

INSIGHT

KEEPING OUR LABOR PARTNERS INFORMED

WHERE'S THE WORK IN 2014?

Labor Nailing Down More Jobs

The 2014 construction season is gearing up after nearly a decade of marginal activity. The annual cycle plays out this year in the context of a weak federal transportation bill, which drives little work to aging highways and other infrastructure. Still, bank loans for construction are opening up.

Some of the Hot Spots

- California:** Los Angeles County is seeing a strong outlook for transportation work because of its \$40 billion, half-cent sales tax bond, says Ron Miller, executive secretary of the Los Angeles/Orange Counties B.C.T.C. The county is expanding its Metro subway system and working on a high-speed line that will stretch from San Francisco to San Diego. L.A. also has a lot of hotel and mixed-use projects, especially in its downtown area, and decaying bridges mean more union work. "We're working with various pension fund investors to fund infrastructure projects that in turn put our members to work," Miller says.

New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized, January and February: 10,366 (U.S. Census Bureau)

- Kansas:** The 2014 forecast looks pretty good, says Andy Sanchez, executive secretary treasurer for the Kansas State AFL-CIO. The federal dollars that are flowing in for various infrastructure projects, including roads and schools, mean steady work for heavy equipment operators,

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Across the Country

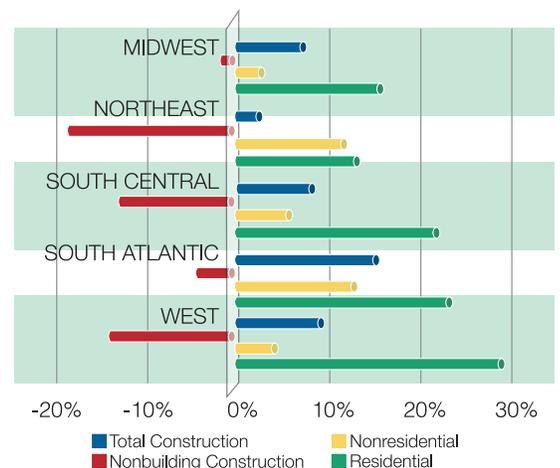
According to McGraw Hill Construction's 2014 Dodge Construction Outlook, U.S. construction starts are up 9 percent at \$555.3 billion in 2014 from \$508.1 billion last year.

Construction Starts: Percentage Change 2014/2013 Contract Value



U.S. Construction Starts by Region:

Percentage Change 2014/2013



PICKING LABOR'S POCKET

States Not Giving Up Right-To-Work Fight

Despite the facts showing just how much right-to-work hurts workers and the communities they live in, and despite massive rallies opposing it, state legislators from Maine to Missouri continue to push legislation that would raid union workers' wallets and weaken essential labor unions.

We must guard against being fooled by false slogans, such as 'right to work.' It is a law to rob us of our civil rights and job rights. ~ Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Right-to-work laws—now on the books in 24 states—are anathema to organized labor. Opponents and proponents are diametrically opposed regarding the laws' detriments and benefits. Seems the only thing



Doing the Numbers

Here's a quick look at some right-to-work statistics and updates in some key states:

In 2013, seven states combined had over 50 percent of the 14.5 million union members in the country: California, 2.4 million; New York, 2 million; Illinois, 900,000; Pennsylvania, 700,000; and Michigan, New Jersey, and Ohio, 600,000 each.

opposing sides agree on is that the other side is wrong.

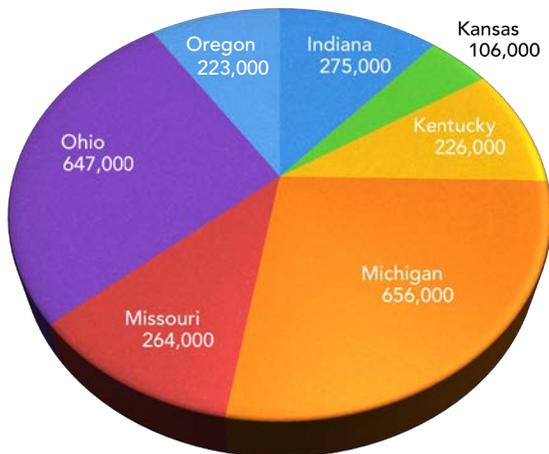
One *Wall Street Journal* article, published less than a week after Michigan became the 24th state to adopt a right-to-work law—said the state “is joining a group of states where wages tend to be lower, but job growth stronger, than states that don't have the law.”

“But gauging how much of this divergence in paychecks and

employment is a result of the laws is difficult to do,” the *WSJ* article said, adding that “proving cause and effect on wages is difficult,” because workers' wages in a given place are affected by numerous factors, including whether the area has a lot of industries that pay higher wages. (See *News from the Battlefield* for a March 31, 2014 Michigan court ruling on the issue.) So, the controversy continues.

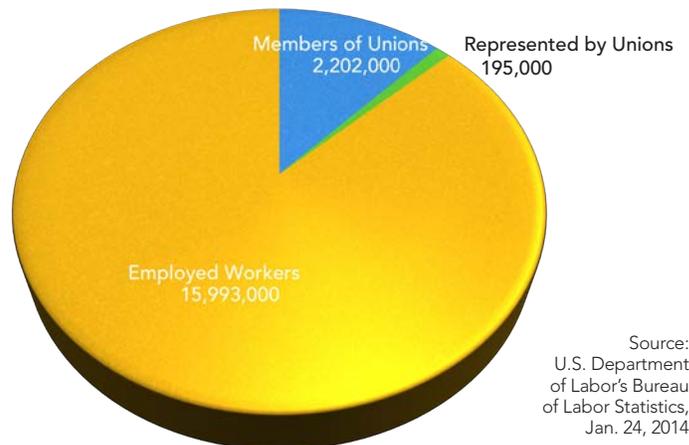
Union Membership/Representation:

IN, KS, KY, MI, MO, OH, OR



Union Employed/Represented Versus Non-Union:

IN, KS, KY, MI, MO, OH, OR



Source:
U.S. Department
of Labor's Bureau
of Labor Statistics,
Jan. 24, 2014

Where's the Work, continued from page 1

iron workers and many of the other trades. Various Kansas projects, including the \$650 million, 500,000-square-foot National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility in Manhattan, promise to keep the union work flow vigorous. "I think that construction is one of those things that you can't really guess on," he says. "We're bouncing back."

New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized, January and February: 911 (U.S. Census Bureau)

- **Illinois:** Union workers are staying busy in the Land of Lincoln thanks in

part to drilling, transportation and infrastructure related to fracking, says Tim Drea, secretary treasurer of the Illinois AFL-CIO. And a standby in Chicago—road building—is going strong.

New Privately Owned Housing Units Authorized, January and February: 1,538 (U.S. Census Bureau)

- **Texas:** Joe Hall, president of the Dallas Building Trades Council, says 2014 will prove to be "one of the biggest booms in history" for Texas. "It's going to be almost all the trades, and it's going to be on the Gulf Coast.

It's going to be trillions, not billions. There's a \$6 billion gas plant being built in Bay Town."

Hall says leaders of these Texas projects are going to have "a tremendously hard time manning that work. The national building trades have opened offices in Houston. For the next five years, there's going to be so much work down there it's going to be just unbelievable." Hall says he expects that workers from other states will come to Texas to get in on the work in 2014. "There'll be people coming out of retirement to go to work."

News from the Battlefield

Recent Right-to-Work News

- **Indiana:** In February, the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 150, urged the Indiana Supreme Court to uphold a lower-court judge's ruling that some elements of the state's right-to-work law are unconstitutional. (nwitimes.com)
- **Kentucky:** A Kentucky House of Representatives committee put the hammer down on a right-to-work bill in March. HB 496 would prohibit making mandatory labor union membership and union dues payment a condition of employment. (wdrb.com)
- **Michigan:** A Michigan district court judge on March 31 rejected some parts of a lawsuit that challenged the state's right-to-work law but affirmed other portions of the suit, which the Michigan state AFL-CIO had filed. District Judge Stephen Murphy said that one section of the law giving employees the right to not participate in collective bargaining or union organizing "appears to go beyond the

state's authority under the National Labor Relations Act." (mlive.com)

- **Missouri:** HB 77 was introduced in August 2013. The Missouri House of Representatives Website summarizes the bill: "Specifies that no person as a condition or continuation of employment can be required to engage in or cease engaging in specified labor organization practices." Status: In a 78-68 roll call vote April 9, the House preliminarily approved legislation that would prohibit labor contracts from making payment of union dues a condition of employment. (Missouri House; The Associated Press)
- **Ohio:** Republican Gov. John Kasich said in February that a proposal to limit union fees "is not on my agenda – period." Other than a couple of hard labor-management situations, he said, "we've had a lot of peace in the state." He added that carpenters' unions' job-training programs

"are critical to our job-training programs." (AP, CBS Cleveland)

- **Oregon:** In early March, Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber called publicly for both sides to back off from 2014 ballot measure fights between unions and business interests, Kitzhaber's office said. In response, the state's largest public employee unions and sponsors of right-to-work and dues check-off measures agreed to formally withdraw 12 measures from the 2014 ballot measure process.

Tell Us What You Think

Has your labor organization ever considered investing in private developments guaranteed to create union jobs?

915795 | Yes we've done it

915836 | We'd like to do that

915842 | Not yet

Answer by texting code to 22333.

Bank of Labor Welcomes a Wealth of Knowledge to Labor Advisory Board

Bank of Labor Welcomes a Wealth of Knowledge to Labor Advisory Board

Bank of Labor's latest additions to its Labor Advisory Board—Patrick D. Finley, General President of the Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association of the United States and Canada, and Kinsey M. Robinson, International President of the United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers—bring a wealth of labor-related experience and insight to the bank.

The experience and knowledge that these two respected labor executives



Patrick D. Finley
General President
of the Operative
Plasterers' and Cement
Masons' International
Association of the
U.S. and Canada

bring to the bank's Labor Advisory Board fit well with BOL's mission: to stand in union solidarity by focusing on the borrowing needs of labor institutions, which ensures the investment of labor capital in union projects—and that means union jobs.

OPCMIA General President Patrick Finley entered the ranks with Local 592, Philadelphia, in 1979. Along the way, he worked his way up the labor ladder, including service as: fund administrator for Local 592 Welfare and Pension Funds; apprentice coordinator and organizer of the local; deputy international representative of OPCMIA; international representative and assistant to the general president of OPCMIA; and general secretary-treasurer of OPCMIA.

The OPCMIA was founded in 1864.

It represents about 50,000 members.

UURWAW International President Kinsey Robinson began his roofing career in Spokane, Wash. He graduated from Local Union No. 189's apprenticeship program in 1968, and subsequently held a variety of positions with Local 189 before he was appointed an international representative in 1982. He was elected international secretary-treasurer in 1985,



Kinsey M. Robinson
International President
of the United Union of
Roofers, Waterproofers
and Allied Workers

a role he used to place a strong emphasis on developing quality auditing procedures and internal controls for local unions.

As UURWAW's International President, he is responsible for the operation of the union's Washington, D.C., headquarters and 81 local offices, and is credited with fostering strong relationships with contractor groups and associations to provide members with comprehensive pensions and health care plans.

The UURWAW represents 25,000 members throughout the United States in the construction industry's industrial and commercial sectors.

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