Unionized workers are very diverse, and they work in most industries across America.

More than 16 million working women and men in the United States, or one in nine workers, are represented by a union.¹ This makes organized labor one of the largest and most representative institutions in America.

Together, about two-thirds of working people ages 18 to 64 who are covered by a union contract are women and/or people of color.
As of 2017, roughly 10.6 million of the 16.4 million workers covered by a union contract are women and/or people of color.2

Almost half of workers represented by a union are women (45.7%).3

More than a third (36.1%) are African American, Hispanic, Asian or other non-white workers.4

African American workers are the most likely to be represented by unions: 13.8% are covered by a collective bargaining agreement, compared with 12.2% of white workers and 10.4% of Hispanic workers.5

Unions represent workers of all ages, as shown in Figure A.

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Union Coverage Rate by Age Group, 2017


Economic Policy Institute

Union workers hail from a variety of sectors, but the biggest share works in education or health services.

Nearly two in five workers (39.3%) covered by a union contract work in education or health services.6
Nearly half of workers (48%) covered by a union contract are public-sector workers.\textsuperscript{7}

One in eight workers (11.8%) covered by a union contract works in transportation and utilities.\textsuperscript{8}

One in 11 workers (9%) covered by a union contract works in manufacturing.\textsuperscript{9}

**Unions represent workers of all levels of education.**\textsuperscript{10}

More than half (54.5%) of workers ages 18 to 64 covered by a union contract have an associate degree or more education.

Two out of five (42.4%) of workers covered by a union contract have a bachelor’s degree or more education.

Union density varies widely state by state, as shown in Figure B.
3 Ibid.
4 Ibid.
5 Ibid.
6 Ibid.
7 Ibid.
8 Ibid.
9 Ibid.