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Auto Workers

UAW's 2008 Membership Level Declined to 431,037

The United Auto Workers had 431,037 members at the end of 2008, a reduction of 33,873 members from the previous year, according to the union's annual report filed with the Labor Department March 30.

UAW has lost members every year since 2004, when the union's records showed it had 654,657 members. The U.S. auto industry has shed thousands of hourly jobs in restructuring efforts that have included numerous plant closures, early retirement incentives, and employee buyouts as the companies downsize to align with reduced market demand.

Auto industry employment at auto manufacturers and auto suppliers is expected to shrink further in 2009.

UAW's membership peaked in 1979 with 1,527,858 members. The current level is the lowest since 1940.

UAW also represents workers in the aerospace industry and other manufacturing, in the gaming industry, and in technical, office, and professional services.

A UAW representative was not available for comment.