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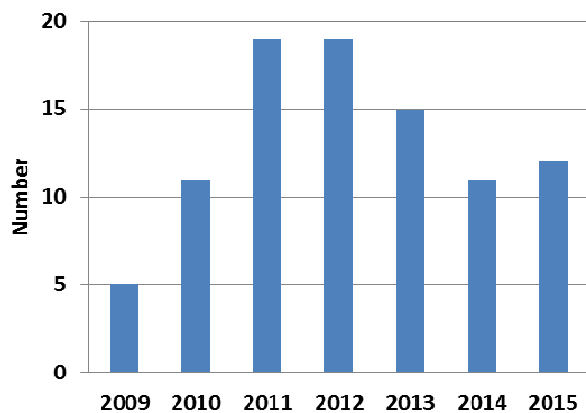
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## MAJOR WORK STOPPAGES IN 2015

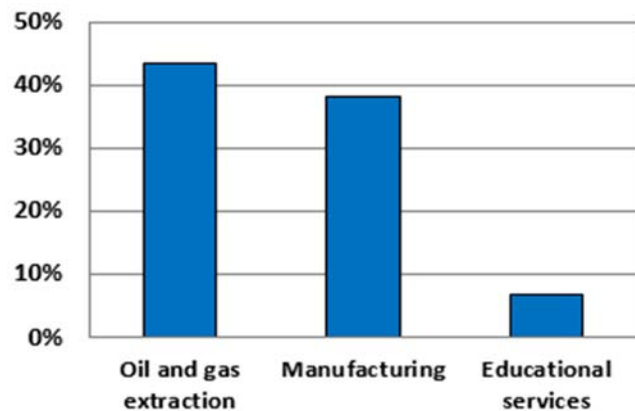
In 2015, there were 12 major work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers and lasting at least one shift, one more than in 2014, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Since the series began in 1947 the lowest annual total was 5 in 2009. (See table 1 and chart 1.)

Major work stoppages beginning in 2015 idled 47,000 workers, higher than 34,000 workers in 2014. In 2015, there were 740,000 days idle from major work stoppages in effect, also higher than 2014 with 200,000 days idle. In 2015, private industry organizations accounted for over 92 percent of the total days idle, consisting of 684,000 days of idleness. In 2015, oil and gas extraction, manufacturing, and educational services industries accounted for approximately 89 percent of all days idle for major work stoppages in 2015. (See tables 1 and 2 and chart 2.)

**Chart 1. Annual major work stoppages, 2009-15**



**Chart 2. Percent of major work stoppages, selected industry group, 2015.**



In 2015, the largest major work stoppage in terms of days idle was between Royal Dutch Shell Oil and other refineries, and the United Steelworkers Union with up to 6,600 workers at its February 2015 peak. This work stoppage accounted for 322,100 total days idle. Other major refineries involved in this work stoppage included British Petroleum, Chevron, Exxon Mobil, LyondellBasell, Marathon Oil Corporation, Motiva Enterprises, and Tesoro Corporation.

The second largest work stoppage in 2015 in terms of days idle was between Allegheny Technologies Incorporated and the United Steelworkers Union, involving 2,200 workers with 206,800 days idle. This work stoppage was still ongoing at the end of 2015. (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 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 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 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](http://www.bls.gov/wsp).

Monthly time series data since 1981 have been published ([data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/surveymost?ws](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

### Detailed historical major work stoppages data

Detailed data for each major work stoppage since 1993 are available at [www.bls.gov/wsp/monthly\\_listing.htm](http://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.

### 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](http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch8.pdf).

**Table 1. Work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers, 1947-2015**

Period	Number of work stoppages beginning in period	Numbers of workers involved (thousands) <sup>1</sup>	Days idle <sup>2</sup>	
			Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time <sup>3</sup>
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
1966 .....	321	1,300	16,000	.10

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers, 1947-2015 — Continued**

Period	Number of work stoppages beginning in period	Numbers of workers involved (thousands) <sup>1</sup>	Days idle <sup>2</sup>	
			Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time <sup>3</sup>
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	( <sup>5</sup> )

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

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

<sup>4</sup> Less than .005.

<sup>5</sup> Data not available.

**Table 2. Work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers beginning in 2015**

Organizations involved, location, and sector	Industry code <sup>1</sup>	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers <sup>2</sup>	Days idle <sup>3</sup>
Kaiser Permanente Hospitals Statewide CA National Union of Healthcare Workers (Private Industry) .....	622110	1/12/15	1/19/15	3,500	17,500
Royal Dutch Shell Oil and Other Refineries <sup>4</sup> CA, IN, KY, LA, OH, TX, WA United Steelworkers Union (Private Industry) .....	211111	2/01/15	6/23/15	6,600	322,100
Washington State Legislature WA Washington Education Association Statewide Local Affiliations (State Government) <sup>5</sup> .....	611110	4/22/15	6/03/15	16,900	16,900
Sutter Auburn Faith Hospital, Mills-Peninsula Health Services (Sutter), Sutter Tracy Community Hospital, Sutter Roseville Medical Center, Sutter Santa Rosa Medical Center Central CA California Nurses Association (Private Industry) .....	622110	4/30/15	5/05/15	1,700	5,100
Allegheny Technologies Incorporated OH, PA, WV United Steelworkers Union (Private Industry) .....	331110	8/15/15	ongoing	2,200	206,800
Consolidated Nuclear Security Amarillo, TX Amarillo Metal Trades Council OPEIU Local 306 (Private Industry) .....	325180	8/29/15	10/03/15	1,200	28,800
Pasco School District Pasco, WA Pasco Association of Educators (Local Government) .....	611110	9/01/15	9/13/15	1,100	8,800
Seattle School District Seattle, WA Seattle Education Association (Local Government) .....	611110	9/09/15	9/15/15	5,000	25,000
Kohler Company Sheboygan, WI United Auto Workers Local 833 (Private Industry) .....	332913	11/15/15	12/15/15	2,100	44,100
Solano County Municipal Government Solano County, CA Solano County Municipal Government Employees SEIU Local 1021 (Local Government) .....	921110	11/17/15	11/18/15	1,800	3,600

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 2. Work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers beginning in 2015 — Continued**

Organizations involved, location, and sector	Industry code <sup>1</sup>	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers <sup>2</sup>	Days idle <sup>3</sup>
Sonoma County Municipal Government Sonoma County, CA Sonoma County Municipal Government Employees SEIU Local 1021 (Local Government) .....	921110	11/17/15	11/17/15	2,000	2,000
Nexteer Automotive Buena Vista, MI United Auto Workers Local 699 (Private Industry) .....	336330	12/08/15	12/08/15	3,200	3,200

<sup>1</sup> Industry code is from the 2012 NAICS (North American Industry Classification System).

<sup>2</sup> The number of workers involved is rounded to the nearest 100.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> Royal Dutch Shell Oil initially represented other organizations involved in the work stoppage including Exxon Mobil, BP PLC, Chevron, LyondellBassell, Marathon Oil Corporation, Motiva Enterprises, and Tesoro Oil Corporation.

<sup>5</sup> Work stoppage exceeded 1,000 workers on 7 separate days from April 22nd, 2015 through June 3rd, 2015. The work stoppage involved various locations statewide for one day each. The number of workers and days idle have been combined.