

State Union Membership, 2012

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On January 23, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) released its estimates for union membership in the United States in 2012.¹ This issue brief focuses on the union membership numbers by state. In addition to presenting the BLS estimates for overall union membership in each state, we also provide our own breakdown of state union membership in the private and public sector.

Both the BLS and our own estimates are drawn from the Current Population Survey (CPS).² To give a picture of short-term trends, we present union membership data for both 2011 and 2012.

Table 1 shows total union membership in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia in 2011 and 2012, based on the BLS data. The last row of the table shows the same information for the nation as a whole. The first three columns present data on the total number of union members. The last three columns display the data as a share of wage and salary workers (that is, excluding the self-employed).

In 2012, California (2.5 million union members), New York (1.8 million), and Illinois (0.8 million) had the most union members. New York (23.2 percent of employees), Alaska (22.4 percent), and Hawaii (21.6 percent) had the highest unionization rates. North Carolina (2.9 percent), Arkansas (3.2 percent), and South Carolina (3.3 percent) had the lowest unionization rates.

Figure 1 presents the change in overall union membership rate in each of the states. Between 2011 and 2012, union membership increased the most in California (up 110,000 union members), Texas (up 65,000), and Louisiana (up 30,000). Losses were biggest in Illinois (down 75,000), New York (down 65,000), and Indiana (down 56,000), with other large declines in Missouri (down 51,000), Wisconsin (down 46,000), Pennsylvania (down 45,000), Ohio (down 43,000), Connecticut (down 43,000), and Michigan (down 42,000).

Tables 2 and 3 report state union membership separately for the private sector (**Table 2**) and public sector (**Table 3**).



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In the private sector (**Figure 2**), membership fell most in Pennsylvania (down 59,000), Illinois (down 52,000), Missouri (down 47,000), and Indiana (down 38,000). The biggest gains in private sector union membership were in Texas (up 44,000), California (up 41,000), and Virginia (up 27,000).

In the public sector (**Figure 3**), membership declines were largest in New York (down 64,000), Wisconsin (down 48,000), and Ohio (down 37,000). Membership increased the most in California (up 69,000), Louisiana (up 26,000), and Texas (up 21,000).

1 The full report is available at: <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/union2.htm>.

2 The publicly available CPS microdata have a slightly different weighting scheme than the one applied to the CPS microdata used by the BLS, so there are minor discrepancies between the official BLS data and our analysis.

TABLE 1: Union Membership, All Workers, 2011-12

	Number of Union Members (thousands)			Union Membership Rate (%)		
	2011	2012	Change	2011	2012	Change (p.p)
Alabama	178	166	-12	10.0	9.2	-0.8
Alaska	68	67	-1	22.1	22.4	0.3
Arizona	149	125	-24	6.0	5.1	-0.9
Arkansas	47	37	-10	4.2	3.2	-1.0
California	2,379	2,489	110	17.1	17.2	0.1
Colorado	179	169	-10	8.2	7.8	-0.4
Connecticut	259	216	-43	16.8	14.0	-2.8
Delaware	39	39	0	10.5	10.4	-0.1
Dist. Of Columbia	23	27	4	8.3	8.6	0.3
Florida	460	440	-20	6.3	5.8	-0.5
Georgia	153	171	18	3.9	4.4	0.5
Hawaii	113	116	3	21.5	21.6	0.1
Idaho	31	29	-2	5.1	4.8	-0.3
Illinois	876	801	-75	16.2	14.6	-1.6
Indiana	302	246	-56	11.3	9.1	-2.2
Iowa	155	145	-10	11.2	10.4	-0.8
Kansas	97	85	-12	7.6	6.8	-0.8
Kentucky	150	174	24	8.9	10.0	1.1
Louisiana	77	107	30	4.5	6.2	1.7
Maine	63	64	1	11.3	11.5	0.2
Maryland	316	280	-36	12.4	10.6	-1.8
Massachusetts	422	417	-5	14.6	14.4	-0.2
Michigan	671	629	-42	17.5	16.6	-0.9
Minnesota	371	351	-20	15.1	14.2	-0.9
Mississippi	54	48	-6	5.0	4.3	-0.7
Missouri	275	224	-51	10.9	8.9	-2.0
Montana	49	54	5	13	13.9	0.9
Nebraska	65	52	-13	7.9	6.0	-1.9
Nevada	154	162	8	14.6	14.7	0.1
New Hampshire	68	65	-3	11.1	10.5	-0.6
New Jersey	615	611	-4	16.1	16.1	0.0
New Mexico	49	50	1	6.8	6.5	-0.3
New York	1,906	1,841	-65	24.1	23.2	-0.9
North Carolina	105	112	7	2.9	2.9	0.0
North Dakota	20	20	0	6.3	6.1	-0.2
Ohio	647	604	-43	13.4	12.6	-0.8
Oklahoma	94	115	21	6.4	7.5	1.1
Oregon	270	240	-30	17.1	15.7	-1.4
Pennsylvania	779	734	-45	14.6	13.5	-1.1
Rhode Island	79	81	2	17.4	17.8	0.4
South Carolina	59	58	-1	3.4	3.3	-0.1
South Dakota	18	20	2	5.1	5.6	0.5
Tennessee	115	124	9	4.6	4.8	0.2
Texas	534	599	65	5.2	5.7	0.5
Utah	67	61	-6	5.8	5.2	-0.6
Vermont	35	31	-4	12.0	10.7	-1.3
Virginia	163	159	-4	4.6	4.4	-0.2
Washington	517	513	-4	19.0	18.5	-0.5
West Virginia	93	84	-9	13.8	12.1	-1.7
Wisconsin	339	293	-46	13.3	11.2	-2.1
Wyoming	18	17	-1	7.2	6.7	-0.5
United States	14,764	14,366	-398	11.8	11.3	-0.5

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

TABLE 2: Union Membership, Private Sector, 2011-12

	Number of Union Members			Union Membership Rate (%)		
	2011	2012	Change	2011	2012	Change (p.p.)
Alabama	98,682	84,461	-14,221	6.7	5.7	-1.1
Alaska	24,658	22,293	-2,365	11.0	10.3	-0.7
Arizona	82,819	65,871	-16,948	3.9	3.2	-0.8
Arkansas	23,463	13,374	-10,089	2.5	1.4	-1.2
California	1,041,964	1,082,609	40,645	9.0	8.9	0.0
Colorado	89,918	89,808	-110	4.9	4.9	0.0
Connecticut	111,769	87,649	-24,120	8.5	6.6	-1.9
Delaware	17,243	17,787	544	5.5	5.6	0.0
Dist. Of Columbia	9,474	12,617	3,143	4.7	5.6	0.9
Florida	171,256	156,661	-14,595	2.8	2.4	-0.3
Georgia	85,702	100,726	15,024	2.7	3.1	0.4
Hawaii	59,184	62,058	2,874	14.1	14.6	0.5
Idaho	15,549	15,971	422	3.2	3.2	0.0
Illinois	496,531	444,032	-52,499	10.6	9.3	-1.3
Indiana	209,830	172,021	-37,809	8.9	7.2	-1.7
Iowa	75,196	63,610	-11,586	6.5	5.5	-1.0
Kansas	46,843	40,073	-6,770	4.6	4.0	-0.6
Kentucky	92,647	101,629	8,982	6.7	7.1	0.4
Louisiana	48,153	53,460	5,307	3.4	3.7	0.3
Maine	21,364	25,481	4,117	4.6	5.4	0.8
Maryland	129,013	109,801	-19,212	6.6	5.5	-1.1
Massachusetts	175,842	185,125	9,283	7.1	7.4	0.3
Michigan	394,813	375,158	-19,655	11.9	11.3	-0.6
Minnesota	165,270	164,152	-1,118	7.8	7.7	-0.1
Mississippi	28,967	25,690	-3,277	3.4	3.0	-0.5
Missouri	200,969	154,373	-46,596	9.2	7.2	-2.0
Montana	15,774	17,559	1,785	5.4	5.8	0.3
Nebraska	25,163	24,091	-1,072	3.8	3.4	-0.4
Nevada	99,269	107,348	8,079	10.8	11.1	0.3
New Hampshire	23,230	22,288	-942	4.4	4.2	-0.2
New Jersey	283,660	274,382	-9,278	8.7	8.5	-0.2
New Mexico	15,136	15,360	224	2.9	2.8	-0.1
New York	877,297	873,477	-3,820	13.5	13.3	-0.2
North Carolina	48,553	56,842	8,289	1.6	1.8	0.2
North Dakota	9,851	9,030	-821	3.8	3.4	-0.4
Ohio	356,091	350,973	-5,118	8.6	8.4	-0.2
Oklahoma	44,395	50,894	6,499	3.8	4.3	0.5
Oregon	116,660	108,025	-8,635	8.8	8.6	-0.3
Pennsylvania	434,095	375,415	-58,680	9.3	7.8	-1.4
Rhode Island	35,176	38,868	3,692	9.2	10.1	0.9
South Carolina	25,152	19,040	-6,112	1.8	1.3	-0.4
South Dakota	7,874	8,896	1,022	2.7	3.1	0.4
Tennessee	51,329	62,453	11,124	2.5	2.9	0.4
Texas	260,218	304,202	43,984	3.0	3.4	0.3
Utah	33,181	28,716	-4,465	3.5	2.9	-0.5
Vermont	10,611	9,801	-810	4.4	4.1	-0.3
Virginia	59,134	86,233	27,099	2.1	3.0	0.9
Washington	245,329	251,246	5,917	11.1	11.1	0.0
West Virginia	49,436	45,679	-3,757	9.7	8.4	-1.3
Wisconsin	151,595	153,758	2,163	7.0	6.9	-0.1
Wyoming	9,176	8,846	-330	5.0	4.7	-0.3
United States	7,204,504	7,029,912	-174,592	6.9	6.6	-0.3

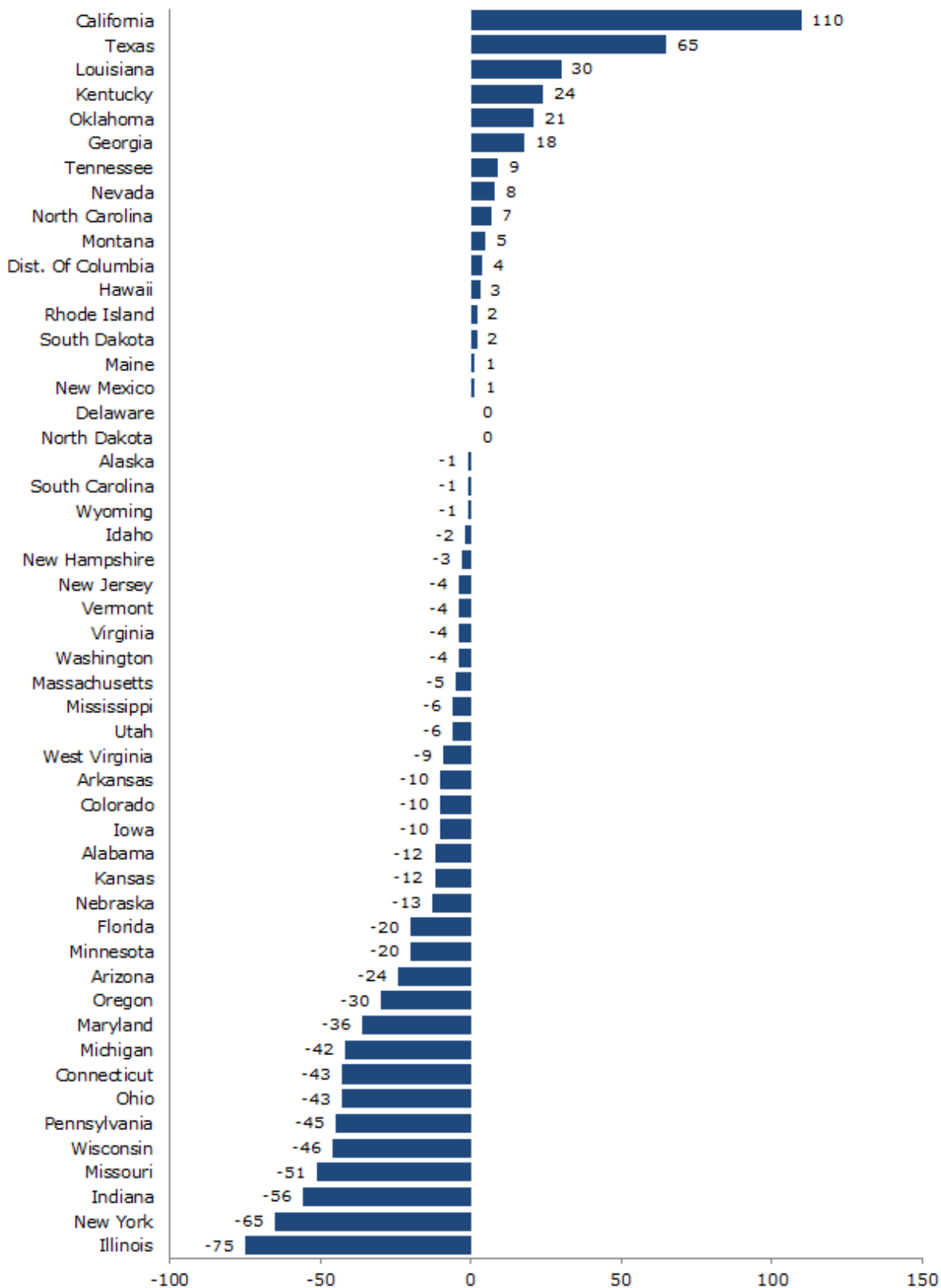
Source: CEPR analysis of CPS ORG, 2011-12.

TABLE 3: Union Membership, Public Sector, 2011-12

	Number of Union Members			Union Membership Rate (%)		
	2011	2012	Change	2011	2012	Change (p.p.)
Alabama	79,404	82,249	2,845	24.8	25.5	0.6
Alaska	42,909	44,466	1,557	53.2	54.5	1.4
Arizona	66,256	59,683	-6,573	16.6	16.5	-0.1
Arkansas	23,545	23,294	-251	12.2	12.6	0.4
California	1,333,604	1,402,430	68,826	56.9	58.7	1.8
Colorado	89,568	79,512	-10,056	26.4	23.8	-2.6
Connecticut	146,905	128,477	-18,428	64.5	59.5	-5.0
Delaware	21,357	21,609	252	36.7	37.1	0.4
Dist. Of Columbia	14,000	14,015	15	17.5	16.8	-0.7
Florida	289,406	282,141	-7,265	26.4	25.0	-1.4
Georgia	67,915	70,002	2,087	9.9	10.5	0.6
Hawaii	53,582	54,535	953	50.7	47.9	-2.8
Idaho	15,005	13,241	-1,764	14.9	12.0	-2.9
Illinois	379,349	356,413	-22,936	52.0	49.8	-2.2
Indiana	90,904	73,365	-17,539	28.3	22.8	-5.5
Iowa	80,424	80,761	337	35.9	34.5	-1.5
Kansas	49,724	45,351	-4,373	19.7	17.8	-1.9
Kentucky	56,923	72,076	15,153	19.9	23.7	3.8
Louisiana	28,041	54,267	26,226	9.8	19.6	9.8
Maine	41,356	38,757	-2,599	45.8	45.1	-0.7
Maryland	186,869	169,011	-17,858	31.0	26.6	-4.4
Massachusetts	246,250	231,214	-15,036	62.9	59.8	-3.2
Michigan	276,121	253,639	-22,482	52.0	54.3	2.3
Minnesota	205,238	186,345	-18,893	60.0	54.9	-5.1
Mississippi	24,753	22,187	-2,566	10.4	9.0	-1.3
Missouri	74,042	69,721	-4,321	21.4	19.2	-2.2
Montana	33,067	36,930	3,863	38.4	41.7	3.3
Nebraska	40,214	27,350	-12,864	25.4	18.2	-7.2
Nevada	54,335	54,994	659	40.9	40.3	-0.7
New Hampshire	45,207	43,008	-2,199	48.8	48.2	-0.6
New Jersey	332,040	336,815	4,775	58.9	59.7	0.8
New Mexico	34,126	34,977	851	17.4	15.3	-2.1
New York	1,027,098	962,982	-64,116	72.2	71.1	-1.2
North Carolina	55,919	54,637	-1,282	9.1	8.8	-0.3
North Dakota	10,278	10,934	656	16.5	16.4	-0.2
Ohio	290,266	253,353	-36,913	42.6	39.7	-2.9
Oklahoma	49,119	63,608	14,489	16.6	18.8	2.2
Oregon	152,541	132,632	-19,909	59.4	49.9	-9.5
Pennsylvania	344,466	356,839	12,373	51.8	54.6	2.9
Rhode Island	43,557	42,265	-1,292	62.6	60.8	-1.8
South Carolina	34,332	39,369	5,037	11.8	12.3	0.5
South Dakota	10,434	10,631	197	16.3	16.5	0.2
Tennessee	64,132	61,880	-2,252	15.3	14.7	-0.6
Texas	272,759	293,911	21,152	17.1	19.0	2.0
Utah	33,321	32,112	-1,209	17.6	15.8	-1.8
Vermont	24,303	21,162	-3,141	48.7	43.3	-5.3
Virginia	104,008	73,279	-30,729	14.1	10.1	-4.0
Washington	271,783	261,611	-10,172	52.4	51.1	-1.2
West Virginia	43,445	38,241	-5,204	26.9	24.9	-2.0
Wisconsin	187,064	139,055	-48,009	50.3	37.4	-12.9
Wyoming	8,858	8,138	-720	13.5	13.1	-0.4
United States	7,550,122	7,319,474	-230,648	37.0	35.9	-1.0

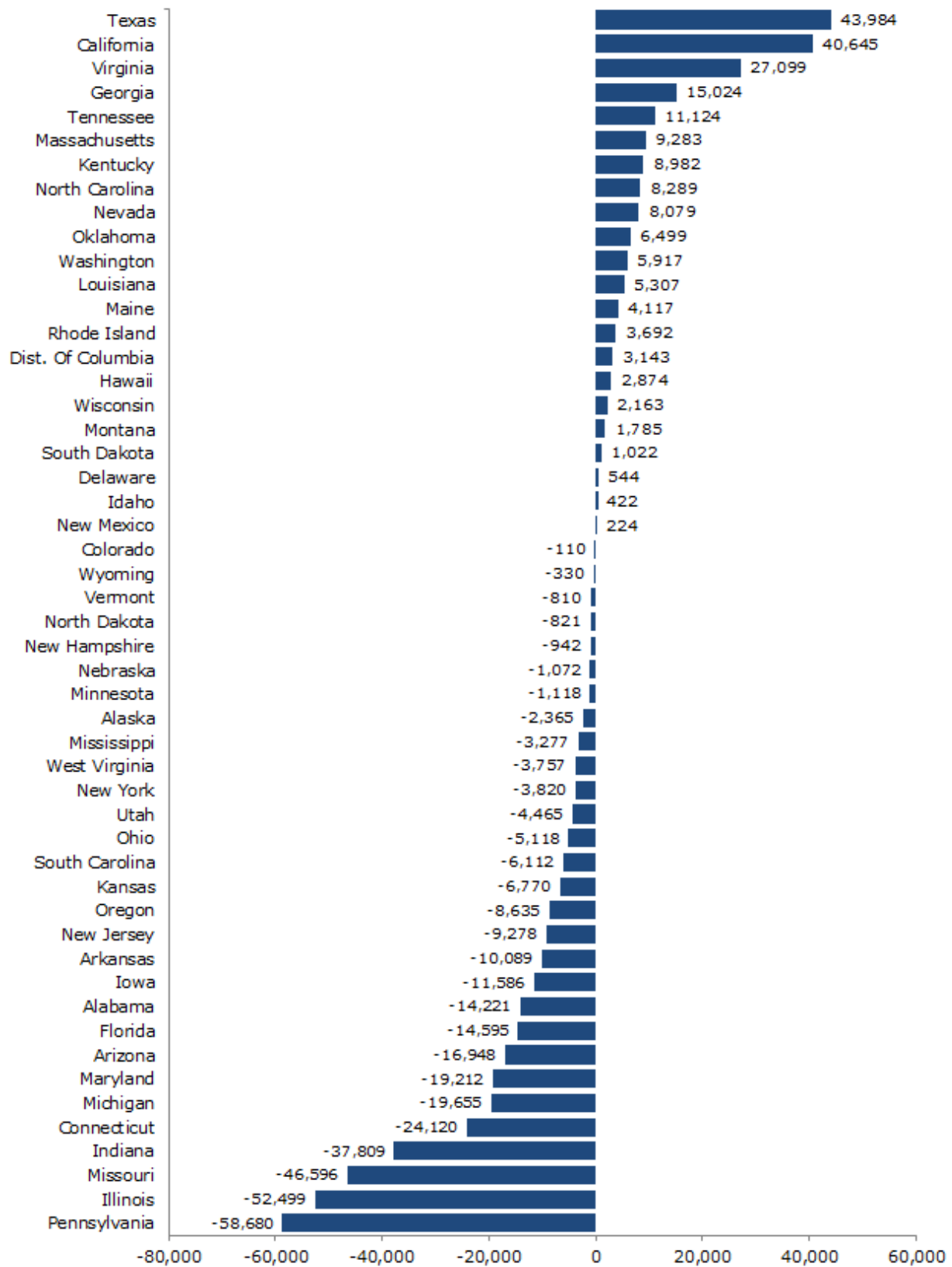
Source: CEPR analysis of CPS ORG, 2011-12.

FIGURE 1: Change in Union Membership, 2011-2012, All Workers
(Numbers in thousands)



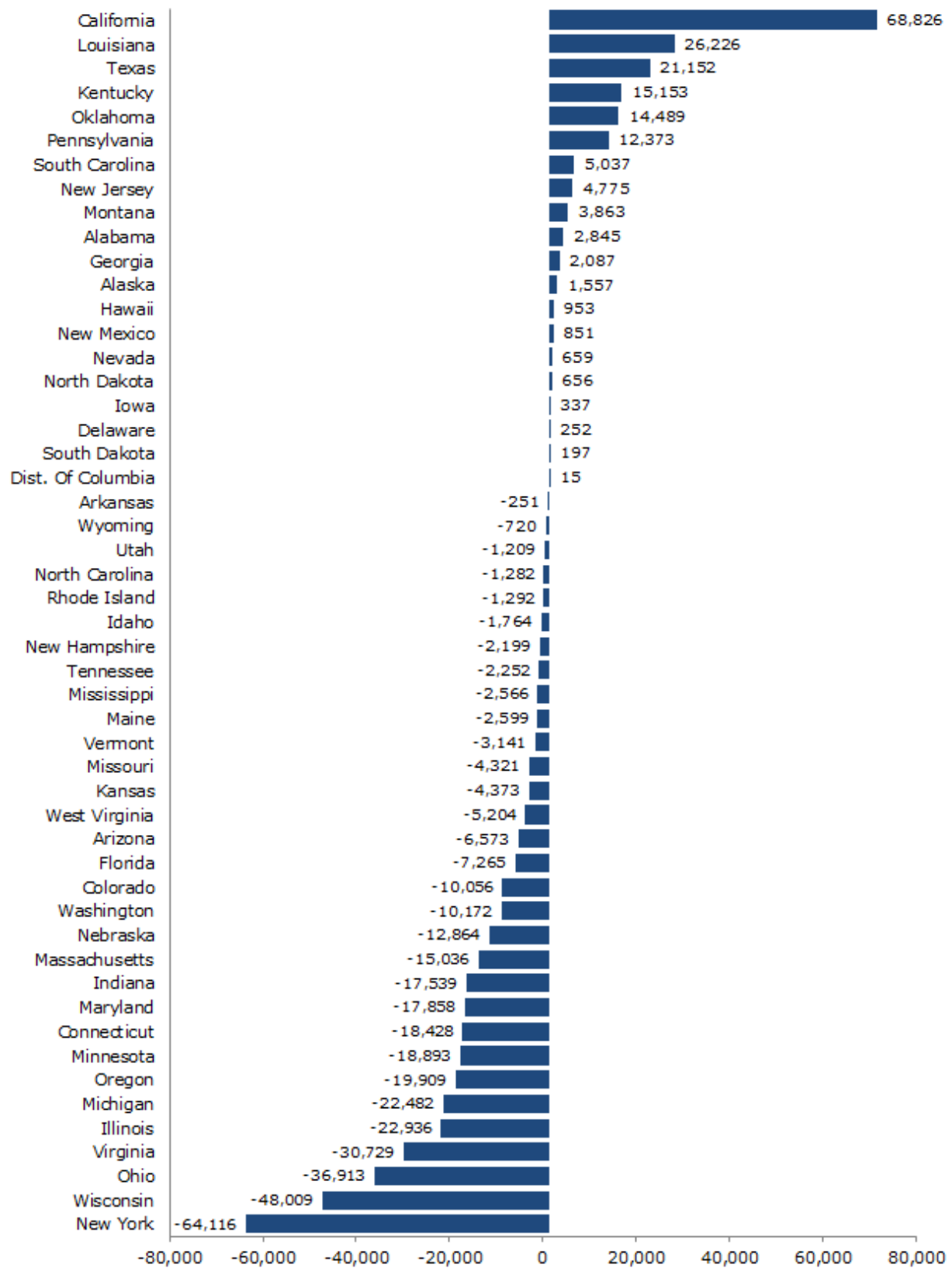
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

FIGURE 2: Change in Union Membership, 2011-2012, Private Sector



Source: CEPR analysis of CPS ORG.

FIGURE 3: Change in Union Membership, 2011-2012, Public Sector



Source: CEPR analysis of CPS ORG.