7	15.0	14.6	-0.4
Illinois	14.5	15.0	0.5	15.3	15.8	0.5
New Mexico	6.3	6.7	0.4	8.2	8.2	0.0
North Carolina	3.0	3.4	0.4	4.1	4.0	-0.1
Massachusetts	12.1	12.4	0.3	12.9	13.3	0.4
Virginia	4.3	4.6	0.3	6.0	5.9	-0.1
Wisconsin	8.1	8.3	0.2	9.0	9.0	0.0
Louisiana	4.2	4.4	0.2	4.9	5.4	0.5
New York	23.6	23.8	0.2	25.2	25.3	0.1
District of Columbia	9.5	9.7	0.2	10.8	11.5	0.7
Georgia	3.9	4.0	0.1	4.9	5.0	0.1
Oklahoma	5.4	5.5	0.1	6.5	7.1	0.6
Ohio	12.4	12.5	0.1	14.1	13.6	-0.5
South Dakota	5.2	5.3	0.1	7.0	6.6	-0.4
Tennessee	5.7	5.7	0.0	6.3	6.4	0.1
Florida	5.6	5.6	0.0	7.1	6.6	-0.5
Maine	11.4	11.4	0.0	13.5	14.0	0.5
New Jersey	16.1	16.1	0.0	16.6	17.0	0.4
Montana	11.9	11.8	-0.1	13.9	13.6	-0.3
Pennsylvania	12.1	12.0	-0.1	12.7	13.0	0.3
Wyoming	6.3	6.0	-0.3	7.3	6.7	-0.6
Maryland	11.0	10.7	-0.3	12.3	11.7	-0.6
Colorado	9.8	9.5	-0.3	10.8	10.9	0.1
Alaska	18.5	18.1	-0.4	19.9	19.4	-0.5
California	15.9	15.5	-0.4	17.5	16.8	-0.7
North Dakota	5.5	5.1	-0.4	6.9	6.8	-0.1
Vermont	11.5	11.0	-0.5	12.8	12.1	-0.7
Connecticut	17.5	17.0	-0.5	18.4	18.0	-0.4
Arizona	4.5	4.0	-0.5	5.5	5.2	-0.3
Delaware	11.4	10.8	-0.6	13.3	11.3	-2.0
Alabama	8.1	7.4	-0.7	9.0	8.1	-0.9
Kansas	8.6	7.8	-0.8	10.3	10.1	-0.2
Utah	4.7	3.9	-0.8	6.0	5.4	-0.6
West Virginia	11.8	11.0	-0.8	13.2	11.9	-1.3
Missouri	9.6	8.6	-1.0	10.7	10.1	-0.6
Mississippi	6.6	5.3	-1.3	8.1	7.0	-1.1
Idaho	6.1	4.8	-1.3	6.7	5.8	-0.9
Kentucky	11.1	9.7	-1.4	13.4	12.9	-0.5
Indiana	10.4	8.9	-1.5	11.4	9.7	-1.7
Iowa	8.8	7.0	-1.8	10.5	8.6	-1.9

Source and notes: CEPR extract from Current Population Survey (CPS) Outgoing Rotation Group (ORG).

TABLE 4

Union Membership and Coverage by State, 2016–2017

(thousands)

State	Union Membership			Union Coverage		
	2016	2017	Change	2016	2017	Change
Texas	462	542	80	606	668	62
New York	1,941	2,016	75	2,075	2,147	72
Michigan	607	659	52	651	712	61
Minnesota	364	411	47	388	428	40
Washington	538	583	45	576	629	53
Oregon	228	262	34	267	277	10
Florida	456	479	23	574	568	-6
South Carolina	32	52	20	52	79	27
Massachusetts	382	400	18	407	431	24
Nevada	146	164	18	182	189	7
Ohio	616	634	18	701	688	-13
Virginia	160	177	17	226	223	-3
Illinois	812	828	16	857	873	16
Arkansas	47	62	15	60	74	14
North Carolina	129	144	15	174	171	-3
Wisconsin	218	231	13	243	250	7
Hawaii	118	129	11	124	138	14
New Hampshire	63	72	9	74	83	9
Georgia	164	173	9	210	217	7
Nebraska	64	70	6	74	78	4
Oklahoma	79	84	5	97	108	11
Connecticut	275	279	4	288	296	8
Rhode Island	74	78	4	82	83	1
New Mexico	49	52	3	64	63	-1
Louisiana	75	78	3	88	96	8
Maine	65	66	1	77	81	4
District of Columbia	33	34	1	37	40	3
South Dakota	20	20	0	26	25	-1
Alaska	55	55	0	59	59	0
Colorado	238	238	0	263	273	10
Montana	50	50	0	58	57	-1
Wyoming	16	15	-1	18	16	-2
Vermont	33	32	-1	37	35	-2
North Dakota	20	18	-2	25	24	-1
Tennessee	157	154	-3	174	175	1
Delaware	48	45	-3	56	48	-8
West Virginia	79	75	-4	88	82	-6
Idaho	42	35	-7	47	42	-5
Utah	62	54	-8	79	74	-5
Kansas	109	101	-8	132	131	-1
Arizona	122	112	-10	151	146	-5
Maryland	309	298	-11	347	324	-23
New Jersey	643	629	-14	666	664	-2
Mississippi	73	59	-14	89	77	-12
Kentucky	190	175	-15	228	233	5
Alabama	154	138	-16	170	152	-18
Pennsylvania	687	665	-22	725	722	-3
Iowa	128	104	-24	153	127	-26
Missouri	262	226	-36	290	265	-25
Indiana	303	266	-37	334	289	-45
California	2,550	2,489	-61	2,795	2,705	-90

Source and notes: CEPR extract from Current Population Survey (CPS) Outgoing Rotation Group (ORG).

TABLE 5**Union Membership and Coverage Rates by Industry, 2016–2017**

Industry	Union Membership			Union Coverage		
	2016	2017	Change	2016	2017	Change
Paper and printing	11.3	13.9	2.6	11.9	14.8	2.9
Broadcasting (except internet)	6.2	8.5	2.3	8.3	9.3	1.0
Telecommunications	14.6	16.2	1.6	15.8	17.0	1.2
Miscellaneous and not specified manufacturing	3.1	4.3	1.2	3.6	4.8	1.2
Food manufacturing	10.4	11.4	1.0	11.8	12.9	1.1
Agriculture	1.2	2.0	0.8	2.1	2.3	0.2
Wholesale trade	3.7	4.4	0.7	4.2	4.8	0.6
Public administration	30.0	30.6	0.6	32.7	33.6	0.9
Repair and maintenance	2.3	2.9	0.6	2.7	3.9	1.2
Utilities	24.5	25.0	0.5	26.5	26.0	-0.5
Social assistance	8.2	8.7	0.5	9.3	9.8	0.5
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	6.6	7.0	0.4	7.2	7.6	0.4
Health care services, except hospitals	5.3	5.6	0.3	6.3	6.4	0.1
Construction	14.7	14.9	0.2	15.5	15.7	0.2
Membership associations and organizations	3.7	3.9	0.2	4.1	4.1	0.0
Transportation equipment manufacturing	16.5	16.7	0.2	17.6	17.9	0.3
Professional and technical services	2.1	2.2	0.1	2.9	2.7	-0.2
Private households	0.5	0.6	0.1	1.1	0.8	-0.3
Retail trade	4.4	4.5	0.1	5.0	5.1	0.1
Insurance	2.8	2.8	0.0	3.5	3.7	0.2
Computer and electronic products	2.4	2.4	0.0	3.1	3.3	0.2
Hospitals	13.6	13.5	-0.1	15.3	15.2	-0.1
Food services and drinking places	1.7	1.5	-0.2	2.1	1.9	-0.2
Finance	1.4	1.2	-0.2	2.1	1.7	-0.4
Chemical manufacturing	5.8	5.6	-0.2	6.3	7.0	0.7
Real estate	6.1	5.8	-0.3	7.0	6.7	-0.3
Accommodation	7.6	7.2	-0.4	8.2	7.7	-0.5
Administrative and support services	3.8	3.4	-0.4	4.7	3.8	-0.9
Machinery manufacturing	7.6	7.1	-0.5	8.6	8.2	-0.4
Personal and laundry services	2.9	2.4	-0.5	3.5	2.6	-0.9
Educational services	30.2	29.6	-0.6	33.9	33.3	-0.6
Textile, apparel, and leather manufacturing	3.5	2.9	-0.6	4.1	3.3	-0.8
Primary metals and fabricated metal products	12.1	11.3	-0.8	13.0	11.9	-1.1
Mining	5.6	4.4	-1.2	6.3	4.8	-1.5
Transportation and warehousing	25.2	23.8	-1.4	27.2	25.5	-1.7
Plastics and rubber products	6.4	4.8	-1.6	7.1	5.0	-2.1

Source and notes: CEPR extract from Current Population Survey (CPS) Outgoing Rotation Group (ORG). Only includes industries with 500,000 or more wage and salary workers in 2017. Industry totals include both public and private sector workers.

TABLE 6**Union Membership and Coverage by Industry, 2016–2017**

(thousands)

Industry	Union Membership			Union Coverage		
	2016	2017	Change	2016	2017	Change
Public administration	2,054	2,171	117	2,242	2,386	144
Construction	1,150	1,218	68	1,213	1,282	69
Health care services, except hospitals	500	541	41	598	612	14
Retail trade	671	703	32	762	793	31
Utilities	314	340	26	340	354	14
Wholesale trade	121	146	25	137	159	22
Professional and technical services	187	209	22	264	261	-3
Miscellaneous and not specified manufacturing	42	62	20	49	70	21
Paper and printing	98	118	20	103	126	23
Food manufacturing	179	197	18	203	222	19
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	177	193	16	193	209	16
Social assistance	235	251	16	267	284	17
Broadcasting (except internet)	33	47	14	45	52	7
Telecommunications	121	132	11	131	139	8
Repair and maintenance	35	46	11	42	61	19
Agriculture	15	25	10	26	29	3
Transportation equipment manufacturing	399	405	6	428	432	4
Membership associations and organizations	76	80	4	85	84	-1
Insurance	72	73	1	90	97	7
Private households	3	3	0	8	5	-3
Computer and electronic products	29	27	-2	38	36	-2
Textile, apparel, and leather manufacturing	20	17	-3	24	19	-5
Chemical manufacturing	77	73	-4	84	92	8
Hospitals	952	948	-4	1,072	1,065	-7
Personal and laundry services	48	42	-6	59	47	-12
Finance	58	52	-6	89	74	-15
Real estate	126	119	-7	145	138	-7
Machinery manufacturing	90	83	-7	102	96	-6
Plastics and rubber products	35	26	-9	39	27	-12
Mining	42	32	-10	48	35	-13
Accommodation	116	106	-10	125	114	-11
Food services and drinking places	150	135	-15	186	172	-14
Primary metals and fabricated metal products	187	170	-17	201	180	-21
Administrative and support services	193	166	-27	238	190	-48
Transportation and warehousing	1,523	1,475	-48	1,644	1,581	-63
Educational services	4,070	4,000	-70	4,557	4,496	-61

Source and notes: CEPR extract from Current Population Survey (CPS) Outgoing Rotation Group (ORG). Only includes industries with 500,000 or more wage and salary workers in 2017. Industry totals include both public and private sector workers.

TABLE 7**Union Membership and Coverage Rates by Occupation, 2016–2017**

Occupation	Union Membership			Union Coverage		
	2016	2017	Change	2016	2017	Change
Legal	5.6	7.9	2.3	6.8	8.9	2.1
Installation, maintenance, and repair	13.3	15.5	2.2	14.6	16.7	2.1
Healthcare support	6.9	8.4	1.5	8.2	9.2	1.0
Life, physical, and social science	8.8	10.2	1.4	10.8	11.4	0.6
Farming, fishing, and forestry	2.2	3.4	1.2	3.2	3.8	0.6
Construction and extraction	18.4	19.3	0.9	19.4	20.2	0.8
Architecture and engineering	6.4	7.2	0.8	7.4	8.2	0.8
Production	11.8	12.4	0.6	12.9	13.4	0.5
Community and social service	14.9	15.3	0.4	16.3	16.7	0.4
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	6.5	6.8	0.3	7.5	7.5	0.0
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	8.8	9.1	0.3	10.0	10.1	0.1
Protective service	34.5	34.7	0.2	36.6	37.0	0.4
Computer and mathematical science	3.8	3.9	0.1	5.2	4.9	-0.3
Sales and related	3.1	3.2	0.1	3.5	3.7	0.2
Healthcare practitioner and technical	12.4	12.3	-0.1	14.2	13.9	-0.3
Food preparation and serving related	3.9	3.8	-0.1	4.6	4.4	-0.2
Management	4.5	4.3	-0.2	5.4	5.2	-0.2
Business and financial operations	4.8	4.6	-0.2	5.8	5.5	-0.3
Personal care and service	6.1	5.8	-0.3	6.8	6.6	-0.2
Office and administrative support	9.4	8.7	-0.7	10.5	9.8	-0.7
Transportation and material moving	15.6	14.7	-0.9	16.9	16.1	-0.8
Education, training, and library	34.6	33.5	-1.1	38.1	37.2	-0.9

Source and notes: CEPR extract from Current Population Survey (CPS) Outgoing Rotation Group (ORG).

TABLE 8**Union Membership and Coverage by Occupation, 2016–2017**

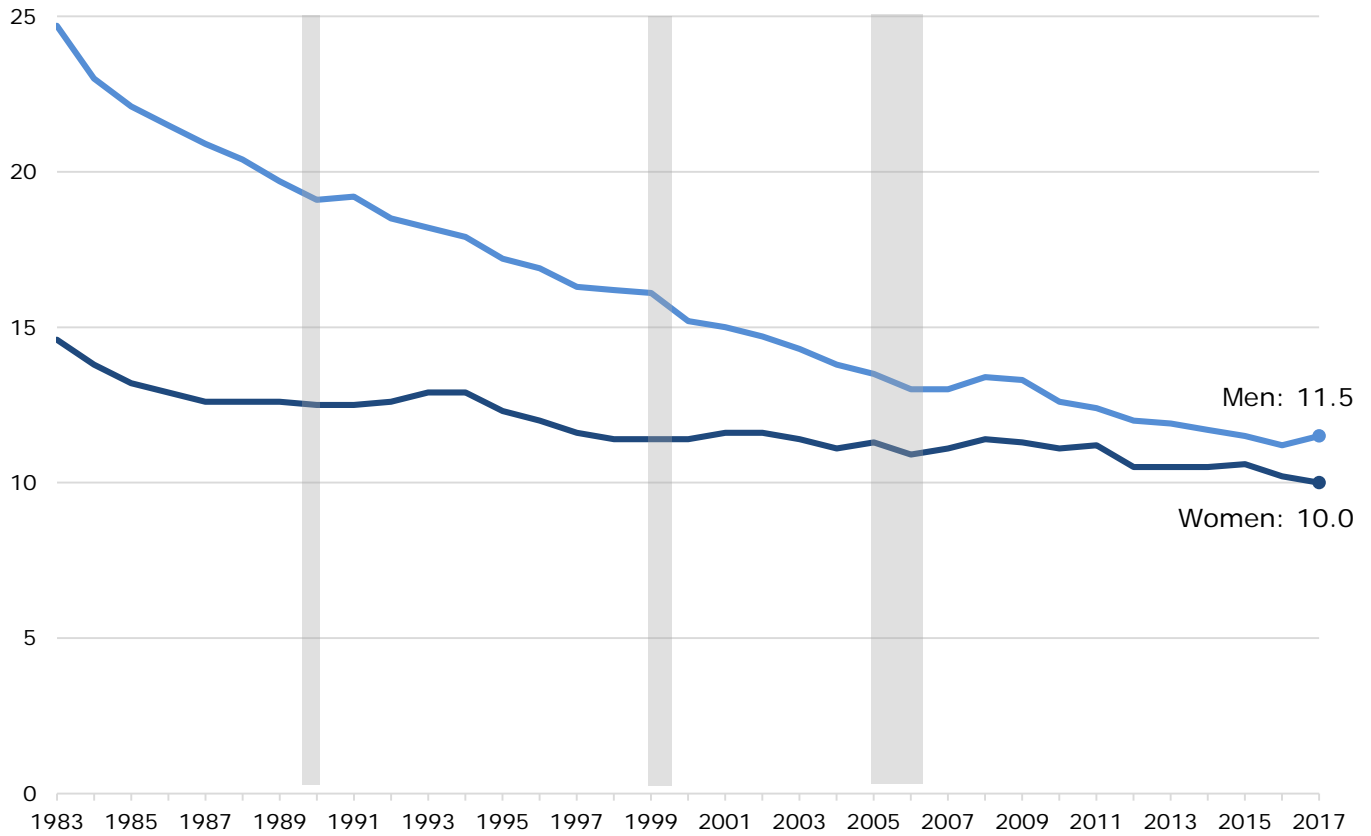
(thousands)

Occupation	Union Membership			Union Coverage		
	2016	2017	Change	2016	2017	Change
Installation, maintenance, and repair	589	717	128	649	770	121
Construction and extraction	1,177	1,262	85	1,239	1,317	78
Healthcare support	233	287	54	275	315	40
Production	959	1,007	48	1,048	1,092	44
Legal	79	118	39	95	133	38
Architecture and engineering	187	219	32	219	250	31
Life, physical, and social science	112	139	27	138	155	17
Community and social service	372	391	19	408	426	18
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	141	157	16	162	173	11
Farming, fishing, and forestry	22	37	15	31	41	10
Protective service	1,068	1,083	15	1,132	1,153	21
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	429	441	12	489	492	3
Computer and mathematical science	166	177	11	222	224	2
Sales and related	421	432	11	484	513	29
Healthcare practitioner and technical	1,050	1,052	2	1,199	1,185	-14
Personal care and service	272	268	-4	304	305	1
Management	606	596	-10	737	726	-11
Business and financial operations	321	307	-14	393	370	-23
Food preparation and serving related	333	315	-18	395	359	-36
Education, training, and library	3,027	2,993	-34	3,341	3,323	-18
Transportation and material moving	1,355	1,304	-51	1,475	1,422	-53
Office and administrative support	1,630	1,511	-119	1,830	1,693	-137

Source and notes: CEPR extract from Current Population Survey (CPS) Outgoing Rotation Group (ORG).

FIGURE 3

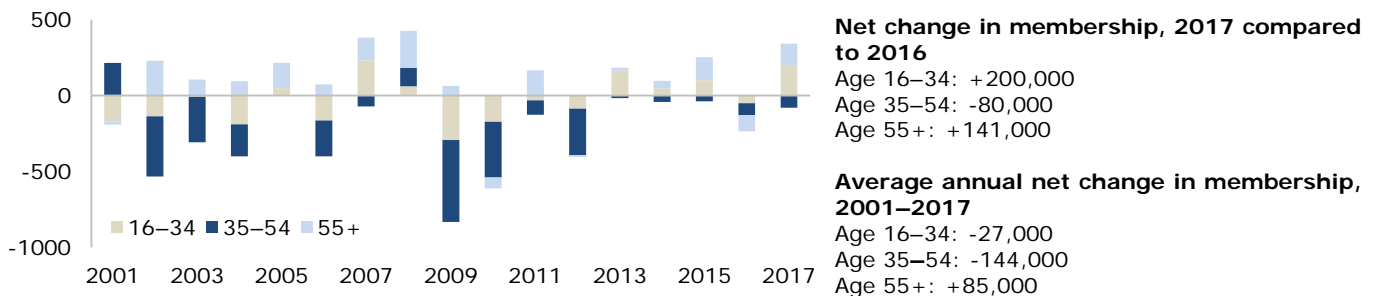
Union Membership Rate for Men and Women, 1983–2017



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics and CEPR extract from Current Population Survey (CPS) Outgoing Rotation Group (ORG).

FIGURE 4

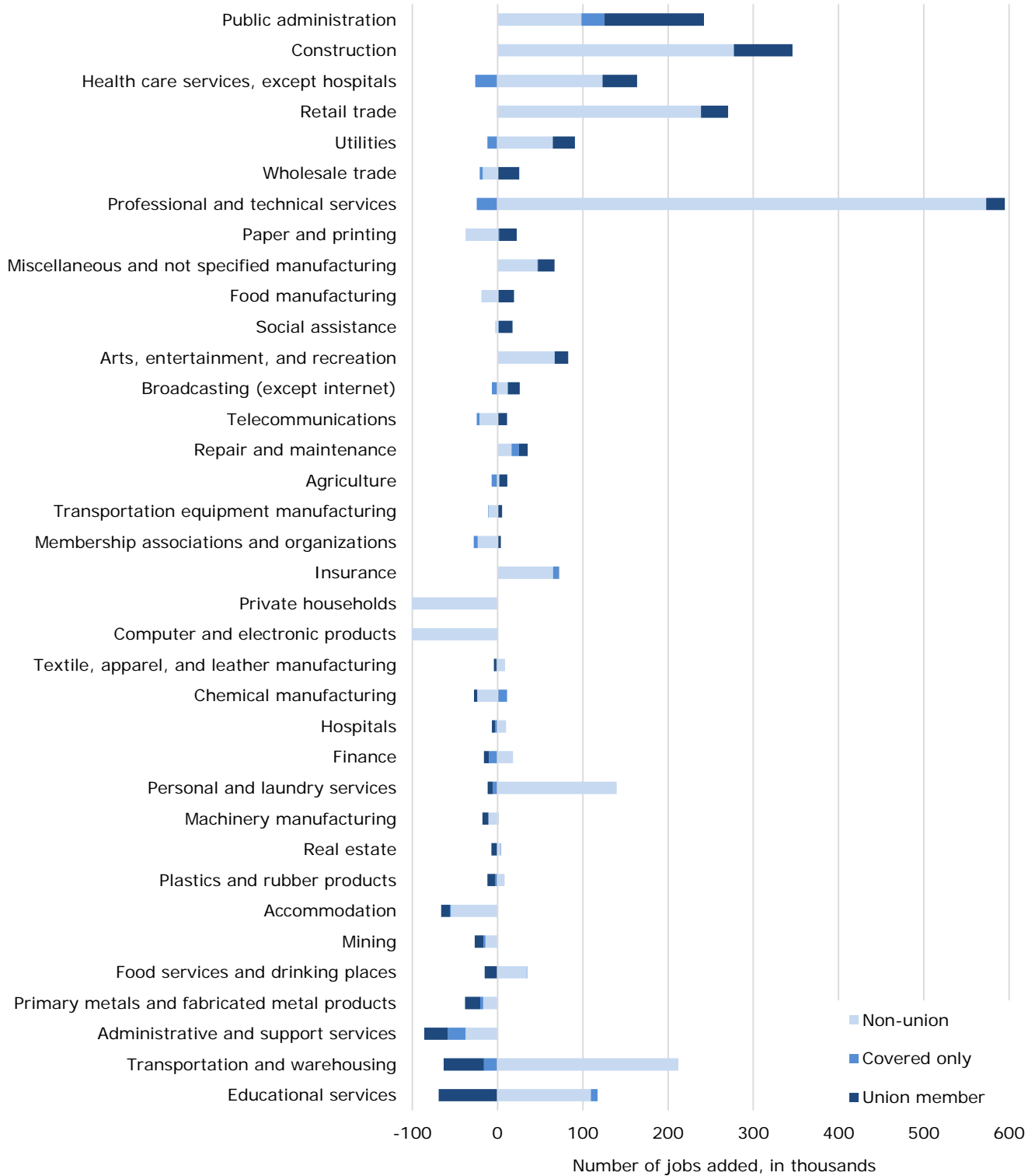
Union Members by Age Group, Net Change from Previous Year, 2001–2017, thousands



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics and 2017 estimate from CEPR extract from Current Population Survey (CPS) Outgoing Rotation Group (ORG).

FIGURE 5

Wage and Salary Workers Added by Industry, 2016–2017, thousands



Source: CEPR extract from Current Population Survey (CPS) Outgoing Rotation Group (ORG). Only includes industries with at least 500,000 workers in 2017.

References

Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2018. "Union Members — 2017." Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Labor Statistics. <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/union2.pdf>.