

UNION MEMBERSHIP IN CANADA—2009 (Revised January 15, 2010)

Strategic Policy, Analysis, and Workplace Information Directorate
Labour Program, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada

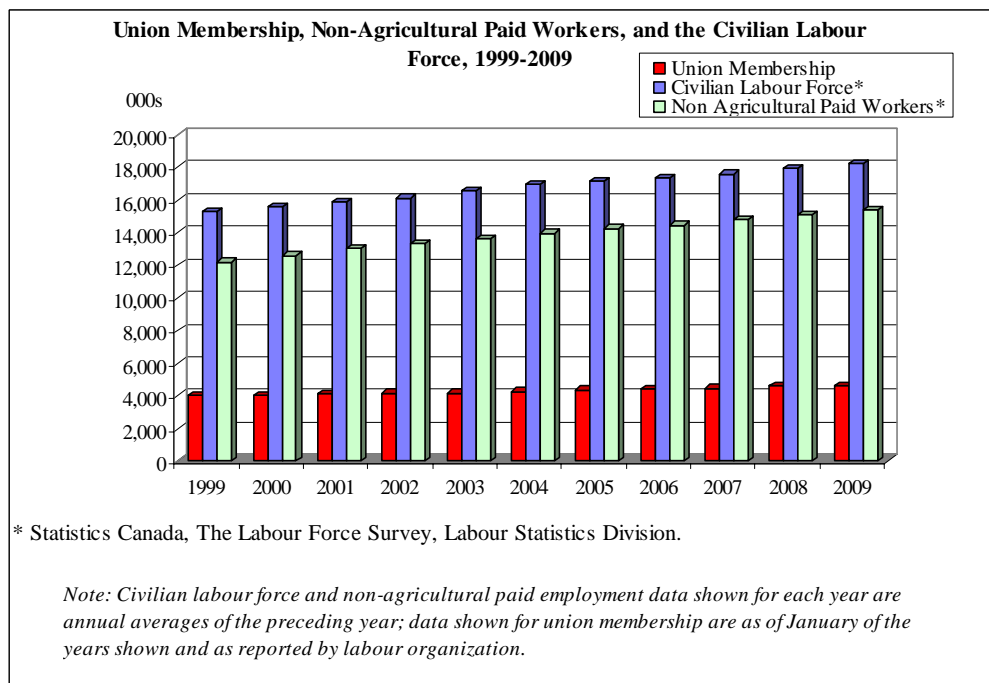
Each year, Workplace Information Division conducts an update of international, national, and other labour organizations as well as independent unions consisting of a bargaining unit with 50 or more members in Canada.

The unions and labour organizations' contact information, affiliation, membership size, and number of union locals are made available in a searchable database, the [Directory of Labour Organizations in Canada](#). The data on membership size and union affiliations is also tabulated to provide a portrait of labour organizations in Canada, as presented below.

2009 Results

The information obtained indicates that at the beginning of 2009, 4,605,193 workers were union members. Consequently, the unionization rate or union density (union membership as a percentage of non-agricultural paid employment) is 29.9% for 2009. In comparison, Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey's unionization rate of paid employees is estimated at 31.6% for the first 6 months of 2009.

Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey, is a sample survey based on self-reports that can be analysed by sex, age, and other characteristics. For more information see [Perspectives on Labour and Income—Unionization](#).



The results of the survey show that national unions represent 67.0% of membership; whereas international unions (those headquartered outside of Canada) represent 27.6%. For their part, independent local organizations represent 3.8% of total union membership.

The Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) has the largest membership affiliation at 70.0%. This represents a slight decline from last year's share of 70.7%, while its total membership affiliation decreased from the previous year by 0.75%. This represents a total decrease of 24,539 members. Furthermore, the Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CSN) represents 6.5%, Centrale des syndicats du Québec (CSQ) 2.4%, Centrale des syndicats démocratiques (CSD) 1.5%, and the Confederation of Canadian Unions 0.2% of the total membership affiliation.

Nine unions, representing 4.3% of the overall number of national and international unions, have a membership over 100,000 and represent 50.5% of the union membership. On the other hand, 150 unions, representing 71.4% of national and international unions have less than 10,000 members and represent 8.1% of the union membership.

Year	Union Membership	Civilian Labour Force *	Non-Agricultural Paid Workers *	Union Membership as a Percentage of Civilian Labour Force	Union Membership as a Percentage of Non-Agricultural Paid Workers
	(000s)	(000s)	(000s)	%	%
1999	4,010	15,316	12,212	26.2	32.8
2000	4,058	15,588	12,603	26.0	32.2
2001	4,111	15,847	13,027	25.9	31.6
2002	4,174	16,110	13,304	25.9	31.4
2003	4,178	16,579	13,650	25.2	30.6
2004	4,261	16,959	13,965	25.1	30.5
2005	4,381	17,182	14,265	25.5	30.7
2006	4,441	17,343	14,464	25.6	30.7
2007	4,480	17,593	14,782	25.5	30.3
2008	4,592	17,945	15,111	25.6	30.4
2009	4,605	18,245	15,383	25.2	29.9

* Statistics Canada, The Labour Force Survey, Labour Statistics Division.

Note: Civilian labour force and non-agricultural paid employment data shown for each year are annual averages of the preceding year; data shown for union membership are as of January of the years shown and as reported by labour organizations.

Source: Strategic Policy, Analysis, and Workplace Information Directorate, Labour Program, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada.

Table 2
Unions with Largest Membership—2009

Name and Affiliation	Membership
Canadian Union of Public Employees - CLC	570,000
National Union of Public and General Employees - CLC	340,000
United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union - AFL-CIO/CLC	280,000
United Food and Commercial Workers Union - CtW/CLC	245,327
National Automobile, Aerospace, Transportation and General Workers Union of Canada (CAW Canada) - CLC	225,000
Public Service Alliance Canada - CLC	182,500
Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada - CLC	128,564
Fédération de la santé et des services - CSN	122,193
Teamsters Canada - CtW/CLC	108,516
Service Employees International Union - CtW/CLC	92,781
Alberta Union of Provincial Employees - Ind.	75,450
Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario - CLC	74,284
FTQ Construction - CLC	69,914
Laborers' International Union of North America - CtW	68,650
Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation - CLC	63,113
Central des syndicats démocratiques (Syndicats à charte directe) - CSD	61,642
Fédération des syndicats de l'enseignement - CSQ	60,000
Fédération interprofessionnelle de la santé du Québec - Ind.	58,173
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers - AFL-CIO/CLC	57,130
Canadian Union of Postal Workers - CLC	56,456
Ontario Nurses' Association - CLC	54,000
Christian Labour Association Canada - Ind.	51,238
United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America - CtW/CLC	50,000

Name and Affiliation	Membership
Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada - Ind.	49,925
United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada - AFL-CIO/CLC	49,905
Fédération des employés de services publics inc. - CSN	48,000
UNITE HERE Canada - CtW/CLC	46,000
British Columbia Teachers' Federation - CLC	45,591
Alberta Teachers' Association - Ind.	42,703
International Union of Operating Engineers - AFL-CIO/CLC	41,993
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers - AFL-CIO/CLC	40,880
Syndicat de la fonction publique du Québec - Ind.	40,598
Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association - CLC	37,500
Fédération du commerce inc. - CSN	36,274
Canadian Office and Professional Employees Union - CLC	34,000
<p>Affiliations' Legend:</p> <p>AFL-CIO - American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations</p> <p>CCU - Confederation of Canadian Unions</p> <p>CLC - Canadian Labour Congress</p> <p>CSD - Centrale des syndicats démocratiques</p> <p>CSN - Confédération des syndicats nationaux</p> <p>CSQ - Centrale des syndicats du Québec</p> <p>CtW - Change to Win</p> <p>Ind. - Independent Local Organization</p>	

Source: Strategic Policy, Analysis, and Workplace Information Directorate, Labour Program, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada.

Table 3
Union Membership by Congress Affiliation—2009

Congress Affiliation	Membership	%
Canadian Labour Congress (CLC)	3,223,951	70.0
CLC only	2,057,691	44.7
AFL-CIO/CLC	669,581	14.5
CtW / CLC	496,624	10.8
Directly Chartered Unions	55	0.0
Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CSN)	304,081	6.5
Federations	298,018	6.4
Directly Chartered Unions	6,000	0.1
Centrale des syndicats du Québec (CSQ)	108,991	2.4
Centrale des syndicats démocratiques (CSD)	67,400	1.5
Federations	5,758	0.1
Directly Chartered Unions	61,642	1.3
Confederation of Canadian Unions (CCU)	7,390	0.2
American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) only	36,040	0.8
Change to Win (CtW) only	68,650	1.5
Unaffiliated National Unions	608,946	13.2
Unaffiliated International Unions	1,930	0.0
Independent Local Organizations	177,787	3.9
TOTAL	4,605,193	100.0
<i>Note: Due to rounding, total percentages do not equal 100%.</i>		

Source: Strategic Policy, Analysis, and Workplace Information Directorate, Labour Program, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada.

Table 4
Composition of Unions—2009

Type of Union	Unions		Membership	
	Number	%	Number	%
National	173	22.7	3,086,197	67.0
International	37	4.8	1,272,825	27.6
Independent Local Organizations	264	34.6	177,787	3.9
Directly Chartered Unions	290	38.0	67,697	1.5
TOTAL	764	100.0	4,605,193	100.0

Note: Due to rounding, total percentages do not equal 100%.

Source: Strategic Policy, Analysis, and Workplace Information Directorate, Labour Program, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada.

Table 5
National and International Unions by Size—2009

Membership Range	National Unions		International Unions		Total	
	Unions	Membership	Unions	Membership	Unions	Membership
under 999	63	23,082	6	2,983	69	26,065
1,000–9,999	69	270,733	12	52,326	81	323,059
10,000–29,999	18	326,906	8	136,334	26	443,240
30,000–49,999	8	334,591	4	178,778	12	513,369
50,000–99,999	9	562,628	4	268,561	13	813,189
100,000 and over	6	1,568,257	3	633,843	9	2,202,100
TOTAL	173	3,086,197	37	1,272,825	210	4,359,022

Note: Independent Local Organizations and Directly chartered unions are not included.

Source: Strategic Policy, Analysis, and Workplace Information Directorate, Labour Program, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada.

Table 6
Union Membership by Type of Union and Affiliation—2009

Type of Union and Affiliation	Unions	Locals	Membership	
			Number	%
National Unions	173	10,810	3,086,197	67.0
Canadian Labour Congress (CLC)	40	7,120	2,057,691	44.7
Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CSN)	11	1,846	298,018	6.5
Centrale des syndicats du Québec (CSQ)	13	309	108,991	2.4
Confederation of Canadian Unions (CCU)	5	25	7,390	0.2
Centrale des syndicats démocratiques (CSD)	1	63	5,758	0.1
Unaffiliated Unions	103	1,447	608,946	13.2
International Unions	37	3,837	1,272,825	27.6
American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) / Canadian Labour Congress (CLC)	26	3,560	669,581	14.5
American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) only	4	72	36,040	0.8
Change to Win (CtW)/Canadian Labour Congress (CLC)	4	169	496,624	10.8
Change to Win (CtW) only	1	29	68,650	1.5
Unaffiliated Unions	2	7	1,930	0.0
Independent Local Organizations	264	9	177,787	3.9
Directly Chartered Unions	290	0	67,697	1.5
Canadian Labour Congress (CLC)	2	0	55	0.0
Centrale des syndicats démocratiques (CSD)	287	0	61,642	1.3
Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CSN)	1	0	6,000	0.1
TOTAL	764	14,647	4,605,193	100.0

Note: Due to rounding, total percentage does not equal 100%.

Source: Strategic Policy, Analysis, and Workplace Information Directorate, Labour Program, Human Resources and Skills Canada.

Table 7
Canadian Labour Congress Membership by Affiliation—2009

Type of Union and Affiliation	Membership	%
National Unions	2,057,691	63.8
Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) only	2,057,691	63.8
International Unions	1,166,205	36.2
American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) / Canadian Labour Congress (CLC)	669,581	20.8
Change to Win (CtW) / Canadian Labour Congress (CLC)	496,624	15.4
Directly Chartered Unions	55	0.0
TOTAL	3,223,951	100.0

Note: Due to rounding, total percentage does not equal 100%

Source: Strategic Policy, Analysis, and Workplace Information Directorate, Labour Program, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada.

Legislative and Regulatory Changes Affecting Unions and Union Membership

CUPE v. New Brunswick – June 17, 2009: This recent decision by the Court of Queen’s Bench of New Brunswick struck down the statutory exclusion of “casuals” from the definition of “employee” under the *Public Service Labour Relations Act*. This provision, among other things, excluded “casuals” from union membership and the collective bargaining regime more broadly. Citing the Supreme Court decision in *Dunmore v. Ontario*, Justice Paulette Garnett ruled that “casuals” constituted “a vulnerable group as were the agricultural workers in *Dunmore*,” and gave the province one year to amend the Act accordingly. In a press release, CUPE estimated that the union will gain nearly 6,000 members as a result of this decision. The province of New Brunswick announced that it will not appeal the ruling.

Mounted Police Association of Ontario v. Canada (Attorney General) – April 6, 2009: The Ontario Superior Court ruled that a section of the *RCMP Act* which prohibits members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police from forming a union violated the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. Justice Ian MacDonnell’s ruling explicitly identified the RCMP’s internal Staff Relations Representative Program, a consultative mechanism that represented the interests of RCMP officers to senior management, as an “entity created by management to avoid unionization,” and gave the federal government 18 months to amend the *RCMP Act* so as to bring it into compliance with his ruling. As of November 17, 2009, the Government has yet to announce if it will appeal this ruling.

Quebec – *Act respecting the representation of certain home childcare providers and the negotiation process for their group agreements, and amending various legislative provisions:*

In response to an October 2008 decision of the Quebec Superior Court which struck down the statutory exclusion of providers of government-funded childcare in their homes from the collective bargaining rights of the *Labour Code*, Quebec's legislature passed the *Act respecting the representation of certain home childcare providers* to bring provincial legislation into compliance with the court's ruling. The Act extends collective bargaining rights to childcare providers and outlines a labour relations framework for this occupational group. It received Royal Assent on June 19, 2009.

Affiliation and Structure Changes to National and International Unions

Through a merger, Canadian Marine Officers' Union brought their 925 members to the United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union as local 9538.

New Unions

- Association des chauffeurs de Transport Couture et Fils Ltée (February 2009)

The *Directory of Labour Organizations in Canada*, a searchable database, provides information such as the affiliation, membership, telephone and fax numbers as well as e-mail and Web site addresses of the various labour organizations. For more information, visit [Directory of Labour Organizations in Canada](#).