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*AFL-CIO*

### **AFL-CIO Membership at 8.4 Million In 2008 After Net Loss of 43,000 Members**

MIAMI—Although affiliates of the AFL-CIO brought about 131,600 new members into the federation in 2008, the pace of organizing did not keep up with membership losses, according to the federation's membership report released during the AFL-CIO Executive Council's winter meeting March 3-5.

The membership of all the unions affiliated with the AFL-CIO during the 12 months of 2008 averaged 8,369,321, a net decrease of 43,326 members compared with 2007. The membership figures are based on per capita tax paid by the affiliates to the AFL-CIO.

Overall, the report showed that 23 national unions affiliated with the AFL-CIO had membership increases in 2008, adding a total of 131,600 members, while 17 affiliated unions experienced membership losses totaling 174,926. Fifteen unions had no change.

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Seven unions grew by more than 5,000 members in 2008, according to the federation's figures. Of these, two grew by more than 20,000 members.

#### **AFT Shows Highest Net Growth**

The unions with the highest net growth in 2008 included the American Federation of Teachers (35,802), the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (28,019), the International Association of Fire Fighters (14,500), the American Federation of Government Employees (10,433), the California Nurses Association/National Nurses Organizing Committee (8,491), the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (6,633), and the Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons (6,125).

AFL-CIO affiliates that showed the largest losses in 2008, according to the report, were the United Auto Workers (44,690), United American Nurses (43,900), the International Association of Machinists (22,516), the Communications Workers of America (16,158), and the United Steelworkers (16,045).

By Michelle Amber

Text of the AFL-CIO's membership report appears in Section E.