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Table 2. Work stoppages involving 5,000 workers or more beginning in 1994

Technical information

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MAJOR WORK STOPPAGES, 1994

All measures of work stoppage activity were up in 1994, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Most of these measures had been at record lows in 1993. Forty-five major stoppages began during 1994, idling 322,000 workers, and resulting in about 5.0 million days of idleness (about 2 out of every 10,000 available work days). Comparable figures for 1993 were 35 stoppages, 182,000 workers, and 4.0 million days of idleness. The increase in work stoppage activity followed general declines posted in the past several years. (See table 1 and charts 1-3.) The series, which dates back to 1947, covers strikes and lockouts involving 1,000 workers or more and lasting at least one shift.

Of the 45 major work stoppages beginning in 1994, 37 were in the private sector--including 26 in manufacturing and 5 in transportation. In the public sector, one dispute--in Hawaii--involved both state and local government employees. The remaining seven public sector stoppages were called by local government employees. Of these seven disputes, five were in education.

Industries with the most days of idleness during the year due to work stoppages were industrial and commercial machinery (1.5 million days), motor freight transportation (1.2 million days), and rubber and miscellaneous plastics products (771,000 days). There were, however, over 350 contracts, covering more than 1.2 million workers, that were settled in 1994 without a work stoppage.

The 1994 stoppage involving the most workers was between Trucking Management, Inc. and 71,000 employees represented by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, who were out 24 days. Other large stoppages involved General Motors Corp. and the United Automobile Workers (46,000 workers out 3 days) and UPS and the Teamsters (40,000 workers out 1 day). (See table 2.)

More than one-half of the year's work stoppage idleness--2.7 million days--stemmed from two disputes. The first was the previously mentioned Trucking Management, Inc.--Teamsters' dispute. The second involved Caterpillar, Inc. and 14,000 workers represented by the United Automobile Workers, who were out almost 26 weeks during the year, making this the longest stoppage both beginning in 1994 and in effect during the year. The Caterpillar stoppage continued into 1995.

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

Table 1. Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, 1947-94

Year	Stoppages 1/		Days idle 1/	
	Number	Workers involved (thousands)	Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time 2/
1947.....	270	1,629	25,720	(3)
1948.....	245	1,435	26,127	0.22
1949	262	2,537	43,420	.38
1950	424	1,698	30,390	.26
1951.....	415	1,462	15,070	.12
1952	470	2,746	48,820	.38
1953	437	1,623	18,130	.14
1954	265	1,075	16,630	.13
1955	363	2,055	21,180	.16
1956.....	287	1,370	26,840	.20
1957.....	279	887	10,340	.07
1958	332	1,587	17,900	.13
1959	245	1,381	60,850	.43
1960	222	896	13,260	.09
1961.....	195	1,031	10,140	.07

1962.....	211	793	11,760	.08
1963.....	181	512	10,020	.07
1964.....	246	1,183	16,220	.11
1965.....	268	999	15,140	.10
1966.....	321	1,300	16,000	.10
1967.....	381	2,192	31,320	.18
1968.....	392	1,855	35,367	.20
1969.....	412	1,576	29,397	.16
1970.....	381	2,468	52,761	.29
1971.....	298	2,516	35,538	.19
1972.....	250	975	16,764	.09
1973.....	317	1,400	16,260	.08
1974.....	424	1,796	31,809	.16
1975.....	235	965	17,563	.09
1976.....	231	1,519	23,962	.12
1977.....	298	1,212	21,258	.10
1978.....	219	1,006	23,774	.11
1979.....	235	1,021	20,409	.09
1980.....	187	795	20,844	.09
1981.....	145	729	16,908	.07
1982.....	96	656	9,061	.04
1983.....	81	909	17,461	.08
1984.....	62	376	8,499	.04
1985.....	54	324	7,079	.03
1986.....	69	533	11,861	.05
1987.....	46	174	4,481	.02
1988.....	40	118	4,381	.02
1989.....	51	452	16,996	.07
1990.....	44	185	5,926	.02
1991.....	40	392	4,584	.02
1992.....	35	364	3,989	.01
1993.....	35	182	3,981	.01
1994.....	45	322	5,020	.02

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

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

3/ Not available.

more than one stoppage during the year.

Table 2. Work stoppages involving 5,000 workers or more beginning in 1994

Employer, location, and union	Began	Ended	Workers involved ¹	Estimated days idle in 1994 ¹
United Parcel Service Interstate Teamsters (IBT)	2/7/94	2/7/94	40,000	40,000
General Motors Corp. Dayton, OH Automobile Workers (UAW)	3/14/94	3/16/94	10,900	16,900
Trucking Management, Inc. Interstate Teamsters (IBT)	4/6/94	4/29/94	71,000	1,180,500
Hawaii--state and county governments Hawaii State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)	4/18/94	4/29/94	15,800	136,500
Caterpillar, Inc. Illinois Automobile Workers (UAW)	5/16/94	5/20/94	7,500	37,500
Connecticut Construction Contractors (heavy/highway) Connecticut and vicinity Teamsters (IBT)	6/6/94	6/18/94	6,000	60,000
Long Island Rail Road Long Island, NY Transportation Union (UTU)	6/17/94	6/18/94	5,400	5,400
Caterpillar, Inc. IL, MI, PA, and CO Automobile Workers (UAW)	6/20/94		14,000	1,489,000
Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority Los Angeles, CA Transit Union (ATU)	7/25/94	8/2/94	7,200	50,400

Food Employers, Inc. Portland, OR and Vancouver, WA Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW)	8/18/94	11/12/94	7,000	413,000
General Motors Corp Inland Fisher Guide Plant Anderson, IN Automobile Workers (UAW)	8/23/94	8/25/94	46,400	63,300
General Motors Corp. Buick City facility Flint, MI Automobile Workers (UAW)	9/27/94	9/30/94	22,300	74,000

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