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Table 1. Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, 1947-95

Table 2. Work stoppages involving 5,000 workers or more beginning in 1995

Information: (202) 606-5886
Media Contact: (202) 606-5902

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MAJOR WORK STOPPAGES, 1995

In 1995, the number of work stoppages was at the lowest level recorded in the 49-year old series, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Most of the other measures of strike activity also were at relatively low levels in 1995. Thirty-one major stoppages began during 1995, idling 192,000 workers and resulting in about 5.8 million days of idleness (about 2 out of every 10,000 available work days). Comparable figures for 1994 were 45 stoppages, 322,000 workers, and 5.0 million days of idleness. (See table 1.) The series, which dates back to 1947, covers strikes and lockouts involving 1,000 workers or more and lasting at least one shift.

Of the 31 major work stoppages beginning in 1995, 23 were in the private sector--including 14 in manufacturing and three in transportation. In the public sector, five disputes were in state government. The remaining three public sector stoppages were called by local government employees. Of the eight public sector disputes, four were in education.

Industries with the most days of idleness during the year due to work stoppages were transportation equipment manufacturing (1.7 million days), printing and publishing (300,000 days), and construction (187,000 days). There were, however, 660 major contracts in the private and public sectors, covering more than 3.3 million workers, that expired or reopened in 1995, the vast majority without a work stoppage. (It should be noted that not all of these contracts had been renegotiated by the end of the year.)

The 1995 stoppage involving the most workers was between General Motors Corp. and 38,000 employees represented by the United Automobile Workers, who were out 3 days. Other large stoppages involved the Boeing

Co. and the International Association of Machinists (33,000 workers out 69 days) and retail grocery chains in Northern California and the United Food and Commercial Workers (32,000 workers out 9 days). (See table 2.)

Almost three quarters of the year's work stoppage idleness--4.1 million days--stemmed from two disputes. The first was the previously mentioned Boeing--Machinists dispute. The second involved Caterpillar, Inc. and 11,000 workers represented by the Automobile Workers, who were out 48 weeks during the year, making it the longest work stoppage in effect during the year. The longest stoppage beginning in the year was at the Detroit Free Press and Detroit News, where 2,500 workers represented by a number of unions were out for 24 weeks; this stoppage continued into 1996.

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.

Table 1. Work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more, 1947-95

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
1995.....	31	192	5,771	.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 more than one stoppage during the year.

2/ Total working time is for all employees, except those in private households, forestry, and fisheries.
3/ Not available.

Table 2. Work stoppages involving 5,000 workers or more beginning in 1995

Employer, location, and union	Began	Ended	Worke involv
General Motors Corp. Flint, MI Automobile Workers (UAW)	1/18/95	1/20/95	37,70
Southern Pennsylvania . Transportation Authority Philadelphia, PA, area Transport Workers (TWU)	3/28/95	4/10/95	5,20
Chrysler Corp. Kokomo, IN Automobile Workers (UAW)	3/31/95	3/31/95	5,70
General Motors Corp. Pontiac East truck plant Pontiac, MI Automobile Workers (UAW)	3/31/95	4/5/95	5,50
Retail grocery chains--Safeway, Lucky Stores, and Save Mart Northern California Food and Commercial Workers(UFCW)	4/7/95	4/15/95	32,00
Oregon State Oregon Service Employees (SEIU)	5/8/95	5/14/95	14,00
Pacific Maritime Association West Coast ports	8/7/95	8/7/95	7,50

Longshoremen and Warehousemen (ILWU)			
Ryder Systems, Inc. Interstate Teamsters (IBT)	9/7/95	10/7/95	5,00
Boeing Co. Wichita, KS; Portland, OR; and Seattle, WA Machinists (IAM)	10/6/95	12/14/95	33,00

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