

New Hampshire Economic Conditions

February 2012

Union Membership among New Hampshire's Workforce

Just over eleven percent (11.1 percent) of New Hampshire's workers were members of a union in 2011. This was slightly lower than the national average of 11.8 percent. New Hampshire's share of union members among the total workforce ranked 24th highest among all states and the District of Columbia. New York had the highest share with about 25 percent of workers belonging to a union, and North Carolina had the lowest share, three percent, of workers belonging to a union.

The number of workers who are covered by a union contract (those represented by a union), was slightly higher. In New Hampshire, 12.5 percent of workers were represented by a union, compared to 13.0 percent nationally. Similar to the union membership, New Hampshire ranked 25th from the top among the states and the District of Columbia in workers represented by a union.

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Union affiliation of employed wage and salary workers, New England States, 2011

State	(numbers in thousands) Total employed	Members of unions		Represented by unions	
		Total	Percent of Employed	Total	Percent of Employed
Rhode Island	453	79	17.4%	81	17.9%
Connecticut	1,542	259	16.8%	272	17.7%
Massachusetts	2,882	422	14.6%	445	15.4%
Vermont	290	35	12.0%	39	13.5%
Maine	554	63	11.3%	74	13.4%
New Hampshire	617	68	11.1%	77	12.5%

Source: www.bls.gov/webapps/legacy/cpslutab5.htm, Accessed January 27, 2012

New England States

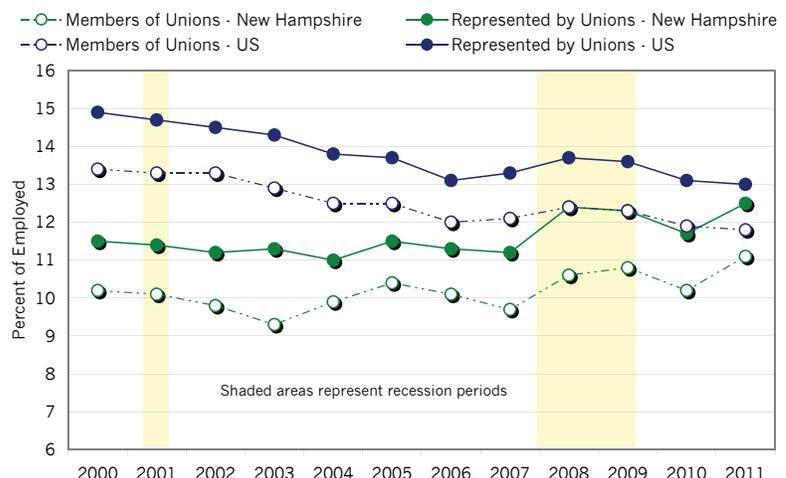
Among the New England states, New Hampshire held the smallest share of both workers who were union members and those who were represented by unions in 2011, while Rhode Island had the highest share for both measures. Massachusetts had the highest total number of union

members and those represented by unions, but ranked third for both measures when comparing percent of employed workers.

National Demographics

Data on union membership is gathered through the Current Population Survey and demographic

Share of union membership and representation in New Hampshire

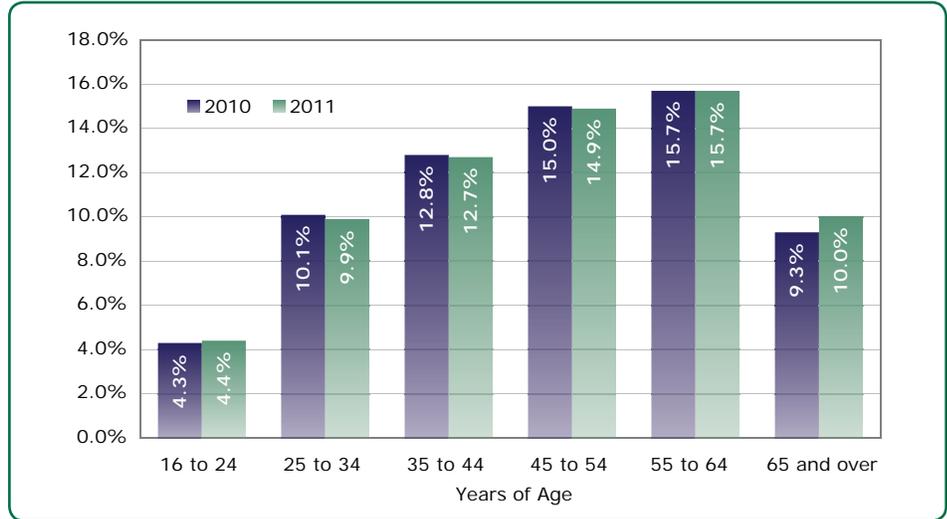


information is only published at the national level.

In 2011, union membership was highest among public-sector workers. The average union membership among public-sector workers was 37.0 percent compared to 6.9 percent for private-sector workers. Local government, which makes up more than half of public-sector workers nationally, had the largest shares of workers who were either members of unions or were represented by unions. Occupations in local government include teachers, police and fire department workers, all of whom typically have high unionization rates.¹

The share of men who were members edged out the share of women. One of every eight males (12.4 percent) was a union member compared to about one of every nine females (11.2 percent). Among the race and ethnicity groups tracked, about two of every 15 black workers (13.5 percent) were union members in 2011, compared to roughly two of every seventeen white workers (11.6 percent), and one of every ten Asian workers (10.1 percent). Just about one of every ten Hispanic workers (9.7 percent) was a union member.

Union Membership by Age (national demographics)



Among workers of different age groups, older workers were more likely to be members of unions. The highest share of union membership was among workers age 55 to 64, with 15.7 percent in a union. The share of union membership declined for each consecutively younger age group. The age group with the smallest share was the 16 to 24 year group, with 4.4 percent. Among the next older age group of 24 to 34 years, 9.9 percent of workers were union members.

The share of full-time workers who were union members was about double that of part-time workers. Nationally, 13.1 percent of full-time workers were union members, compared to 6.4 percent of part-time workers.

Anita Josten

¹ BLS News Release. USDL-12-0094. [Union Members - 2011](#), Table 3. Union affiliation of employed wage and salary workers by occupation and industry, 2010-2011 annual averages. Friday, January 27, 2011. <www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/union2.pdf>. Accessed January 27, 2011.