

TEXT

Table 1. Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, 1947-92

Table 2. Work stoppages involving 5,000 workers or more beginning in 1992

Technical information:

Michael Cimini (202) 606-6275

Media contact: (202) 606-5902

USDL 93-36

FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

Wednesday, Feb. 3, 1993

MAJOR WORK STOPPAGES: 1992

In 1992, the number of major work stoppages and amount of idleness were at the lowest levels recorded in the 45-year-old series, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Thirty-five major stoppages began during the year, resulting in 4.0 million days of idleness, or about 1 out of every 10,000 available work days. Another measure of work stoppage activity, workers involved (364,000), included 230,000 workers in a 2-day national railroad stoppage. The measure was, nonetheless, among the lowest recorded in the series, continuing the pattern that has generally prevailed for the last several years. (See table 1.) The series, which dates back to 1947, covers strikes and lockouts involving 1,000 workers or more and lasting at least one shift.

Of the 35 major work stoppages beginning in 1992, 29 were in the private sector--including 12 in manufacturing and five each in construction and services. In the public sector, five stoppages involved local government employees, and one involved state government workers. Five of the public sector disputes were in education.

Several industries had significant numbers of workers covered by major collective bargaining settlements that were successfully negotiated in 1992 without a work stoppage: Communications (472,000 workers); mining (54,000 workers); and finance, insurance, and real estate (44,000 workers). Industries with the largest number of workers idled during the year due to work stoppages were transportation (243,000), transportation equipment manufacturing (37,000), and construction (14,000).

The largest stoppage that began in 1992, in terms of number of workers and number of workdays idle, involved the nation's major rail

freight carriers and the International Association of Machinists and idled 230,000 railroad workers, resulting in 460,000 days of idleness. On the second day of the stoppage, Congress enacted back-to-work legislation mandating a settlement of the dispute.

Other large stoppages beginning in 1992 involved General Motors and the Automobile Workers (45,100 workers and 217,600 days of idleness), the Detroit Board of Education and the Teachers (AFT) (10,500 workers and 199,500 days of idleness), and USAir and the Machinists (8,300 workers and 41,500 days of idleness). (See table 2.)

The largest stoppage carried over from 1991 involved 12,600 workers represented by the Automobile Workers at Caterpillar. It began in November 1991 and ended in April 1992.

The longest stoppage beginning in 1992 involved the Teamsters and the Pittsburgh Press. The job action resulted in the shutdown of the Press and its intracity rival, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, idling 1,400 newspaper workers. The stoppage began on May 18 and ended on November 29, 1992.

The longest stoppage in effect during the year involved 1,600 tugboat and barge crew members represented by the International Longshoremen's Association and employed by companies in the Port of New York and New Jersey. The stoppage began February 15, 1988, and continued into 1993.

The term "major work stoppage" includes worker initiated strikes, as well as lockouts of workers by their employers, involving 1,000 workers or more. The Bureau does not attempt to distinguish between strikes and lockouts in its statistics. Annual data are reported in this news release after the end of each year. Monthly work stoppage data appear in the BLS periodicals, Monthly Labor Review and Compensation and Working Conditions.

Table 1. Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, 1947-92

Year	Stoppages 1/		Days idle 1/	
	Number	Workers involved	Number	Percent of estimated

		(thousands)	(thousands)	working time 2/
1947.....	270	1,629	25,720	(3)
1948.....	245	1,435	26,127	0.22
1949	262	2,537	43,420	.38
1950	424	1,698	30,390	.26
1951.....	415	1,462	15,070	.12
1952	470	2,746	48,820	.38
1953	437	1,623	18,130	.14
1954	265	1,075	16,630	.13
1955	363	2,055	21,180	.16
1956.....	287	1,370	26,840	.20
1957.....	279	887	10,340	.07
1958	332	1,587	17,900	.13
1959	245	1,381	60,850	.43
1960	222	896	13,260	.09
1961.....	195	1,031	10,140	.07
1962.....	211	793	11,760	.08
1963.....	181	512	10,020	.07
1964.....	246	1,183	16,220	.11
1965.....	268	999	15,140	.10
1966.....	321	1,300	16,000	.10
1967.....	381	2,192	31,320	.18
1968.....	392	1,855	35,367	.20
1969.....	412	1,576	29,397	.16
1970.....	381	2,468	52,761	.29
1971.....	298	2,516	35,538	.19
1972.....	250	975	16,764	.09
1973.....	317	1,400	16,260	.08
1974.....	424	1,796	31,809	.16
1975.....	235	965	17,563	.09
1976.....	231	1,519	23,962	.12
1977.....	298	1,212	21,258	.10
1978.....	219	1,006	23,774	.11
1979.....	235	1,021	20,409	.09
1980.....	187	795	20,844	.09
1981.....	145	729	16,908	.07
1982.....	96	656	9,061	.04
1983.....	81	909	17,461	.08
1984.....	62	376	8,499	.04

1985.....	54	324	7,079	.03
1986.....	69	533	11,861	.05
1987.....	46	174	4,481	.02
1988.....	40	118	4,381	.02
1989.....	51	452	16,996	.07
1990.....	44	185	5,926	.02
1991.....	40	392	4,584	.02
1992.....	35	364	3,989	.01

1/ The number of stoppages and workers relate to stoppages that began in the year. Days of idleness include all stoppages in effect. Workers are counted more than once if they are involved in more than one stoppage during the year.

2/ Total working time is for all employees, except those in private households, forestry, and fisheries.

3/ Not available.

Table 2. Work stoppages involving 5,000 workers or more beginning in 1992

Employer, location, and union	Began	Ended	Workers involved 1/	Estimated days idle 1/ in 1992
1/				
Kroger Co. Michigan Food and Commercial Workers	4/13	6/19	7,800	388,200
Railroad industry Interstate Various unions	6/24	6/25	230,000	460,000
General Motors Lordstown, OH Automobile Workers	8/27	9/5	45,100	217,600
Board of Education	8/31	9/26	10,500	199,500

Detroit, Michigan Teachers (AFT)				
General Motors	9/25	9/28	7,200	14,400
Lansing, Michigan Automobile Workers				
USAir	10/5	10/10	8,300	41,500
Interstate Machinists				

1/ Workers and days idle are rounded to the nearest 100.