

Union numbers down nationwide

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The problems of the auto industry, which is going through massive layoffs at Ford and GM and a bankruptcy at Delphi Auto Parts, showed up in the Ohio and Michigan numbers. Unionists were 14.2 percent of Ohio's workers last year, down from 16 percent the year before, and Ohio dropped to seventh place, with 734,000 union-

ists last year, down 70,000 in one year.

New York and Hawaii traded places as the most-unionized state, but density dropped in both. Hawaii led in 2004 and New York in 2005. Hawaii reclaimed the lead last year: 24.7 percent of its workers are unionized, ahead of 24.4 percent in New York. Other high-density states were California (15.7 percent), Alaska (22.2), Michigan (19.6, down from 20.5), Illinois (16.4), Minnesota (up 0.3 percent, to 16 percent), and Washington (up 0.7 percent, to 19.8 percent). Missouri was 10.9 percent union, down 0.6 percent.

Spokeswomen for

Change to Win and the AFL-CIO said the big jumps in Washington and in Arizona—where unions added 52,000 workers, to 197,000 and went from 6.1 percent to 7.6 percent of the workforce in one year—were due to different reasons.

The 26,000-member increase in Washington was driven by successful organizing of health care workers by the Service Employees in AFSCME, they said. Arizona's hike came from "no one campaign, but from growth in a wide range of unionized sectors, including the public sector and grocery stores," an AFL-CIO spokeswoman added.