

Socialist Party Membership Data:

A survey circulated in 1908.

Compiled by Emma Pischel, Chicago.

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Individual record forms for collecting data relating to members of the Socialist Party were prepared by authority of a National Executive Committee motion, adopted December 1907. These forms were circulated during the year 1908.

The total number of cards returned was 6,310 [15.1%], some partly and others with all inquiries answered. In considering the value of the data, it must be remembered that the party membership numbered 41,751 during the year 1908, and the returns from the respective states must be taken into account, as to whether the records contained a preponderance of industrial or agricultural workers.

Divided as to States.

	— Responses —			<i>members</i>	— Responses —			<i>members</i>
	<i>women</i>	<i>men</i>	<i>n=</i>		<i>women</i>	<i>men</i>	<i>n=</i>	
Alabama	8	34	42	240	—	—	—	250
Arizona	0	14	14	280	—	—	—	1,778
Arkansas	8	208	216	685	2	174	176	1,188
California	—	—	—	3,100	4	335	339	1,837
Colorado	25	241	266	881	—	—	—	31
Connecticut	—	—	—	538	4	335	339	1,635
Delaware	0	20	20	25	—	—	—	711
Florida	3	90	93	229	0	136	136	256
Georgia	3	18	21	35	2	29	31	240
Hawaii	1	9	10	16	4	52	56	218
Idaho	23	160	183	673	—	—	—	1,416
Illinois	3	365	368	2,972	0	20	20	175
Indiana	9	236	245	1,075	60	772	832	3,458
Iowa	18	310	328	866	9	25	34	66
Kansas	0	72	72	1,291	3	84	87	229
Kentucky	0	22	22	233	12	430	442	2,156
Louisiana	1	55	56	250	4	20	24	2,243
Maine	9	124	133	257	1	56	57	924
					8	440	448	2,640
					—	—	—	201
					—	—	—	4
					1	97	98	308
					6	78	84	123
					18	367	385	1,537
					41	179	220	341
					—	—	—	50
					0	33	33	39
					15	250	265	1,584
					0	70	70	207
					0	1	1	1,628
					10	34	44	533
					—	—	—	99
					315	5,995	6,310	41,751

Age. [n= 6,310]

	<i>women</i>	<i>men</i>	<i>total</i>	<i>[pct.]</i>
Under 20 years	37	135	172	2.7%
From 20-30 years	88	1,516	1,704	27.0%
From 30-45 years	112	2,376	2,488	39.4%
Over 45 years	78	1,868	1,946	30.8%

Previous Politics. [n= 6,310]

Democrats	1,669	26.5%
Republicans	1,477	23.4%
Populists	620	9.8%
Independents	261	4.1%
Prohibitionists	143	2.3%
N/A or No Reply	2,140	33.9%

Nationality by Birth. [n= 6,271]

American birth	4,858	77.5%
German birth	552	8.8%
Scandinavian birth	330	5.3%
English birth	303	4.8%
Finnish birth	144	2.3%
Austrian birth	53	0.8%
Others	531	8.5%

Main Factor in Changing Opinions. [n= 6,310]

By Periodicals	2,213	35.1%
By Discussion	1,059	16.8%
By Books	767	12.2%
By Study	640	10.1%
By Street Meetings	470	7.4%
By Lectures	420	6.7%
By Leaflets	273	4.3%
No Reply	468	7.4%

Occupation. [n= 6,156]

Craftsmen	2,493	40.5%
Laborers	1,237	20.1%
Farmers	1,051	17.1%
Commerce	580	9.4%
Transportation	330	5.4%
Professional	288	4.7%
Housewives	177	2.9%

Papers Subscribed For.

<i>Appeal to Reason</i> [Girard, KS]	4,010
<i>Wilshire's</i> [New York City]	2,074
<i>Chicago Daily Socialist</i>	1,562
<i>The Worker</i> [New York City]	622
<i>International Socialist Review</i> [Chicago]	274
<i>Seattle Socialist</i>	136
<i>Social Democratic Herald</i> [Milwaukee]	125
<i>Christian Socialist</i>	72
<i>Vorwaerts</i> [Milwaukee]	48
<i>Montana News</i>	40
<i>Common Sense</i>	15
<i>Socialist Woman</i>	6
Miscellaneous	1,485

Union Affiliation. [n= 2,823]

Of the 2,823 listed under the captions of craftsmen and transportation and eligible for membership in labor unions—

Members of AF of L	1,254	44.4%
Members of IWW	135	4.8%
Independent Unions	374	13.2%
Unaffiliated	1,060	37.5%

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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