

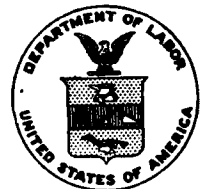
Analysis of Work Stoppages

1956

Bulletin No. 1218

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
James P. Mitchell, Secretary

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
Ewan Clague, Commissioner



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Analysis of Work Stoppages in 1956

Summary

The number of strikes in 1956, as well as the number of workers involved, was lower than in 1955 and in most post-World War II years, although strike idleness was higher than in any year since 1952. The decrease in the number of strikes may be attributed in part to the existence of long-term contracts negotiated in 1955 in such industries as automobiles, farm equipment, and trucking, and the resultant decline in the volume of collective bargaining activity during 1956. Moreover, labor and management were apparently often relatively close together in their assessment of the economic outlook. Both were frequently willing to accept long-term contracts, although the question of the precise duration of the contract was a significant issue in some major strikes.

Among the major labor-management agreements that were negotiated without interruptions to work, during the first quarter of the year, were those in the petroleum refining, aircraft manufacturing, West Coast lumber, and apparel industries. Early in the summer, most of the major copper mining companies which were involved in a lengthy strike during 1955 reached agreement on new contract terms with the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers Union (Ind.). Also in contrast to 1955, the Sperry Gyroscope Co. negotiated a new agreement with the International Union of Electrical Workers in October—7 months prior to the expiration of its present contract. (The employees of this company's plants in the New York-Northeastern New Jersey metropolitan area were on strike for 33 days in 1955.) In the autumn, the bituminous-coal and anthracite industries and the United Mine Workers (Ind.) agreed on contract terms for 1957, and the railroads and their nonoperating employees entered into a 3-year agreement.

The 3,825 work stoppages that began in 1956 directly idled 1.9 million workers. These stoppages, together

with those continuing from 1955, accounted for 33.1 million man-days of idleness—slightly less than 0.30 percent of the total estimated working time during the year. Workers directly involved in work stoppages beginning in 1956 lost, on the average, 17.4 working days each (more than in any year since 1948), and strikes ending in the year lasted for an average of 18.9 calendar days. (See table 1.)

A number of disputes that began in 1955 continued into 1956. The Westinghouse stoppage which began in October 1955 and idled some 70,000 workers was settled late in March 1956 when the company and the International Union of Electrical Workers (AFL-CIO) and the United Electrical Workers (Ind.) came to an understanding.² Two widely publicized disputes—the United Automobile Workers' controversy with the Kohler Co. in Kohler, Wis., which began in April 1954, and the Miami hotel dispute, which began in April 1955, continued unsettled throughout the year, although neither dispute appeared seriously to affect the operations of the employers involved during the year. The Miami hotel dispute was resolved in January 1957 when a 10-year master agreement providing for union recognition and the cessation of picketing was signed by the Miami Beach Hotel Association and the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union. Individual contracts were to be negotiated by the union with various member hotels. In the Kohler

¹ Prepared by Ann James Herlihy and Herbert H. Moede, with the assistance of other members of the staff of the Division of Wages and Industrial Relations, Bureau of Labor Statistics, under the direction of Lily Mary David. Loretto R. Nolan was responsible for the analysis of the individual strike cases on which the statistics are based, and for the final review of the tables.

The Bureau wishes to acknowledge the widespread cooperation of employers, unions, the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, and various State agencies in furnishing information needed for this report.

The methods followed in preparing work stoppage statistics are described in appendix B.

This bulletin includes data presented in *Analysis of Work Stoppages During 1956*, Monthly Labor Review, May 1957 (pp. 565-571). Preliminary monthly estimates of the level of strike activity for the United States as a whole are issued about 30 days after the end of the month of reference and are available upon request. Estimates for the entire year 1957 will be available at the year's end.

² About 6,000 workers (members of the independent United Electrical Workers) involved in a local dispute at the company's Essington, Pa., plant were idle until early August 1956.

controversy, the union continued to urge the boycott of the company's products and sought action through the intercession of the National Labor Relations Board.

Major Stoppages

Twelve stoppages beginning in 1956 involved at least 10,000 workers each and accounted for two-fifths of the year's idled workers and almost one-half of the year's idleness (table 2). The lengthy Westinghouse Electric Corp. stoppage that had begun in 1955 accounted for an additional 10 percent of the idleness in 1956. The largest stoppage of the year in terms of workers involved and total idleness was the industrywide basic steel strike involving half a million workers. Another major stoppage in the steel industry resulted from a strike of 250 railroad workers at U. S. Steel's Tennessee Coal and Iron Division in Birmingham, Ala., which idled the plant's steelworkers for over 3 months. These two disputes contributed about one-fourth of the workers involved in all stoppages and two-fifths of the year's total idleness.

The construction industry accounted for three of the year's major stoppages. One strike of at least 10,000 workers occurred in longshoring and in each of the following manufacturing industries: Aircraft, aluminum, glass containers, agricultural implements, rubber tires and tubes, and meatpacking. While seven of the year's large strikes ended in less than a month, average duration of all major stoppages ending in the year was 50.0 calendar days.³ The longest major interruption to work that began in 1956 affected the Republic Aviation Corp. plants on Long Island. The strike, in which three unions were involved, lasted 112 days.

The longshore dispute brought into use the emergency provisions of the Labor Management Relations Act (Taft-Hartley) for the first time since 1954. About 60,000 members of the International Longshoremen's Association (Ind.) struck on November 16 over the terms of a new contract at ports on the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts. On November 22, a week after the strike began, the President created a board of

inquiry by executive order.⁴ Two days later, the board reported to the President stating that the union's demand that the New York shipping companies negotiate a single Atlantic and Gulf Coast contract was the major issue preventing the conclusion of collective bargaining contracts in all ports. Other issues mentioned were paid holidays and improved vacations; 8-hour work guarantees; sling-load (i. e., amount of cargo handled in one loading operation from dock to ship or vice versa) and gang-size limitations; length of contract; and size of wage increases. A 10-day temporary restraining order, sending the longshoremen back to work, was issued by the Federal district court in New York on November 24, and 6 days later, this temporary order was extended to the full 80-day injunction provided by law. The dispute remained unsettled at the end of the year.⁵

Two emergency boards were created by executive order in 1956 under the provisions of the Railway Labor Act. However, the board appointed to investigate the dispute between the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and the Spokane, Portland, and Seattle Railway Co., did not hold hearings, since agreement was reached before it convened. The other board was appointed to investigate the issues in dispute between the Nation's major railroads and the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen.

Major Issues

Economic Issues and Union Security.—As in most years during the past decade, wages and supplementary benefits in 1956 were the most frequent issues in work stoppages. Disagreement over these matters caused almost half of the year's strikes, and nearly three-fourths of the total idleness (table 4). Length of contract also was a significant issue in several of

³ Since average duration is based on stoppages ending in the year, this figure includes the Westinghouse stoppage that began in 1955 and ended in March 1956.

⁴ Board members appointed were Thomas W. Holland, Chairman, Arthur Stark, and Jacob J. Blair.

⁵ On February 12, 1957, longshoremen in ports from Maine to Virginia quit work again after the 80-day injunction expired. Work continued at South Atlantic and Gulf Coast ports, since new agreements had been reached earlier at these ports. The stoppage in northern ports ended February 22, 1957.

the major disputes in this group, for example, in the July steel strike and the United Steelworkers' stoppage at the Aluminum Company of America and the Reynolds Metals Co. in August.

Issues pertaining to union organization, combined with wage and supplemental benefit issues, contributed another 15 percent of the year's idleness. A 10-day strike called in September by the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen and the United Packinghouse Workers at Swift and Co. plants occurred when the union-shop question became a stumbling block during contract negotiations. The final settlement included increased wages and supplemental benefits, but no union-shop clause.

Union security or bargaining rights were accountable for about 12 percent of the year's stoppages. These included the November dispute between the International Longshoremen's Association (Ind.) and stevedoring companies at the East and Gulf Coast ports. As pointed out earlier, negotiations in this dispute reached an impasse over the union's demand for coastwide bargaining, opposed by the various shipping associations. The union shop and scope of the bargaining unit precipitated a strike of about 600 members of the Communications Workers of America, which began in July and continued into 1957 at the Ohio Consolidated Telephone Co. at Portsmouth, Ohio, and surrounding counties.⁶ Considerable violence was reported throughout the period of the strike, causing more than one complete shutdown of operations.

Other Issues.—Job security issues, shop conditions and policies, and workload led to about the same number of strikes as in 1955 but caused a smaller proportion of the year's idleness. A discharge issue idled members of the United Steelworkers at the Great

Lakes Steel Corp.'s plant in Detroit, Mich., for 2 days during August. In December, a 3-man arbitration board ordered the union to conduct an investigation and discipline union members found guilty of initiating the strike.

Disagreement over seniority provisions of a new contract was an important factor in a 107-day stoppage of about 600 workers at the Cities Service Oil Co. refinery at East Chicago, Ind., which began in April. Some 4,000 workers were idled at Western Electric Co. plants in 3 Massachusetts areas over a similar issue in September.

Interunion and intraunion disputes accounted for about 1 out of 12 strikes. These strikes were relatively small, accounting for less than 4 percent of the workers and only 1.3 percent of the idleness.

Unions Involved

The first full year of the combined American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations found its affiliates involved in about 85 percent of all stoppages (table 8). This proportion—for the united labor movement—was about the same as that previously registered for AFL and CIO affiliates before the merger. Ten of the year's 12 major stoppages involved AFL-CIO affiliates.

While most of the stoppages involving the independent or unaffiliated unions were relatively brief interruptions of work in coal and metal mining, there were several major strikes by unaffiliated unions. The stoppage that closed operations at the Tennessee Coal and Iron Division of U. S. Steel began when members of the then unaffiliated Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen ceased work in a wage dispute. The November longshore strike was another in this category. In 42 stoppages, involving several thousand workers, no union was involved.

Industries Affected

Strike activity in most industry groups decreased significantly in 1956 whether measured in terms of stoppages, strikers, or man-days lost. The most

⁶ The final settlement (late in February 1957) provided for replacing the union shop with a maintenance-of-membership clause and for retaining certain supervisory positions in the bargaining unit unless the National Labor Relations Board ruled otherwise.

significant exception to this general trend occurred in the primary metal industries, the only group in which time lost because of work stoppages exceeded 1 percent of total working time. The 36-day nationwide steel strike of approximately half a million workers, coupled with the 98-day stoppage at the U. S. Steel Corp.'s Tennessee Coal and Iron Division, were responsible for about 90 percent of the 12.7 million man-days of idleness in this industry group (table 5).

Another major stoppage in the primary metal industries was the 25-day strike in the aluminum industry. On August 1, some 27,000 employees represented by the United Steelworkers struck at various plants of the Aluminum Company of America and the Reynolds Metals Co. Although about half of the Nation's aluminum production was reportedly halted, some 16,000 members of the Aluminum Workers International Union continued working at both companies while terms of new contracts with the aluminum workers were agreed upon early in the month.

In the stone, clay, and glass products group, the man-days of idleness were the highest recorded for that group since 1945 and 1946. The increase in 1956 resulted largely from the month-long stoppage of approximately 45,000 American Flint Glass Workers employed by members of the Glass Container Manufacturers Institute and the National Association of Pressed and Blown Glassware. This stoppage and a 56-day strike of several thousand brick and clay workers in Ohio and Pennsylvania accounted for almost half the idleness in this industry group.

Idleness also increased in the petroleum and coal products group mainly as the result of several rather small but lengthy stoppages. These together with a brief strike of several thousand workers at an Illinois petroleum refinery were largely responsible for increased idleness in these industries.

In the mining industries, the number of workers and idleness rose over 1955, but remained below most other postwar years. Several disputes over the number of men to be used on

a roof-bolting machine involved large numbers of West Virginia coal miners. Iron ore miners represented by the Steelworkers were part of the nationwide steel strike. A stoppage at the New Jersey Zinc Co. at Ogdensburg, N. J., which began in August 1955 and lasted a total of 376 days, also contributed to the year's idleness in this group.

Despite a decrease in the number of strikes in the paper and allied industries, the number of workers idled increased, resulting in higher idleness than in 1955 and several other years since World War II. A stoppage of approximately 1,000 employees for 122 days at the Mechanicville, N. Y., plant of the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Co. was responsible for a significant percentage of the industry's idleness. This stoppage, combined with a 64-day strike of some 500 workers at a paperboard manufacturing plant in Connecticut and a 13-day strike of more than 2,000 workers at the Sutherland Paper Co. in Kalamazoo, Mich., accounted for over a quarter of the workers idled and more than half of the total idleness in this industry group.

Although the 112-day stoppage at 4 Long Island, N. Y., plants of the Republic Aviation Corp. kept idleness in the transportation equipment group in 1956 at levels almost equal to those of 1955, the number of strikes and workers was markedly under 1955. The 123,000 workers and 1.8 million man-days of idleness in 1956 was the lowest recorded for this group in the past 10 years with the exception of 1954.

In the textile and leather products groups, strike activity fell sharply below 1955, gaged both by workers involved and idleness. Both groups had been affected by large stoppages in 1955, but no major strikes took place in 1956. The 104-day stoppage at the Rock Hill Printing and Finishing Co. in South Carolina, the 72-day strike at the New Jersey and Delaware plants of Congoleum-Nairn Inc., combined with the stoppage that began in September 1956 at the Brooklyn, N. Y., plant of Kentile, Inc., and continued into 1957, accounted for almost a third of the workers and more than two-thirds of the idleness in the textile industries.

The lumber and wood products group recorded its lowest idleness in the past decade. Fewer than 200 workers on strike for 164 days at a West Coast lumber company were responsible for slightly more than a fifth of the time lost in these industries.

A 20-percent decrease in strikes and workers during the year in the furniture and fixtures group accompanied a 15-percent decline in the idleness totals. A 56-day strike at the Heywood-Wakefield Co. in Gardner, Mass., involving fewer than 1,500 workers, was responsible for more idleness than any other dispute in the industry.

For the second consecutive year, a sharp decline occurred in strike idleness in the trade group. The 13-day stoppage of more than 7,000 employees of the R. H. Macy and Co. stores in the New York City area in April was the largest recorded in this industry during 1956.

The transportation, communication, and other public utilities industries recorded declines in all measures of strike activity during the year, with workers and man-days of idleness reaching their lowest point since 1944. The 9-day idleness of 60,000 workers at Atlantic and Gulf Coast ports in November accounted for about two-fifths of the workers and slightly more than a fifth of the working time lost in this group. In the previous year, seven major stoppages were recorded in these industries. In addition to the longshore strike, four other smaller stoppages were ended by court injunction or State seizure of the property. These were the Baltimore transit strike in January, the July stoppages at the Kansas City Power and Light Co., Kansas City, Mo., and the Laclede Gas Co. in St. Louis, Mo., and the Seattle, Wash., transit strike in November.

Geographic Patterns

State Experience.—In more than three-fourths of the States, strike idleness amounted to less than one-fourth of 1 percent of total working time (table 6). Alabama, because of 2 basic steel stoppages, was the only State in which strike idleness equaled 1 percent of total working time although in 4 other States

(Indiana, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia), the ratio exceeded one-half of 1 percent. In a few States—Missouri, New Mexico, New Hampshire, Oregon, Rhode Island, Utah, and Vermont—strike idleness was noticeably lower in proportion to total time worked than in any year since 1952, the first year for which ratios of idleness to total time worked were computed on a State basis.

Two large stoppages—the nationwide steel strike and the Westinghouse strike that continued from 1955—contributed heavily to the idleness recorded for Pennsylvania, Ohio, and New York. More than four-fifths of Pennsylvania and almost three-fifths of Ohio idleness resulted from these two stoppages. These strikes combined with a 112-day aircraft manufacturing stoppage accounted for three-fifths of New York's idleness. A significant portion of the idleness in Illinois and Indiana also resulted from steel and a few major stoppages, while in Iowa smaller strikes in farm equipment, aircraft engine accessories and meatpacking were responsible for almost half of that State's idleness.

The July nationwide steel stoppage was a significant factor in both Colorado and Maryland, where idleness was more than three times that in 1955. A local transit strike in Baltimore combined with the steel strike caused more than four-fifths of Maryland's idleness.

Idleness declined sharply as compared with the previous year in several southern States that had been affected in 1955 by major telephone and railroad strikes. In Alabama, however, the highest level of idleness since 1952 was reached as a result of strikes in the steel industry, while a 104-day textile strike was the principal factor in South Carolina's total for the year. In North Carolina, more than half the workers and three-fourths of the idleness resulted from the 65-day strike of about 6,000 employees at 3 plants of the Western Electric Co. Several month-long construction strikes, the July steel strike, the November longshore stoppage, and a stoppage of several thousand workers in the chemical industry brought time idle in Texas to its highest point since 1952.

Louisiana registered 42 stoppages involving 26,000 workers and 438,000 man-days of idleness. The idleness resulted largely from the November longshore stoppage and a dispute of 500 ironworkers in which picketing idled an additional 9,500 construction workers for over a month.

On the Pacific Coast, California and Oregon idleness declined from levels reached in 1955 and most postwar years, with time lost in Oregon reaching its lowest point since 1943. By contrast, lost time rose in Washington as two disputes—a 76-day construction strike and a 121-day petroleum stoppage—accounted for almost half of that State's idleness.

Metropolitan Areas.—Compared with 1955, decreases in all measures of strike activity were recorded in one-third of the metropolitan areas during the year (table 7); approximately a seventh registered increases in the 3 measures. In New England, the November strike at the Firestone Tire and Rubber Co. plants accounted for two-thirds and four-fifths of Fall River, Mass., worker and idleness figures, respectively, while more than 80 percent of Waterbury, Conn., idleness was attributable to a 63-day strike at the Chase Brass and Copper Co. Three-fifths of the time lost in New Haven, Conn., resulted from strikes in the rubber products industry and at a paperboard manufacturing company.

The Westinghouse stoppages that began in 1955 and ended in 1956, combined with the July nationwide steel strike, contributed more than three-fourths of the total idleness in Philadelphia, and over 90 percent of the idleness in Pittsburgh. In the New York-Northeastern New Jersey area, the Westinghouse stoppage and the Republic Aircraft Co. strike accounted for more than half the idleness.

In the South, a 75-day stoppage in the transportation equipment industry brought strike idleness to the highest level in Savannah, Ga., during the period the Bureau has included this area in its figures. The 98-day stoppage at the Tennessee Coal and Iron Division of the U. S. Steel Corp. was

responsible for most of the Birmingham, Ala., idleness. Two major stoppages—longshoremen in November and construction workers in May—were responsible for more than nine-tenths of the workers idled and time lost during the year in New Orleans, La. Strikes in the interstate trucking and the construction industries were responsible for two-fifths of the workers idled and more than three-fourths of the total idleness recorded in Nashville, Tenn., while in Charleston, W. Va., a 46-day stoppage in the chemical industry contributed almost three-fifths of all idleness.

A 137-day strike at the John Deere and Co. contributed more than half the workers idled and over 90 percent of the total strike idleness in the Davenport, Iowa, and Rock Island-Moline, Ill., area. This strike, combined with the Firestone Tire and Rubber Co. strike in November and a strike at an aircraft engine accessories plant in July, idled more than half the workers for almost three-fourths of the total man-days lost in Des Moines, Iowa. In Madison, Wis., strikes in the machine tool and construction industries accounted for two-thirds and four-fifths of the workers and idleness totals, respectively.

Stoppages of nationwide scope affected areas in the Far West and Southwest. For Phoenix, Ariz., the nationwide aluminum industry strike and a local telephone strike of 65 days' duration brought the number of workers and man-days of idleness to the highest levels recorded in any year. More than two-thirds of the idleness and half of the workers idled in the San Francisco area, were due to three stoppages—the nationwide steel dispute, an area-wide strike of carpenters, and a strike involving several major manufacturers of office machinery.

Trends During the Year

As in previous years, strike activity was greatest in the second and third quarters (April through September). However, a somewhat higher proportion of the year's strike activity occurred during the first quarter of 1956 than during the same period of the previous year.

Three-fifths of the year's stoppages, accounting for slightly more than 70 percent of all the workers and idleness, were recorded during the second and third quarters of the year (table 3). Eight of the year's 12 large stoppages occurred during this period and were responsible for more than three-fifths of that period's total idleness.

One-fifth of the idleness during the last quarter of 1956 was due to major stoppages in the farm equipment, tire and tube manufacturing, and longshoring industries.

Size and Duration

As in most years during the past decade, more than half of the 1956 strikes involved fewer than a hundred workers. In 1956, almost half lasted less than a week. The stoppages idling fewer than a hundred workers accounted for about 4 percent of all workers involved and approximately 3 percent of the year's idleness (table 9). Less than 0.5 percent of the year's strikes involved 10,000 or more workers, but these were responsible for approximately two-fifths and three-fifths of all strikers and strike idleness, respectively⁷ (table 2).

A slightly higher proportion of idleness in 1956 stoppages occurred in strikes affecting more than one establishment than in 1955 and most years since 1950. Slightly more than three-fourths of the 1956 strikes were confined to a single plant or establishment. These stoppages idled two-fifths of the workers and accounted for almost a quarter of the year's idleness (table 10). The small number of strikes affecting 100 or more establishments idled 28 percent of all strikers for 38 percent of all time lost in 1956, compared with a seventh of the 1955 idleness accounted for by stoppages of this magnitude.

Stoppages that continued for less than a week involved almost a third of the workers but only about 4 percent

of total man-days idle (table 12). Those continuing for a month or longer were proportionately about as numerous as in earlier years but, as a result of the Westinghouse stoppages and several other strikes that involved large numbers of workers and were relatively long, they contributed a higher proportion of the workers and idleness recorded in all stoppages ending in 1956 than in any year of the past decade. Stoppages of this duration numbered slightly less than a fifth of all strikes but accounted for two-fifths of the workers and four-fifths of total idleness.

As a result of the strikes that idled large numbers of workers for long periods of time, the average number of working days lost per striker (17.4) was higher than in any postwar year except 1948 when the same average was reported, and 1946, when idleness amounted to 25.2 days per striker. However, average duration of all stoppages (18.9 days), measured by giving each strike equal weight regardless of the number of workers involved, was lower than that recorded in most earlier postwar years.

Strikes over wages combined with union organization issues tended to be the longest—about 38 calendar days in 1956. Strikes over union organization alone ranked second, averaging 25 days, while those involving wages and related issues were third, lasting an average of about 20 days. Disputes over inter- and intraunion matters (14 days) and other working conditions (about 8 days) were the shortest.

An analysis of the duration of strikes by industry group shows that the tendency for most strikes to last less than a half month was shared by all but a few industry groups. In the mining industry, almost three-fourths of all the stoppages ending during the year continued for less than a week, compared with less than half the stoppages in most industry groups.

Method of Terminating Stoppages

Government mediation and conciliation services helped terminate about 3 out of 10 of the year's stoppages (table 13)—proportionately the same as

⁷ Total idleness includes widespread Westinghouse Electric Corp. stoppage which began in 1955 and continued into 1956.

most years since 1951. These strikes, however, idled three-fifths of all strikers for more than four-fifths of the total idleness—significant increases over the previous year. The proportion of stoppages settled by direct negotiations between representatives of the workers and employers was slightly higher in 1956 than the previous year, and involved 30 percent of the workers for 10 percent of the total idleness.

Situations in which workers returned to their jobs or were replaced by new employees without an agreement or settlement being negotiated accounted for 19 percent of the year's total, 9 percent of the workers, and 7 percent of the idleness.

One percent of the year's strikes ended with the employers discontinuing business. Nongovernment mediators or agencies either alone or with the aid of governmental agencies assisted in the final settlement of an additional 1 percent of the stoppages, accounting for about 0.5 percent of the workers and idleness.

Disposition of Issues

All issues were settled or otherwise resolved at the termination of almost 90 percent of the strikes occurring in 1956, equal to the postwar high recorded in the previous year. More than 90 percent of the workers and more than 95 percent of the idleness were involved in these stoppages (table 14). Such situations include those resolved by agreement to use the company's grievance procedure and those in which the workers returned without a formal agreement or settlement.

As in 1955, work was resumed while negotiation of the issues was continued in approximately 6 percent of the year's strikes. Termination of another 4 percent of the work stoppages was accomplished by agreement to return to work while negotiating with the aid of a third party, by submitting the dispute to arbitration, or referring the issues to government or other agencies for a decision or an employee representation election.

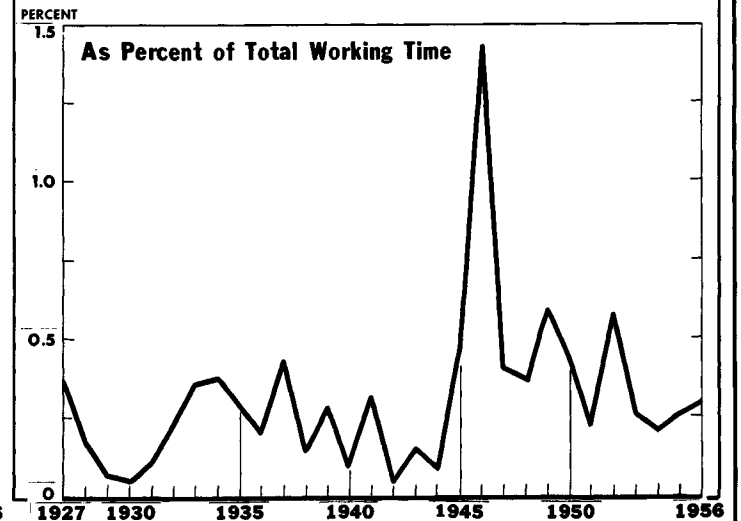
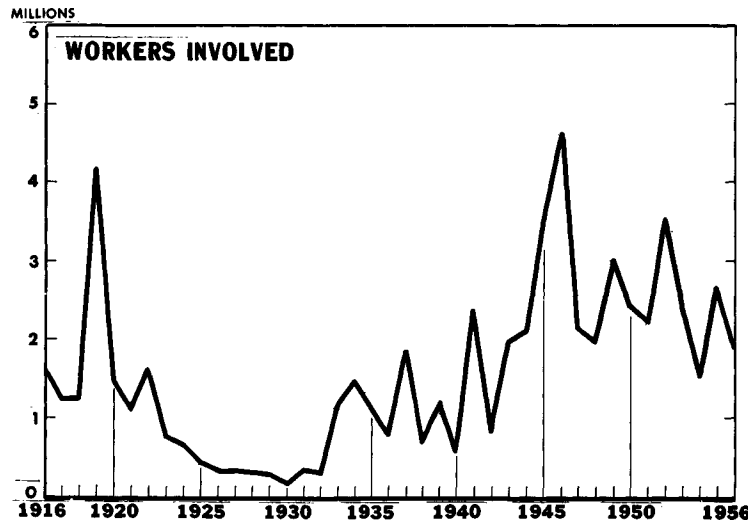
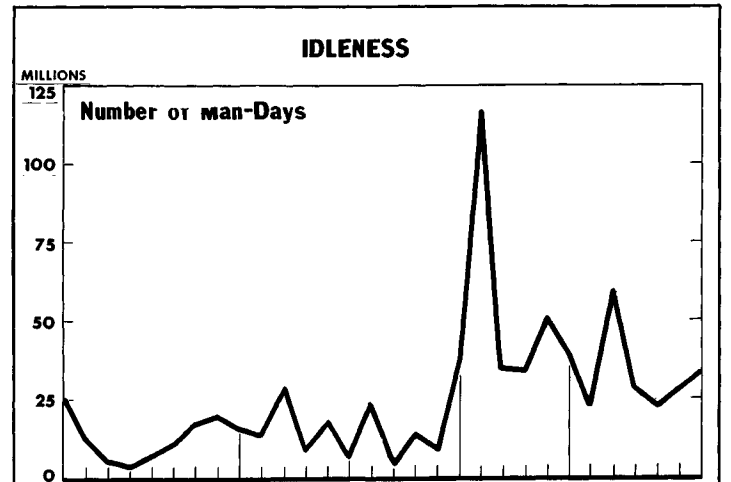
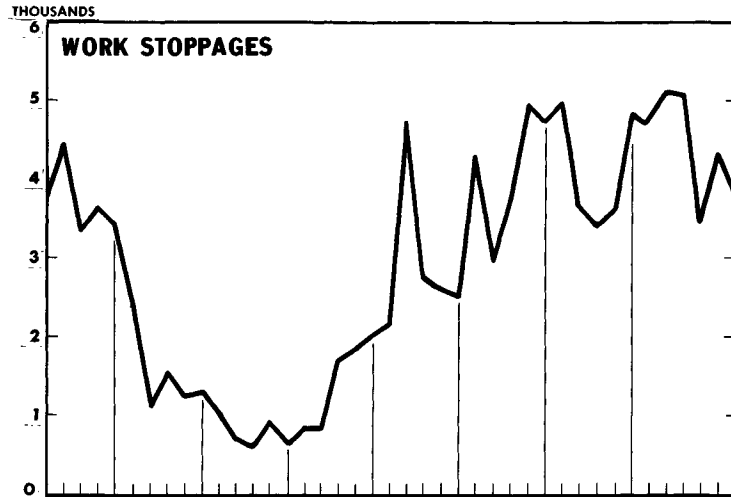
Strikes From 1927 to 1956

Publication of data on work stoppages in 1956 marks the thirtieth consecutive year for which the Bureau of Labor Statistics has compiled such statistics with relatively uniform procedures. Some strike statistics for the United States were issued as early as 1880 and from 1881 to 1905 information on the number of strikes and workers involved was collected and published. No Federal agency collected nationwide information on stoppages from 1906 to 1913 but in 1914 compilation of data was resumed on a limited basis. The Bureau of Labor Statistics collected data on the number of stoppages during 1914-15, and for the period from 1916-26,⁸ it also obtained statistics on the number of workers involved in approximately two-thirds of the known stoppages. Since 1927, the Bureau has compiled comprehensive statistics on the number of workers and idleness involved in all recorded stoppages (of six or more workers and lasting at least a day) known to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In view of the thirtieth anniversary of this statistical series, this section of the article provides a very brief review of strike trends from 1927 to 1956.

Marked economic and social changes have occurred over the 30-year period. These years have spanned both a major depression and a long period of economic prosperity, greatly influenced by war and international developments. Production has risen by 134 percent over the period, the labor force by 40 percent, and nonagricultural employment by almost 75 percent. Unions have recorded a fourfold gain in membership. Wages and other conditions of employment are now determined through collective bargaining in many important sectors of the economy instead of being limited as a significant force to a comparatively small number of industries as in the late 1920's.

⁸ During this period, strike statistics included stoppages involving fewer than 6 workers or lasting less than a day, which were excluded from data for prior or subsequent periods.

TRENDS IN WORK STOPPAGES



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

The concept of secular trend as applied to strike statistics is of limited usefulness. An inspection of the chart suggests that, over the whole 30-year period, a long-term trend line would show a very moderate upward slope, with strike activity measured by the ratio of strike idleness to the total amount of time worked in the United States. Perhaps a more useful generalization is that strike activity in the postwar period was, in a sense, on a somewhat higher "plateau" than strike activity in the decade before the war.⁹

Typically, strike idleness has amounted to from one-fifth to one-half of 1 percent of total time worked by all workers in the United States. A lower ratio was recorded only in the years from 1928 to 1931, 1938, 1940, and again from 1942 to 1944. Higher ratios were reached only in 1946, 1949, and 1952. Prior to 1933, work stoppages involved fewer than 2 percent of all workers employed. Since that time, they have generally idled from 5 to 9 percent of the total number of workers employed; these proportions were exceeded only in 1945 and 1946. In 7 years, since 1933, the proportions were below 5 percent (table 1).

More pronounced than any long-term trends have been the short-term changes in the level of strike activity and shifts in the issues involved in labor-management negotiations. The period under review began with economic activity at relatively high levels—soon to be interrupted by the major depression that began in 1929. Despite the large volume of unemployment that characterized the 1930's unionization grew rapidly,¹⁰ with Government policies of encouraging collective bargaining expressed in the Norris-LaGuardia Act of 1932, the National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933, and the National Labor Relations Act of 1935.

⁹ Expansion and improvement in the Bureau's sources of information as to the existence of work stoppages has resulted in a substantial increase in the number of strikes for which information is currently obtained. Since most of these added strikes are small and of short duration, they have had relatively little effect on the year-to-year comparability of data on the number of workers and total idleness.

¹⁰ Union membership increased from 3 million in 1932 to 7 million in 1937.

All measures of strike activity increased in 1933 and continued at higher levels through 1937. Idleness in these years averaged about one-third of 1 percent of total time worked as contrasted with almost one-tenth of 1 percent from 1929 to 1931. In most of these years, more than 5 percent of the workers were affected, compared with less than 2 percent in the immediately preceding years. Strike levels declined in 1938 as the economy dipped, rose in terms of workers and idleness in 1939, and fell again in 1940.

Labor's attempts to organize, gain recognition, and bargain collectively were reflected in the sharp increase in the proportion of stoppages that centered about these issues from 1933 to 1941. In each of these years except 1933, such issues were the most frequent single cause of strikes; and from 1934 to 1939, about half of all work stoppages, accounting for one-half to three-fourths of the man-days of idleness, occurred over questions of union recognition—in some instances combined with questions of wages. Interspersed with these attempts were occasional sitdown strikes, notably from 1935 to 1937, and clashes, sometimes fatal, on picket lines.

The period since the 1930's has experienced full or practically full employment, dominated by high levels of defense production, by actual hostilities, or by postwar recovery and adjustment to a peacetime economy. As these events occurred, economic issues became the single most important cause of work stoppages. In most years since 1940, these issues accounted for a majority of the workers and idleness in all work stoppages, although the total volume of strike activity has fluctuated.

During the period of the United States' participation in World War II, strike idleness declined as emphasis on maximum war production led to labor-management pledges to avoid strikes and lockouts, although the proportion of workers involved actually was slightly higher than it was in the late 1930's. Man-days lost in 1942, 1943, and 1944 ranged from 0.05 to 0.15 of 1 percent of all time worked and workers idled

amounted to 2.8 percent of total employment in 1942 and about 7 percent in 1943 and 1944. A significant proportion of the workers involved and idleness in 1943 was due to several large strikes in bituminous-coal mining.

Strike idleness in the first 3 months of 1945 remained at relatively low levels, but it increased somewhat after V-E Day. Then in late 1945 and 1946, strike activity, measured in terms of workers involved and man-days of idleness, increased sharply as workers attempted to maintain their weekly earnings in the face of the postwar decline in hours of work.¹¹ Stoppages in 1945 affected about 1 worker out of every 8 employed in this country.

In 1946, strike activity reached its all-time high as measured in terms of workers involved or man-days idle. In that year, 4.6 million workers (14.5 percent of all those employed) were directly involved for a total of 116 million man-days (1.43 percent of all time worked). Stoppages, a number lasting more than 50 calendar days, occurred during the first year after V-J Day in many major industries such as steel, rubber, auto-

mobile (the 113-day strike at General Motors), bituminous-coal mining, petroleum refining, Northwest lumber, plate glass, meatpacking, communications equipment, and farm equipment. These strikes provided the background for the passage in 1947 of the Taft-Hartley Act, including its provision for Government intervention in national emergency disputes.¹²

From 1947 to 1956, the number of workers involved in strikes ranged from 1.5 million to 3.5 million a year and generally remained below 2.7 million. Man-days of idleness fluctuated between 22.6 million and 59.1 million a year (0.2 to 0.6 of 1 percent of total time worked) but were below 35,000,000 in most years. In 1951, with Korean hostilities and wage controls, and again from 1953 to 1956, total idleness in strikes declined somewhat compared with other postwar years.

¹¹ Of the 42 stoppages in 1945 that involved 10,000 or more workers, 23 began after hostilities had ended in August.

¹² The emergency dispute provisions were invoked 13 times from 1947 through 1956—7 times in 1948, and once each in 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, and 1956.

TABLE 1.—Work stoppages in the United States, 1927-56¹

Year	Work stoppages		Workers involved ²		Man-days idle during year		
	Number	Average duration (calendar days) ³	Number (thousands)	Percent of total employed	Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time of all workers	Per worker involved
1927	707	26.5	330	1.4	26,200	0.37	79.5
1928	604	27.6	314	1.3	12,600	.17	40.2
1929	921	22.6	289	1.2	5,350	.07	18.5
1930	637	22.3	183	.8	3,320	.05	18.1
1931	810	18.8	342	1.6	6,890	.11	20.2
1932	841	19.6	324	1.8	10,500	.23	32.4
1933	1,695	16.9	1,170	6.3	16,900	.36	14.4
1934	1,856	19.5	1,470	7.2	19,600	.38	13.4
1935	2,014	23.8	1,120	5.2	15,500	.29	13.8
1936	2,172	23.3	789	3.1	13,900	.21	17.6
1937	4,740	20.3	1,860	7.2	28,400	.43	15.3
1938	2,772	23.6	688	2.8	9,150	.15	13.3
1939	2,613	23.4	1,170	4.7	17,800	.28	15.2
1940	2,508	20.9	577	2.3	6,700	.10	11.6
1941	4,288	18.3	2,360	8.4	23,000	.32	9.8
1942	2,968	11.7	840	2.8	4,180	.05	5.0
1943	3,752	5.0	1,980	6.9	13,500	.15	6.8
1944	4,956	5.6	2,120	7.0	8,720	.09	4.1
1945	4,750	9.9	3,470	12.2	38,000	.47	11.0
1946	4,985	24.2	4,600	14.5	116,000	1.43	25.2
1947	3,693	25.6	2,170	6.5	34,600	.41	15.9
1948	3,419	21.8	1,960	5.5	34,100	.37	17.4
1949	3,606	22.5	3,030	9.0	50,500	.59	16.7
1950	4,843	19.2	2,410	6.9	38,800	.44	16.1
1951	4,737	17.4	2,220	5.5	22,900	.23	10.3
1952	5,117	19.6	3,540	8.8	59,100	.57	16.7
1953	5,091	20.3	2,400	5.6	28,300	.26	11.8
1954	3,468	22.5	1,530	3.7	22,600	.21	14.7
1955	4,320	18.5	2,650	6.2	28,200	.26	10.7
1956	3,825	18.9	1,900	4.3	33,100	.29	17.4
1957							
1958							
1959							
1960							

¹ The number of stoppages and workers relate to those beginning in the year; average duration to those ending in the year. Man-days of idleness include all stoppages in effect.

Available information for earlier periods appear in BLS Bull. 1016, Handbook of Labor Statistics, table E-2. For a discussion of the procedures involved in the collection and compilation of work stoppage statistics, see BLS Bull. 1168, Techniques of Preparing Major BLS Statistical Series, Chapter 12.

² In this and subsequent tables, workers are counted more than once in these figures if they were involved in more than 1 stoppage during the year.

³ Figures are simple averages; each stoppage is given equal weight regardless of its size.

TABLE 2.—Work stoppages involving 10,000 or more workers, selected periods

Period	Stoppages involving 10,000 or more workers					
	Number	Percent of total for period	Workers involved		Man-days idle	
			Number (thousands)	Percent of total for period	Number (thousands) ¹	Percent of total for period
1935-39 average	11	0.4	365	32.4	5,290	31.2
1947-49 average	18	.5	1,270	53.4	23,800	59.9
1945	42	.9	1,350	38.9	19,300	50.7
1946	31	.6	2,920	63.6	66,400	57.2
1947	15	.4	1,030	47.5	17,700	51.2
1948	20	.6	870	44.5	18,900	55.3
1949	18	.5	1,920	63.2	34,900	69.0
1950	22	.5	738	30.7	21,700	56.0
1951	19	.4	457	20.6	5,680	24.8
1952	35	.7	1,690	47.8	36,900	62.6
1953	28	.5	650	27.1	7,270	25.7
1954	18	.5	437	28.5	7,520	33.3
1955	26	.6	1,210	45.6	12,300	43.4
1956	12	.3	758	39.9	19,600	59.1

Includes idleness in any stoppages beginning in earlier years.

TABLE 3.—Monthly trends in work stoppages, 1955-56

Month	Number of stoppages		Workers involved in stoppages			Man-days idle during month	
	Beginning in month	In effect during month	Beginning in month (thousands)	In effect during month		Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time of all workers
				Number (thousands)	Percent of total employed		
1955							
January -----	229	322	49	69	0.17	386	0.04
February -----	255	347	92	122	.30	610	.07
March -----	310	435	164	212	.51	1,680	.18
April -----	352	497	211	308	.74	2,730	.31
May -----	432	616	177	324	.77	2,820	.32
June -----	506	734	487	593	1.39	3,380	.36
July -----	464	718	637	776	1.82	3,320	.39
August -----	496	740	236	384	.89	3,060	.31
September -----	453	717	234	381	.88	2,770	.30
October -----	431	654	214	292	.67	2,470	.27
November -----	242	451	84	201	.46	2,630	.29
December -----	150	303	61	178	.40	2,340	.25
1956							
January -----	260	357	88	192	.44	2,150	.24
February -----	270	390	82	196	.45	2,270	.25
March -----	264	394	69	193	.44	2,020	.21
April -----	382	516	141	199	.46	1,540	.17
May -----	478	648	202	287	.65	2,910	.30
June -----	372	576	115	230	.52	2,010	.21
July -----	377	570	591	669	1.52	12,500	1.35
August -----	398	625	137	699	1.56	2,960	.29
September -----	336	541	156	209	.46	1,630	.19
October -----	332	524	133	178	.40	1,180	.11
November -----	242	403	158	204	.45	1,460	.15
December -----	114	240	29	53	.12	472	.05

TABLE 4.—Major issues involved in work stoppages, 1956

Major issues	Stoppages beginning in 1956				Man-days idle during 1956 (all stoppages)	
	Number	Percent of total ¹	Workers involved		Number ¹	Percent of total ¹
			Number ¹	Percent of total ¹		
All issues -----	3,825	100.0	1,900,000	100.0	33,100,000	100.0
Wages, hours, and supplementary benefits -----	1,821	47.6	1,270,000	66.8	24,300,000	73.5
Wage increase -----	1,094	28.6	924,000	48.6	19,300,000	58.2
Wage decrease -----	10	.3	600	(²)	660,000	2.0
Wage increase, hour decrease -----	45	1.2	7,680	.4	66,600	.2
Wage increase, pension and/or social insurance benefits -----	258	6.7	105,000	5.5	2,210,000	6.7
Pension and/or social insurance benefits -----	23	.6	9,120	.5	41,800	.1
Other ³ -----	391	10.2	224,000	11.8	2,100,000	6.3
Union organization, wages, hours, and supplementary benefits -----	329	8.6	81,200	4.3	5,070,000	15.3
Recognition, wages, and/or hours -----	202	5.3	21,200	1.1	494,000	1.5
Strengthening bargaining position, wages, and/or hours -----	32	.8	6,020	.3	3,730,000	11.3
Closed or union shop, wages, and/or hours -----	95	2.5	54,000	2.8	841,000	2.5
Union organization -----	445	11.6	102,000	5.4	1,100,000	3.3
Recognition -----	301	7.9	22,700	1.2	420,000	1.3
Strengthening bargaining position -----	42	1.1	66,600	3.5	494,000	1.5
Closed or union shop -----	77	2.0	11,300	.6	149,000	.5
Discrimination -----	13	.3	480	(²)	6,060	(²)
Other -----	12	.3	1,370	.1	29,800	.1
Other working conditions -----	862	22.5	375,000	19.7	2,160,000	6.5
Job security -----	416	10.9	184,000	9.7	1,270,000	3.9
Shop conditions and policies -----	387	10.1	149,000	7.8	562,000	1.7
Workload -----	55	1.4	38,300	2.0	199,000	.6
Other -----	4	.1	4,190	.2	124,000	.4
Interunion or intraunion matters -----	317	8.3	67,600	3.6	423,000	1.3
Sympathy -----	68	1.8	25,600	1.3	179,000	.5
Union rivalry ⁴ -----	27	.7	2,330	.1	23,200	.1
Jurisdiction ⁵ -----	214	5.6	37,100	2.0	212,000	.6
Union administration ⁶ -----	8	.2	2,550	.1	8,760	(²)
Not reported -----	51	1.3	4,630	.2	22,800	.1

¹ In this and subsequent tables the sum of the individual items may not equal the totals for the group, because the individual figures have been rounded.

² Less than 0.05 percent.

³ Issues such as retroactivity, holidays, vacations, job classification, piece rates, incentive standards, or other related matters unaccompanied by proposals to effect general changes in wage rates are included in this category. Slightly more than a third of the stoppages in this group occurred over piece rates or incentive standards.

⁴ Includes disputes between unions of different affiliation such as those between unions affiliated with the AFL-CIO and nonaffiliates.

⁵ Includes disputes between unions of the same affiliation. Some jurisdictional stoppages are small, brief, and local in scope and frequently are not reported either by cooperating agencies or by newspapers; hence, these figures do not include all such stoppages that may have occurred during the year.

⁶ Includes disputes within a union over the administration of union affairs or regulations.

TABLE 5.—Work stoppages by industry group, 1956

Industry group	Stoppages beginning in 1956		Man-days idle during 1956 (all stoppages)	
	Number	Workers involved	Number	Percent of estimated working time of all workers
All industries -----	¹ 3,825	1,900,000	33,100,000	0.29
MANUFACTURING -----	¹ 1,986	1,360,000	27,100,000	0.63
Primary metal industries -----	238	573,000	12,700,000	3.81
Fabricated metal products (except ordnance, machinery, and transportation equipment) -----	229	87,700	1,420,000	.50
Ordnance and accessories -----	15	11,200	90,700	.27
Electrical machinery, equipment, and supplies -----	106	62,700	3,050,000	.99
Machinery (except electrical) -----	211	113,000	3,630,000	.83
Transportation equipment -----	145	123,000	1,800,000	.40
Lumber and wood products (except furniture) -----	47	4,920	82,400	.04
Furniture and fixtures -----	96	21,100	245,000	.26
Stone, clay, and glass products -----	113	76,400	994,000	.69
Textile mill products -----	70	18,200	426,000	.16
Apparel and other finished products made from fabrics and similar materials -----	129	13,800	173,000	.06
Leather and leather products -----	54	8,940	74,000	.08
Food and kindred products -----	160	71,300	513,000	.13
Tobacco manufactures -----	4	790	20,600	.08
Paper and allied products -----	51	15,200	233,000	.16
Printing, publishing, and allied industries -----	31	5,900	105,000	.05
Chemicals and allied products -----	92	37,500	399,000	.19
Products of petroleum and coal -----	19	8,450	174,000	.27
Rubber products -----	55	81,300	580,000	.83
Professional, scientific, and controlling instruments; photographic and optical goods; watches and clocks -----	33	7,030	134,000	.16
Miscellaneous manufacturing industries -----	89	16,200	295,000	.23
NONMANUFACTURING -----	¹ 1,856	544,000	6,020,000	.09
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing -----	6	2,030	10,400	(²)
Mining -----	321	129,000	1,320,000	.65
Construction -----	784	231,000	2,680,000	.35
Trade -----	336	37,100	558,000	.02
Finance, insurance, and real estate -----	15	840	38,400	(²)
Transportation, communication, and other public utilities -----	243	130,000	1,170,000	.11
Services—personal, business, and other -----	126	10,700	227,000	(²)
Government—administration, protection, and sanitation ³ -----	27	3,460	11,100	(²)

¹ This figure is less than the sum of the figures below because a few stoppages extending into 2 or more industry groups have been counted in this column in each industry group affected; workers involved and man-days idle were divided among the respective groups.

² Not available.

³ Municipally operated utilities are included in "transportation, communication, and other public utilities."

TABLE 6.—Work stoppages by State, 1956

State	Stoppages beginning in 1956		Man-days idle during 1956 (all stoppages)	
	Number	Workers involved ¹	Number	Percent of estimated working time of all workers ¹
United States -----	^a 3,825	1,900,000	33,100,000	0.29
Alabama -----	101	63,300	1,490,000	1.00
Arizona -----	12	7,700	121,000	.25
Arkansas -----	23	5,740	108,000	.16
California -----	217	92,700	1,220,000	.13
Colorado -----	33	15,100	297,000	.32
Connecticut -----	68	28,700	534,000	.26
Delaware -----	16	4,910	76,000	.22
District of Columbia -----	8	2,270	9,310	.01
Florida -----	68	11,700	205,000	.09
Georgia -----	40	12,700	193,000	.09
Idaho -----	11	2,550	30,500	.10
Illinois -----	215	122,000	1,750,000	.22
Indiana -----	136	110,000	2,090,000	.65
Iowa -----	56	21,000	302,000	.22
Kansas -----	27	3,910	25,300	.02
Kentucky -----	109	25,800	239,000	.18
Louisiana -----	42	26,400	438,000	.27
Maine -----	16	1,490	11,900	.02
Maryland -----	29	41,600	896,000	.48
Massachusetts -----	170	55,000	831,000	.20
Michigan -----	210	98,800	1,190,000	.22
Minnesota -----	43	30,200	600,000	.32
Mississippi -----	20	6,430	28,800	.04
Missouri -----	117	39,400	444,000	.15
Montana -----	18	1,310	21,400	.06
Nebraska -----	24	5,410	43,500	.06
Nevada -----	13	3,230	14,300	.08
New Hampshire -----	10	420	3,800	.01
New Jersey -----	190	68,200	1,270,000	.29
New Mexico -----	16	2,910	17,900	.05
New York -----	423	160,000	2,980,000	.22
North Carolina -----	22	10,200	293,000	.12
North Dakota -----	6	150	2,200	.01
Ohio -----	357	291,000	4,720,000	.66
Oklahoma -----	42	10,600	154,000	.13
Oregon -----	27	6,780	67,400	.06
Pennsylvania -----	520	300,000	7,280,000	.87
Rhode Island -----	27	4,290	33,100	.05
South Carolina -----	12	5,430	153,000	.13
South Dakota -----	6	920	6,390	.03
Tennessee -----	111	32,800	427,000	.23
Texas -----	76	43,900	872,000	.17
Utah -----	24	12,800	90,800	.20
Vermont -----	8	1,330	9,190	.04
Virginia -----	49	12,600	131,000	.06
Washington -----	48	11,100	197,000	.12
West Virginia -----	191	68,400	589,000	.54
Wisconsin -----	62	28,400	537,000	.21
Wyoming -----	5	100	890	.01

¹ Percent of United States total as carried in former years, available in Monthly Labor Review, May 1957 (p. 570).

² The sum of the figures in this column exceeds 3,825 because the stoppages extending across State lines have been counted in each State affected; workers involved and man-days idle were divided among the States.

TABLE 7.—Work stoppages by metropolitan area, 1956¹

Metropolitan area	Stoppages beginning in 1956 ²		Man-days idle during 1956 ² (all stoppages)	Metropolitan area	Stoppages beginning in 1956 ²		Man-days idle during 1956 ² (all stoppages)
	Number	Workers involved			Number	Workers involved	
Akron, Ohio -----	29	21,300	195,000	Indianapolis, Ind. -----	15	8,650	122,000
Albany-Schenectady-Troy, N. Y. -----	25	9,100	70,000	Jackson, Mich. -----	9	2,230	11,400
Albuquerque, N. Mex. -----	7	510	2,350	Jackson, Miss. -----	6	1,000	4,520
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton, Pa. -----	36	26,700	573,000	Jacksonville, Fla. -----	11	2,760	47,600
Atlanta, Ga. -----	20	8,480	103,000	Johnstown, Pa. -----	14	19,300	480,000
Baltimore, Md. -----	23	37,800	880,000	Kalamazoo, Mich. -----	7	4,490	32,000
Baton Rouge, La. -----	10	1,360	10,800	Kansas City, Mo. -----	39	14,400	201,000
Bay City, Mich. -----	6	1,790	33,100	Kenosha, Wis. -----	5	300	2,200
Beaumont-Port Arthur, Tex. -----	9	7,480	342,000	Kingston-Newburgh-Poughkeepsie, N. Y. -----	14	3,330	115,000
Billings, Mont. -----	6	260	7,710	Knoxville, Tenn. -----	25	9,580	66,400
Birmingham, Ala. -----	46	25,200	1,080,000	Lancaster, Pa. -----	7	670	12,100
Boston, Mass. -----	55	21,100	214,000	Lawrence, Mass. -----	7	3,780	94,100
Bridgeport, Conn. -----	11	3,110	128,000	Little Rock-North Little Rock, Ark. -----	6	480	7,150
Buffalo, N. Y. -----	53	42,900	1,050,000	Lorain-Elyria, Ohio -----	18	18,000	303,000
Canton, Ohio -----	16	19,100	373,000	Los Angeles-Long Beach, Calif. -----	84	39,300	518,000
Cedar Rapids, Iowa -----	8	660	2,440	Louisville, Ky. -----	31	5,550	61,700
Charleston, S. C. -----	6	1,350	8,570	Lowell, Mass. -----	6	350	2,600
Charleston, W. Va. -----	12	3,010	49,900	Madison, Wis. -----	6	3,630	108,000
Charlotte, N. C. -----	7	470	4,080	Memphis, Tenn. -----	22	5,600	67,800
Chattanooga, Tenn. -----	20	5,120	32,200	Miami, Fla. -----	22	3,520	128,000
Chicago, Ill. -----	86	110,000	2,460,000	Milwaukee, Wis. -----	22	9,780	195,000
Cincinnati, Ohio -----	32	10,900	61,000	Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn. -----	26	6,870	67,000
Cleveland, Ohio -----	44	68,200	1,010,000	Mobile, Ala. -----	13	9,590	33,700
Columbus, Ohio -----	13	4,590	149,000	Muncie, Ind. -----	7	7,610	27,300
Corpus Christi, Tex. -----	7	4,020	39,400	Nashville, Tenn. -----	16	4,810	119,000
Dallas, Tex. -----	9	2,620	25,100	New Bedford, Mass. -----	15	1,380	26,300
Davenport, Iowa-Rock Island-Moline, Ill. -----	8	6,260	354,000	New Haven, Conn. -----	14	3,110	63,000
Dayton, Ohio -----	13	2,830	22,700	New Orleans, La. -----	22	22,900	409,000
Decatur, Ill. -----	13	4,300	15,900	New York-Northeastern New Jersey-Norfolk-Portsmouth, Va. -----	419	124,000	2,280,000
Denver, Colo. -----	21	5,730	64,300	Ogden, Utah -----	5	1,260	7,720
Des Moines, Iowa -----	21	8,580	212,000	Oklahoma City, Okla. -----	5	1,520	37,500
Detroit, Mich. -----	111	64,800	719,000	Omaha, Nebr. -----	13	4,400	29,200
Duluth, Minn.-Superior, Wis. -----	12	7,000	139,000	Peoria, Ill. -----	11	21,400	92,700
Erie, Pa. -----	13	1,150	12,600	Philadelphia, Pa. -----	118	64,500	1,730,000
Evansville, Ind. -----	8	7,430	87,400	Phoenix, Ariz. -----	6	3,890	102,000
Fall River, Mass. -----	13	2,730	33,400	Pittsburgh, Pa. -----	118	112,000	3,070,000
Flint, Mich. -----	7	1,910	3,900	Pittsfield, Mass. -----	6	1,060	1,280
Fort Smith, Ark. -----	5	420	12,100	Portland, Maine -----	5	730	1,470
Fort Wayne, Ind. -----	6	7,240	26,300	Portland, Oreg. -----	17	5,430	37,200
Galveston, Tex. -----	5	3,860	24,100	Providence, R. I. -----	23	2,370	23,000
Grand Rapids, Mich. -----	7	1,650	54,600	Reading, Pa. -----	16	3,520	35,600
Hamilton-Middletown, Ohio -----	5	1,170	6,400	Richmond, Va. -----	6	640	7,310
Harrisburg, Pa. -----	8	7,820	172,000	Rochester, N. Y. -----	11	1,960	17,600
Hartford, Conn. -----	14	6,600	47,000	Rockford, Ill. -----	5	440	1,300
Houston, Tex. -----	16	8,110	142,000	Sacramento, Calif. -----	9	960	10,000
Huntington, W. Va. -----	24	8,660	151,000	St. Louis, Mo.-East St. Louis, Ill. -----	80	41,400	318,000
Ashland, Ky. -----				Salt Lake City, Utah -----	10	2,830	21,200
				San Bernardino, Calif. -----	12	1,110	14,500

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 7.—Work stoppages by metropolitan area, 1956¹ - Continued

Metropolitan area	Stoppages beginning in 1956 ²		Man-days idle during 1956 ² (all stoppages)	Metropolitan area	Stoppages beginning in 1956 ²		Man-days idle during 1956 ² (all stoppages)
	Number	Workers involved			Number	Workers involved	
San Diego, Calif. -----	14	3,610	49,900	Tampa-St. Petersburg, Fla. -----	14	1,730	7,600
San Francisco-Oakland, Calif. -----	85	38,000	472,000	Terre Haute, Ind. -----	7	1,330	15,000
San Jose, Calif. -----	10	3,220	58,200	Toledo, Ohio -----	20	6,700	91,000
Scranton, Pa. -----	15	3,110	22,200	Trenton, N. J. -----	12	7,300	172,000
Seattle, Wash. -----	14	4,090	67,000	Tulsa, Okla. -----	17	5,910	71,500
Spokane, Wash. -----	5	1,000	1,660	Utica-Rome, N. Y. -----	8	1,030	5,810
Springfield, Ill. -----	12	3,440	42,300	Washington, D. C. -----	9	2,320	10,700
Springfield-Holyoke, Mass. -----	20	9,450	199,000	Waterbury, Conn. -----	9	8,060	224,000
Springfield, Mo. -----	5	410	11,700	Wheeling, W. Va. - Steubenville, Ohio -----	39	28,600	470,000
Stamford-Norwalk, Conn. -----	6	220	2,260	Wilkes-Barre-Hazleton, Pa. -----	30	2,630	48,400
Syracuse, N. Y. -----	7	4,640	59,100	Wilmington, Del. -----	16	5,260	76,700
Tacoma, Wash. -----	5	200	1,220	Worcester, Mass. -----	19	5,770	94,200
				York, Pa. -----	15	1,740	27,800
				Youngstown, Ohio -----	80	85,600	1,590,000

¹ The table includes data for each of the metropolitan areas that had 5 or more stoppages in 1956. Beginning with 1952, data were tabulated separately for 182 metropolitan areas; in 1955 the number was increased to 205. Information prior to 1952 was confined to city boundaries. The metropolitan areas are principally those on the lists of Standard Metropolitan Areas compiled by the Bureau of the Budget as of January 28, 1949, and June 5, 1950. A few areas were added, including some that had been in the strike series in earlier years. (Lists of these metropolitan areas are available upon request from the Division of Wages and Industrial Relations, Bureau of Labor Statistics.)

Some metropolitan areas include counties in more than 1 State, and hence, an area total may equal or exceed the total for the State in which the major city is located. The Washington, D. C. metropolitan area, which includes the District of Columbia and adjacent counties in Maryland and Virginia, exceeds slightly the 1956 totals for the District of Columbia as shown in table 6, work stoppages by State. Idleness in the Chicago metropolitan area, which includes Cook, Du Page, Kane, Lake and Will Counties, Ill., and Lake County, Ind., exceeds the Illinois total.

² Intermetropolitan area stoppages are counted separately in each area affected with the workers involved and man-days idle allocated to the respective areas.

TABLE 8.—Work stoppages by affiliation of unions involved, 1956

Affiliation	Stoppages beginning in 1956				Man-days idle during 1956 (all stoppages)	
	Number	Percent of total	Workers involved			
			Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total
Total -----	3, 825	100.0	1, 900, 000	100.0	33, 100, 000	100.0
AFL-CIO -----	3, 242	84.8	1, 670, 000	87.7	26, 400, 000	79.7
Unaffiliated unions -----	485	12.7	219, 000	11.5	2, 960, 000	8.9
Single-firm unions -----	19	.5	9, 450	.5	114, 000	.3
Different affiliations -----	29	.8	3, 110	.2	3, 620, 000	10.9
No union involved -----	42	1.1	3, 280	.2	26, 100	.1
Not reported -----	8	.2	270	(^a)	9, 830	(^a)

¹ Includes 1956 idleness resulting from the prolonged stoppage of members of the International Union of Electrical Workers and the United Electrical Workers (Ind.), beginning in October 1955 at the Westinghouse Electric Corp.

² Less than 0.05 percent.

TABLE 9.—Work stoppages by number of workers involved, 1956

Number of workers	Stoppages beginning in 1956				Man-day idle during 1956 (all stoppages)	
	Number	Percent of total	Workers involved			
			Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total
All workers -----	3,825	100.0	1,900,000	100.0	33,100,000	100.0
6 and under 20 -----	680	17.8	8,000	0.4	127,000	0.4
20 and under 100 -----	1,338	35.0	65,700	3.5	945,000	2.9
100 and under 250 -----	798	20.9	128,000	6.7	1,420,000	4.3
250 and under 500 -----	468	12.2	158,000	8.3	1,850,000	5.6
500 and under 1,000 -----	254	6.6	172,000	9.1	1,960,000	5.9
1,000 and under 5,000 -----	260	6.8	522,000	27.4	5,650,000	17.1
5,000 and under 10,000 -----	15	.4	90,400	4.8	1,590,000	4.8
10,000 and over -----	12	.3	758,000	39.9	19,600,000	59.1

TABLE 10.—Work stoppages by number of establishments involved, 1956

Number of establishments involved ¹	Stoppages beginning in 1956				Man-days idle during 1956 (all stoppages)	
	Number	Percent of total	Workers involved		Number	Percent of total
			Number	Percent of total		
Total -----	3, 825	100. 0	1, 900, 000	100. 0	33, 100, 000	100. 0
1 establishment -----	2, 975	77. 8	765, 000	40. 2	7, 600, 000	23. 0
2 to 5 establishments -----	421	11. 0	198, 000	10. 4	3, 960, 000	11. 9
6 to 10 establishments -----	158	4. 1	71, 800	3. 8	885, 000	2. 7
11 establishments or more -----	259	6. 8	866, 000	45. 5	20, 600, 000	62. 4
11 to 49 establishments -----	174	4. 5	166, 000	8. 7	5, 500, 000	16. 6
50 to 99 establishments -----	16	. 4	21, 600	1. 1	222, 000	. 7
100 establishments or more -----	18	. 5	540, 000	28. 4	12, 600, 000	38. 0
Exact number not known ² -----	51	1. 3	138, 000	7. 3	2, 340, 000	7. 1
Not reported -----	12	. 3	1, 670	. 1	19, 200	. 1

¹ An establishment is defined as a single physical location where business is conducted or where services or industrial operations are performed; for example, a factory, mill, store, mine, or farm. A stoppage may involve 1, 2, or more establishments of a single employer or it may involve different employers.

² Information available indicates more than 11 establishments involved in each of these stoppages.

TABLE 11.—Work stoppages beginning in 1956 involving 10,000 or more workers

Beginning date	Approximate duration (calendar days) ¹	Establishment(s) and location	Union(s) involved ²	Approximate number of workers involved ²	Major terms of settlement ³
February 20	112	Republic Aviation Corp., 4 plants—Long Island, N. Y. area	Int'l Ass'n of Machinists; Int'l Bro. of Electrical Workers; and Int'l Union of Operating Engineers	12,000	<p><u>Machinists:</u> 7-cent hourly wage increases effective in June 1956, and again on April 1, 1957; a 3d week of vacation after 12 years' seniority; improved company-paid health and welfare benefits; 2 days' notice required prior to an indefinite layoff or 2 days' pay in lieu of notice.</p> <p><u>Electrical Workers:</u> 12-cent hourly wage increases effective immediately and again on April 1, 1957; supplemental benefit increases similar to the IAM settlement.</p> <p><u>Operating Engineers:</u> Wage increases of 6 cents effective immediately and 7 cents in 1957; supplemental benefits similar to the IAM agreement.</p>
April 28	98	Tennessee Coal and Iron Division, U.S. Steel Corp., Birmingham, Ala.	Bro. of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, (Ind.) ⁴	21,000	A 3-year contract with hourly wage increases of 11 cents effective immediately and 9.1 cents in the 2d and 3d years of the contract; a cost-of-living escalator clause; premium pay for Sunday work and liberalized holiday pay; jury duty pay; liberalized insurance agreement; and Supplementary Unemployment Benefits.
May 1	27	Construction industry, Northeastern Ohio (including Cleveland area)	Building Trades Unions	40,000	Two-year agreements—majority of unions received hourly wage increases of 17½ cents retroactive to May 1, 1956, and 16½ cents on May 1, 1957. Sheet-metal workers received, in addition, a 7½-cent an hour employer contribution to a vacation fund effective May 1, 1957. Bricklayers received a 15-cent hourly wage increase plus 2½ cents an hour contribution to welfare fund retroactive to May 1, 1956, and 16½-cents hourly wage increase effective May 1, 1957.
May 1	71	Construction industry, New Orleans area, Louisiana	Int'l Ass'n of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers	10,000	A 2-year contract providing for hourly wage increases of 10 cents retroactive to May 1, 1956, and again on November 1, 1956, and May 1, 1957; and change in area covered by travel time agreement.

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 11.—Work stoppages beginning in 1956 involving 10,000 or more workers - Continued

Beginning date	Approximate duration (calendar days) ¹	Establishment(s) and location	Union(s) involved ²	Approximate number of workers involved ²	Major terms of settlement ³
July 1	⁵ 36	Steel industry, nationwide	United Steelworkers	500,000	A 3-year contract providing for hourly wage rate increases averaging 10½ cents effective on the contract date and 9.1 cents in the 2d and 3d years of the contract; a semiannual cost-of-living escalator clause; changes in supplementary benefits effective at various dates during contract period; premium pay for Sunday work; liberalized premium pay for holiday work; supplemental unemployment benefit plan; pay for jury duty; a 7th paid holiday; and improved health, welfare and pension benefits; also, a revised union shop provision.
July 7	12	Construction industry, San Francisco area, California	United Bro. of Carpenters and Joiners	13,000	A 3-year contract providing for hourly wage increases of 12½ cents retroactive to July 7, 1956, 5 cents effective June 15, 1957, and 12½ cents on June 15, 1958; on the latter date an additional 2½ cents an hour to be used by the union at its discretion for supplementing its health or pension plans or to increase wage rates; a 10-cent hourly employer contribution to a vacation fund beginning on January 1, 1957; and a 10-cent hourly contribution to a pension fund effective June 15, 1957.
August 1	⁶ 25	Aluminum Company of America and Reynolds Metals Co., 13 States	United Steelworkers	27,000	A 3-year contract providing for hourly wage increases averaging 11.83 cents retroactive to August 1, 1956, 10.66 cents—Alcoa, and 11.66 cents—Reynolds, effective August 1, 1957, and 9.66 cents effective August 1, 1958; proportional increases in incentive pay; a semiannual cost-of-living escalator clause; changes in supplemental benefits effective at various contract dates; increased pay for work on holidays; higher shift differentials; a 7th paid holiday; and a supplemental unemployment benefit plan.
September 1	⁷ 28	Members of Glass Container Manufacturer's Institute; National Association of Pressed and Blown Glassware; and some independent companies, 16 States	American Flint Glass Workers Union	47,000	One-year contract providing for 6-percent wage increase and pay for jury duty.
September 20	10	Swift and Co., 26 States	Amalgamated Meatcutters and United Packinghouse Workers	25,000	A 3-year contract providing for hourly wage increases of 10 cents effective September 24, 1956, and 7½ cents on September 1, 1957 and 1958; reduction of area wage differentials; elimination of women's wage differential; a cost-of-living escalator clause; liberalized sick pay benefits; and a separation pay plan.

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 11.—Work stoppages beginning in 1956 involving 10,000 or more workers - Continued

Beginning date	Approximate duration (calendar days) ¹	Establishment(s) and location	Union(s) involved ²	Approximate number of workers involved ²	Major terms of settlement ³
October 2	3	Caterpillar Tractor Co., East Peoria, Ill.	United Automobile Workers	19,000	Agreement to review and discuss certain grievances.
November 1	18	Firestone Tire and Rubber Co., 7 States: Calif., Ind., Iowa, Mass., Ohio, Pa., and Tenn.	United Rubber Workers	21,000	A 2½-year contract providing funeral leave and supplementary pay for workers during Armed Forces reserve training sessions and liberalizing seniority provisions, the incentive system, vacation provisions, methods of computing weekly overtime pay, and pay provisions during treatment of on-the-job injuries.
November 16	(⁸)	Longshoring industry, Port of New York and other East and Gulf Coast ports	Int'l Longshoremen's Ass'n. (Ind.)	60,000	(⁸)

¹ Includes nonworkdays, such as Saturdays, Sundays, and established holidays.

² The unions listed are those directly involved in the dispute. The number of workers involved may include members of other unions or nonunion workers idled by the dispute in the same establishment.

"Workers involved" is the maximum number made idle for one shift or longer in establishments directly involved in a stoppage. (In those instances in which idleness fluctuates during the strike, the actual number of workers idle on varying dates is used in computing the man-days of idleness.) This figure does not measure the indirect or secondary effects on other establishments or industries whose employees are made idle as a result of material or service shortages.

³ The monthly Current Wage Developments reports of the Bureau sometimes describe the wage settlements in greater detail than they are presented here.

⁴ Until July 1, plant workers were idled by dispute of the Firemen and Enginemen. On that date plant workers, represented by the United Steelworkers, also struck upon the expiration of their contract.

⁵ On July 27, the United Steelworkers and 12 major steel producers signed a memorandum of agreement incorporating the provisions of a 3-year contract. Workers began returning to work as soon as individual contracts were signed, and by August 5 all of the major steel producers had signed new agreements.

⁶ Aluminum Company of America reached agreement on August 9, and Reynolds Metals Co. on August 25.

⁷ Glass Container Manufacturers' Institute reached agreement on September 9, National Association of Pressed and Blown Glassware on September 28.

⁸ Workers at all ports returned to their jobs on November 24 after a United States District Court issued a 10-day restraining order under provisions of the Labor Management Relations (Taft-Hartley) Act. Settlements were reached at Southern and Gulf Coast Ports before the 80-day injunction expired. On February 12, 1957, after this injunction expired, some 35,000 longshoremen in Atlantic ports from Maine to Virginia left their jobs again. Final settlement was reached on February 22.

TABLE 12.—Duration of work stoppages ending in 1956¹

Duration (calendar days)	Stoppages		Workers involved		Man-days idle	
	Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total
All periods -----	3,821	100.0	1,930,000	100.0	37,500,000	100.0
1 day -----	534	14.0	149,000	7.7	149,000	0.4
2 to 3 days -----	610	16.0	209,000	10.8	450,000	1.2
4 days and less than 1 week -----	561	14.7	218,000	11.3	745,000	2.0
1 week and less than 1/2 month (7 to 14 days) -----	796	20.8	291,000	15.1	1,950,000	5.2
1/2 month and less than 1 month (15 to 29 days) -----	622	16.3	282,000	14.6	3,460,000	9.2
1 month and less than 2 months (30 to 59 days) -----	405	10.6	581,000	30.1	14,900,000	39.6
2 months and less than 3 months (60 to 89 days) -----	161	4.2	55,800	2.9	2,610,000	6.9
3 months and over (90 days and over) -----	132	3.5	146,000	7.6	13,300,000	35.5

¹ The totals in this table and in tables 13 and 14 differ from those in the preceding tables, because these 3 tables relate to stoppages ending during the year, including any 1955 idleness in these strikes.

TABLE 13.—Method of terminating work stoppages ending in 1956¹

Method of termination	Stoppages		Workers involved		Man-days idle	
	Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total
All methods -----	3,821	100.0	1,930,000	100.0	37,500,000	100.0
Agreement of parties reached -						
Directly -----	1,809	47.3	572,000	29.6	3,870,000	10.3
With assistance of government agencies -----	1,179	30.9	1,180,000	61.1	30,700,000	81.7
With assistance of nongovernment mediators or agencies -----	29	.8	4,210	.2	24,800	.1
With combined assistance of government agencies and nongovernment mediators or agencies -----	10	.3	5,630	.3	120,000	.3
Terminated without formal settlement -----	709	18.6	164,000	8.5	2,550,000	6.8
Employers discontinued business -----	42	1.1	3,020	.2	253,000	.7
Not reported -----	43	1.1	2,750	.1	47,500	.1

¹ See footnote 1, table 12.

TABLE 14.—Disposition of issues in work stoppages ending in 1956¹

Disposition of issues	Stoppages		Workers involved		Man-days idle	
	Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total
All issues -----	3,821	100.0	1,930,000	100.0	37,500,000	100.0
Issues settled or disposed of at termination of stoppage ² -----	3,390	88.7	1,790,000	92.9	36,600,000	97.5
Some or all issues to be adjusted after resumption of work -						
By direct negotiation between employer (s) and union -----	224	5.9	84,500	4.4	442,000	1.2
By negotiation with the aid of government agencies -----	11	.3	5,750	.3	73,700	.2
By arbitration -----	84	2.2	31,500	1.6	204,000	.5
By other means ³ -----	69	1.8	13,100	.7	167,000	.4
Not reported -----	43	1.1	2,750	.1	47,500	.1

¹ See footnote 1, table 12.

² Includes (a) those strikes in which a settlement was reached on the issues prior to return to work, (b) those in which the parties agreed to utilize the company's grievance procedure, and (c) any strikes in which the workers returned without formal agreement or settlement.

³ Includes cases referred to the National or State labor relations boards or other agencies for administrative action or employee elections, rather than factfinding, mediation or conciliation; and interunion or intraunion disputes for which specific union procedures for adjudication have been developed.

Appendix A

TABLE A-1.—Work stoppages by industry, 1956

Industry	Stoppages beginning in 1956		Man-days idle during 1956 (all stoppages)	Industry	Stoppages beginning in 1956		Man-days idle during 1956 (all stoppages)
	Number	Workers involved			Number	Workers involved	
All industries	13,825	1,900,000	33,100,000	Manufacturing - Continued			
Manufacturing	11,986	1,360,000	27,100,000	Lumber and wood products (except furniture)	47	4,920	82,400
Primary metal industries	1238	573,000	12,700,000	Logging camps and logging contractors	2	190	780
Blast furnaces, steel works, and rolling mills	107	487,000	11,300,000	Sawmills and planing mills	14	2,370	42,700
Iron and steel foundries	55	20,000	292,000	Millwork, plywood, and prefabricated structural wood products	20	1,800	33,700
Primary smelting and refining of nonferrous metals	5	11,300	224,000	Wooden containers	7	460	3,520
Secondary smelting and refining of nonferrous metals and alloys	5	770	4,400	Miscellaneous wood products	4	100	1,780
Rolling, drawing, and alloying of nonferrous metals	18	24,100	359,000	Furniture and fixtures	196	21,100	245,000
Nonferrous foundries	22	3,530	34,700	Household furniture	75	11,300	152,000
Miscellaneous primary metal industries	30	25,900	471,000	Office furniture	8	6,770	24,400
Fabricated metal products (except ordnance, machinery, and transportation equipment)	1229	87,700	1,420,000	Public-building and professional furniture	2	220	6,470
Tin cans and other tinware	5	1,950	7,970	Partitions, shelving, lockers, and office and store fixtures	8	2,530	58,100
Cutlery, handtools, and general hardware	20	7,300	86,100	Window and door screens, shades, and venetian blinds	3	210	4,840
Heating apparatus (except electric) and plumbers' supplies	26	11,900	380,000	Miscellaneous furniture and fixtures	1	20	110
Fabricated structural metal products	91	37,400	517,000	Stone, clay, and glass products	113	76,400	994,000
Metal stamping, coating, and engraving	47	13,200	166,000	Flat glass	2	510	40,600
Lighting fixtures	10	2,600	49,900	Glass and glassware, pressed or blown	10	48,600	391,000
Fabricated wire products	8	4,040	82,100	Glass products made of purchased glass	2	270	10,100
Miscellaneous fabricated metal products	28	9,400	126,000	Cement, hydraulic	14	5,260	68,400
Ordnance and accessories	15	11,200	90,700	Structural clay products	27	9,020	217,000
Ammunition, except for small arms	8	5,960	58,000	Pottery and related products	12	7,640	123,000
Tanks and tank components	2	1,380	10,800	Concrete, gypsum, and plaster products	31	2,790	76,400
Sighting and fire-control equipment	1	1,000	1,000	Cut-stone and stone products	3	270	13,800
Small arms ammunition	3	2,830	20,900	Abrasive, asbestos, and miscellaneous nonmetallic mineral products	12	2,060	53,500
Ordnance and accessories not elsewhere classified	1	80	80	Textile mill products	70	18,200	426,000
Electrical machinery, equipment, and supplies	106	62,700	3,050,000	Yarn and thread mills (cotton, wool, silk, and synthetic fiber)	5	270	2,520
Electrical generating, transmission, distribution, and industrial apparatus	48	26,400	1,790,000	Broad-woven fabric mills (cotton, wool, silk, and synthetic fiber)	16	4,670	64,600
Electrical appliances	7	1,840	167,000	Narrow fabrics and other smallwares mills (cotton, wool, silk, and synthetic fiber)	4	480	10,900
Insulated wire and cable	5	2,060	18,400	Knitting mills	14	1,110	18,000
Electrical equipment for motor vehicles, aircraft, and railway locomotives and cars	8	4,510	35,700	Dyeing and finishing textiles (except knit goods)	13	5,110	147,000
Electric lamps	-	-	306,000	Carpets, rugs, and other floor coverings	8	5,100	171,000
Communication equipment and related products	27	26,100	670,000	Hats (except cloth and millinery)	1	110	420
Miscellaneous electrical products	11	1,720	66,500	Miscellaneous textile goods	9	1,380	11,500
Machinery (except electrical)	1211	113,000	3,630,000	Apparel and other finished products made from fabrics and similar materials	129	13,800	173,000
Engines and turbines	9	5,990	1,170,000	Men's, youths', and boys' suits, coats, and overcoats	8	2,320	15,900
Agricultural machinery and tractors	9	27,700	476,000	Men's, youths', and boys' furnishings, work clothing, and allied garments	19	4,510	71,600
Construction and mining machinery and equipment	22	14,100	241,000	Women's and misses' outerwear	44	3,180	23,700
Metalworking machinery	24	5,440	152,000	Women's, misses', children's, and infants' under garments	15	940	8,700
Special-industry machinery (except metalworking machinery)	20	2,890	59,800	Millinery	8	810	31,600
General industrial machinery and equipment	59	15,600	283,000	Children's and infants' outerwear	13	380	3,740
Office and store machines and devices	12	14,400	231,000	Miscellaneous apparel and accessories	10	1,020	11,800
Service-industry and household machines	25	14,000	774,000	Miscellaneous fabricated textile products	12	650	6,050
Miscellaneous machinery parts	32	13,400	243,000	Leather and leather products	54	8,940	74,000
Transportation equipment	145	123,000	1,800,000	Leather: Tanned, curried, and finished	8	870	11,100
Motor vehicles and motor-vehicle equipment	87	73,800	495,000	Boot and shoe cut stock and findings	2	240	1,620
Aircraft and parts	21	23,100	1,040,000	Footwear (except rubber)	35	7,150	50,700
Ship and boat building and repairing	20	16,200	188,000	Luggage	4	490	6,830
Railroad equipment	15	8,730	64,400	Handbags and small leather goods	3	100	1,590
Motorcycles, bicycles, and parts	2	940	14,000	Miscellaneous leather goods	2	90	2,250

See footnote at end of table.

TABLE A-1.—Work stoppages by industry, 1956 - Continued

Industry	Stoppages beginning in 1956		Man-days idle during 1956 (all stoppages)	Industry	Stoppages beginning in 1956		Man-days idle during 1956 (all stoppages)
	Number	Workers involved			Number	Workers involved	
Manufacturing - Continued				Manufacturing - Continued			
Food and kindred products	160	71,300	513,000	Professional, scientific, and controlling instruments; photographic and optical goods; watches and clocks - Continued			
Meat products	46	41,700	293,000	Photographic equipment and supplies	4	680	11,400
Dairy products	2	130	320	Watches, clocks, clockwork-operated devices, and parts	1	300	6,600
Canning and preserving fruits, vegetables, and sea foods	16	4,870	24,400	Miscellaneous manufacturing industries	89	16,200	295,000
Grain-mill products	9	2,360	8,380	Jewelry, silverware, and plated ware	3	410	2,940
Bakery products	30	6,690	48,100	Toys and sporting and athletic goods	20	5,890	62,500
Confectionery and related products	3	350	2,240	Pens, pencils, and other office and artists' materials	4	420	3,740
Beverage industries	42	12,700	115,000	Costume jewelry, costume novelties, buttons, and miscellaneous notions (except precious metal)	8	370	1,460
Miscellaneous food preparations and kindred products	12	2,600	21,300	Fabricated plastics products not elsewhere classified	27	4,040	127,000
Tobacco manufactures	4	790	20,600	Miscellaneous manufacturing industries	27	5,080	97,800
Cigars	4	790	20,600	Nonmanufacturing	1,856	544,000	6,020,000
Paper and allied products	51	15,200	233,000	Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	6	2,030	10,400
Pulp, paper, and paperboard mills	21	9,820	184,000	Agriculture	4	1,850	7,010
Paper coating and glazing	3	180	330	Fishing	2	170	3,390
Paper bags	5	1,360	14,300	Mining	1	321	129,000
Paperboard containers and boxes	15	1,900	17,300	Metal	16	33,600	812,000
Pulp goods and miscellaneous converted paper products	7	1,940	16,700	Anthracite	18	6,790	56,300
Printing, publishing, and allied industries	31	5,900	105,000	Bituminous coal	266	84,800	377,000
Newspapers	13	3,760	89,600	Crude petroleum and natural gas production	1	80	580
Periodicals	1	600	2,040	Nonmetallic and quarrying	23	3,820	74,800
Books	2	260	3,560	Construction	784	231,000	2,680,000
Commercial printing	10	940	7,940	Building	695	218,000	2,600,000
Lithographing	4	310	1,560	Highways, streets, bridges, docks, etc.	80	12,900	77,600
Service industries for the printing trade	1	30	720	Miscellaneous	9	360	4,530
Chemicals and allied products	92	37,500	399,000	Trade	336	37,100	558,000
Industrial inorganic chemicals	15	8,410	84,800	Wholesale	187	16,600	344,000
Industrial organic chemicals	30	19,400	187,000	Retail	149	20,500	214,000
Drugs and medicines	4	3,810	46,700	Finance, insurance, and real estate	15	840	38,400
Soap and glycerin, cleaning and polishing preparations, and sulfonated oils and assistants	3	650	5,080	Insurance	3	450	28,600
Paints, varnishes, lacquers, japans, and enamels; inorganic color pigments, whiting, and wood fillers	6	440	4,290	Real estate	12	390	9,810
Gum and wood chemicals	1	10	80	Transportation, communication, and other public utilities	1	243	130,000
Fertilizers	8	1,610	25,900	Railroads	14	7,200	47,200
Vegetable and animal oils and fats	12	1,630	29,000	Streetcar and bus transportation (city and suburban)	19	11,000	112,000
Miscellaneous chemicals, including industrial chemical products and preparations	13	1,500	15,600	Intercity motorbus transportation	13	3,970	51,500
Products of petroleum and coal	19	8,450	174,000	Motortruck transportation	73	8,200	138,000
Petroleum refining	9	5,270	90,400	Taxicabs	20	8,680	89,600
Coke and byproducts	3	2,340	56,100	Water transportation	37	67,500	428,000
Paving and roofing materials	4	390	2,940	Air transportation	3	1,580	74,200
Miscellaneous products of petroleum and coal	3	450	24,600	Communication	19	9,680	166,000
Rubber products	55	81,300	580,000	Heat, light, and power	18	10,900	49,500
Tires and inner tubes	41	75,400	513,000	Miscellaneous	28	1,170	15,700
Rubber industries, not elsewhere classified	14	5,850	66,900	Services—personal, business and other	126	10,700	227,000
Professional, scientific, and controlling instruments; photographic and optical goods; watches and clocks	33	7,030	134,000	Hotels and other lodging places	17	920	118,000
Laboratory, scientific, and engineering instruments (except surgical, medical, and dental)	4	510	46,500	Laundries	21	1,280	17,500
Mechanical measuring and controlling instruments	10	4,590	39,900	Cleaning, dyeing, and pressing	2	80	780
Optical instruments and lenses	4	430	22,700	Business services	27	4,410	30,700
Surgical, medical, and dental instruments and supplies	8	490	5,080	Automobile repair services and garages	19	1,290	24,000
Ophthalmic goods	2	30	1,770	Amusement and recreation	10	570	3,790
				Medical and other health services	5	110	860
				Educational services	5	640	1,500
				Miscellaneous	20	1,420	29,700
				Government—administration, protection, and sanitation ³	27	3,460	11,100

¹ This figure is less than the sum of the figures below because a few stoppages extending into 2 or more industry groups have been counted in each industry group affected; workers involved and man-days idle were divided among the respective groups.

² Idleness in 1956 resulting from stoppages that began in the preceding year.

³ Stoppages involving municipally operated utilities are included in "transportation, communication and other public utilities."

TABLE A-2.—Work stoppages by industry

S.I.C. Code (Group or Division)	Industry group	Total			Wages, hours, and supplementary benefits			Union organization, wages, hours, and supplementary benefits		
		Beginning in 1956		Man-days idle, 1956 (all stoppages)	Beginning in 1956		Man-days idle, 1956 (all stoppages)	Beginning in 1956		Man-days idle, 1956 (all stoppages)
		Number	Workers involved		Number	Workers involved		Number	Workers involved	
Total	All industries	¹ 3,825	1,900,000	33,100,000	1,821	1,270,000	24,300,000	329	81,200	5,070,000
Mfg.	All manufacturing industries	¹ 1,986	1,360,000	27,100,000	1,049	987,000	20,300,000	187	68,900	4,640,000
19	Ordnance and accessories	15	11,200	90,700	5	5,480	36,700	1	1,410	44,000
20	Food and kindred products	160	71,300	513,000	66	21,300	166,000	21	26,200	195,000
21	Tobacco manufactures	4	790	20,600	3	640	14,500	1	150	6,150
22	Textile mill products	70	18,200	426,000	39	11,000	359,000	3	340	1,280
23	Apparel, ² etc.	129	13,800	173,000	47	6,330	114,000	5	170	2,480
24	Lumber and wood products (except furniture)	47	4,920	82,400	25	2,840	30,100	10	870	23,800
25	Furniture and fixtures	96	21,100	245,000	59	15,500	194,000	12	920	25,300
26	Paper and allied products	51	15,200	233,000	25	5,780	147,000	4	330	11,600
27	Printing, publishing, and allied industries	31	5,900	105,000	13	4,820	60,000	5	250	1,690
28	Chemicals and allied products	92	37,500	399,000	62	28,600	305,000	5	320	5,260
29	Products of petroleum and coal	19	8,450	174,000	13	4,050	118,000	1	60	380
30	Rubber products	55	81,300	580,000	33	48,600	463,000	-	-	-
31	Leather and leather products	54	8,940	74,000	27	3,670	23,000	6	620	8,780
32	Stone, clay, and glass products	113	76,400	994,000	60	62,800	789,000	5	550	63,800
33	Primary metal industries	238	573,000	12,700,000	133	530,000	12,200,000	10	4,180	191,000
34	Fabricated metal products ³	229	87,700	1,420,000	125	60,200	1,100,000	27	5,240	189,000
35	Machinery (except electrical)	211	113,000	3,630,000	127	71,300	2,110,000	28	14,200	1,280,000
36	Electrical machinery, equip- ment, and supplies	106	62,700	3,050,000	68	37,700	512,000	6	3,710	2,360,000
37	Transportation equipment	145	123,000	1,800,000	66	57,000	1,350,000	12	4,840	85,700
38	Instruments, etc. ⁵	33	7,030	134,000	16	1,790	73,600	7	1,350	17,300
39	Miscellaneous manufacturing industries	89	16,200	295,000	37	7,630	117,000	18	3,240	130,000
Nonmfg.	All nonmanufacturing industries	¹ 1,856	544,000	6,020,000	790	284,000	4,070,000	144	12,300	427,000
A	Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	6	2,030	10,400	4	1,890	9,610	-	-	-
B	Mining	321	129,000	1,320,000	65	40,200	946,000	3	300	46,800
C	Construction	784	231,000	2,680,000	365	166,000	2,250,000	22	3,840	36,500
E	Transportation, communication, and other public utilities	243	130,000	1,170,000	118	37,700	473,000	22	3,190	111,000
F&G	Trade	336	37,100	558,000	155	28,300	290,000	66	3,240	199,000
H	Finance, insurance, and real estate	15	840	38,400	8	570	37,200	4	50	410
I	Services—personal, business, and other	126	10,700	227,000	61	6,980	56,200	21	1,150	29,500
J	Government—administration, protection, and sanitation ⁶	27	3,460	11,100	14	2,420	5,050	6	530	4,200

¹ This figure is less than the sum of the figures below because a few stoppages, each affecting more than 1 industry group have been counted in each industry group affected. Workers involved and man-days idle were allocated to the respective groups.

² Includes other finished products made from fabrics and similar materials.

³ Idleness in 1956 resulting from stoppages that began in the preceding year.

⁴ Excludes ordnance, machinery, and transportation equipment.

⁵ Includes professional, scientific, and controlling instruments; photographic and optical goods; watches and clocks.

⁶ Stoppages involving municipally operated utilities are included in "transportation, communication, and other public utilities."

group and major issues, 1956

Union organization			Other working conditions			Interunion or intraunion matters			Not reported			S. I. C. Code
Beginning in 1956		Man-days idle, 1956 (all stoppages)	Beginning in 1956		Man-days idle, 1956 (all stoppages)	Beginning in 1956		Man-days idle, 1956 (all stoppages)	Beginning in 1956		Man-days idle, 1956 (all stoppages)	(Group or Division)
Number	Workers involved		Number	Workers involved		Number	Workers involved		Number	Workers involved		
445	102,000	1,100,000	862	375,000	2,160,000	317	67,600	423,000	51	4,630	22,800	Total
198	23,200	352,000	479	268,000	1,750,000	49	8,310	65,400	25	2,850	16,300	Mfg.
-	-	-	9	4,350	10,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
20	3,480	48,200	40	18,600	91,700	9	1,100	11,700	4	710	940	20
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
7	720	27,000	19	5,610	34,700	2	590	4,280	-	-	-	22
40	2,100	24,500	23	4,390	24,900	5	310	3,440	9	490	3,580	23
6	560	2,830	6	650	25,700	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
7	450	7,770	13	2,900	8,670	4	1,210	7,240	1	70	2,730	25
4	110	3,150	14	6,450	60,800	3	2,490	10,000	1	40	40	26
6	340	2,270	4	160	40,600	3	340	880	-	-	-	27
5	300	4,720	19	8,160	83,400	-	-	-	1	140	420	28
-	-	70	5	4,340	55,900	-	-	140	-	-	-	29
-	-	400	22	32,700	116,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	30
4	920	7,100	13	3,010	30,800	2	220	2,100	2	500	2,300	31
15	1,670	75,300	29	11,200	65,000	3	70	570	1	150	440	32
15	2,060	45,800	78	36,500	235,000	1	30	1,040	1	240	480	33
25	1,510	25,100	48	20,300	95,400	3	450	4,820	1	20	570	34
13	4,680	45,200	41	22,500	179,000	1	850	10,700	1	30	370	35
9	1,910	5,720	21	19,300	171,000	1	10	30	1	80	230	36
7	420	5,710	57	60,100	359,000	1	40	260	2	390	4,170	37
1	1,670	11,700	6	2,090	26,900	3	130	4,410	-	-	-	38
14	330	9,620	12	4,530	35,600	8	480	3,770	-	-	-	39
247	79,200	747,000	383	108,000	410,000	268	59,300	358,000	26	1,790	6,490	Nonmfg.
1	70	730	1	60	60	-	-	-	-	-	-	A
11	680	10,400	221	74,600	247,000	12	12,600	67,600	9	690	2,840	B
88	7,620	59,800	75	12,400	76,600	228	41,100	256,000	6	150	1,050	C
28	67,800	498,000	54	16,000	66,900	16	4,530	21,800	5	770	1,020	E
84	1,990	44,000	20	2,950	15,400	8	550	8,810	3	130	800	F&G
1	10	90	1	100	190	1	110	550	-	-	-	H
31	890	133,000	7	1,230	3,520	3	400	3,520	3	50	780	I
3	150	990	4	360	880	-	-	-	-	-	-	J

See footnotes at end of table.

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE A-3.—Work stoppages in States having 25 or more stoppages by industry group, 1956¹ - Continued

State and industry group	Tennessee			Texas			Virginia		
	Stoppages beginning in 1956		Man-days idle during 1956 (all stoppages)	Stoppages beginning in 1956		Man-days idle during 1956 (all stoppages)	Stoppages beginning in 1956		Man-days idle during 1956 (all stoppages)
	Number ²	Workers involved		Number ²	Workers involved		Number ²	Workers involved	
All industries	111	32,800	427,000	76	43,900	872,000	49	12,600	131,000
Manufacturing	47	22,100	274,000	22	18,000	378,000	18	7,210	82,400
Primary metal industries	10	10,700	76,300	5	9,560	149,000	-	-	-
Fabricated metal products (except ordnance, machinery, and transportation equipment)	3	960	27,000	2	390	6,840	2	640	8,600
Ordnance and accessories	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Electrical machinery, equipment, and supplies	5	790	22,200	-	-	-	-	-	-
Machinery (except electrical)	3	810	4,350	4	940	19,900	-	-	-
Transportation equipment	1	520	5,720	2	650	19,500	-	-	-
Lumber and wood products (except furniture)	1	50	950	-	-	-	1	350	5,250
Furniture and fixtures	3	850	2,580	1	80	5,040	2	110	190
Stone, clay, and glass products	5	760	42,500	1	320	12,000	1	20	30
Textile mill products	1	70	6,050	-	-	-	3	410	5,740
Apparel and other finished products made from fabrics and similar materials	2	240	1,680	2	850	48,200	2	390	780
Leather and leather products	2	1,190	16,800	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food and kindred products	4	1,280	11,300	3	210	1,460	1	20	1,350
Tobacco manufactures	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paper and allied products	1	140	270	-	-	-	-	-	-
Printing, publishing, and allied industries	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chemicals and allied products	2	140	830	3	4,920	116,000	4	4,320	34,000
Products of petroleum and coal	1	220	2,860	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rubber products	2	3,130	48,500	1	150	150	1	400	23,200
Professional, scientific, and controlling instruments; photographic and optical goods; watches and clocks	1	350	3,800	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous manufacturing industries	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	550	3,320
Nonmanufacturing	64	10,700	153,000	54	25,800	493,000	31	5,420	48,800
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mining	7	970	2,810	-	-	-	7	1,280	6,700
Construction	35	6,130	113,000	39	17,400	454,000	16	1,260	11,600
Trade	9	800	3,560	8	570	5,170	3	110	6,750
Finance, insurance, and real estate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transportation, communication, and other public utilities	8	1,940	29,400	7	7,820	33,800	5	2,770	23,800
Services—personal, business, and other	4	810	3,810	-	-	-	-	-	-
Government—administration, protection, and sanitation ⁴	1	10	200	-	-	-	-	-	-
State and industry group	Washington			West Virginia			Wisconsin		
	Stoppages beginning in 1956		Man-days idle during 1956 (all stoppages)	Stoppages beginning in 1956		Man-days idle during 1956 (all stoppages)	Stoppages beginning in 1956		Man-days idle during 1956 (all stoppages)
	Number ²	Workers involved		Number ²	Workers involved		Number ²	Workers involved	
All industries	48	11,100	197,000	191	68,400	589,000	62	28,400	537,000
Manufacturing	21	4,520	86,500	43	26,200	406,000	34	20,900	444,000
Primary metal industries	5	2,300	38,200	3	3,440	75,100	1	10	20
Fabricated metal products (except ordnance, machinery, and transportation equipment)	1	150	3,550	10	5,600	70,300	1	20	139,000
Ordnance and accessories	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Electrical machinery, equipment, and supplies	-	-	-	-	-	85,500	2	590	13,700
Machinery (except electrical)	-	-	-	5	480	10,100	10	5,430	216,000
Transportation equipment	1	200	1,200	3	1,740	23,400	2	860	9,360
Lumber and wood products (except furniture)	3	700	4,220	1	100	3,330	1	120	1,960
Furniture and fixtures	2	240	3,140	-	-	-	1	210	6,300
Stone, clay, and glass products	2	360	5,660	10	10,400	82,900	-	-	-
Textile mill products	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Apparel and other finished products made from fabrics and similar materials	-	-	-	1	10	10	1	150	2,100
Leather and leather products	-	-	-	1	330	980	1	200	3,320
Food and kindred products	5	230	3,570	2	90	1,950	3	1,120	6,730
Tobacco manufactures	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paper and allied products	1	20	230	3	370	12,700	1	260	2,890
Printing, publishing, and allied industries	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chemicals and allied products	-	-	-	3	1,250	30,000	-	-	-
Products of petroleum and coal	1	330	26,700	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rubber products	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	9,570	19,800
Professional, scientific, and controlling instruments; photographic and optical goods; watches and clocks	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1,670	11,700
Miscellaneous manufacturing industries	1	10	60	2	2,400	9,600	5	660	10,800
Nonmanufacturing	27	6,570	111,000	148	42,300	183,000	28	7,570	93,300
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mining	1	50	190	116	38,900	159,000	1	1,110	30,200
Construction	10	2,380	75,100	17	2,790	15,400	21	3,630	38,000
Trade	6	940	16,200	7	220	6,060	1	30	80
Finance, insurance, and real estate	-	-	-	1	20	50	-	-	-
Transportation, communication, and other public utilities	8	3,160	19,000	4	100	1,370	4	2,520	22,100
Services—personal, business, and other	2	40	180	3	50	880	-	-	-
Government—administration, protection, and sanitation ⁴	-	-	-	1	150	750	1	290	2,900

¹ In the industry groups for which no data are presented the Bureau did not record any stoppages during 1956.² In some States the total number of stoppages shown as well as the total number of manufacturing or nonmanufacturing stoppages may be less than the sum of the figures below because a few stoppages extending into 2 or more industry groups have been counted in each industry group affected; workers involved and man-days idle were divided among the respective groups.³ Includes idleness in 1956 resulting from stoppages that began in the preceding year.⁴ Stoppages involving municipally operated utilities are included in transportation, communication, and other public utilities.

Appendix B: Scope, Methods, and Definitions¹³

Work Stoppage Statistics

The Bureau's statistics include all work stoppages occurring in the continental United States, known to the Bureau of Labor Statistics and its cooperating agencies, involving as many as six workers and lasting the equivalent of a full day or shift or longer. Work stoppages are measured in terms of the number of stoppages, workers involved, and man-days of idleness.

Definitions

Strike or Lockout.—A strike is defined as a temporary stoppage of work by a group of employees to express a grievance or enforce a demand. A lockout is a temporary withholding of work from a group of employees by an employer (or a group of employers) in order to induce the employees to accept the employer's terms. Because of the complexities involved in most labor-management disputes, the Bureau makes no effort to determine whether the stoppages are initiated by the workers or the employers. The terms "strike" and "work stoppage" are used interchangeably in this report.

Workers and Idleness.—Figures on "workers involved" and "man-days idle" include all workers made idle for one shift or longer in establishments directly involved in a stoppage. They do not measure secondary idleness—that is, the effects of a stoppage on other establishments or industries whose employees may be made idle as a result of material or service shortages.

The total number of workers involved in strikes in a given year includes workers counted more than once if they were involved in more than one stoppage during that year. (Thus, in 1949, 365,000 to 400,000 coal miners

struck on 3 different occasions; they comprised 1,150,000 of the year's total of 3,030,000 workers.)

In some prolonged stoppages, it is necessary to estimate in part the total man-days of idleness if the exact number of workers idle each day is not known. Whenever possible, significant changes in the number of workers idle are secured from the parties for use in computing man-days of idleness.

Idleness as Percent of Total Working Time.—In computing the number of workers involved in strikes as a percent of total employment and idleness as a percent of total working time, the following figures for total employment have been used:

From 1927 to 1950, all employees except those in occupations and professions in which little, if any, union organization existed or in which stoppages rarely, if ever, occurred. In most industries, all wage and salary workers were included except those in executive, managerial, or high supervisory positions, or those performing professional work the nature of which makes union organization or group action unlikely. The figure excluded all self-employed persons; domestic workers; workers on farms employing fewer than six persons; all Federal and State government employees; and officials, both elected and appointed, in local governments.

Beginning in 1951, the Bureau's estimates of total nonagricultural employment, exclusive of government, have been used. Actually, idleness computed on the basis of nonagricultural employment (exclusive of government) usually differs by less than one-tenth of a percentage point from that obtained by the former method, while the percentage of workers idle (compared with total employment) differs by no more than 0.5 and 0.6 of a point. For example, the percentage of workers idle during 1950 computed on the same base as the figures for earlier years was 6.9, and the percent of idleness was 0.44, compared with 6.3 and 0.40, respectively, computed on the new base.

¹³ More detailed information on methods of calculation, sources, and classification is available in BLS Bull. 1168, Techniques of Preparing Major BLS Statistical Series, December 1954 (p. 106).

"Estimated working time" is computed by multiplying the average number of workers employed during the year by the number of days typically worked by most employees. In the computations, Saturdays (when customarily not worked), Sundays, and established holidays as provided in most union contracts are excluded.

The same procedure has been used in preparing the estimates of idleness by State. Although the number of holidays varies somewhat from one part of the country to another, and there are other minor differences in the amount of working time from area to area, correction for such differences would not appreciably affect the percentages of idleness presented by State. For example, if idleness computed on the assumption of 6 holidays annually amounted to 2 percent of total working time, it would amount to only 2.02 percent of working time if allowance were made for 8 holidays; if idleness was less than 1 percent of total working time the idleness ratios would not be changed at all within the margin or rounding whether there were 6 or 8 holidays.

Duration.—Although only workdays are used in computing man-days of total idleness, duration is expressed in terms of calendar days, including nonworkdays.

State Data.—Stoppages occurring in more than one State are listed separately in each State affected. The workers and man-days of idleness are allocated among each of the affected States.¹⁴

Metropolitan Area Data.—Beginning with 1952, data were tabulated separately for 182 metropolitan areas. In 1955, the number of these areas was increased to 205. (Information prior to 1952 was confined to city boundaries.) The metropolitan area boundaries conform to the Standard Metropolitan Area definitions issued by the Bureau of the Budget as of January 29, 1949, with subsequent revisions. In addition to

these areas, a few communities included in the strike series in previous years have been retained.

Some metropolitan areas include counties in more than one State, and, hence, statistics for an area may occasionally equal or exceed the total for the State in which the major city is located (e. g., the number of strikes recorded in the New York-Northeastern New Jersey metropolitan area, which includes greater New York and the surrounding areas as well as 8 counties in Northeastern New Jersey, exceeded the strikes recorded for New York State in 1953 and 1955; while idleness in the Chicago area which includes 5 counties in Illinois and 1 in Indiana exceeds idleness in Illinois in 1956).

Unions Involved.—This includes the union(s) directly participating in the dispute, although the count of workers includes all who are made idle for one shift or longer in establishments directly involved in the dispute, including members of other unions and nonunion workers.

Source of Information

Occurrence of Strikes.—Information as to actual or probable existence of work stoppages is collected from a number of sources. Clippings on labor disputes are obtained from a comprehensive coverage of daily and weekly newspapers throughout the country. Information is received daily from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. Other sources of information include State boards of mediation and arbitration, research divisions of State labor department offices, and local offices of State employment security agencies, provided through the Bureau of Employment Security of the U. S. Department of Labor. Some employer associations, companies, and unions also furnish the Bureau with work stoppage information on a regular cooperative basis.

Respondents to Questionnaire.—A questionnaire, approved by the Bureau of the Budget, is mailed to the parties reported as involved in work stoppages to obtain information on the number of workers involved, duration, major issues, location (State and metropolitan areas), method of settlement, and other pertinent information.

¹⁴ The same procedure is followed in allocating data on stoppages occurring in more than 1 industry group, industry, or metropolitan area.

Limitations of Data.—Although the Bureau seeks to obtain complete coverage, i. e., a "census" of all strikes involving six or more workers and lasting a full shift or more, information is undoubtedly missing on some of the smaller strikes. Presumably, addition of these missing strikes would not substantially affect the figures for number of workers and man-days of idleness.

In its efforts to improve the completeness of the count of stoppages, the Bureau has sought to develop new sources of information as to the probable existence of such stoppages. Over the years, these sources have probably increased the number of strikes recorded, but have had little effect on the number of workers or total idleness. For example, in 1943 the Bureau set up a cooperative arrangement with the Solid Fuels Administration which resulted in reports on several hundred strikes involving coal miners not recorded from other sources. These strikes accounted for about 5 percent of all strikes in that year. When this agency went out of existence, cooperative arrangements for obtaining reports on work stoppages were made with a

number of coal associations and several hundred companies in areas not served by associations.

Beginning in mid-1950, a new source of strike "leads" was added through a cooperative arrangement with the Bureau of Employment Security of the U. S. Department of Labor by which local offices of State employment security agencies supply monthly reports on work stoppages coming to their attention. It is estimated that this increased the number of strikes reported in 1950 by about 5 percent and in 1951 and 1952 by approximately 10 percent. Since most of these stoppages were small, they increased the number of workers involved and man-days of idleness by less than 2 percent in 1950 and by less than 3 percent in 1951 and 1952. Tests of the effect of this added source of information have not been made since 1952.

As new local agencies having knowledge of the existence of work stoppages are established, or changes are made in their collection methods, every effort is made to establish cooperative arrangements with them.