

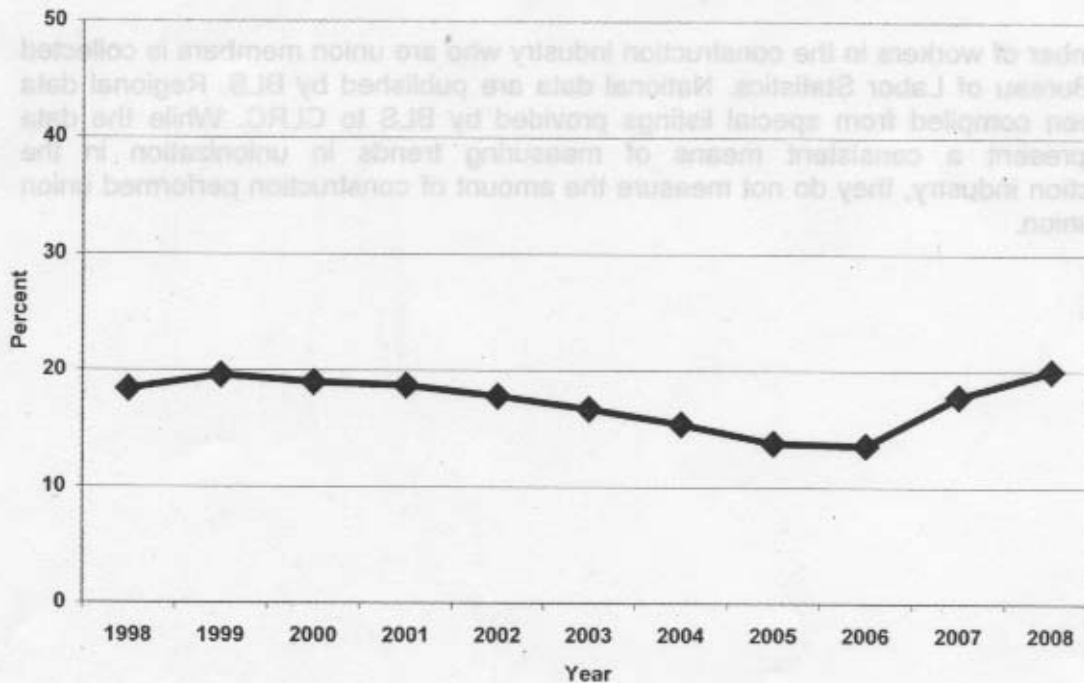
CONSTRUCTION LABOR RESEARCH COUNCIL

Union/Non-Union Trends

The percentage of all workers in the construction industry who are union members was 16.2 percent in 2008. Among craft workers the percentage of industry union employment was 20.0 percent. These figures are the most recently available data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

While it is difficult to evaluate small annual changes in the rate of unionization, all indicators for 2008 were positive. The steady decline experienced through the early years of the present decade was reversed. Unionization rate in 2008 returned to its level of a decade ago. Both the rate of unionization and number of union workers were substantially higher in the 1970's and earlier.

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY
Percent Union Employment



As always, the national average hides significant variations in the percentage of union employment by region. Even in the most unionized region, east north central, under 40 percent of construction workers were union. Fewer than 10 percent of all construction craft workers are union members in the two regions in the South. All of these characteristics have not changed in the past two years.

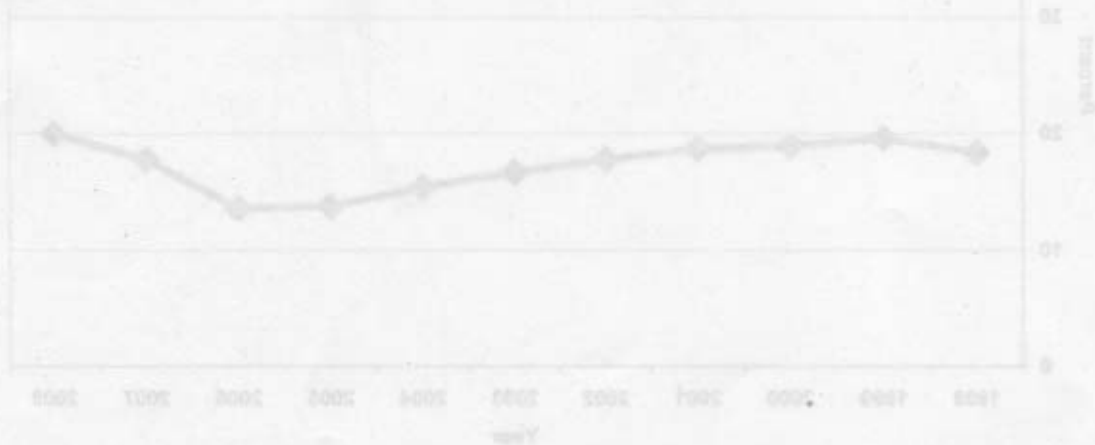
Notable trends that are evident in the past two years are:

- o Rate of unionization increased in all regions.
- o Number of union workers increased in all regions.
- o Total construction employment declined in all regions, but one.

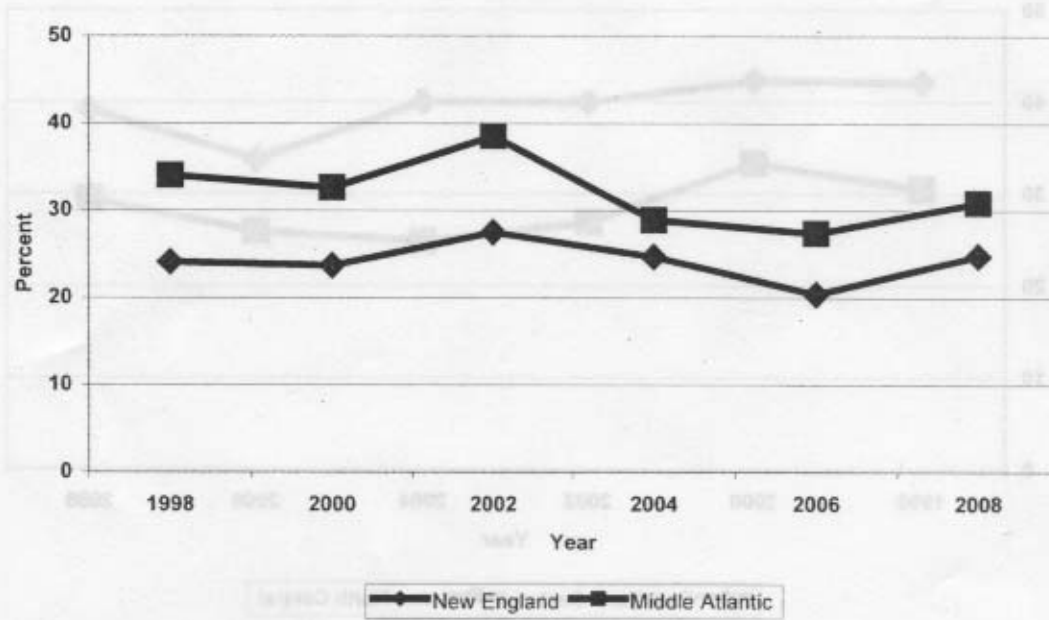
Performance in the northwest was strongest where percentage of union employment, number of union employees and total construction worker employment all increased. Although gains were made in the two regions in the South, they were minimal. While regional figures are subject to fluctuations due to small sample sizes and variations in types of construction, the widespread nature of the gains appears noteworthy.

Percent gains in the construction worker unionization rate seem to validate the earlier hypothesis that an abnormally strong residential market primarily accounted for declines in unionization rates. It remains to be seen whether the current increases can be sustained or are an exception to longer-term trends.

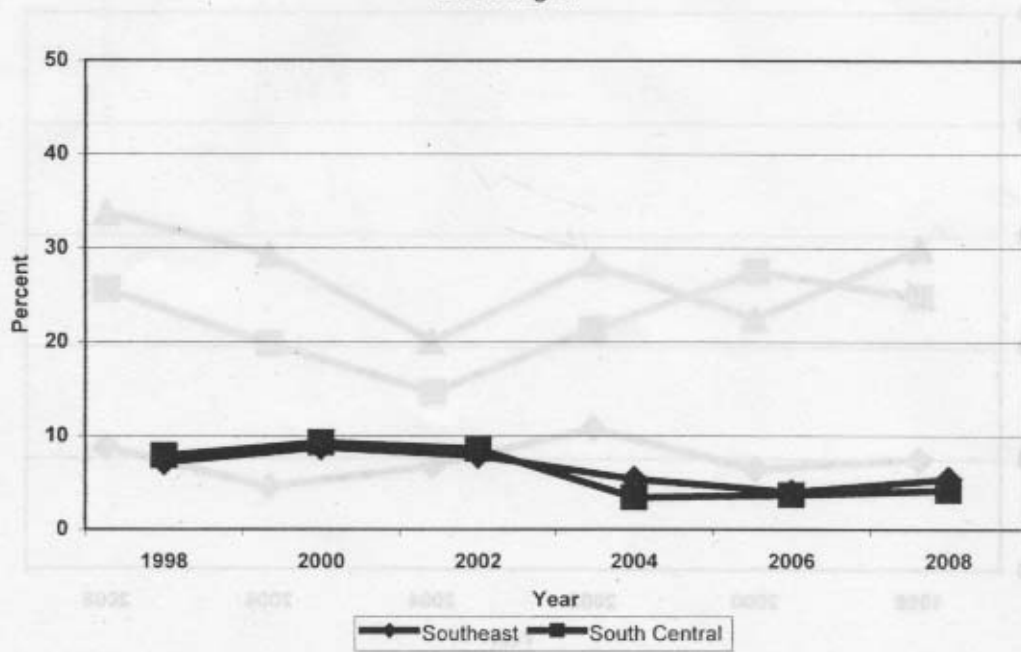
The number of workers in the construction industry who are union members is collected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. National data are published by BLS. Regional data have been compiled from special listings provided by BLS to CLRC. While the data series present a consistent means of measuring trends in unionization in the construction industry, they do not measure the amount of construction performed union or non-union.



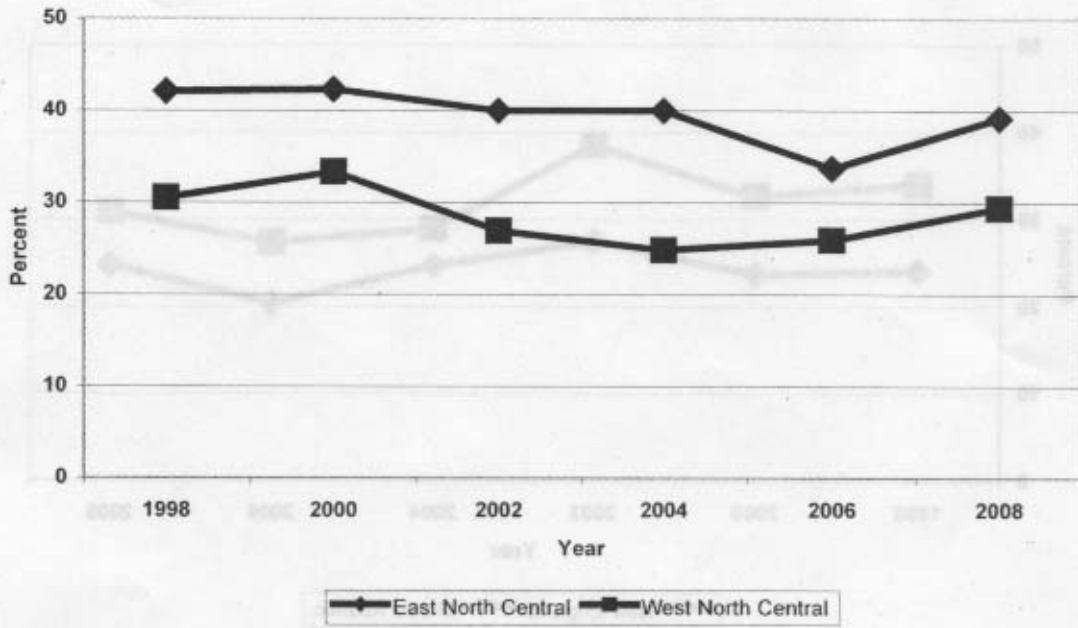
Percent Union Employment
Northeast Region



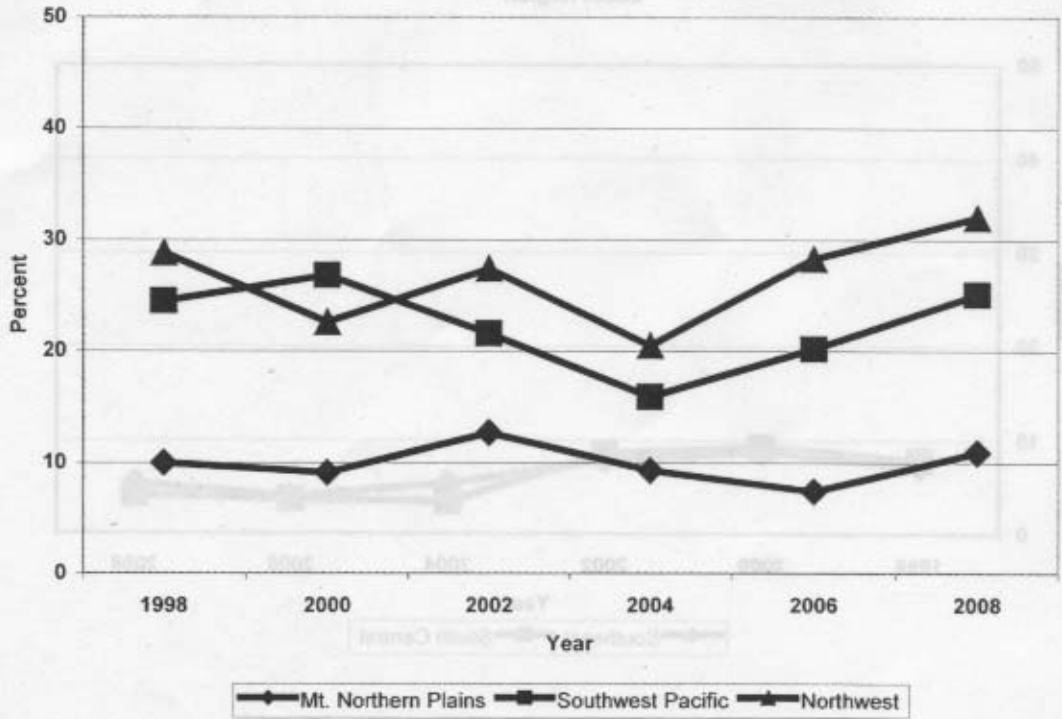
Percent Union Employment
South Region



Percent Union Employment
North Central Region



Percent Union Employment
West Region



STATES and REGIONS

New England

Connecticut
Maine
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
Rhode Island
Vermont

Middle Atlantic

District of Columbia
Delaware
Maryland
New Jersey
New York
Pennsylvania

Southeast

Alabama
Florida
Georgia
Kentucky
Mississippi
North Carolina
South Carolina
Tennessee
Virginia

East North Central

Illinois
Indiana
Michigan
Minnesota
Ohio
West Virginia
Wisconsin

West North Central

Iowa
Kansas
Missouri
Nebraska

South Central

Arkansas
Louisiana
New Mexico
Oklahoma
Texas

Mountain-Northern Plains

Colorado
Montana
North Dakota
South Dakota
Utah
Wyoming

Southwest Pacific

Arizona
California
Hawaii
Nevada

Northwest

Alaska
Idaho
Oregon
Washington

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