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MAJOR WORK STOPPAGES IN 2016

In 2016, there were 15 major work stoppages involving 99,000 workers, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See table 1.) Private industry organizations accounted for over 94 percent of the 1.54 million total days idle for major work stoppages in effect during 2016.

This year marks 70 years of work stoppages data collected by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Over the past four decades (1977-1986 to 2007-2016) major work stoppages declined approximately 90 percent. (See chart 1, table A, and table 1.) The period from 2007 to 2016 was the lowest decade on record, averaging approximately 14 major work stoppages per year. The lowest annual number of major work stoppages was 5 in 2009.

Chart 1. Average number of annual major work stoppages by decade, 1947-2016

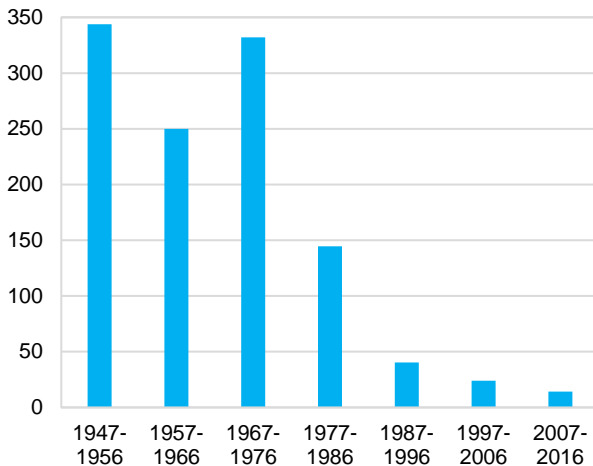
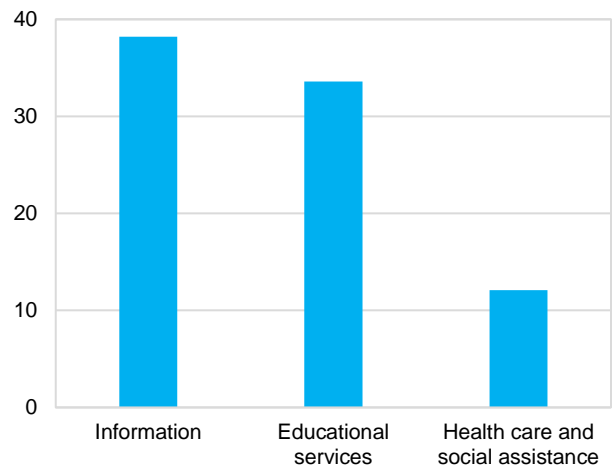


Chart 2. Workers involved in major work stoppages, in thousands, selected industry groups, 2016



In 2016, the information industry had the largest number of workers involved in major work stoppages with 38,200. Educational services were the next largest industry with 33,600 followed by health care and social assistance with 12,100 workers. (See chart 2.) These three industries accounted for over 84 percent of workers idled for major work stoppages.

In 2016, the largest major work stoppage in terms of number of workers and days idle was between Verizon Communications and the Communication Workers of America union involving 36,500 workers. This work stoppage accounted for 1,204,500 total days idle. The second largest work stoppage in 2016 in days idle was between Allina Health and the Minnesota Nurses Association/National Nurses United union, involving 4,800 workers with 153,600 days idle from two different work stoppages that occurred during 2016. The City of Chicago Public Schools had a 1-day stoppage with the second most number of workers, involving 27,000 employees.

Table A. Total number of major work stoppages by decade, 1947 to 2016

Years:	1947-1956	1957-1966	1967-1976	1977-1986	1987-1996	1997-2006	2007-2016
Number:	3,438	2,500	3,321	1,446	404	240	143

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 this publication.

Information on work stoppages is obtained from reports from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, state labor market information offices, BLS Strike Report from the Office of Employment and Unemployment Statistics, and from 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 idle are 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 lost workdays 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 www.bls.gov/wsp.

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

- 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

Detailed historical data

Detailed data for each major work stoppage since 1993 are available at www.bls.gov/wsp/monthly_listing.htm. The major work stoppages historical data file includes the organization involved, location, beginning and ending work stoppage dates, the number of workers, and total days idle.

More information

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, 1947-2016

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
2016	15	99	1,543	(4)
2015	12	47	740	(4)
2014	11	34	200	(4)
2013	15	55	290	(4)
2012	19	148	1,131	(4)
2011	19	113	1,020	(4)
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

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers, 1947-2016 — 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
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
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 Percent of estimated working time is calculated using employment estimates from the Current Employment Statistics program and the number of workdays in the month and number of days idle from the Work Stoppages program.

⁴ Less than .005.

⁵ Data not available.

Table 2. Work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers beginning in 2016

Organizations involved, location, and sector	Industry code ¹	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers ²	Days idle ³
Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and New York Shipping Association, Inc. NJ and NY International Longshoremen's Association (Local Government)	488310	1/29/16	1/29/16	1,000	1,000
Minneapolis-St. Paul Contract Cleaners Association Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN Service Employees International Union, Local 26 (Private Industry)	561720	2/17/16	2/18/16	4,200	4,200
Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center Los Angeles, CA California Nurses Association/National Nurses United (Private Industry)	622110	3/15/16	3/21/16	1,200	6,000
City of Chicago Public School District Chicago, IL Chicago Teachers Union (Local Government)	611110	4/01/16	4/01/16	27,000	27,000
Verizon Communications Inc. East Coast States Communications Workers of America and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (Private Industry)	517110	4/13/16	5/27/16	36,500	1,204,500
Detroit Public Schools Detroit, MI American Federation of Teachers, Local 231 (Local Government)	611110	5/02/16	5/03/16	1,500	3,000
AT&T, Inc. San Diego, CA Communications Workers of America, Local 9509 (Private Industry)	517110	5/19/16	5/25/16	1,700	6,800
Allina Health Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN Minnesota Nurses Association/National Nurses United (Private Industry)	622110	6/19/16	6/26/16	4,800	24,000
Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center Los Angeles, CA California Nurses Association/National Nurses United (Private Industry)	622110	6/23/16	6/27/16	1,300	2,600
San Joaquin County San Joaquin County, CA Service Employees International Union, Local 1021 (Local Government)	921100	7/05/16	7/07/16	2,600	7,800
Painting and Decorating Foundation St. Louis, MO International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, District Council 58 (Private Industry)	238320	9/01/16	10/02/16	1,400	4,200
Allina Health Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN Minnesota Nurses Association/National Nurses United (Private Industry)	622110	9/05/16	10/13/16	4,800	129,600

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers beginning in 2016 — Continued

Organizations involved, location, and sector	Industry code ¹	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers ²	Days idle ³
Contra Costa County Contra Costa County, CA Service Employees International Union, Local 1021 (Local Government)	921100	9/30/16	10/07/16	1,100	6,600
Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Statewide PA The Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Faculties (State Government)	611310	10/19/16	10/21/16	5,100	15,300
Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority Philadelphia, PA Transport Workers Union, Local 234 (Local Government)	485111	11/01/16	11/07/16	5,200	26,000

¹ Industry code is from the 2012 NAICS (North American Industry Classification System).

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

³ Days idle includes all stoppages in effect during the calendar year. For work stoppages beginning in a prior year, days idle are counted for current calendar year totals but not listed in this table.