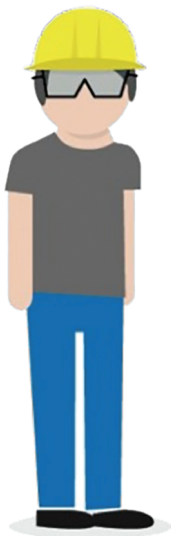


Who Are Today's Union Workers?

WHAT PEOPLE THINK



THE REALITY



46% of union workers are women

36% are people of color

42% have a bachelor's degree or higher

40% work in education or health services

21% work in transportation, utilities or manufacturing

Union workers refers to working people ages 18–64 who are covered by a collective bargaining agreement. Data are from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Source: **Economic Policy Institute**

Unionized workers are very diverse, and they work in most industries across America.

More than 16 million working women and men in the United States, or one in nine workers, are represented by a union.¹ This makes organized labor one of the largest and most representative institutions in America.

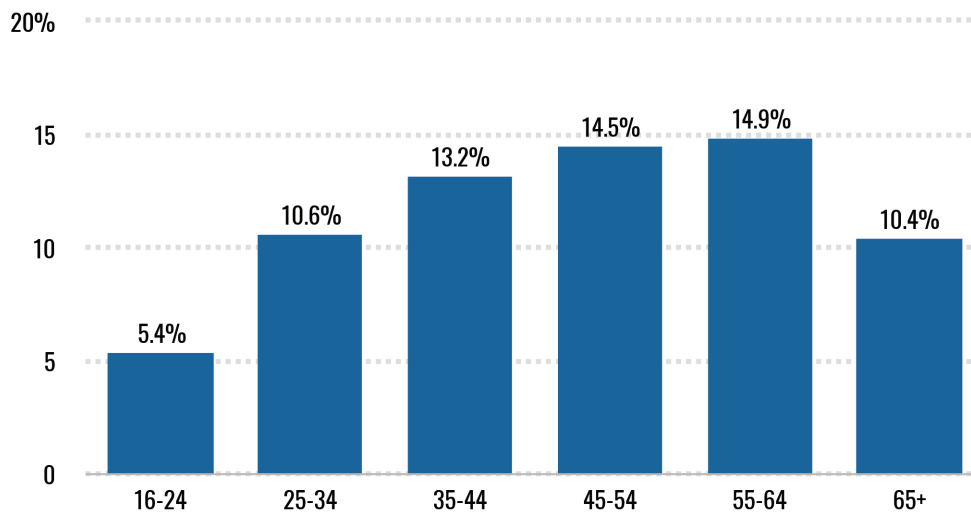
Together, about two-thirds of working people ages 18 to 64 who are covered by a union contract are women and/or people of color.

- ▶ As of 2017, roughly 10.6 million of the 16.4 million workers covered by a union contract are women and/or people of color.²
- ▶ Almost half of workers represented by a union are women (45.7%).³
- ▶ More than a third (36.1%) are African American, Hispanic, Asian or other non-white workers.⁴
- ▶ African American workers are the most likely to be represented by unions: 13.8% are covered by a collective bargaining agreement, compared with 12.2% of white workers and 10.4% of Hispanic workers.⁵

Unions represent workers of all ages, as shown in Figure A.

Figure A

Union Coverage Rate by Age Group, 2017



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), "Table 1. Union Affiliation of Employed Wage and Salary Workers by Selected Characteristics," Union Membership (Annual) News Release, BLS Economic News Release, Jan. 18, 2019

Economic Policy Institute

Union workers hail from a variety of sectors, but the biggest share works in education or health services.

- ▶ Nearly two in five workers (39.3%) covered by a union contract work in education or health services.⁶

1 Bureau of Labor Statistics, Union Membership (Annual) News Release, Jan. 18, 2019.

2 EPI analysis of 2017 Current Population Survey Outgoing Rotation Group (CPS ORG) data for all workers ages 16 and older.

3 Ibid.

4 Ibid.

5 Ibid.

6 Ibid.

7 Ibid.

8 Ibid.

9 Ibid.

10 EPI analysis of 2016 Current Population Survey Outgoing Rotation Group (CPS ORG) data for all workers ages 18 to 64. Taken from Josh Bivens et al., "How Today's Unions Help Working People: Giving Workers the Power to Improve Their Jobs and Unrig the Economy," Economic Policy Institute, August 2017.