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MAJOR WORK STOPPAGES IN 2010

In 2010, there were 11 major strikes and lockouts involving 1,000 or more workers and lasting at least one shift, the second lowest annual total since the major work stoppages series began in 1947, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The series low for major work stoppages beginning in a calendar year was 5 in 2009. The 11 major work stoppages in 2010 idled 45,000 workers for 302,000 lost workdays, a large increase compared to 2009 record lows, with 5 stoppages idling 13,000 workers for 124,000 lost workdays.

Average annual major work stoppages have continued to decline by decade. From 2001-2010, there were approximately 17 major work stoppages on average per year, compared with 34 per year from 1991-2000, 69 from 1981-1990, and 269 from 1971-1980. (See chart 1.) Total days idle from major work stoppages from 2001-2010 have also declined over 90 percent from 1971-1980. (See chart 2.)

Chart 1. Average annual major work stoppages, 1971-2010, by decade

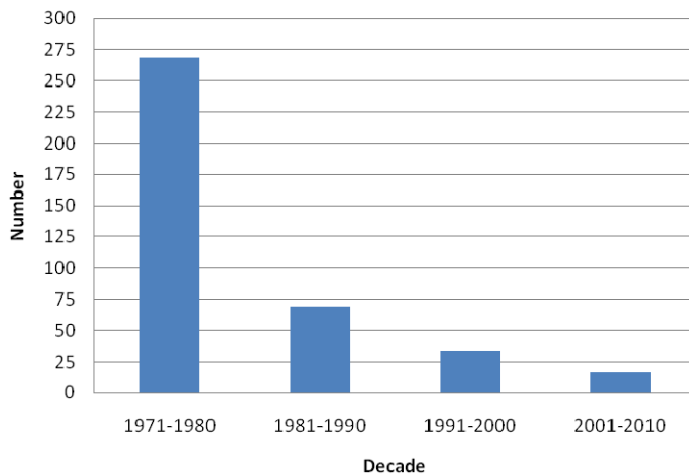
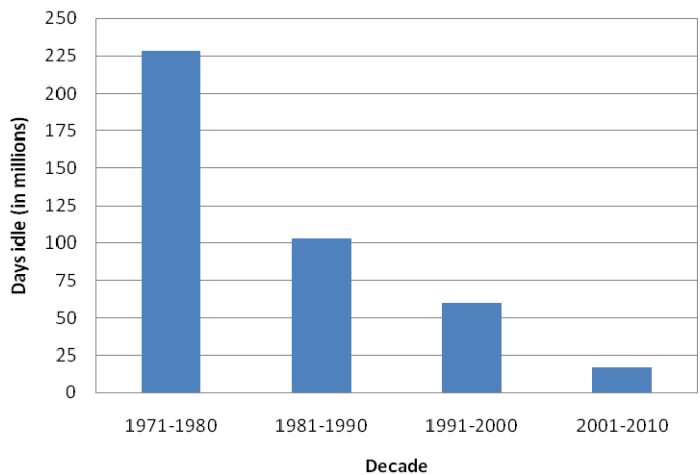


Chart 2. Total days idle from major work stoppages, 1971-2010, by decade, in millions



The longest work stoppage beginning in 2010 was between Temple University Hospital and the Pennsylvania Association of Staff Nurses & Allied Professionals, lasting 21 workdays with 1,500 workers accounting for 31,500 lost workdays. The largest work stoppage in 2010 in terms of number of workers and total workdays idle was the Chicago area construction strike between the Mid-America Regional Bargaining Association and the Laborers International Union of North America District Council of Chicago, International Union of Operating Engineers, and Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters, with 15,000 workers accounting for 180,000 lost workdays. (See table 2.)

TECHNICAL NOTE

The major work stoppages series dates back to 1947. The term “major work stoppage” includes both worker-initiated strikes and employer-initiated lockouts that involve 1,000 workers or more and lasting at least one shift. BLS does not distinguish between lockouts and strikes in its statistics.

Information on work stoppages is obtained from reports from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, State labor market information offices, BLS Strike Reports from the Office of Employment and Unemployment Statistics, and from major media sources. One or both parties involved in the work stoppage (employer or union) is contacted to verify the duration and number of workers idled by the stoppage.

Days of idleness is calculated by multiplying the number of workers involved in the strike or lockout by the number of days workers are off the job. The number of working days lost for every major work stoppage is based on a 5-day workweek (Monday through Friday), excluding Federal holidays.

Monthly major work stoppages data

The Bureau of Labor Statistics compiles detailed monthly statistics on major work stoppages at <http://www.bls.gov/wsp>.

Detailed data for each major work stoppage since 1993 includes the organization involved, location, beginning and ending work stoppage dates, the number of workers, and days idle.

Monthly time series data since 1981 have been published (<http://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/surveymost?ws>) for the following tables:

- Number of work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more beginning in the period
- Number of work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more in effect in the period
- Number of workers involved in work stoppages beginning in the period
- Number of workers involved in work stoppages in effect in the period
- Days of idleness resulting from work stoppages in effect in the period
- Days of idleness resulting from work stoppages in effect in the period, as a percent of estimated working time

Major work stoppages detailed information and measures

For more information on Work Stoppages methods and measures, see “Chapter 8. National Compensation Measures” of the *BLS Handbook of Methods* at: www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch8.pdf.

Table 1. Work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers, 1947-2010

Period	Number of work stoppages beginning in period	Numbers of workers involved (thousands) ¹	Days idle ²	
			Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time ³
2010	11	45	302	(4)
2009	5	13	124	(4)
2008	15	72	1,954	.01
2007	21	189	1,265	(4)
2006	20	70	2,688	.01
2005	22	100	1,736	.01
2004	17	171	3,344	.01
2003	14	129	4,091	.01
2002	19	46	660	(4)
2001	29	99	1,151	(4)
2000	39	394	20,419	.06
1999	17	73	1,996	.01
1998	34	387	5,116	.02
1997	29	339	4,497	.01
1996	37	273	4,889	.02
1995	31	192	5,771	.02
1994	45	322	5,021	.02
1993	35	182	3,981	.01
1992	35	364	3,989	.01
1991	40	392	4,584	.02
1990	44	185	5,926	.02
1989	51	452	16,996	.07
1988	40	118	4,381	.02
1987	46	174	4,481	.02
1986	69	533	11,861	.05
1985	54	324	7,079	.03
1984	62	376	8,499	.04
1983	81	909	17,461	.08
1982	96	656	9,061	.04
1981	145	729	16,908	.07
1980	187	795	20,844	.09
1979	235	1,021	20,409	.09
1978	219	1,006	23,774	.11
1977	298	1,212	21,258	.10
1976	231	1,519	23,962	.12
1975	235	965	17,563	.09
1974	424	1,796	31,809	.16
1973	317	1,400	16,260	.08
1972	250	975	16,764	.09
1971	298	2,516	35,538	.19
1970	381	2,468	52,761	.29
1969	412	1,576	29,397	.16
1968	392	1,855	35,367	.20
1967	381	2,192	31,320	.18
1966	321	1,300	16,000	.10
1965	268	999	15,140	.10
1964	246	1,183	16,220	.11
1963	181	512	10,020	.07
1962	211	793	11,760	.08
1961	195	1,031	10,140	.07

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers, 1947-2010 — Continued

Period	Number of work stoppages beginning in period	Numbers of workers involved (thousands) ¹	Days idle ²	
			Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time ³
1960	222	896	13,260	.09
1959	245	1,381	60,850	.43
1958	332	1,587	17,900	.13
1957	279	887	10,340	.07
1956	287	1,370	26,840	.20
1955	363	2,055	21,180	.16
1954	265	1,075	16,630	.13
1953	437	1,623	18,130	.14
1952	470	2,746	48,820	.38
1951	415	1,462	15,070	.12
1950	424	1,698	30,390	.26
1949	262	2,537	43,420	.38
1948	245	1,435	26,127	.22
1947	270	1,629	25,720	(⁵)

¹ Number of workers involved includes only those workers who participated in work stoppages that began in the calendar year. Workers are counted more than once if they are involved in more than one stoppage during the reference period. Numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand.

² Days idle includes all stoppages in effect during the reference period. For work stoppages that are still ongoing

at the end of the calendar year, only those days of idleness in the calendar year are counted.

³ Agricultural and government employees are included in the calculation of estimated working time; private households, forestry, and fishery employees are excluded.

⁴ Less than .005.

⁵ Data not available.

Table 2. Work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers beginning in 2010

Organizations involved, location, and sector	Industry code ¹	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers ²	Days idle
Temple University Hospital Philadelphia, PA, Pennsylvania Association of Staff Nurses & Allied Professionals State Government	622110	3/31/10	4/28/10	1,500	31,500
North Penn School District Montgomery County, PA, North Penn Education Association Local Government	611110	4/19/10	4/26/10	1,100	6,600
Capistrano Unified School District San Juan Capistrano area, CA, Capistrano Unified Educators Association Local Government	611110	4/22/10	4/26/10	1,800	5,400
Oakland Unified School District Oakland, CA, Oakland Education Association Local Government	611110	4/29/10	4/29/10	2,500	2,500
The Boeing Company Long Beach, CA, United Auto Workers Local 148 Private Industry	336411	5/11/10	6/04/10	1,700	30,600
Allina Health System/United Hospital, Children's Hospitals and Clinics, Fairview Health Services, HealthEast Care System, Mercy Hospital, North Memorial Hospital, Park Nicollete Methodist Hospital, Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN, Minnesota Nurses Association Private Industry	622110	6/10/10	6/10/10	12,000	12,000
Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors Association of Milwaukee Milwaukee, WI, Sheet Metal Workers' International Association Local 18 Private Industry	238220	6/14/10	6/25/10	1,800	18,000
Mid-America Regional Bargaining Association Chicago area, IL, Laborers International Union of North America District Council of Chicago, International Union of Operating Engineers, Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters Private Industry	237310	7/01/10	7/19/10	15,000	180,000
New York Shipping Association/New Jersey, New York City area, NJ, NY, International Longshoremen's Association Private Industry	488310	9/28/10	9/29/10	4,500	9,000

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers beginning in 2010 — Continued

Organizations involved, location, and sector	Industry code ¹	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers ²	Days idle
Hilton Hotels Hawaiian Village Beach Resort & Spa Honolulu, HI, UNITE HERE Local 5 Private Industry	721110	10/14/10	10/18/10	1,500	4,500
HCA Corporation, Riverside Community Hospital and West Hills Hospital and Medical Center Riverside and West Hills, CA, Service Employees International Union Local 121RN Private Industry	622110	12/23/10	12/28/10	1,100	2,200

¹ Industry code is from the 2007 NAICS (North American Industry Classification System).

² The number of workers involved is rounded to the nearest 100.