UNION MEMBERSHIP HOLDS STEADY AT 12.3 PERCENT

Despite losing 771,000 members in 2009, as the recession continued to take a toll on jobs, the proportion of wage and salary workers belonging to unions held roughly steady at 12.3 percent, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports.

The number of union members employed in the private sector fell by 834,000 to 7.4 million workers in 2009 from nearly 8.3 million the prior year, while unions added about 64,000 members in government, raising the total to 7.9 million workers from 7.8 million workers in 2008. As a result, a majority of union members for the first time last year was employed in government (52 percent).
