

Union Membership - 2011

Union Membership at a Glance

	2011	2010
Union membership (000s)	14,764	14,715
Union density	11.8%	11.9%
Union density by sector		
Private sector	6.9%	6.9%
Manufacturing	10.5%	10.7%
Education and health services	8.6%	8.1%
Public sector	37.0%	36.2%
Union density by population group		
Men	12.4%	12.6%
Women	11.2%	11.1%
White	11.6%	11.7%
African-American	13.5%	13.4%
Asian	10.1%	10.9%
Latino	9.7%	10.0%
Median weekly earnings		
All union members	\$938	\$917
All non-union workers	\$729	\$717
African-American union members	\$771	\$772
Non-union African-American workers	\$595	\$589
Male union members	\$982	\$967
Non-union male workers	\$798	\$789
Female union members	\$879	\$856
Non-union female workers	\$653	\$639

The number of union members rose in 2010, but union density (the percentage of workers who belong to unions) fell slightly. The drop in density was primarily due to job cuts in the public sector. Private sector density stayed the same and public sector density actually increased, but as state and local governments cut jobs, overall density

fell. (More than half of all union members are employed by federal, state and local governments.)

Unions remain an important force for equality, boosting median earnings for all workers, but particularly for women and minorities.

The full Bureau of Labor Statistics report can be found at:
<http://stats.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/union2.pdf>

Next release: union membership data for 2012 will be released early in 2013.

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