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Original Articles

New Estimates of Paid-up Membership in the United Mine Workers, 1902-29, by State and Province

William M. Boal 

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Abstract

This report offers new estimates of paid-up membership in the United Mine Workers from 1902 to 1929, derived from the international union's per-capita tax receipts. The estimates represent an improvement because they include more years and more states than previous estimates. More importantly, the new estimates disaggregate the grouped data presented in other sources to the state level. Disaggregation allows researchers to match these estimates to state-level data on the coal industry in other sources.

Notes

[1] US Coal Commission, Report Part III, 1052, 1387, 1388.

[2] See Proceedings of the Convention, 1905, 44

[3] See Proceedings of the Convention, 1918, 34–37, 841–47.

[4] US Coal Commission, Report Part III, 1052, [table 1](#).

[5] Using the US Coal Commission grouped data, Fishback concludes that ‘in fact, the UMWA did not have much effect on accident rates’ (Fishback, *Soft Coal*, 112, 236). By contrast, using the density data in [Table 3](#), I conclude that the union lowered accident rates by about 40 percent (Boal, ‘The Effect of Unionism’).

[6] I owe this observation to Maier Fox.



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