

Union Membership Byte 2020

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Overview

The overall union membership rate fell to 10.3 percent, dropping by 0.2 percentage points between 2018 and 2019 (**Table 1**). This represents a loss of 170,000 union workers (**Table 2**). The union coverage rate — the share of jobs covered by union and employee association contracts — also dropped 0.1 percentage points to 11.6 percent. These reductions in union membership and coverage reflect a downward trend that has persisted over the last several decades in the US.

TABLE 1

Union Membership and Coverage Rates, 2018-2019

(percent of employees)

	Membership			Coverage		
	2018	2019	Change	2018	2019	Change
All	10.5	10.3	-0.2	11.7	11.6	-0.1
Public sector	33.9	33.6	-0.3	37.2	37.2	0.0
Federal Government	26.4	25.6	-0.8	30.4	30.5	0.1
State Government	28.6	29.4	0.8	31.8	32.3	0.5
Local Government	40.3	39.4	-0.9	43.4	43.0	-0.4
Private sector	6.4	6.2	-0.2	7.2	7.1	-0.1
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	4.7	4.0	-0.7	5.3	4.7	-0.6
Construction	12.8	12.6	-0.2	13.8	13.6	-0.2
Manufacturing	9.0	8.6	-0.4	9.7	9.4	-0.3
Wholesale and retail trade	4.3	4.1	-0.2	5.0	4.8	-0.2
Transportation and utilities	17.3	17.3	0.0	18.3	18.7	0.4
Information	9.6	10.3	0.7	10.3	11.2	0.9
Financial activities	2.1	1.9	-0.2	2.8	2.5	-0.3
Professional and business services	2.6	2.2	-0.4	3.2	3.0	-0.2
Education and health services	8.1	8.0	-0.1	9.3	9.2	-0.1
Leisure and hospitality	2.9	2.9	0.0	3.5	3.5	0.0
Other services	2.6	2.8	0.2	3.0	3.3	0.3
Gender						
Women	9.9	9.7	-0.2	11.1	11.0	-0.1
Men	11.1	10.8	-0.3	12.2	12.1	-0.1

Race or ethnicity

White	10.4	10.3	-0.1	11.5	11.5	0.0
Black	12.5	11.2	-1.3	13.8	12.7	-1.1
Hispanic	9.1	8.9	-0.2	10.1	10.2	0.1
Asian	8.4	8.8	0.4	9.5	10.0	0.5

Age

16-24	4.4	4.4	0.0	5.2	5.2	0.0
25-34	9.3	8.8	-0.5	10.4	10.3	-0.1
35-44	11.7	11.8	0.1	12.9	13.1	0.2
45-54	12.8	12.6	-0.2	14.1	13.9	-0.2
55-64	13.3	12.7	-0.6	14.7	14.1	-0.6
65 or over	9.3	9.7	0.4	10.5	10.9	0.4

Education*

Less than high school	5.4	4.9	-0.6	6.1	5.8	-0.3
High school	10.0	9.5	-0.4	10.9	10.6	-0.3
Some college	10.5	10.2	-0.3	11.4	11.2	-0.2
College	9.9	9.9	0.0	11.3	11.3	-0.1
Advanced Degree	15.5	15.3	-0.2	17.5	17.5	0.0

Nativity*

U.S. born	10.9	10.7	-0.2	12.1	12.0	-0.1
Foreign born	8.5	8.3	-0.2	9.6	9.4	-0.2

Source: Data for all, public, private, gender, race/ethnicity and age, from Bureau of Labor Statistics (2019); * data for education and nativity from CEPR analysis of Current Population Survey Outgoing Rotation Group, for 2017–2018. Some differences in the third and sixth columns reflect rounding.

TABLE 2**Union Members and Workers Covered by a Union Contract, 2018-2019**

(thousands of workers)

	Membership			Coverage		
	2018	2019	Change	2018	2019	Change
All	14,744	14,574	-170	16,380	16,383	3
Public sector	7,167	7,066	-101	7,868	7,821	-47
Federal Government	977	974	-3	1,128	1,158	30
State Government	2,035	2,043	8	2,259	2,249	-10
Local Government	4,155	4,050	-105	4,481	4,414	-67
Private sector	7,578	7,508	-70	8,512	8,562	50
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	34	28	-6	38	33	-5
Construction	1,048	1,055	7	1,125	1,133	8

Manufacturing	1,340	1,291	-49	1,444	1,423	-21
Wholesale and retail trade	805	741	-64	928	863	-65
Transportation and utilities	1,116	1,166	50	1,185	1,259	74
Information	244	242	-2	260	263	3
Financial activities	192	182	-10	253	237	-16
Professional and business services	390	339	-51	481	471	-10
Education and health services	1,853	1,885	32	2,144	2,182	38
Leisure and hospitality	367	384	17	436	457	21
Other services	159	172	13	184	202	17

Gender

Women	6,662	6,624	-38	7,512	7,538	26
Men	8,082	7,950	-132	8,868	8,845	-23

Race or ethnicity

White	11,215	11,208	-7	12,471	12,583	112
Black	2,258	2,043	-215	2,487	2,310	-177
Hispanic	2,239	2,258	19	2,482	2,590	108
Asian	758	817	59	855	932	77

Age

16-24	823	827	4	966	977	11
25-34	3,084	2,973	-111	3,452	3,464	12
35-44	3,445	3,515	70	3,802	3,906	104
45-54	3,664	3,543	-121	4,029	3,918	-111
55-64	3,041	2,952	-89	3,355	3,266	-89
65 or over	687	764	77	777	852	75

Education*

Less than high school	533	474	-59	593	562	-31
High school	3,779	3,665	-113	4,118	4,077	-41
Some college	4,142	3,998	-144	4,519	4,415	-104
College	3,357	3,419	62	3,833	3,891	58
Advanced Degree	2,930	3,011	81	3,312	3,430	118

Nativity*

U.S. born	12,704	12,554	-150	14,073	14,084	11
Foreign born	2,036	2,012	-24	2,301	2,291	-10

Source: Data for all, public, private, gender, race/ethnicity and age, from Bureau of Labor Statistics (2019); * data for education and nativity from CEPR analysis of Current Population Survey Outgoing Rotation Group, for 2017–2018. Some differences in the third and sixth columns reflect rounding.

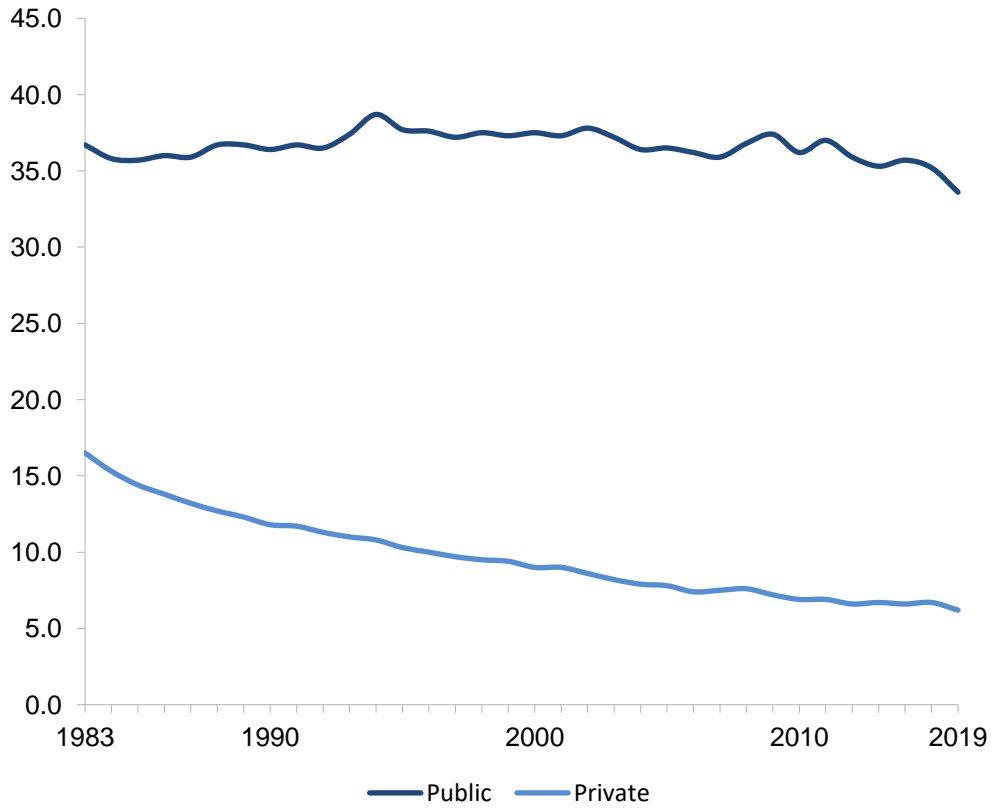
The union membership rates for both private and public sector workers fell for two consecutive years. Public sector union membership dropped 0.3 percentage points to 33.6 percent of the public work force, shedding over 100,000 members in the process (**Figure 1**). The union membership rate in the public sector began its downward trajectory in 2014, prior to which it had remained relatively steady since the 1980s. Federal and local government saw their membership shares fall 0.8 and 0.9 percentage points to 25.6 and 39.4 percent, respectively. The number of union workers also fell by 105,000 in local government and 3,000 in federal government. However, the union membership rate for state government workers increased by 0.8 percentage points to 29.4 percent, representing an additional 8,000 members.

In the private sector, union membership fell by 70,000 in 2019, corresponding to a 0.2 percentage point reduction in the membership rate, which dwindled to 6.2 percent. Of the major industries in the private sector, wholesale and retail trade saw the biggest drop in membership numbers (down 64,000), followed by professional and business services (down 51,000), and manufacturing (down 49,000). By contrast, transportation and utilities saw the largest growth in membership (up 50,000), followed by education and health services (up 32,000). In education and health services, the number of members lost (-24,000) in education was offset by gains in the health care and social assistance (+57,000). Private sector unionization rates fell by 0.7 percentage points in mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction to 4.0 percent, and increased in information by 0.7 percentage points to 10.3 percent, driven largely by gains in radio and television broadcasting and cable subscription programming (up 3.3 percentage points). The unionization rate in manufacturing fell 0.4 percentage points to 8.6 percent.

FIGURE 1

Union Membership Rate, Public and Private Sectors, 1983-2019

(percent of employees)

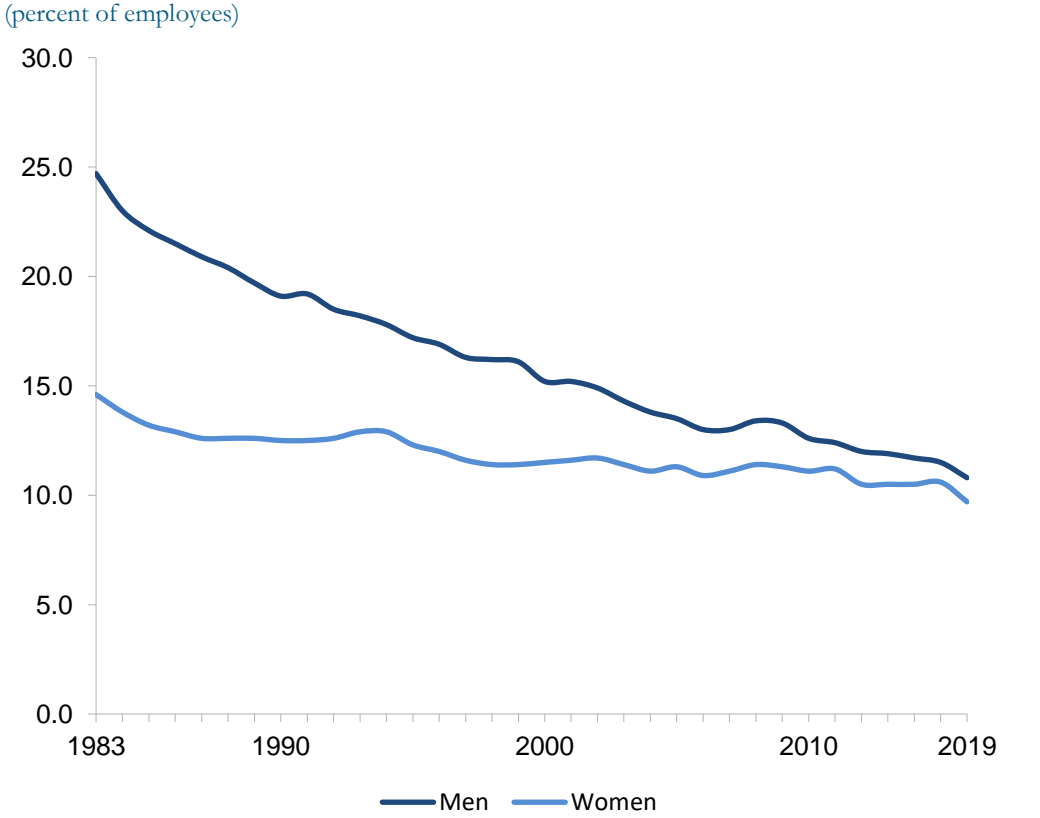


Source: CEPR analysis of Current Population Survey Outgoing Rotation Group.

Demographic Groups

As measured by the difference in membership rates for men and women, the gender gap continued to narrow in 2019 (**Figure 2**). Union membership fell for both men and women, by 132,000 and 38,000 workers, respectively. The membership rate for men declined by 0.3 percentage points to 10.8 percent, while the rate for women dropped 0.2 percentage points to 9.7 percent.

FIGURE 2
Union Membership Rate, By Gender, 1983-2019



Source: CEPR analysis of Current Population Survey Outgoing Rotation Group.

Though blacks remain the most heavily unionized racial group, black workers experienced the biggest decline in membership in 2019 (**Figure 3**). The black unionization rate fell by 1.3 percentage points to 11.2 percent, representing an exodus of 215,000 members in the last year.

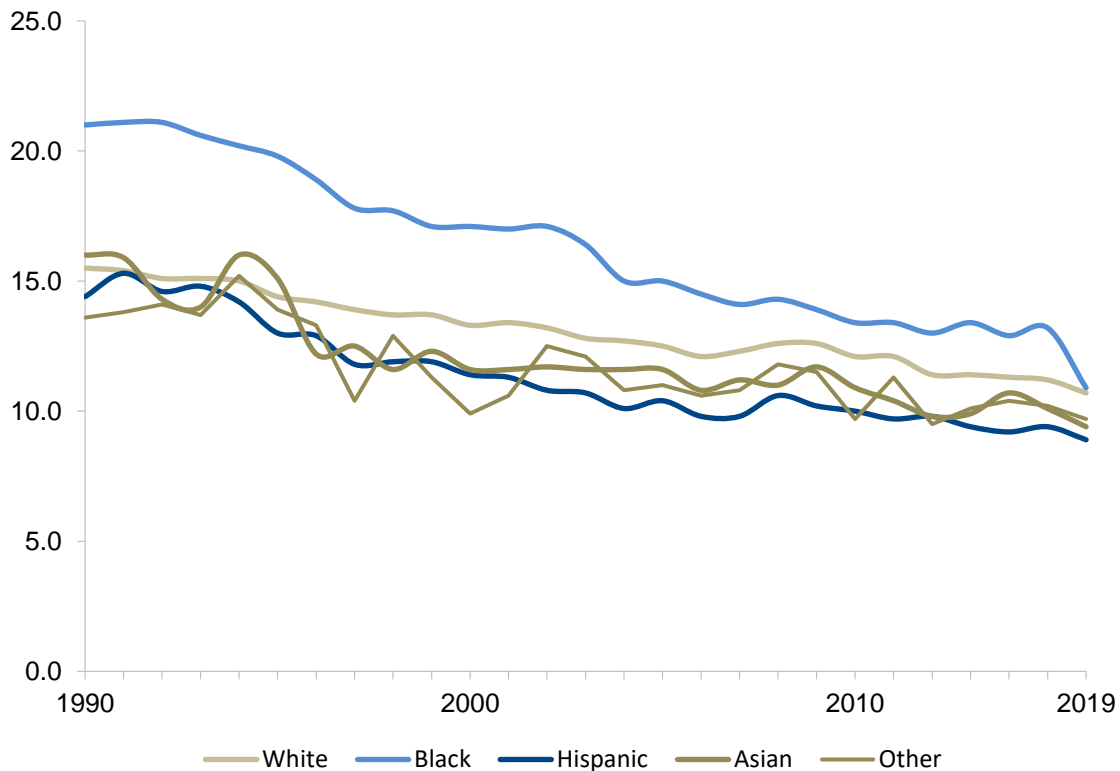
Union membership decreased among Hispanics and whites in 2019, but increased among Asians. The membership rate for Hispanics fell by 0.2 percentage points to 8.9 percent, while the rate for whites dropped 0.1 percentage points to 10.3 percent. However, while the number of white union members decreased by 7,000, the number of Hispanic union members increased by 19,000. The union

membership rate for Asians rose by 0.4 percentage points to 8.8 percent, and the number of Asian union members swelled by 59,000.

FIGURE 3

Union Membership Rate, By Race/Ethnicity, 1989-2019

(percent of employees)



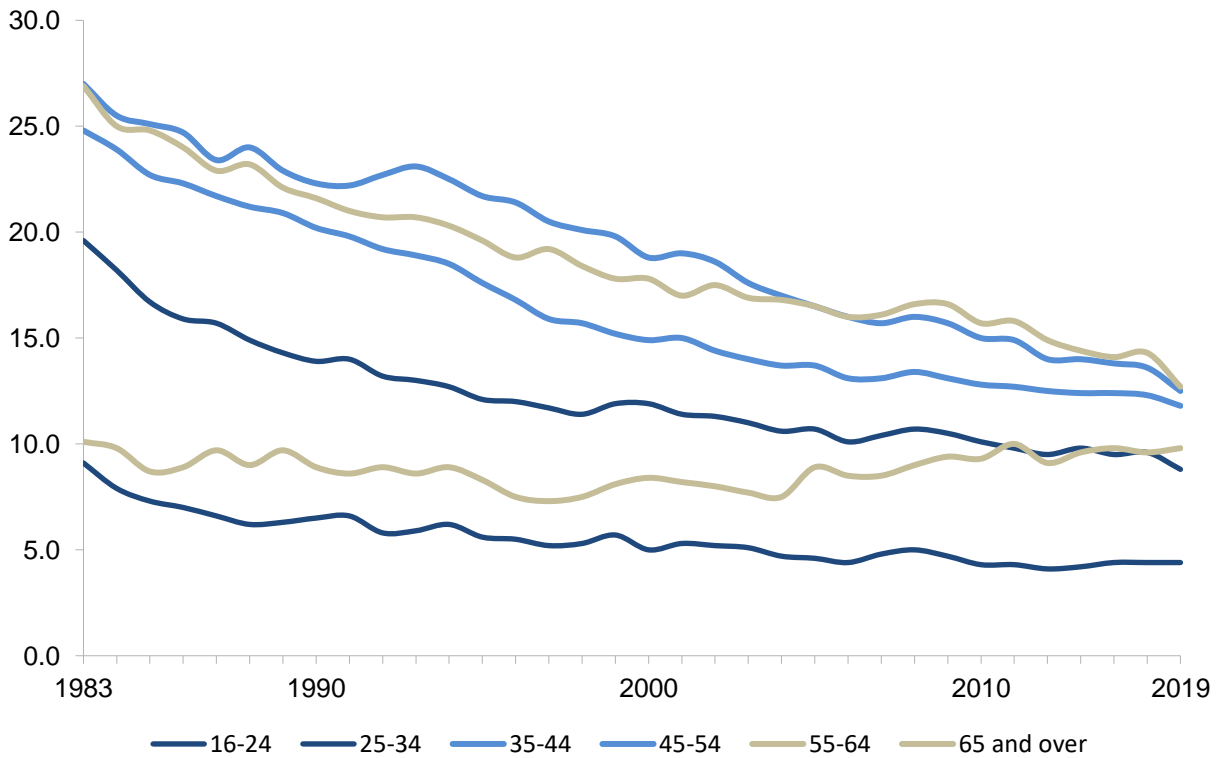
Source: CEPR analysis of Current Population Survey Outgoing Rotation Group.

Union membership rates increased among the oldest (65+) workers and workers ages 35-44 (**Figure 4**). The rate for workers over the age of 65 increased by 0.4 percentage points to 9.7 percent, representing an additional 77,000 union workers. Workers ages 35-44 experienced a modest 0.1 percentage point increase in their unionization rate, while the number of union members in this group increased by 70,000. For younger workers ages 16-24, the membership rate stayed flat at 4.4 percent, and the number of members increased by 4,000. Membership rates fell most — by around half a percentage point — for those ages 25-34 (down to 8.8 percent), and those ages 55-64 (down to 12.7 percent). The number of union members also fell considerably for these age groups: by 111,000 for ages 25-34, and by 89,000 for ages 55-64.

FIGURE 4

Union Membership Rate, By Age, 1983-2019

(percent of employees)



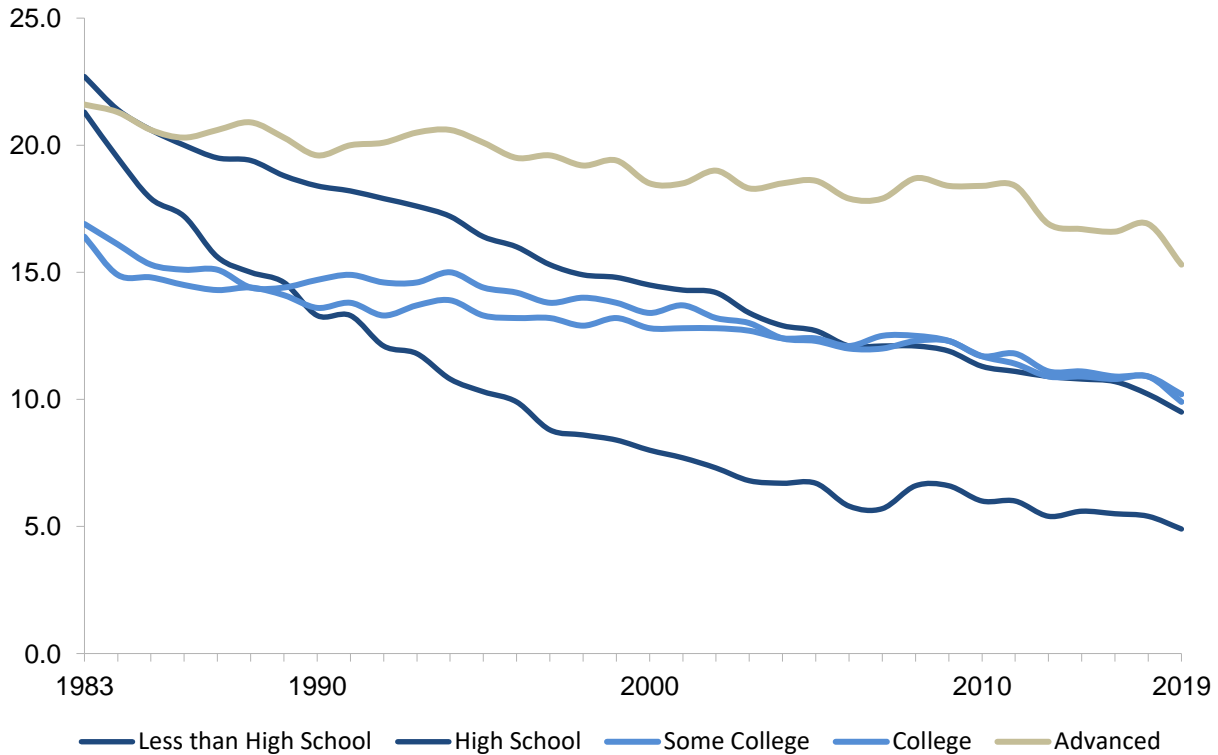
Source: CEPR analysis of Current Population Survey Outgoing Rotation Group.

The unionization rate declined or stayed flat for workers across educational backgrounds (**Figure 5**), but high school graduates and those with less than a high school degree experienced the biggest slumps; the union membership rate fell by around half a percentage point for both, with the former falling to 9.5 percent and the latter to 4.9 percent. High school graduates also incurred a big loss in their number of union members, which fell by 113,000. Workers with some college but no degree experienced a more modest rate abatement of 0.3 percentage points (to 10.2 percent), but the largest decline in their number of union members (down 144,000). The number of union members rose by 62,000 for those with undergraduate degrees and by 81,000 for those with advanced degrees. However, the unionization rate stayed flat at 9.9 percent for college graduates, and dropped 0.2 percentage points to 15.3 percent for advanced degree holders. In 2019, those with a college degree had a higher unionization rate than those with a high school degree; the reverse had been consistently true prior to 2007.

FIGURE 5

Union Membership Rate, By Education, 1983-2019

(percent of employees)



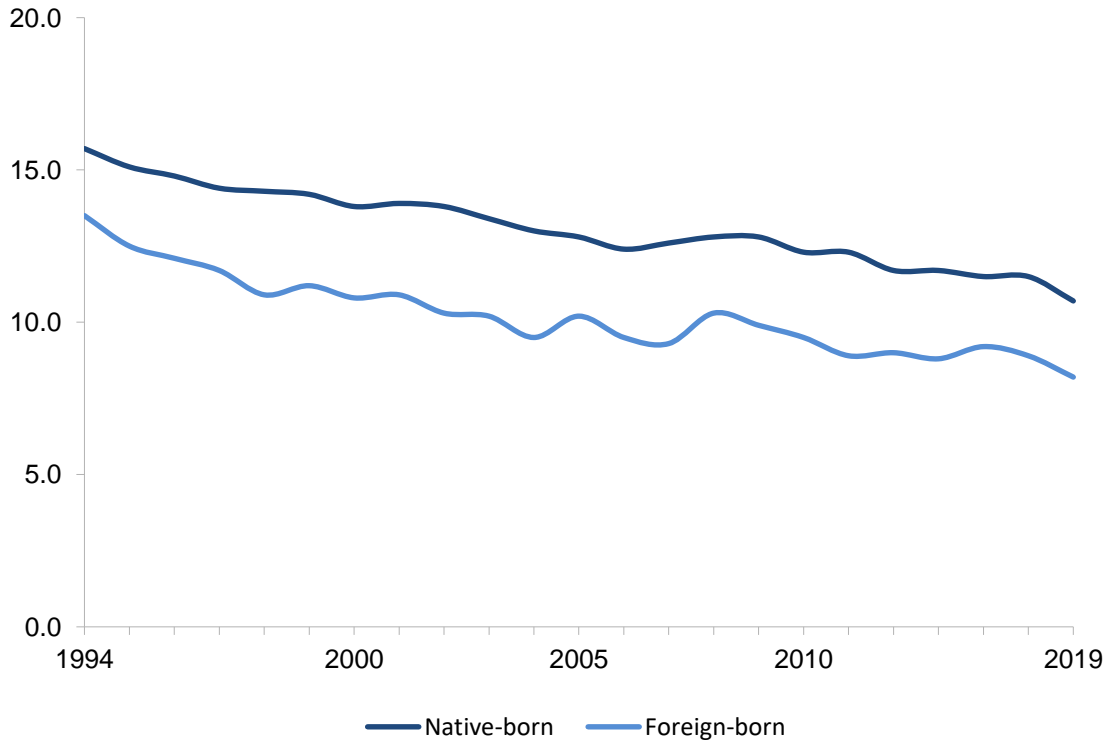
Source: CEPR analysis of Current Population Survey Outgoing Rotation Group.

US-born workers remain more likely than foreign-born workers to be union members, though the gap continued to shrink in 2019 (**Figure 6**). The rate of union membership fell among both the foreign- and US-born, dropping 0.2 percentage points to 8.3 percent for the former and to 10.7 percent for the latter. The number of foreign-born union members decreased by 24,000; US-born workers also lost 150,000 union members.

FIGURE 6

Union Membership Rate, By Nativity, 1994-2019

(percent of employees)



Source: CEPR analysis of Current Population Survey Outgoing Rotation Group.

Detailed Estimates by Sector

Tables 3 and 4 and Figures 7, 8, and 9 show union membership by state and sector. In 2019, the largest increase in union membership occurred in California (up 99,000), followed by Florida (up 67,000), New Jersey (up 55,000), Missouri (up 46,000), and Maryland (up 23,000). The membership rate increased most in Nebraska (up 1.8 percentage points), followed by Missouri and Kansas (both up 1.7 percentage points), and Mississippi (up 1.2 percentage points).

For the second year in a row, New York experienced the biggest overall loss in union members (down 140,000 in 2019), driven by a large reduction in public sector members. Other states with large losses in union members were Massachusetts (down 58,000), Colorado (down 44,000), Michigan (down 36,000), and Minnesota (down 31,000). The share of union workers decreased most in Colorado (down 2.0 percentage points), followed by Massachusetts (down 1.7 percentage points), Delaware (down 1.6 percentage points), Connecticut (down 1.5 percentage points), and Iowa (down 1.4 percentage points).

The biggest increase in the number of public sector union members took place in Maryland (up 43,000), while the biggest decrease occurred in New York (down 103,000). The share of union members in the public sector rose the most in Nebraska (up 6.0 percentage points) and fell the most in Massachusetts (down 6.3 percentage points).

In the private sector, California saw the biggest increase in union members (up 84,000), while Pennsylvania saw the most substantial decline (down 46,000). Annual changes in state private sector union membership rates ranged from a 1.7 percentage point increase in Missouri, to a 2.1 percentage point decrease in Colorado.

TABLE 3
Union Membership Rate By State and Sector, 2018-2019
 (percent of employees)

	All			Public Sector			Private Sector		
	2018	2019	Change	2018	2019	Change	2018	2019	Change
Alabama	9.2	8.5	-0.7	24.9	19.0	-6.0	6.0	6.5	0.5
Alaska	18.5	17.1	-1.4	44.0	39.8	-4.2	9.0	8.4	-0.7
Arizona	5.3	5.7	0.4	20.4	20.2	-0.3	2.4	3.4	1.0
Arkansas	4.8	5.2	0.4	8.6	9.3	0.6	4.1	4.3	0.3
California	14.7	15.2	0.5	50.3	52.6	2.3	8.4	8.8	0.5
Colorado	11.0	9.0	-2.0	24.8	24.2	-0.6	8.2	6.0	-2.1
Connecticut	16.0	14.5	-1.5	62.6	62.7	0.1	8.3	7.1	-1.2
Delaware	10.3	8.7	-1.6	37.9	34.8	-3.1	5.9	4.4	-1.5

District of Columbia	9.9	9.3	-0.6	21.3	20.5	-0.8	5.9	5.3	-0.5
Florida	5.6	6.2	0.6	26.8	26.5	-0.3	2.4	3.1	0.7
Georgia	4.5	4.1	-0.4	14.2	9.1	-5.1	2.7	3.2	0.5
Hawaii	23.1	23.5	0.4	52.6	52.7	0.1	15.1	14.6	-0.5
Idaho	4.7	4.9	0.2	16.1	17.4	1.4	2.6	3.0	0.4
Illinois	13.8	13.6	-0.2	46.4	45.8	-0.6	8.7	8.9	0.2
Indiana	8.8	8.3	-0.5	21.9	21.0	-0.9	7.0	6.7	-0.3
Iowa	7.7	6.3	-1.4	21.4	18.5	-2.9	5.2	4.0	-1.2
Kansas	7.0	8.7	1.7	17.7	22.5	4.9	4.9	5.6	0.7
Kentucky	8.9	8.0	-0.9	21.2	16.6	-4.6	6.8	6.7	-0.2
Louisiana	5.0	5.3	0.3	13.6	14.1	0.4	3.1	3.4	0.3
Maine	12.9	11.8	-1.1	50.5	45.7	-4.8	5.8	5.6	-0.3
Maryland	11.0	11.3	0.3	28.7	33.5	4.8	5.8	4.6	-1.2
Massachusetts	13.7	12.0	-1.7	57.5	51.2	-6.3	7.2	6.6	-0.6
Michigan	14.5	13.6	-0.9	41.9	45.1	3.2	11.0	9.8	-1.1
Minnesota	15.0	13.7	-1.3	59.3	53.7	-5.7	8.9	7.4	-1.5
Mississippi	5.1	6.3	1.2	11.9	16.2	4.4	3.6	4.1	0.5
Missouri	9.4	11.1	1.7	27.3	28.1	0.8	6.4	8.2	1.7
Montana	11.8	10.5	-1.3	37.5	34.5	-3.0	5.7	5.3	-0.3
Nebraska	6.6	8.4	1.8	22.0	28.0	6.0	3.7	4.6	0.9
Nevada	13.9	14.6	0.7	32.9	32.9	0.0	11.1	11.6	0.5
New Hampshire	10.2	10.3	0.1	42.4	44.7	2.3	4.9	5.2	0.2
New Jersey	14.9	15.7	0.8	59.7	58.1	-1.6	7.8	8.0	0.3
New Mexico	6.8	7.1	0.3	14.5	17.2	2.7	4.1	3.6	-0.5
New York	22.3	21.0	-1.3	66.6	65.5	-1.1	13.2	12.7	-0.5
North Carolina	2.7	2.3	-0.4	6.6	8.5	1.8	2.0	1.2	-0.8
North Dakota	5.2	6.0	0.8	15.1	19.1	4.0	3.5	3.3	-0.1
Ohio	12.6	11.9	-0.7	44.9	42.4	-2.5	7.4	6.9	-0.4
Oklahoma	5.7	6.2	0.5	20.6	20.4	-0.2	2.4	3.1	0.6
Oregon	13.9	14.4	0.5	51.0	53.2	2.2	7.1	7.3	0.3
Pennsylvania	12.6	12.0	-0.6	53.0	52.6	-0.4	8.0	7.1	-0.9
Rhode Island	17.4	17.4	0.0	64.4	62.3	-2.1	8.8	10.0	1.2
South Carolina	2.7	2.2	-0.5	8.7	7.4	-1.3	1.6	1.3	-0.3
South Dakota	5.6	5.6	0.0	20.0	21.3	1.3	3.0	2.6	-0.3
Tennessee	5.5	4.6	-0.9	17.6	14.7	-2.8	3.2	2.9	-0.4
Texas	4.3	4.0	-0.3	14.0	14.2	0.2	2.7	2.5	-0.2
Utah	4.1	4.4	0.3	13.1	11.1	-2.0	2.5	3.1	0.6
Vermont	10.5	11.2	0.7	42.3	42.8	0.4	4.7	5.3	0.6
Virginia	4.3	4.0	-0.3	9.2	9.9	0.8	3.2	2.5	-0.7
Washington	19.8	18.8	-1.0	51.9	52.3	0.4	12.9	12.0	-0.8
West Virginia	10.0	10.2	0.2	21.5	21.2	-0.3	7.7	7.8	0.1
Wisconsin	8.1	8.1	0.0	24.4	25.7	1.3	5.5	5.1	-0.4
Wyoming	6.5	7.3	0.8	13.0	13.6	0.6	4.5	5.1	0.7

Source: "All" category from Bureau of Labor Statistics (2020); public and private sector data from CEPR analysis of Current Population Survey Outgoing Rotation Group, 2018-2019. Some differences in columns three, six, and nine reflect rounding.

TABLE 4**Number of Union Members By State and Sector, 2018-2019**

(thousands of employees)

	All			Public Sector			Private Sector		
	2018	2019	Change	2018	2019	Change	2018	2019	Change
Alabama	180	173	-7	83	62	-21	98	112	15
Alaska	55	48	-7	35	31	-4	20	17	-3
Arizona	156	174	18	96	84	-12	60	90	29
Arkansas	56	62	6	16	18	2	40	44	3
California	2,405	2,504	99	1,242	1,253	10	1,163	1,247	84
Colorado	281	237	-44	108	107	-1	173	132	-42
Connecticut	268	244	-24	148	141	-7	120	103	-16
Delaware	45	38	-7	23	21	-1	22	16	-6
District of Columbia	35	34	-1	20	19	0	15	14	-1
Florida	484	551	67	304	319	15	180	233	52
Georgia	201	180	-21	98	60	-38	102	119	17
Hawaii	139	135	-4	68	70	2	71	64	-7
Idaho	34	37	3	18	18	0	16	20	4
Illinois	786	771	-15	360	334	-26	426	438	12
Indiana	269	249	-20	82	71	-11	187	178	-9
Iowa	113	97	-16	49	46	-4	64	51	-12
Kansas	90	112	22	38	53	15	53	58	6
Kentucky	161	144	-17	54	41	-13	106	102	-4
Louisiana	89	94	5	44	44	1	45	50	4
Maine	74	69	-5	46	42	-4	28	28	0
Maryland	307	330	23	183	226	43	124	103	-21
Massachusetts	464	406	-58	249	209	-40	214	197	-17
Michigan	625	589	-36	205	212	6	419	379	-40
Minnesota	395	364	-31	190	193	3	206	171	-35
Mississippi	58	70	12	25	33	8	33	37	4
Missouri	251	297	46	104	111	7	147	185	37
Montana	50	46	-4	31	27	-4	20	19	0
Nebraska	59	75	16	31	40	9	28	34	7
Nevada	191	201	10	58	63	5	133	138	5
New Hampshire	68	69	1	39	39	-1	28	31	2
New Jersey	587	642	55	325	363	39	263	279	16
New Mexico	56	58	2	30	36	5	25	22	-3
New York	1,872	1,732	-140	952	849	-103	922	883	-39
North Carolina	118	102	-16	44	59	15	73	44	-30
North Dakota	18	21	3	8	11	4	10	10	0
Ohio	639	610	-29	321	305	-16	319	305	-14
Oklahoma	90	96	6	58	58	-1	32	39	7
Oregon	242	255	13	137	145	7	104	110	6
Pennsylvania	701	676	-25	297	319	23	404	357	-46
Rhode Island	83	83	0	47	42	-6	36	40	5
South Carolina	55	47	-8	28	24	-4	27	23	-4
South Dakota	22	22	0	12	13	1	10	9	-1
Tennessee	155	135	-20	78	62	-16	76	72	-4
Texas	512	497	-15	240	230	-10	272	267	-5

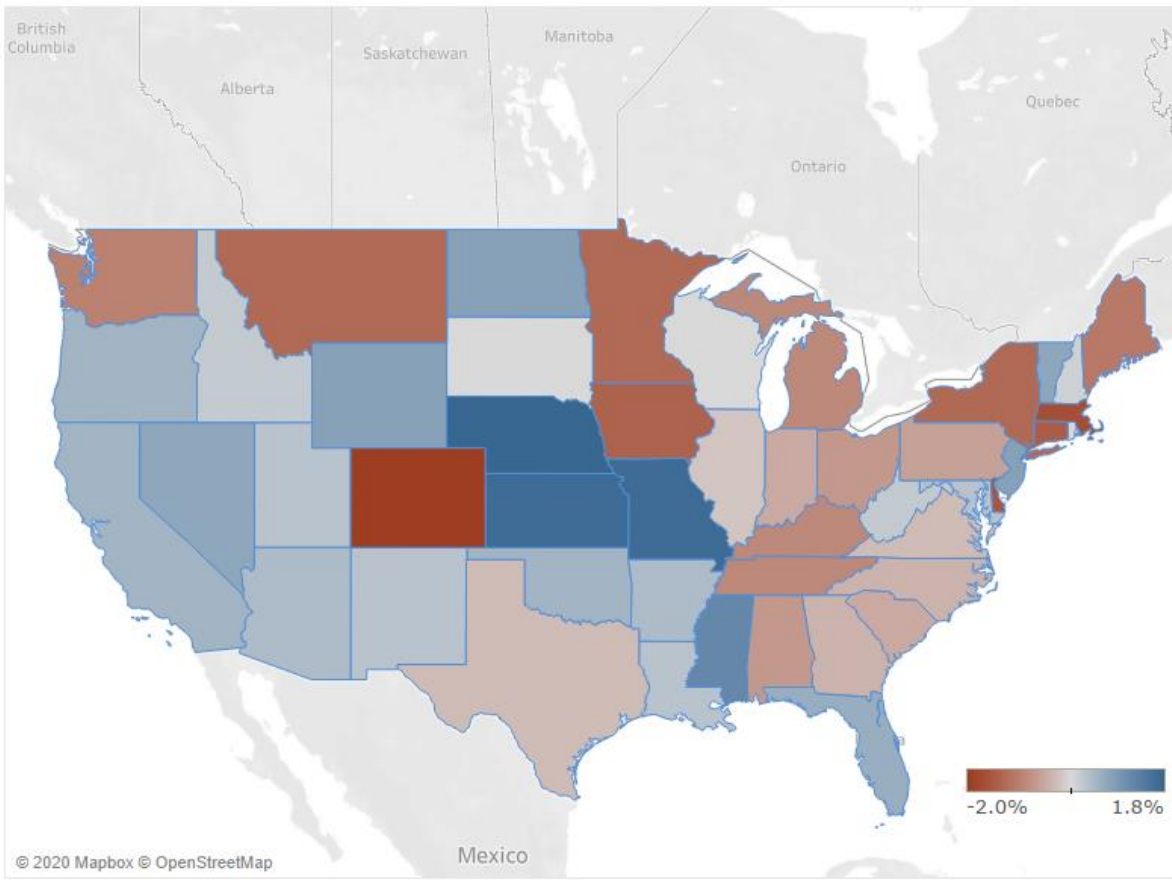
Utah	56	62	6	27	25	-2	28	36	8
Vermont	31	33	2	19	20	1	12	13	1
Virginia	168	156	-12	69	80	11	98	76	-22
Washington	649	638	-11	302	298	-3	346	339	-7
West Virginia	68	72	4	24	26	2	44	45	1
Wisconsin	219	218	-1	89	99	10	129	119	-10
Wyoming	15	18	3	7	8	1	8	9	1

Source: "All" category from Bureau of Labor Statistics (2020); public and private sector data from CEPR analysis of Current Population Survey Outgoing Rotation Group, 2018-2019. Some differences in columns three, six, and nine reflect rounding.

FIGURE 7

Choropleth Map of Rate Changes, Contiguous States, All Sectors, 2018-2019

(percent change)

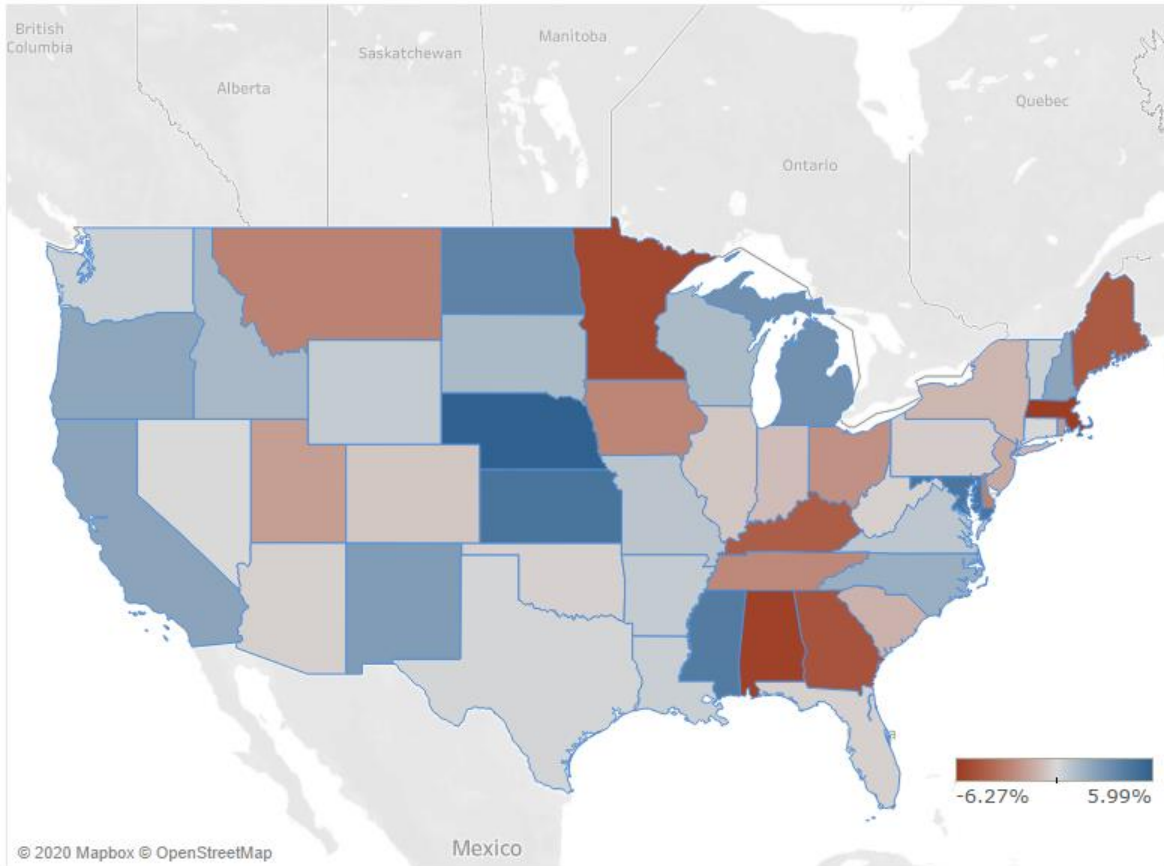


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics (2020). [Click to see detail.](#)

FIGURE 8

Choropleth Map of Rate Changes, Contiguous States, Public Sector, 2018-2019

(percent change)

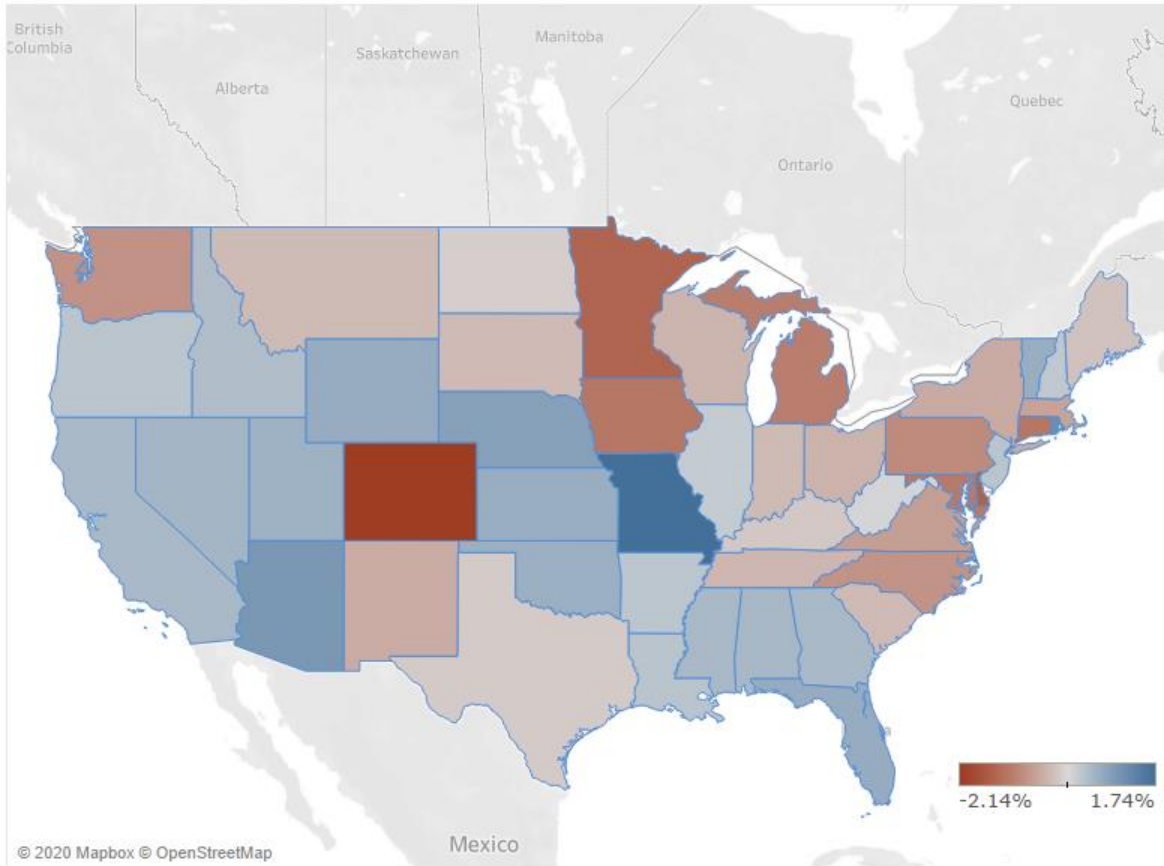


Source: CEPR analysis of Current Population Survey Outgoing Rotation Group. Click to see detail.

FIGURE 9

Choropleth Map of Rate Changes, Contiguous States, Private Sector, 2019-2019

(percent change)



Source: CEPR analysis of Current Population Survey Outgoing Rotation Group. Click to see detail.

Tables 5 and 6 display union membership by occupation and sector. The largest growth in the number of private sector members occurred in office and administrative support occupations (up 41,000), followed by professional and related occupations (up 20,000). Membership shares increased most in office and administrative support occupations (to 4.5 percent) and personal care and service occupations (to 3.4 percent), with a modest uptick of 0.2 percentage points in both. Private sector membership numbers fell most dramatically in sales and related occupations (down 65,000), while protective service occupations faced the steepest decline in membership share (down 2.6 percentage points to 7.2 percent).

In the public sector, the largest growth in the number of union members took place in professional and related occupations (up 30,000), followed closely by management, business, and financial operations occupations (up 29,000). Public sector office and administrative support occupations

experienced the largest losses (down 72,000), followed by transportation and material moving occupations (down 55,000). The public sector union membership rate increased most in building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations (up 2.2 percentage points to 29.3 percent) and in protective service occupations (up 1.5 percentage points to 46.9 percent); the biggest rate declines occurred in sales and related occupations (down 8.0 percentage points to 17.3 percent) and transportation and material moving occupations (down 7.9 percentage points to 32.4 percent).

TABLE 5
Union Membership Rate by Occupation and Sector, 2018-2019

(percent of employees)

	Private Sector			Public Sector		
	2018	2019	Change	2018	2019	Change
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	2.2	2.2	0.0	18.7	19.8	1.1
Professional and related occupations	6.7	6.7	0.0	37.8	37.8	0.0
Healthcare support occupations	6.9	6.1	-0.8	24.6	25.2	0.6
Protective service occupations	9.7	7.2	-2.6	45.4	46.9	1.5
Food preparation and serving related occupations	3.1	2.7	-0.3	20.4	20.8	0.5
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	6.2	5.5	-0.7	27.1	29.3	2.2
Personal care and service occupations	3.3	3.4	0.2	20.5	21.5	1.0
Sales and related occupations	3.1	2.6	-0.4	25.3	17.3	-8.0
Office and administrative support occupations	4.3	4.5	0.2	33.0	30.6	-2.4
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	2.0	1.8	-0.1	15.5	9.7	-5.8
Construction and extraction occupations	16.0	16.2	0.1	32.8	33.7	0.9
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	13.3	12.7	-0.6	34.4	31.3	-3.2
Production occupations	11.2	11.1	0.0	32.6	30.0	-2.6
Transportation and material moving occupations	12.4	12.5	0.1	40.3	32.4	-7.9

Source: Data from CEPR analysis of Current Population Survey Outgoing Rotation Group, 2018-2019. Some differences in columns three and six reflect rounding.

TABLE 6**Number of Union Members by Occupation and Sector, 2018-2019**

(thousands of employees)

	Private Sector			Public Sector		
	2018	2019	Change	2018	2019	Change
Management, business, and financial operations occupations	407	419	12	507	535	29
Professional and related occupations	1,652	1672	20	3,613	3643	30
Healthcare support occupations	227	207	-20	58	60	2
Protective service occupations	101	73	-28	982	963	-19
Food preparation and serving related occupations	235	218	-17	79	77	-2
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	266	235	-30	185	197	12
Personal care and service occupations	130	137	8	127	127	0
Sales and related occupations	415	350	-65	40	26	-14
Office and administrative support occupations	615	656	41	922	850	-72
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	19	19	-1	5	3	-2
Construction and extraction occupations	1,019	1034	15	140	158	18
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	550	524	-26	133	115	-17
Production occupations	894	895	2	92	79	-13
Transportation and material moving occupations	1,050	1068	18	280	226	-55

Source: Data from CEPR analysis of Current Population Survey Outgoing Rotation Group, 2018-2019. Some differences in columns three and six reflect rounding.

References

Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2020. "Union Members—2019." Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Labor Statistics. <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/union2.pdf>.