

## Union Membership - 2007

---

### Union Membership at a Glance

	2007	2006
<b>Union membership (000s)</b>	15,670	15,359
<b>Union density</b>	12.1%	12.0%
<b>Union density by sector</b>		
Private sector	7.5%	7.4%
-Manufacturing	11.3%	11.7%
-Education and health services	8.8%	8.3%
Public sector	35.9%	36.2%
<b>Union density by population group</b>		
Men	13.0%	13.0%
Women	11.1%	10.9%
Whites	11.8%	11.7%
African-Americans	14.3%	14.5%
Asians	10.9%	10.4%
Latinos	9.8%	9.8%
Age 16-24	4.8%	4.4%
Age 25-44	11.8%	11.6%
Age 45-64	15.8%	16.0%
<b>Median weekly earnings</b>		
All union members	\$863	\$833
All non-union workers	\$663	\$642
African-American union members	\$732	\$707
Non-union African-American workers	\$533	\$520
Male union members	\$913	\$887
Non-union male workers	\$738	\$717
Female union members	\$790	\$758
Non-union female workers	\$592	\$579

Union membership grew by 311,000 in 2007. That was the largest increase in membership in more than 20 years. Union density – the percentage of the workforce who are union members – also increased, edging up to 12.1 percent.

Union density continued to fall in manufacturing, but increased significantly in education and health services. There was also a marked increase among younger workers, particularly those aged 25-34.

Union members continue to earn more than their non-union counterparts. That's particularly true for women and African-Americans. Unionization also narrows the earnings gap between men and women and African-Americans and whites. The average union woman earns 86.5 percent as much as the average union man, versus 80.2 percent among nonunion workers. Among union workers, median pay for African-Americans is 82.3 percent of the median for whites, versus 77.9 percent among nonunion workers. (These are averages across a variety of industries and occupations.)

The full Bureau of Labor Statistics report can be found at:  
<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/union2.nr0.htm>

Next release: union membership data for 2008 will be released early in 2009.

UAW Research Department  
January 31, 2008