

One-fifth of American Wage Earners Are in Trade Unions

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higher percentage of organization. The total percentage of organization is in both census years considerably reduced by the absence of many large labor organizations in trade, professional service, clerical occupations, domestic and personal service, and public service.

"Membership in the manual workers group represented almost 28 and 15 per cent of the wage earners in those groups in 1920 and 1910 whereas membership among the non-factory workers was in the same years less than 5 and 2 per cent of all persons engaged in those occupations. Growth, from 1910 to 1920, occurred in all groups, but it was greatest in manufacturing, transportation, clerical occupations, and public service; although the rise in mining and in the building trades was also considerable.

Variations Among Industries

"Differences in the extent of organization among the industries that comprise these major divisions are quite as striking and as significant as the differences among the major divisions themselves. At the same time that the whole mining group showed an increase in the extent of organization from 27 to 41, coal mines increased their organization from 35 per cent to nearly 51, while trade unionism in copper, gold and other mines actually had a lower percentage of organization in 1920 than in 1910.

"In 1910 the workers in the salt, oil and natural gas industry had no union at all; in 1920 there was a substantial organization with a membership of over 20,000. Such analysis can be pushed even further. Thus the average number of coal miners in the United States in 1920 was 784,621, of which 639,547 were bituminous and 145,074 anthracite miners. It is known that the anthracite miners have a much higher degree of organization than the soft coal miners. Bituminous miners were in 1920 probably less than 50 per cent organized.

Clothing Trades Strongest

"Extent of organization in manufacturing industries runs the whole gamut from less than 1 per cent of organization in the chemical and allied industries to more than 57 per cent in clothing. The tremendous rise in the percentage of organization in this industry is, in fact, the most striking phenomenon in the whole group of manufacturing industries.

"The clothing industry was converted from one of the weakly organized industries in 1910 into one of the most strongly organized in 1920. This is attributable, mainly, as shown in the discussion of the growth of membership in this group, to the rise of the International Ladies' Garment Workers after their strike in 1910 and to the rapid increase in membership of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers after their organization in the last months of 1914."

List of Bureau's Reports is Increased to Six Titles

WITH the addition of *The Growth of American Trade Unions, 1880-1923*, the list of official reports published under the auspices of the National Bureau of Economic Research, Inc., is increased to six. A complete list of the titles, with specifications and prices, follows. The prices have been fixed at the lowest practicable figures, and are intended to cover printing and distribution costs only.

Income in the United States, Volume I. A summary of an investigation of the Amount and Distribution of Income in the United States 1909-1919 intended for readers who are primarily interested in the results. Size 7½ by 5¼ inches, 152 pages, with preface, 29 tables, 31 charts and indexed. Bound in cloth. \$1.58 postpaid. (Fourth printing.)

Income in the United States, Volume II. A report giving in full the methods and estimates on which the results shown in Volume I are based. Size 9¼ by 6¼ inches, 440 pages, 222 tables, 35 charts and indexed. Bound in cloth. \$5.15 postpaid. (Out of print.)

Distribution of Income by States in 1919. A study of the share of each state in the national income with a special analysis of the amount and relative importance of farmers' income. Size 9¼ by 6¼ inches, 32 pages, with preface and 9 tables. Bound in cloth. \$1.30 postpaid. (Third printing.)

Business Cycles and Unemployment. Results of an investigation made for the President's Conference on Unemployment. By the staff of the Bureau with 16 collaborators. Twenty-one topics covered. This report summarizes the known facts of unemployment and describes the various methods suggested to control the business cycle and alleviate cyclical unemployment. Size 9 by 6 inches, 405 pages, with 56 tables, 56 charts, and indexed. Bound in cloth. \$4.10 postpaid.

Employment Hours and Earnings in Prosperity and Depression. Results of an inquiry conducted by the National Bureau of Economic Research, with the help of the U. S. Bureau of Markets and Crop Estimates and the Bureau of the Census, for the President's Conference on Unemployment. Designed to meet the special needs of all persons interested in the study of labor conditions. Gives full details of investigation summarized in *Business Cycles and Unemployment* to which it is companion volume. Size 9 by 6 inches, 147 pages, illustrated with 75 tables, 11 charts, and indexed. Bound in cloth. \$3.10 postpaid. (Second printing.)

The Growth of American Trade Unions, 1880-1923. Results of a comprehensive investigation of trade union membership year by year; its fluctuations with the business cycle; effects of World War conditions; women in trade unions. Contains also a detailed analysis of the total working population. Size 9 by 6 inches, 170 pages, illustrated with 27 tables, 16 charts, and indexed. Bound in cloth. \$3 postpaid.

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An Organization
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One-fifth of U. S. Wage Earners in Trade Unions

Proportionate Strength Doubled in Decade, Analysis of Working Population Shows

COMPARED with the total numbers of wage earners in this country, trade union strength as measured by its membership was relatively twice as great in 1920 as in 1910, according to a report just issued by the National Bureau of Economic Research, under the title *The Growth of American Trade Unions, 1880-1923*.

The rate of growth during this decade, this report shows, was approximately the same whether membership is compared with the industrial wage-earning population of the country or with the combined industrial and agricultural wage-earning population.

Union Growth Measured

In a copyrighted table that summarizes some of the results of this exhaustive investigation upon which Dr. Leo Wolman and his assistants, under the general direction of Dr. Wesley C. Mitchell and Dr. Edwin F. Gay, co-directors of the National Bureau of Economic Research, have been engaged for over a year, it is shown that at the end of the decade one-fifth of the wage earners of the country were members of labor organizations, whereas in 1910 something like one-tenth were so organized.

In other words, in 1920, after ten years of very substantial growth in numbers about four-fifths of the general category of wage earners were not members of unions. The figures in detail follow:

	Total Wage Earners	Trade Union Membership in U. S.	Per Cent Organized
1920	26,080,689	4,881,200	18.7
1910	22,406,714	2,101,502	9.4
	Total Wage Earners Excluding Agriculture	Trade Union Membership in U. S.	Per Cent Organized
1920	23,480,077	4,881,200	20.8
1910	19,262,941	2,101,502	10.9

Strength and Weakness Revealed

"While these figures are in themselves of considerable interest," the Bureau's report continues, "their full significance cannot be clear without de-

Table Shows Per Cent of Each Industry Organized

THE per cent of wage earners organized in major divisions of industry is shown in the following table, copyrighted by the National Bureau of Economic Research, for the years 1920 and 1910:

Division of Industry	Per Cent Organized	
	1920	1910
Extraction of Minerals	41.0	27.3
Manufacturing Industries	23.2	11.6
Transportation	37.3	17.1
Building Trades	25.5	16.4
Stationary Engineers	12.4	4.6
Stationary Firemen	19.9	9.6
Trade	1.1	1.0
Professional Service	5.4	4.6
Clerical Occupations	8.3	1.8
Domestic and Personal Service	3.8	2.0
Public Service	7.3	2.5

tailed inquiry into the sources of union strength and weakness. Such inquiry can be conducted only by discovering the varying magnitude of trade unionism in the great divisions of industry.

"It has long been generally appreciated that labor organizations receive their first impetus and make their most striking headway among the so-called manual workers, those who work in factories and mines, on railroads and buildings; and that they have their most retarded development among persons, sometimes described as white-collar workers, who embrace unionism late and slowly. This appears to be universally true. An examination of the extent of labor organization among these two types of employees in 1910 and 1920 shows this to have been the case in the United States as well.

Manual Groups Lead

"While the percentage of total employees who are members of unions is, roughly, 20, all of the important manual labor groups stood far above this level; and in 1910 when the general percentage of organization was approximately 10, the same groups of manual laborers all showed a

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National Bureau of Economic Research, Inc.

Its Origin and Purposes

THE National Bureau of Economic Research, Incorporated, was organized in 1920 in response to a growing demand for exact and impartial determinations of the facts bearing upon economic, social and industrial problems. The Bureau hopes to aid all thoughtful men, however divergent their views of public policy, to base their discussions on objective knowledge as distinguished from subjective opinion.

Control of the Bureau is vested in a Board of twenty directors, representing learned and scientific societies, financial, industrial, agricultural, commercial, labor, and other organizations. Directors must be men of scientific and judicial habit of thought, possessing knowledge and experience qualifying them to assist in the direction of exact and impartial investigations within the scope of the Bureau's activities.

The directors, through their Executive Committee, choose the topics for investigation and appoint the scientific staff. The by-laws provide that all reports

made by the staff shall be submitted to the directors for criticism before they are published, and that a director who dissents from any finding approved by the majority of the board shall have his dissenting opinion published in the report if he so desires. The Bureau's reports owe much to the active cooperation of the directors, and many suggestions made by them are incorporated in the text. It is believed that this critical review of the staff's work by a group of men representing varied training, experience, and opinions safeguards the reports against bias.

The Bureau assumes no obligation to present or future subscribers, except to determine and publish facts.

Until the Bureau was incorporated, there was not in the United States an institution equipped to undertake fundamental researches of the type outlined from a point of view recognized beyond question as disinterested and in such manner that its findings would be generally accepted.

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Germany and Britain Exceed U. S. in Union Totals

America Ranks Third Among Nations of World in Wage Earners Organized

THE United States stands third among the nations of the world in total numbers of wage earners "organized" into trade unions, according to figures compiled by the National Bureau of Economic Research, Inc. The figures for the three most highly organized countries are as follows:

Germany	13,308,721
United Kingdom (Excluding Irish Free State)	5,405,000
United States	3,780,000

"An adequate interpretation of the meaning of the growth of the American labor movement in its last phase, when the changes upward and downward were of such great magnitude, would not be complete without noting that changes of this character were apparently not limited to the United States," says a statement supplementing the report of the National Bureau of Economic Research on *The Growth of American Trade Unions, 1880-1923*, upon which Dr. Leo Wolman of the Bureau's staff has been engaged for over a year.

Unprecedented Increases Experienced

"The period from 1914 to the present was indeed one of striking fluctuation in the membership of labor organizations throughout the world," the statement continues. "In spite of the lack of any standards of statistical comparability, there is no avoiding the conclusion that labor organizations everywhere have experienced since the beginning of the World War an unprecedented increase in their membership.

"The English unions which were already large in 1914 more than doubled their membership and by 1920 had 8,328,000 members. In Germany, France, Italy and even in South America the gains would appear to be equally striking.

"As in the case of the American unions, foreign labor organizations were also severely hit by the industrial depression which at one time or another after the war spread nearly throughout the world.

Effects of Cycle Shown

"The statistics of membership for a few selected countries, drawn from original sources and presented below show how recessions in business and employment were accompanied by large losses in membership:

United States: 1914, 2,716,900; 1915, 2,607,700; 1916, 2,808,000; 1917, 3,104,600; 1918, 3,508,400;

1919, 4,169,100; 1920, 5,110,800; 1921, 4,815,000; 1922, 4,059,400; 1923, 3,780,000.
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United Kingdom: 1914, 4,143,000; 1915, 4,356,000; 1916, 4,640,000; 1917, 5,496,000; 1918, 6,530,000; 1919, 7,920,000; 1920, 8,328,000; 1921, 6,612,846; 1922, 5,579,739; 1923, 5,405,000.

Holland: 1914, 266,000; 1915, 273,400; 1916, 298,900; 1917, 352,300; 1918, 420,500; 1919, 514,600; 1920, 683,500; 1921, 651,200; 1922, 640,000; 1923, 572,000.
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Italy: 1914, 962,000; 1915, 806,000; 1916, 701,000; 1917, 740,000; 1919, 1,800,000; 1920, 3,100,000.
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Germany: 1914, 2,166,820; 1915, 1,518,744; 1916, 1,496,058; 1917, 1,930,810; 1918, 3,801,222; 1919, 8,527,187; 1920, 9,192,892; 1922, 12,530,238; 1923, 13,308,721.

France: 1914, 1,026,000; 1920, 1,580,967; 1922, 1,768,461.
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Canada: 1914, 134,348; 1915, 113,122; 1916, 129,123; 1917, 164,896; 1918, 201,432; 1919, 260,247; 1920, 267,247; 1921, 222,896; 1922, 206,150; 1923, 203,843.

Australia: 1914, 523,271; 1915, 528,031; 1916, 546,556; 1917, 564,187; 1918, 581,755; 1919, 627,685; 1920, 684,450; 1921, 703,009; 1922, 702,938.

Above Pre-War Level

"English unions lost almost 3,000,000 members from 1920 to 1922. In all cases membership remained in 1922 and 1923 far above the pre-war level; and only in Australia and Germany does membership appear to have been little affected by the post-war liquidation of industry. The case of Germany is, of course, peculiar, since the labor movement after the war is placed in a setting radically different from that which prevailed in Germany before 1918.

"The relation between these like movements in diverse countries is, to be sure, largely a speculative one and can be estimated finally only by an analysis of the social, economic, and political forces that appear to bear on this condition."

Young Heads Economists

DR. ALLYN A. YOUNG, director-at-large of the National Bureau of Economic Research, was elected president of the American Economic Association at its recent meeting in Chicago. Dr. Young succeeds Dr. Wesley C. Mitchell, director of research of the National Bureau of Economic Research, who headed the association in 1924.

Dr. Willford I. King of the Staff of the National Bureau has been elected Secretary of the American Statistical Association, the headquarters of which have been removed from Columbia University to space in the National Bureau's building at 474 West 24th Street, New York.