




TRADE UNION MEMBERS AND UNION DENSITY IN OECD COUNTRIES





Sources and definitions

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General

Trade union density rates (TUD) are based on surveys, wherever possible. Where such data were not available, trade union membership and density in European Union countries, Norway and Switzerland were calculated using administrative data adjusted for non-active and self-employed members by Prof. Jelle Visser, University of Amsterdam, along the model used in the [ICTWSS Database](#) (Visser, 2013); Ebbinghaus and Visser (E&V, 2000); and in OECD (1991), divided by the corresponding total number of wage and salary earners taken from OECD *Labour Force Statistics*.

	Administrative data	Survey data
 Australia	Until 1975, figures are from administrative data reported in ABS, Trade Union Statistics (ABS Cat. No. 6323.0) which were compiled from questionnaires completed by individual trade unions in respect of their membership.	Figures in 1976, 1982, 1986, 1990 and 1992 onwards are based on the August labour force statistics in ABS, Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership and ABS, Trade Union Members, Australia (ABS Cat. No. 6310.0 and 6325.0, respectively). This survey collects characteristics only of respondents who are trade union members in relation to their main job.
 Austria	Administrative data from the Austrian trade union confederation (ÖGB) adjusted by E&V for employed members (<i>i.e.</i> excluding unemployed and retired members). From 1997 onwards, the figures have been revised by Jelle Visser.	
 Belgium	Administrative data from the three main Belgian trade union confederations (CSC, FGTB and CGSLB), corrected downwards (see E&V, chapter on Belgium) and adjusted for employed members. The correction for unemployed members has been made on the assumption that 80% of the unemployed (based on <i>OECD Labour Force Statistics</i>) are members of a trade union.	

	Administrative data	Survey data
 Canada	<p>Until 1983, the data are from a survey of unions, affiliated and unaffiliated, consisting of a single bargaining unit and 50 members or more (<i>Workplace Information Directorate, Labour Program, Human Resources Development Canada</i>). From 1984 to 1995, data were supplied by Statistics Canada, on the basis of the Corporations and Labour Unions Returns Act (CALURA) taking into account only employees belonging to a trade organisation of more than 100 members.</p>	<p>Starting in 1997, data are from the <i>Labour Force Survey</i>.</p>
 Chile	<p>Series available only for the employees of the private sector. Data from the Dirección del Trabajo, División de Relaciones Laborales (http://www.dt.gob.cl/documentacion/1612/w3-propertyvalue-22777.html). Figures of the total number of employees from the INE, Encuesta Nacional de Empleo. Elaboración: Dirección del Trabajo, División de Estudios.</p>	
 Czech Republic	<p>Estimates by J. Visser based on research done on behalf of the European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, as part of its “representativeness” studies. These studies were carried out by the Institut des Sciences du Travail of the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, in cooperation with local researchers, and later combined with the research of Mark Hall, of the Dublin Foundation, on behalf of the EIRO network.</p>	
 Denmark	<p>Administrative data on aggregate membership of affiliated and independent unions (from the <i>Statistical Yearbook</i>) adjusted by E&V for employed members. The assumption is that 80% of the unemployed are members of a trade union.</p>	



Estonia

Administrative data

Visser, 1991, 1992, 1993 and 2006 combined with recent administrative data on union organization and membership from the Dublin Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Carley, 2004) and from the European Social Survey (waves of 2002 and 2004) for countries in Eastern and Central Europe (for the sources and methods: R. Jowell and Central Coordinating Team (2003): European Social Survey 2002/2003. Technical Report. London: Centre for Comparative Social Surveys, City University, and <http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org>

Survey data



Finland

Administrative data on aggregate membership of affiliated and independent unions (from the *Statistical Yearbook*), adjusted by E&V for employed members, with the help of surveys on the structure of union membership conducted by the Labour Ministry in 1989, 1994 and 2001.



France

Administrative data from the main French union confederations (CFDT, CGT, CGT-FO, CFTC, CFECGC, FEN/UNSA, Groupe de Dix), adjusted by E&V for employed members, using both financial and survey data.

For 1996 to 2005, data on union density are also available (not in this database) from the “*Enquêtes permanentes sur les conditions de vie de ménages*,” a representative household survey conducted by the French official statistical office, INSEE. See Loup Wolff, “[Le paradoxe du syndicalisme français](#)”, DARES, Premières synthèses et informations, no. 16.1, April 2008.



Germany

Administrative data on aggregate membership of affiliated and independent unions, adjusted by E&V for active members. Series until 1990 covers West Germany (with West-Berlin).



Greece

Administrative data from membership of unions affiliated to GSEE and ADEDY (Public sector) and various sources (European Trade Union Confederation, EIRO and survey of the Institut des sciences du travail of the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium), adjusted by E&V for employed members.



Hungary

Administrative data

Estimates by J. Visser based on research done on behalf of the European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, as part of its "representativeness" studies. These studies were carried out by the Institut des Sciences du Travail of the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, in cooperation with local researchers, and later combined with the research of Mark Hall, of the Dublin Foundation, on behalf of the EIRO network.

Survey data



Iceland

Until 1992, administrative data on aggregate active membership of affiliated and independent unions reported in the Statistical Yearbook, adjusted for active members. For recent years the estimations are from Visser (2011).



Ireland

Administrative data of trade union membership of affiliated and independent unions, including members in UK-based unions working or residing the Republic of Ireland, excluding members in Irish unions working in Northern Ireland, based on annual returns to the Register. Total membership is deflated by 10%, for retired, self-employed and unemployed workers (see OECD, 1991) in order to obtain a series for employed members.

From 1995 onwards, figures are from the *Quarterly National Household Survey*, Union Membership, Central Statistics Office. For more details, see: <http://www.cso.ie/en/qnhs/releasesandpublications/qnhs-specialmodules/>



Italy

Administrative data on aggregate membership of the three main union confederations CGIL, CISL and UIL, without the unknown membership of independent confederations and unions (estimated in the range of an additional 10-20 % of total membership). Employed members are estimated as active members (as reported in E&V), minus the unemployed members reported by trade unions. Data for 1992-2002 were revised according to new estimates from CESOS (Centro di Studi Economici Sociali e Sindicali, see: <http://www.cesos.org/>).



Japan

Administrative data

Administrative data on total (employed) membership, based on the Basic Survey on Trade Unions (until 1983) and the Survey on Industrial Relations (from 1984 onwards), reported in the Japanese Yearbook of Labour Statistics. See also:

<http://www.stat.go.jp/english/data/chouki/19.htm>.

http://stat.jil.go.jp/jil63/plsql/JTK0300?P_BUNYA=8010

Survey data



Korea

Administrative data on total (employed) membership, based on survey of unions and union members, compiled by the Ministry of Labor and reported in the *Korea Statistical Yearbook*. See also the website of the Korea International Labour Foundation:

http://www.koilaf.net/KFupload/kfpublication_file/Labor%20Situation_2013.pdf



Luxembourg

Administrative data on aggregate membership of main confederations organising blue and white collar employees, and independent unions of financial and managerial staff, clerical workers and white collar employees, private and public sector from trade union websites, EIRO and the European Trade Union Confederation. Active membership is estimated on the basis of Belgian data on membership among retired workers.



Mexico

From 2005 onwards, data are based on the *Encuesta Nacional De Empleo y Ocupacion* from INEGI (second quarters in 2005-09 and first quarters from 2010 onwards). From 1992 to 2004, the series are estimated by the OECD by using the results from the *Encuesta Nacional de Ingresos y Gastos de los Hogares* ([ENIGH](#)), 1984-2005.



Netherlands

Until 1991 data are based on administrative data on aggregate membership of affiliated and independent unions, reported by Statistics Netherlands, based on biennial surveys of all unions known to the Office. Figures have been adjusted by E&V to employed members (i.e. excluding self-employed, retired and unemployed workers). From 1980 onwards, the series are corrected by adding union members holding small part-time jobs (under 12 hours per week).

From 1992 the data are from the Labour Force Survey (*Enquête Beroepsbevolking*) conducted by Statistics Netherlands (<http://www.cbs.nl/nl-NL/menu/themas/arbeid-sociale-zekerheid/cijfers/incidenteel/maatwerk/2010-organisatiegraad-werknemers-cm.htm>)

Administrative data**Survey data****New Zealand**

Administrative data from the Union Membership Return Report published by the Department of labour (DoL) <http://www.societies.govt.nz/cms/registered-unions/annual-return-membership-reports/union-membership-return-report-2013>

**Norway**

Administrative data on aggregate membership of affiliated and independent unions reported in the *Statistical Yearbook*, without independently employed members of professional associations, and adjusted by E&V for employed members.

**Poland**




Estimates by J. Visser based on research done on behalf of the European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, as part of its “representativeness” studies. These studies were carried out by the Institut des Sciences du Travail of the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, in cooperation with local researchers, and later combined with the research of Mark Hall, of the Dublin Foundation, on behalf of the EIRO network.



**Portugal**

Estimated membership series, total membership (until 1990), based on various administrative sources (see E&V). 1995 and 1997 figures are based on a survey of the two major confederations, and report only employed members. Recent years estimated on the basis of administrative data from the two major union confederations.

**Slovak Republic**

Estimates by J. Visser based on research done on behalf of the European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, as part of its “representativeness” studies. These studies were carried out by the Institut des Sciences du Travail of the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, in cooperation with local researchers, and later combined with the research of Mark Hall, of the Dublin Foundation, on behalf of the EIRO network.

	Administrative data	Survey data
 Slovenia	<p>Visser, 1991, 1992, 1993 and 2006 combined with recent administrative data on union organization and membership from the Dublin Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Carley, 2004) and from the European Social Survey (waves of 2002 and 2004) for countries in Eastern and Central Europe (for the sources and methods: R. Jowell and Central Coordinating Team (2003): European Social Survey 2002/2003. Technical Report. London: Centre for Comparative Social Surveys, City University, and http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org.</p>	
 Spain	<p>Administrative data based on aggregate membership from UGT, CC.OO, ELA.STV, USO and CISCOSIF, adjusted by E&V for employed members.</p>	
 Sweden	<p>Until 1986, data are from administrative source on aggregate membership of affiliated and independent unions, adjusted by E&V for employed members.</p>	<p>From 1987, figures are from the <i>Swedish Labour Force Survey</i>.</p>
 Switzerland	<p>Administrative data on aggregate membership of affiliated and independent unions, as reported in the Statistical Yearbook, adjusted by E&V for employed members. Additional data for recent years provided by D. Oesch of the SGB.</p>	
 Turkey	<p>Estimates provided by A. Çelik and K. Lordoglu in "'Türkiye' de resmi sendikalaşma istatistiklerinin soruları üstüne", Çalışma ve Toplum, 2006/2.</p> <p>From 2007 onwards, the data are estimates based on the administrative data on the collective agreements concluded collected by the Ministry of Labour. See page 90 of this document: http://www.csgb.gov.tr/csgbPortal/ShowProperty/WLP%20Repository/csgb/dosyalar/istatistikler/calisma_hayati_2012http://www.csgb.gov.tr/csgbPortal/ShowProperty/WLPRepository/csgb/dosyalar/kitap/kitap02_6356</p>	

	Administrative data	Survey data
 United Kingdom	<p>Administrative data on aggregate membership of affiliated and independent unions (without membership in the Irish Republic but with members in Irish Unions working in Northern Ireland), based on returns to the Official Registrar, published by the Department of Trade and Industry. Total membership, as reported in E&V, is deflated by 10% for retired, self-employed and unemployed workers (see OECD, 1991), in order to obtain a series for employed members.</p>	<p>Labour Force survey data from 1995 onwards, revised on the basis of the 2001 census and published by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) See: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/trade-union-statistics-2013</p>
 United States	<p>1960-1980: administrative data based on union returns established by the BLS.</p>	<p>1973-1981: May Current Population Survey (CPS); 1983 ff: CPS Outgoing Rotation Group (ORG) Earnings Files. For recent data on both CPS indicators, see www.bls.gov/news.release/union2.t01.htm</p>

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