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STRIKES IN 1939

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STRIKES IN 1939¹

THE year 1939 was characterized by a moderately large number of small strikes, though there were occasional stoppages of large proportions. There were 2,613 strikes during the year, in which about 1,171,000 workers were involved. There were approximately 17,812,000 man-days of idleness during these strikes. About 43 percent of the workers involved and 51 percent of the idle man-days were accounted for by the three largest disputes of the year—the bituminous-coal stoppage in April and May, the WPA stoppages in July, and the Chrysler dispute in October and November.

There were fewer strikes in 1939 than in the preceding 2 years although the number of workers involved and man-days of idleness exceeded those in 1938, largely because of the bituminous-coal stoppage. Excluding the coal dispute, there were about the same number of workers involved and man-days idle in 1939 as in 1938.

In this report no distinction is made between strikes and lock-outs, the term "strike" being used to include all stoppages of work arising from labor disputes. As in former years, the figures do not include stoppages which lasted less than a full working day or shift, nor do they include those involving fewer than six workers.

Original information and notices concerning strikes are obtained by the Bureau mostly from the public press, union publications, and trade journals. Information is obtained also from the various State and Federal labor boards and conciliation services. When a notice of a strike is obtained, letters and report forms are sent to representatives of the union and employers involved, to obtain basic statistical information. For 10 strikes about which notices were received such reports could not be obtained. Except for these, it is believed that figures in this report cover all strikes which occurred in the United States during 1939, although it is possible that a few minor disputes escaped attention.

¹ Prepared by Don Q. Crowther, under the direction of Florence Peterson, chief of the Bureau's Division of Industrial Relations.

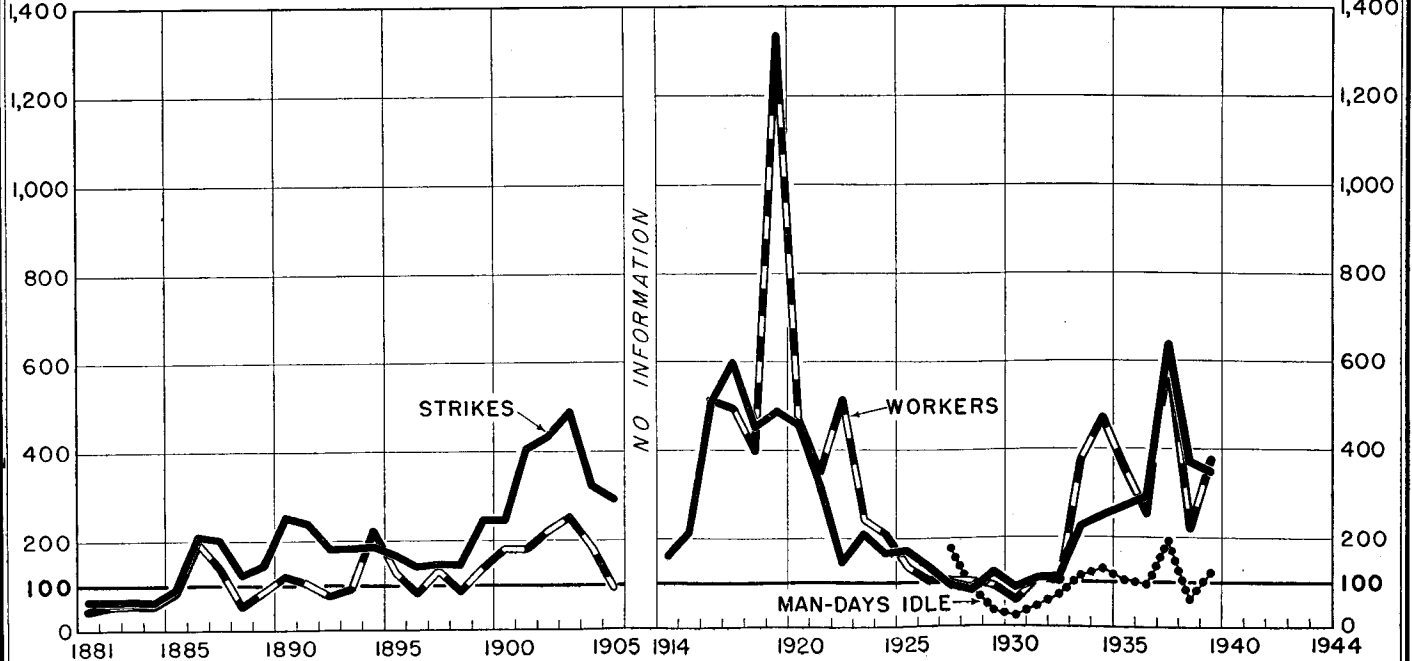
CHART I.

TREND OF STRIKES, 1881-1939

1927-29 = 100

INDEX NUMBERS

INDEX NUMBERS



U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

TABLE 1.—*Strikes in the United States, 1881 to 1905 and 1914 to 1939*

Year	Number of—			Index (1927-29=100)		
	Strikes	Workers involved ¹	Man-days idle	Strikes	Workers involved	Man- days idle
1881.....	477	130, 176	(?)	64	42	(?)
1882.....	476	158, 802	(?)	64	51	(?)
1883.....	506	170, 275	(?)	68	55	(?)
1884.....	485	165, 175	(?)	65	53	(?)
1885.....	695	258, 129	(?)	93	83	(?)
1886.....	1, 572	610, 024	(?)	211	196	(?)
1887.....	1, 503	439, 306	(?)	202	141	(?)
1888.....	946	162, 880	(?)	127	62	(?)
1889.....	1, 111	260, 290	(?)	149	84	(?)
1890.....	1, 897	373, 499	(?)	255	120	(?)
1891.....	1, 786	329, 953	(?)	240	106	(?)
1892.....	1, 359	238, 685	(?)	183	77	(?)
1893.....	1, 375	287, 756	(?)	185	93	(?)
1894.....	1, 404	690, 044	(?)	189	222	(?)
1895.....	1, 255	407, 188	(?)	169	131	(?)
1896.....	1, 066	248, 838	(?)	143	80	(?)
1897.....	1, 110	416, 154	(?)	149	134	(?)
1898.....	1, 098	263, 219	(?)	148	85	(?)
1899.....	1, 838	431, 889	(?)	247	139	(?)
1900.....	1, 839	567, 719	(?)	247	182	(?)
1901.....	3, 012	563, 843	(?)	405	181	(?)
1902.....	3, 240	691, 507	(?)	435	222	(?)
1903.....	3, 648	787, 834	(?)	490	253	(?)
1904.....	2, 419	573, 815	(?)	325	184	(?)
1905.....	2, 186	302, 434	(?)	294	97	(?)
1906-1913.....	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)
1914.....	1, 204	(?)	(?)	162	(?)	(?)
1915.....	1, 593	(?)	(?)	214	(?)	(?)
1916 ¹	2, 789	1, 599, 917	(?)	509	514	(?)
1917.....	4, 450	1, 227, 254	(?)	598	395	(?)
1918.....	3, 353	1, 239, 989	(?)	451	399	(?)
1919.....	3, 630	4, 160, 348	(?)	488	1, 337	(?)
1920.....	3, 411	1, 463, 054	(?)	458	470	(?)
1921.....	2, 385	1, 099, 247	(?)	321	353	(?)
1922.....	1, 112	1, 612, 562	(?)	149	519	(?)
1923.....	1, 553	756, 584	(?)	209	243	(?)
1924.....	1, 249	654, 641	(?)	168	210	(?)
1925.....	1, 301	428, 416	(?)	175	138	(?)
1926.....	1, 035	329, 592	(?)	139	106	(?)
1927.....	707	329, 939	26, 218, 628	95	106	178
1928.....	604	314, 210	12, 631, 863	81	101	86
1929.....	921	288, 572	5, 351, 540	124	93	36
1930.....	637	182, 975	3, 316, 808	86	59	23
1931.....	810	341, 817	6, 893, 244	109	110	47
1932.....	841	324, 210	10, 502, 033	113	104	71
1933.....	1, 695	1, 168, 272	16, 872, 128	228	376	115
1934.....	1, 856	1, 466, 695	19, 591, 949	250	472	133
1935.....	2, 014	1, 117, 213	15, 456, 337	271	359	105
1936.....	2, 172	788, 648	13, 901, 956	292	254	94
1937.....	4, 740	1, 860, 621	28, 424, 857	637	598	193
1938.....	2, 772	688, 376	9, 148, 273	373	221	62
1939.....	2, 613	1, 170, 962	17, 812, 219	351	377	121

¹ The number of workers involved in strikes between 1916 and 1926 is not known for a portion of the total. However, the missing information is for the smaller disputes and it is believed that the total here given is fairly accurate.

² No information available.

Principal Strikes During Year

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND TRUCKING STRIKE

In March 1939 a strike was called by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers, against trucking firms in Rhode Island, Connecticut, and part of Massachusetts, which

finally involved almost 8,000 truck drivers and helpers. The principal demand of the union was for a general wage increase, with provisions for stipulated additional increases each year to be embodied in the terms of a 3-year contract.

Since the strike threatened a complete tie-up of truck transportation with the consequent interruption to industry throughout the area, State and Federal conciliators and the Governors of the affected States urged a quick settlement of the dispute and at times participated in the conferences between the disputing parties. In spite of this assistance, it was 3 weeks before work was resumed.

The agreement which was finally concluded is to remain in effect for 4 years, expiring in April 1943. Wage rates, representing increases for most workers, are stipulated for the first year with increases, varying in amount, for most of the men during each of the successive years the contract is in force. Wage rates by the fourth year will be uniform in all the areas covered. Forty-eight hours constitute a week's work and there is provision for overtime pay at the rate of time and one-half for hours worked in excess of 51 per week. No employee is permitted to work more than 48 hours, however, unless permission has been obtained from the union business agent.

A joint administrative board to be known as the fair trade practice board of the trucking industry of New England is provided for in the agreement and consists of seven representatives each of the employers and of the union. The functions of the board are to administer the provisions of the contract, provide machinery to handle disputes and grievances in order to eliminate strikes and lock-outs, and to adopt such measures, rules, and regulations as will, in the opinion of its members, eliminate from the industry any unfair practice that may exist at present or at any future time. Decisions of the board are final and binding on all parties to the agreement.

BITUMINOUS-COAL STOPPAGE²

With the expiration of agreements between operators of bituminous-coal mines and the United Mine Workers of America, at midnight, March 31, 1939, work ceased at mines in the Appalachian area³ and the State of Alabama. Only the necessary maintenance men were authorized to remain at work for protection of the idle mining properties; also a few mines producing coal for hospitals and utilities of vital necessity to local communities continued in operation.

During the latter half of March the Appalachian joint conference of the United Mine Workers of America and the operators of the Appalachian bituminous area, meeting in New York City, had been trying

² For a more detailed description of the bituminous-coal stoppage, including the text of the new agreement, see *Monthly Labor Review*, September 1939.

³ Includes bituminous mines in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Maryland, West Virginia, eastern Kentucky, Virginia, and Tennessee.

to agree on terms of a new contract. The negotiators had so narrowed the issues that the union was willing to renew the old contract, provided the operators would consent to one of two changes—the elimination of the penalty clause, or exclusive recognition and the union shop. The penalty clause in the old agreement imposed a penalty of \$1 per man per day in most districts for any strike or lock-out in violation of the agreement.

The shut-down became effective in the Appalachian fields and in Alabama on April 1. When no agreement had been reached by April 20, the union gave the 15 days' notice required under the extension agreements for the midwestern and western fields, and the shut-down became practically industry-wide by May 5, with around 330,000 workers idle.

Federal conciliators and the Secretary of Labor participated in the joint conferences of the operators and miners and, on invitation from the President, representatives of the two groups met at the White House on May 9. On May 11, when no agreement had been reached as requested by the President, the union issued orders to its outlying district presidents to arrange 2-year agreements in areas where operators would accept the union-shop provision which the Appalachian operators had thus far rejected.

On May 12, when an agreement covering the entire Appalachian area appeared hopeless, it was decided that any individual operators and association members willing to do so could sign the all-union agreement in order that production could be resumed in at least part of the mines. The agreement was accepted by 15 of the 21 employers' associations and work was thereupon resumed throughout the western, midwestern, and most of the eastern fields. During the following week agreements were signed by nearly all the remaining associations and individual companies which had refused to sign on May 12, the major exception being the Harlan County (Ky.) Coal Operators Association.

In Harlan County the National Guard was called out when some companies tried to operate their mines without signing the new agreement. Work in some mines was gradually resumed as operators signed individually. Finally, on July 19, the Harlan County Coal Operators Association signed an agreement which omitted the penalty clause but did not provide for the closed shop. With the exception of a part of the Illinois fields under contract with the Progressive Mine Workers, this brought practically the entire bituminous-coal industry under agreement with the United Mine Workers of America.

BRIGGS MANUFACTURING CO. STRIKE, DETROIT

This strike, called by the United Automobile Workers of America (C. I. O.), began on May 22, 1939. More than 15,000 Briggs workers were involved and since the firm manufactured automobile

bodies for other companies, the shortage of bodies resulting from the tie-up made 50,000 or more workers idle in other plants.

The union agreement with the Briggs company expired May 16, and the negotiation of a new agreement was delayed by the existence of numerous grievances which the union contended must be settled before negotiations could proceed. The more important of these grievances concerned the discharge of a number of union men and the question whether, at the beginning of a shift, the men should get their tools on company or on individual time.

Settlement negotiations which got under way immediately were threatened when representatives of an independent or unaffiliated group of workers, formerly a part of the United Automobile Workers, asked to be represented in the meetings and met separately with company officials on one or two occasions. The National Labor Relations Board offered to hold a consent election to settle any question concerning the proper bargaining agent but the offer was not accepted by the unaffiliated group.

After a week of strike activity the company and union agreed to submit the list of grievances to the Federal conciliator for arbitration. Negotiations on the new contract were then started, the major obstacle to agreement being the union's demand for a union shop. Within a few days the National Labor Relations Board began hearings to determine the bargaining agent, and shortly thereafter (June 7) the strike was called off with the understanding that the future of the union's status would be determined by the results of the NLRB election. In November the Board certified the U. A. W. (C. I. O.) as sole bargaining agent at the company's plants, both in the Detroit area and at Evansville, Ind.

WPA STOPPAGES

The widespread stoppages on WPA projects in July 1939 were in protest against the abandonment of the former wage policy, in the new relief appropriation bill passed by Congress for the fiscal year 1939-40. The building-trades unions were especially opposed, as they felt that abandonment of the prevailing-wage principle would affect union wage scales on private construction as well as on WPA projects. In many of the cities the protest stoppages of work on WPA projects were led by the local building-trades councils.

Immediately after the stoppages occurred, the Work Projects Administration announced that it would enforce its regulation that all workers who absented themselves from work for 5 days would be dropped from the WPA rolls. The result was that many workers were out only a short time, returning to work within the 5-day limit. Thousands of others remained away more than 5 days and were dropped from the rolls. As workers returned in some places, new

protest stoppages developed in other localities so that the demonstrations continued until after the middle of July. Considerable violence developed in connection with the protests in Minneapolis, and a number of persons were arrested and fined.

The number of WPA workers who were idle for 1 or more days in connection with these stoppages was about 123,000. Many more than this were idle for a part of a day, as a result of mass meetings and short demonstrations which were held in protest against the new WPA regulations.

CHRYSLER DISPUTE

The United Automobile Workers of America obtained its first widespread union agreement with the Chrysler Corporation early in April 1937 at the close of a 1-month strike. In this agreement, the union was recognized as the collective-bargaining agency for its members. It was renewed, upon expiration, for 1 year—until March 31, 1939. Monthly extensions were made thereafter until September 30, 1939. In the meantime, there had been a split in the union and the National Labor Relations Board had announced plans to conduct elections to determine whether the C. I. O. or the A. F. of L. union had a majority representation. The elections were held September 27, the U. A. W. (C. I. O.) winning by a large majority in each of 11 of the 13 plants. The U. A. W. (A. F. of L.) obtained a majority at the Evansville, Ind., plant, and in Kokomo, Ind., a majority voted for neither union.

On October 6, the company accused the union of conducting a slow-down strike in one of the Dodge plants and discharged a number of workers as a disciplinary measure. Within a day or two, some 20,000 men were idle at the Dodge plants, the company contending that the stoppage was due to a union-ordered slow-down, and the union claiming it was a lock-out after an attempted speed-up on the new 1940 models. Within a few days other Chrysler plants were closed, affecting a total of approximately 50,000 workers.

As negotiations to settle the dispute and draft a new contract got under way, the union demanded joint study and control of production standards, a wage increase of 10 cents per hour, the union shop, provision for arbitration of grievances, and seniority rights. In return the union promised that there would be no strikes during the term of the agreement.

Federal and State conciliators participated in the negotiations for settlement. While conferences were under way, the company received a request for recognition of the United Foremen's and Supervisors' Union, affiliated with the C. I. O., and immediately demanded that this request be withdrawn before negotiations could proceed. A few days after the foremen's union withdrew its request for recognition, an agreement settling the dispute was signed (November 29).

Meanwhile, on November 16, the National Labor Relations Board had certified the U. A. W. (C. I. O.) as the collective-bargaining agent for the 11 plants as one unit.

The new agreement did not provide for a union shop but recognized the union as exclusive bargaining agent for production employees in the 11 plants of the company, excluding only one department (die-sinkers) in the Newcastle, Ind., plant in which the A. F. of L. Machinists' Union had been certified as bargaining agent. Definite grievance machinery was created, with an appeal board (composed of two executives of the corporation and two official representatives of the union) which must render a decision on any dispute within 30 days after being submitted. Any complaint or grievance concerning production standards is to be settled through the regular grievance machinery. A wage increase of 3 cents per hour was granted and the differential between wage rates in Detroit plants and those in plants outside Detroit was to be narrowed by 1 cent. Seniority rights were provided for. There are to be no strikes or lock-outs before the entire grievance procedure has been exhausted and in no case before a negotiating period of 5 days. The contract can be terminated immediately if a strike is called.

The agreement runs until November 30, 1940, and from year to year thereafter unless either party notifies the other, between November 1 and 15 in any year, of its desire to terminate the agreement.

CALIFORNIA COTTON PICKERS' STRIKE

The cotton pickers' strike, which began early in October, involved approximately 15,000 workers and extended into Kern, Tulare, Kings, Fresno, Madera, and Merced Counties. It was conducted by the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America, in an attempt to raise the wage rate for cotton picking from 80 cents per hundred pounds to \$1.25. The strike was not formally terminated until late in November, although many of the pickers had returned to work earlier. Late in October the union offered to compromise for \$1 per hundred pounds and sent workers back into the fields wherever this rate was paid. When the strike was ended the union claimed that the \$1 rate was fairly widely established and that signed contracts were obtained in a few cases.

SHIP CLERKS' STRIKE, SAN FRANCISCO

The ship clerks' strike in San Francisco began November 10, 1939, and kept shipping activities at that port practically at a standstill for nearly 8 weeks. Approximately 600 ship clerks were involved and, when checking of cargo ceased and picket lines were formed at the docks, about 4,000 longshoremen were made idle also.

Contracts between the Ship Clerks' Association and the Dock Checkers Employers Association had expired September 30. Work continued after that date until negotiations for a new agreement became deadlocked and the strike was called.

Prior to September 30 there were two contracts—one covering "daily" workers, and the other covering workers employed on a monthly basis. The union now sought one contract to cover both classes of workers, with provisions which would establish union preference in employment for both daily and monthly clerks, registration of all employees in the industry for the purpose of protecting the jobs of the men in the industry at that time, adoption of the principle of equalization of work opportunity and earnings similar to that practiced through the longshore hiring hall, and reduction of the hours of monthly clerks from 44 to 42 hours per week.

Local, State, and Federal officials participated in the mediation conferences until January 3, 1940, when a back-to-work agreement was signed which provided that all employees were to return to work without discrimination. Union preferential hiring and registration of monthly men was not granted. Except for this, all issues still in dispute at the end of a negotiating period which was to last at least 10 days, were to be submitted to arbitration.

Negotiations continued for about a month, and on February 7 a contract was signed covering the terms on which the parties had been able to agree. Some matters—wage and hour adjustments for monthly clerks, equalization of earnings for daily clerks, and vacations—were submitted to a board of arbitration.

Monthly Trend of 1939 Strikes

Strikes in 1939 followed, substantially, the usual seasonal trend, increasing in number during the spring months, maintaining a fairly high level during the summer and fall, and then diminishing in number with the approach of winter. Strikes were more numerous in April (281) than in any other month of the year, and the smallest number was in December (106). Likewise, April was the high month in terms of number of workers involved and man-days of idleness and December was the low month. The bituminous-coal stoppage accounted for the extremely high number of workers involved and the large amount of idleness in April.

In 1938 the greatest number of strikes and of man-days of idleness occurred in May, with the smallest numbers in January. The

greatest number of workers involved, however, was in September although the smallest number was in January. Comparative monthly figures for the 2 years are given in table 2.

TABLE 2.—*Strikes in 1938 and 1939, by Months*

Month	Number of strikes—				Workers involved in strikes—				Man-days idle during month	
	Beginning in month		In progress during month		Beginning in month		In progress during month		1938	1939
	1938	1939	1938	1939	1938	1939	1938	1939		
Year	2,772	2,613	-----	-----	688,376	1,170,962	-----	-----	9,148,273	17,812,219
January	168	203	288	323	35,329	51,159	55,850	72,427	473,289	513,460
February	198	204	327	343	53,175	68,252	77,486	88,267	514,111	553,138
March	274	210	421	349	56,759	43,337	105,962	64,660	767,856	618,147
April	281	281	456	431	78,666	396,166	110,950	425,748	838,158	4,902,238
May	300	258	495	434	83,029	95,239	124,682	457,407	1,174,052	3,547,868
June	219	245	424	407	52,801	62,534	95,854	127,474	871,002	958,127
July	208	251	387	389	50,193	175,542	85,672	211,548	776,237	1,168,382
August	262	275	434	448	48,378	79,670	81,052	118,772	830,987	1,101,419
September	222	197	384	373	96,399	36,846	133,357	103,538	989,916	892,485
October	256	205	406	356	52,703	106,623	113,074	139,608	842,202	1,508,120
November	207	178	372	317	43,128	43,239	75,445	130,341	557,903	1,664,574
December	177	106	310	222	37,816	12,350	62,160	37,122	512,560	384,261

Industries Affected

The industries most affected by disputes in 1939, as measured in terms of man-days idle, were bituminous-coal mining (7,303,000) and automobile manufacturing (2,535,000). Of the nearly 18,000,000 man-days idle during the year as a result of all strikes, about 42 percent were in the mining industries, 15 percent were in the transportation-equipment manufacturing industries, a little more than 7 percent were in the textile (including clothing) industries, and nearly 5 percent were in the transportation and communication industries. Of the 1,171,000 workers involved, about 33 percent were in the mining industries, 12 percent were on WPA projects, 11 percent were in transportation-equipment manufacturing, 8 percent were in textiles, and 7 percent were in the transportation and communication industries. As for the number of strikes, nearly 21 percent were in the textile industries (small strikes in the women's clothing industry mostly), 12 percent were in building and construction, 11 percent were in retail and wholesale trade, and 10 percent were in transportation and communication.

TABLE 3.—*Strikes in 1939, by Industry*

Industry	Number of strikes beginning in 1939	Number of workers involved	Man-days idle during 1939
All industries	2, 613	1, 170, 962	17, 812, 219
Iron and steel and their products, not including machinery	57	14, 466	212, 760
Blast furnaces, steel works, and rolling mills.....	10	6, 067	80, 034
Cast-iron pipe and fittings.....	3	679	17, 333
Cutlery (not including silver and plated cutlery) and edge tools.....	1	19	152
Forgings, iron and steel.....	3	504	6, 062
Hardware.....	3	498	26, 856
Plumbers' supplies and fixtures.....	3	238	4, 284
Steam and hot-water heating apparatus and steam fittings.....	3	171	1, 595
Stoves.....	7	1, 178	9, 036
Structural and ornamental metalwork.....	2	425	2, 167
Tin cans and other tinware.....	6	1, 324	13, 610
Tools (not including edge tools, machine tools, files, and saws).....	1	736	12, 512
Wire and wire products.....	6	1, 153	13, 037
Other.....	9	1, 474	26, 082
Machinery, not including transportation equipment	85	25, 027	433, 288
Agricultural implements.....	2	174	18, 530
Cash registers, adding machines, and typewriters.....	1	9	117
Electrical machinery, apparatus, and supplies.....	20	4, 613	96, 195
Engines, turbines, tractors, and water wheels.....	2	8, 884	125, 070
Foundry and machine-shop products.....	30	4, 637	95, 405
Machine tools (power driven).....	3	871	6, 815
Radios and phonographs.....	2	53	329
Other.....	25	5, 786	90, 827
Transportation equipment	56	133, 635	2, 656, 269
Aircraft.....	2	1, 263	85, 419
Automobiles, bodies and parts.....	44	129, 333	2, 535, 444
Cars, electric- and steam-railroad.....	1	650	1, 950
Shipbuilding.....	9	2, 389	33, 456
Nonferrous metals and their products	32	6, 180	167, 507
Aluminum manufactures.....	2	292	641
Brass, bronze, and copper products.....	2	591	33, 832
Clocks, watches, and other time-recording devices.....	1	400	10, 726
Jewelry.....	6	125	3, 361
Lighting equipment.....	5	198	8, 841
Silverware and plated ware.....	1	175	1, 925
Smelting and refining—copper, lead, and zinc.....	5	3, 137	93, 362
Stamped and enameled ware.....	5	723	7, 689
Other.....	5	539	7, 130
Lumber and allied products	170	31, 145	799, 543
Furniture.....	67	8, 222	144, 134
Millwork and planing.....	22	4, 170	160, 422
Sawmills and logging camps.....	42	14, 632	398, 895
Other.....	39	4, 121	96, 092
Stone, clay, and glass products	53	11, 350	136, 901
Brick, tile, and terra cotta.....	23	2, 367	48, 884
Cement.....	1	32	576
Glass.....	6	3, 619	17, 738
Marble, granite, slate, and other products.....	4	1, 254	27, 170
Pottery.....	2	660	3, 176
Other.....	17	3, 418	39, 357
Textiles and their products	539	90, 732	1, 320, 964
Fabrics.....	92	30, 516	606, 038
Carpets and rugs.....	3	2, 265	7, 292
Cotton goods.....	24	10, 947	350, 536
Cotton small wares.....	2	206	3, 468
Dyeing and finishing textiles.....	8	1, 728	18, 784
Silk and rayon goods.....	21	6, 667	74, 800
Woolen and worsted goods.....	10	5, 352	47, 811
Other.....	24	3, 351	103, 347
Wearing apparel.....	447	60, 216	714, 956
Clothing, men's.....	20	9, 577	43, 730
Clothing, women's.....	350	37, 702	453, 896
Corsets and allied garments.....	1	400	2, 800
Men's furnishings.....	7	2, 069	24, 788
Hats, caps, and millinery.....	13	3, 173	15, 655
Shirts and collars.....	5	1, 622	19, 497
Hosiery.....	13	2, 024	62, 439
Knit goods.....	34	3, 396	51, 733
Other.....	4	253	40, 418

TABLE 3.—*Strikes in 1939, by Industry—Continued*

Industry	Number of strikes beginning in 1939	Number of workers involved	Man-days idle during 1939
Leather and its manufactures	46	9,492	184,312
Boots and shoes.....	22	5,900	114,405
Leather.....	6	641	26,836
Other leather goods.....	18	2,951	43,071
Food and kindred products	148	29,560	394,943
Baking.....	42	5,635	34,547
Beverages.....	16	2,852	40,709
Butter.....	1	31	31
Canning and preserving.....	29	6,627	105,771
Confectionery.....	4	467	13,713
Flour and grain mills.....	8	548	6,231
Ice cream.....	4	47	430
Slaughtering and meat packing.....	25	7,447	93,208
Sugar refining, cane.....	2	4,296	85,788
Other.....	17	1,610	14,515
Tobacco manufactures	4	4,796	73,665
Cigars.....	3	724	45,161
Cigarettes.....	1	4,072	28,504
Paper and printing	58	5,093	181,721
Boxes, paper.....	8	1,523	73,521
Paper and pulp.....	5	544	14,059
Printing and publishing:			
Book and job.....	6	119	1,285
Newspapers and periodicals.....	15	704	50,185
Other.....	24	2,203	42,671
Chemicals and allied products	39	13,718	391,820
Chemicals.....	7	1,686	29,267
Cottonseed oil, cake, and meal.....	2	204	12,725
Druggists' preparations.....	2	78	204
Fertilizers.....	2	690	3,090
Paints and varnishes.....	5	154	3,716
Petroleum refining.....	3	486	75,550
Rayon and allied products.....	2	9,206	235,492
Soap.....	2	378	12,724
Other.....	14	834	19,052
Rubber products	19	9,694	73,868
Rubber boots and shoes.....	1	2,400	2,400
Rubber tires and inner tubes.....	5	4,798	20,102
Other rubber goods.....	13	2,496	51,366
Miscellaneous manufacturing	83	9,290	155,082
Electric light, power, and manufactured gas.....	4	883	9,797
Broom and brush.....	2	194	3,303
Furriers and fur factories.....	15	1,078	25,969
Other.....	62	7,135	116,013
Extraction of minerals	64	363,432	7,464,581
Coal mining, anthracite.....	25	22,664	77,909
Coal mining, bituminous.....	25	355,383	7,302,556
Metalliferous mining.....	6	1,622	44,740
Quarrying and nonmetallic mining.....	6	3,493	35,706
Other.....	2	270	3,670
Transportation and communication	252	86,556	856,915
Water transportation.....	100	42,773	506,245
Motortruck transportation.....	105	27,229	241,518
Motorbus transportation.....	14	1,469	10,559
Taxicabs and miscellaneous.....	25	14,524	75,667
Electric railroad.....	1	6	18
Telephone and telegraph.....	2	349	19,640
Air transportation.....	2	128	2,098
Radio broadcasting and transmitting.....	2	48	1,140
Other.....	1	30	30
Trade	283	26,236	425,689
Wholesale.....	77	6,862	100,565
Retail.....	206	19,374	325,124

TABLE 3.—*Strikes in 1939, by Industry—Continued*

Industry	Number of strikes beginning in 1939	Number of workers involved	Man-days idle during 1939
Domestic and personal service	181	21, 134	277, 402
Hotels, restaurants, and boarding houses.....	68	5, 014	71, 075
Personal service, barbers, and beauty parlors.....	1	23	1, 104
Laundries.....	49	3, 733	107, 201
Dyeing, cleaning, and pressing.....	24	5, 551	71, 053
Elevator and maintenance workers (when not attached to specific industry).....	12	6, 706	25, 616
Other.....	7	107	1, 353
Professional service	34	3, 317	35, 086
Recreation and amusement.....	26	2, 073	27, 515
Professional.....	2	326	3, 406
Semiprofessional, attendants, and helpers.....	6	918	4, 165
Building and construction	320	70, 097	633, 488
Buildings, exclusive of PWA.....	183	50, 601	424, 884
All other construction (bridges, docks, etc., and PWA buildings).....	137	19, 496	208, 604
Agriculture and fishing	39	36, 754	477, 363
Agriculture.....	25	26, 207	194, 880
Fishing.....	14	10, 547	282, 483
WPA, relief, and resettlement projects	33	144, 920	428, 242
Other nonmanufacturing industries	38	4, 340	30, 780

States Affected

Pennsylvania had more workers involved in strikes and more idleness because of strikes in 1939 than any other State, although there were less than half as many strikes in Pennsylvania as in New York. Over 15 percent of the total workers involved in strikes and 17 percent of the total idleness during 1939 were in Pennsylvania. New York, with more than one-fourth of the country's strikes, had about 12 percent of the total workers involved but only 7 percent of the total man-days idle. Michigan, with 11 percent of the total workers involved, had 14 percent of the total idleness. West Virginia, owing principally to the general bituminous-coal stoppage, had 8 percent of the total workers involved and 12 percent of the total idleness.

Strike figures for the various States appear in table 4. The interstate strikes have been counted in this table, except in the total, as separate strikes in each State. For example, a strike extending into both New York and New Jersey was counted in the New York figures as one strike and in the New Jersey figures as one strike, with a proper division of the workers involved and man-days idle.

TABLE 4.—*Strikes in 1939, by States*

State	Number of strikes beginning in 1939	Workers involved			Man-days idle during 1939	
		Number	Percent of total	Average per strike	Number	Percent of total
All States.....	2,613	1,170,962	100.0	448	17,812,219	100.0
Alabama.....	20	14,434	1.2	722	494,788	2.8
Arizona.....	7	536	(¹)	77	8,319	(²)
Arkansas.....	12	2,187	.2	182	40,677	.2
California.....	215	83,679	7.1	389	1,038,109	5.8
Colorado.....	17	8,018	.7	472	75,986	.4
Connecticut.....	38	10,609	.9	279	92,534	.5
Delaware.....	5	252	(²)	50	3,768	(²)
District of Columbia.....	23	5,878	.5	256	64,989	.4
Florida.....	20	2,330	.2	117	80,800	.5
Georgia.....	17	2,128	.2	125	73,100	.4
Idaho.....	2	116	(²)	58	1,558	(²)
Illinois.....	151	74,017	6.3	490	606,953	3.4
Indiana.....	79	30,838	2.6	390	381,290	2.1
Iowa.....	42	8,665	.7	206	85,070	.5
Kansas.....	11	7,482	.6	680	30,245	.2
Kentucky.....	19	61,218	5.2	3,222	1,244,742	7.0
Louisiana.....	23	1,665	.1	72	21,950	.1
Maine.....	10	1,989	.2	199	15,384	.1
Maryland.....	31	14,603	1.2	471	269,709	1.5
Massachusetts.....	116	34,832	3.0	300	346,417	1.9
Michigan.....	89	130,410	11.2	1,465	2,499,115	14.1
Minnesota.....	26	18,742	1.6	721	107,033	.6
Mississippi.....	7	3,543	.3	506	39,766	.2
Missouri.....	67	13,305	1.1	199	243,924	1.4
Montana.....	6	5,589	.5	932	20,315	.1
Nebraska.....	6	587	.1	98	29,146	.2
Nevada.....	2	300	(²)	150	850	(²)
New Hampshire.....	9	1,590	.1	177	10,776	.1
New Jersey.....	190	29,550	2.5	156	539,476	3.0
New Mexico.....	6	2,979	.3	497	20,540	.1
New York.....	726	135,984	11.7	187	1,236,547	6.9
North Carolina.....	15	7,936	.7	529	101,624	.6
North Dakota.....	7	1,555	.1	222	20,450	.1
Ohio.....	96	50,458	4.3	526	768,961	4.3
Oklahoma.....	13	3,084	.3	237	71,225	.4
Oregon.....	39	11,455	1.0	294	139,029	.8
Pennsylvania.....	315	179,320	15.4	569	3,043,306	17.2
Rhode Island.....	18	7,588	.6	422	117,076	.7
South Carolina.....	12	4,786	.4	399	108,174	.6
South Dakota.....	3	53	(²)	18	222	(²)
Tennessee.....	33	10,495	.9	318	239,516	1.3
Texas.....	46	6,209	.5	135	132,501	.7
Utah.....	10	4,708	.4	471	39,183	.2
Vermont.....	2	1,010	.1	505	8,180	(²)
Virginia.....	26	14,249	1.2	548	307,733	1.7
Washington.....	66	21,949	1.9	333	438,995	2.5
West Virginia.....	26	94,626	8.2	3,639	2,166,032	12.2
Wisconsin.....	55	39,426	3.4	717	366,136	2.1
Wyoming.....	1	4,000	.3	4,000	20,000	.1

¹ The sum of this column is more than 2,613. This is due to the fact that 67 strikes which extended across State lines have been counted, in this table, as separate strikes in each State affected, with the proper allocation of number of workers involved and man-days idle.

² Less than a tenth of 1 percent.

Cities Affected

There were more strikes in New York City (597) in 1939 than in any 10 other cities combined. The New York strikes were small on the average, however, and were of comparatively short duration. Although more than 20 percent of the Nation's strikes were in New York City, only about 10 percent of the total workers involved were in these strikes, and only 6 percent of the total idleness caused by

strikes was in New York. Detroit, Mich., with only 51 strikes, had almost as many workers involved as New York and had more than twice as many man-days idle.

The six cities having the most strikes in 1939 were, in order, New York, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Detroit, and Chicago. Those with the most workers involved in strikes were, in order, New York, Detroit, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Milwaukee, and Boston. Those having the most idleness because of strikes were Detroit, New York, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, and Chicago.

Thirty-seven cities in the United States had 10 or more strikes during the year. Figures for each of these cities are shown in table 5, together with figures for 37 other cities for which data have been published in previous years.

A number of strikes in 1939 extended into two or more cities. In table 5 these intercity strikes have been regarded as separate strikes in each city affected, counting for each city only the workers who were idle in that city. A strike included with figures for a given city, therefore, might have been only a part of a larger strike.

TABLE 5.—*Strikes in 1939 in Cities Which Had 10 or More Strikes in Any Year from 1927 to 1939*

City	Number of strikes beginning in 1939	Number of workers involved	Man-days idle during 1939	City	Number of strikes beginning in 1939	Number of workers involved	Man-days idle during 1939
Akron, Ohio.....	7	4,370	9,733	New Haven, Conn.....	4	1,307	18,352
Allentown, Pa.....	10	2,083	62,914	New Orleans, La.....	12	908	10,327
Atlanta, Ga.....	11	895	9,235	New York (Greater).....	597	115,506	1,033,934
Baltimore, Md.....	16	2,124	20,428	Norfolk, Va.....	6	1,095	7,404
Birmingham, Ala.....	4	73	2,530	Paducah, Ky.....	1	13	39
Boston, Mass.....	29	14,373	113,748	Passaic, N. J.....	14	1,974	14,104
Buffalo, N. Y.....	17	3,042	16,882	Paterson, N. J.....	33	3,510	56,337
Chattanooga, Tenn.....	12	1,102	17,648	Pawtucket, R. I.....	4	539	4,510
Chicago, Ill.....	49	8,688	122,178	Peoria, Ill.....	8	2,430	35,746
Cincinnati, Ohio.....	8	1,480	36,745	Philadelphia, Pa.....	95	27,681	249,003
Cleveland, Ohio.....	26	9,762	91,927	Pittsburgh, Pa.....	35	3,884	67,673
Columbus, Ohio.....	6	250	2,333	Portland, Oreg.....	12	2,897	21,008
Denver, Colo.....	9	1,669	17,484	Providence, R. I.....	8	4,001	57,623
Des Moines, Iowa.....	9	379	3,850	Reading, Pa.....	4	439	8,008
Detroit, Mich.....	51	115,231	2,292,117	Richmond, Va.....	8	1,570	13,643
Duluth, Minn.....	2	2,001	6,006	Rochester, N. Y.....	12	2,161	11,669
Easton, Pa.....	1	66	198	Rockford, Ill.....	6	1,286	5,314
East St. Louis, Ill.....	20	6,344	50,670	Saginaw, Mich.....	4	2,006	9,900
Elizabeth, N. J.....	10	982	24,033	St. Louis, Mo.....	36	4,866	63,461
Erie, Pa.....	6	1,286	28,661	St. Paul, Minn.....	4	2,820	10,117
Evansville, Ind.....	3	533	5,145	San Francisco (bay area).....	58	26,178	348,918
Fall River, Mass.....	11	3,392	40,975	Scranston, Pa.....	6	544	4,585
Flint, Mich.....	14	3,323	21,038	Seattle, Wash.....	25	4,253	38,321
Haverhill, Mass.....	4	660	3,189	Shamokin, Pa.....	11	1,330	21,508
Houston, Texas.....	17	513	9,880	South Bend, Ind.....	6	5,364	59,587
Indianapolis, Ind.....	22	2,275	28,275	Springfield, Ill.....	6	387	5,004
Jersey City, N. J.....	24	2,401	20,436	Springfield, Mass.....	13	1,586	6,137
Kansas City, Mo.....	13	930	24,833	Terre Haute, Ind.....	4	286	7,500
Los Angeles, Calif.....	71	11,765	145,023	Toledo, Ohio.....	10	6,075	56,237
Louisville, Ky.....	6	694	3,766	Trenton, N. J.....	8	859	9,565
Lowell, Mass.....	6	733	3,004	Washington, D. C.....	23	5,878	64,989
Lynn, Mass.....	4	328	1,711	Waterbury, Conn.....	3	564	8,233
Memphis, Tenn.....	5	457	4,858	Wausau, Wis.....	2	139	2,835
Milwaukee, Wis.....	18	16,788	97,364	Wilkes-Barre, Pa.....	11	2,482	37,286
Minneapolis, Minn.....	20	10,454	63,491	Woonsocket, R. I.....	1	2,456	50,192
Newark, N. J.....	28	5,456	60,477	Worcester, Mass.....	3	2,514	54,760
New Bedford, Mass.....	7	1,546	14,066	York, Pa.....	9	2,019	32,662

Number of Workers Involved

Approximately one-fourth of the strikes in 1939 involved fewer than 20 workers each. More than half (56 percent) of the strikes involved from 20 to 250 workers each, and the remaining 19 percent involved 250 workers or more, the largest dispute (that of bituminous-coal miners) involving about 330,000. The average number of workers involved in the 2,613 strikes was 448. Excluding the bituminous-coal stoppage, the average was only 322 workers.

In table 6 the size of the strikes in each of the various industry groups is indicated. Only 8 strikes in 1939 involved as many as 10,000 workers each. These were—

The Plymouth strike in Detroit, Mich., in February.

The bituminous-coal stoppage in April.

The Harlan County (Ky.) coal miners' strike—which continued after termination of the general stoppage—in May.

The Briggs Manufacturing Co. strike at Detroit in May.

The WPA stoppages in July.

The Philadelphia building-trades strike in August.

The California cotton pickers' strike in October.

The Chrysler dispute at Detroit in October.

TABLE 6.—*Strikes Beginning in 1939, by Number of Workers Involved and Industry*

Industry group	Total	Average number of workers per strike	Number of strikes in which the number of workers involved was—							
			6 and under 20	20 and under 100	100 and under 250	250 and under 500	500 and under 1,000	1,000 and under 5,000	5,000 and under 10,000	10,000 and over
All industries:										
Number.....	2,613	448	648	1,054	427	214	140	107	15	8
Percent.....	100.0		24.8	40.3	16.3	8.2	5.4	4.1	0.6	0.3
<i>Manufacturing</i>										
Iron and steel and their products, not including machinery.....	57	254	6	19	15	11	5	1		
Machinery, not including transportation equipment.....	85	294	6	33	27	7	8	3	1	
Transportation equipment.....	56	2,386	3	11	6	8	10	13	2	3
Nonferrous metals and products.....	32	193	8	11	5	5	1	2		
Lumber and allied products.....	170	183	26	73	39	20	8	4		
Stone, clay, and glass products.....	53	214	4	27	12	2	5	3		
Textiles and their products.....	539	168	139	258	66	38	21	15	2	
Leather and its manufactures.....	46	206	8	13	18	1	4	2		
Food and kindred products.....	148	200	42	52	24	15	10	5		
Tobacco manufactures.....	4	1,199		2			1	1		
Paper and printing.....	58	88	23	23	7	3	2			
Chemicals and allied products.....	39	352	9	15	11	1	1	1	1	
Rubber products.....	19	510	1	6	4	4	1	3		
Miscellaneous manufacturing.....	83	112	26	30	18	5	3	1		
<i>Nonmanufacturing</i>										
Extraction of minerals.....	64	5,991	4	11	10	9	17	10	1	2
Transportation and communication.....	252	343	56	109	41	21	9	10	6	
Trade.....	283	93	123	112	27	9	7	5		
Domestic and personal service.....	161	131	65	65	18	7	2	3	1	
Professional service.....	34	98	8	14	9	2	1			
Building and construction.....	320	219	75	143	47	28	15	11		1
Agriculture and fishing.....	39	942	2	4	11	8	6	7		1
WPA, relief, and resettlement projects.....	33	4,392	2	6	9	6	2	6	1	1
Other nonmanufacturing industries.....	38	114	12	17	3	4	1	1		

Number of Establishments Involved

About three-fourths of the strikes in 1939, including 23 percent of the total workers involved and accounting for 22 percent of the total idleness due to strikes, were confined to single establishments. The term "establishment" as used here does not refer necessarily to a company or firm but refers rather to a place of work, such as a manufacturing plant, a mine, a building project, ship, or a dock. A strike against one company may, therefore, extend to several establishments.

A classification of the strikes ending in 1939, according to number of establishments involved, appears in table 7. Only 9 percent of the strikes extended to as many as 11 or more establishments but these strikes accounted for 55 percent of the total idleness and included 61 percent of the total workers involved.

TABLE 7.—*Strikes Ending in 1939, by Number of Establishments Involved*

Number of establishments involved	Strikes		Workers involved		Man-days idle	
	Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total
Total.....	2, 639	100. 0	1, 177, 883	100. 0	18, 520, 503	100. 0
1 establishment.....	1, 954	74. 1	268, 385	22. 8	4, 018, 404	21. 7
2 to 5 establishments.....	338	12. 8	89, 313	7. 6	1, 701, 724	9. 2
6 to 10 establishments.....	106	4. 0	106, 395	9. 0	2, 594, 116	14. 0
11 establishments and over.....	239	9. 1	713, 340	60. 6	10, 200, 409	55. 1
Not reported.....	2	(1)	450	(1)	5, 850	(1)

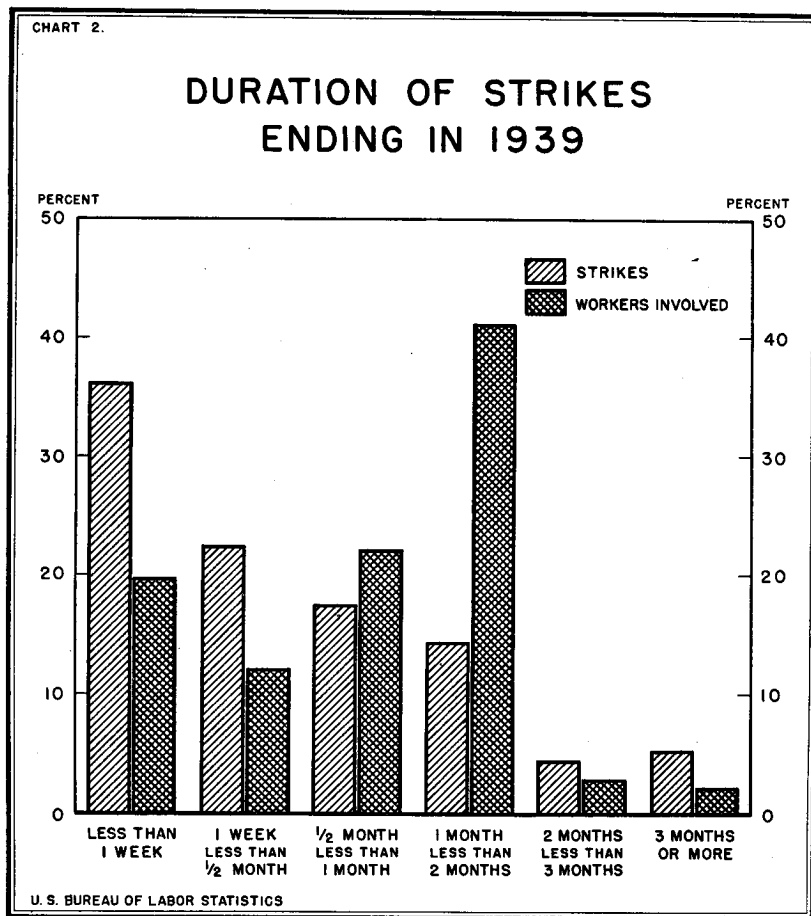
¹ Less than a tenth of 1 percent.

Duration of Strikes

The average duration of the 2,639 strikes ending in 1939 was about 23 calendar days. About 20 percent of the total workers involved were idle less than a week, 34 percent were idle from a week up to a month, and 46 percent were idle for a month or more. About 36 percent of the strikes lasted less than a week and, because of their short duration, accounted for very little (3 percent) of the total idleness. On the other hand, about 5 percent of the strikes continued for 3 months or more and accounted for nearly 14 percent of the total idleness. Most of the idleness (nearly 61 percent) resulted from the strikes (14 percent) which lasted from 1 to 2 months, since this group included the big coal stoppage.

TABLE 8.—Duration of Strikes Ending in 1939

Duration of strikes	Strikes		Workers involved		Man-days idle	
	Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total
Total.....	2,639	100.0	1,177,883	100.0	18,520,503	100.0
Less than 1 week.....	952	36.1	231,940	19.7	535,451	2.9
1 week and less than ½ month.....	593	22.5	142,725	12.1	965,381	5.2
½ and less than 1 month.....	460	17.4	259,948	22.1	2,177,233	11.8
1 and less than 2 months.....	380	14.4	485,671	41.2	11,243,565	60.6
2 and less than 3 months.....	116	4.4	33,019	2.8	1,085,796	5.9
3 months or more.....	138	5.2	24,580	2.1	2,513,077	13.6



Sex of Workers

Of the 1,177,883 workers involved in the strikes ending in 1939, about 90 percent were men and 10 percent were women. The large proportion of men is accounted for to a large extent by strikes in the coal-mining and automobile-manufacturing industries, some of which

were among the largest strikes of the year. Men only were involved in 55 percent of the 2,639 strikes, women only were involved in nearly 3 percent, and both men and women were involved in about 42 percent.

Labor Organizations Involved

Strikes called by unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor were more numerous in 1939 than those called by affiliates of the Congress of Industrial Organizations. Strikes of the latter organization, however, were much larger on the average and accounted for a large proportion of the total man-days idle. Unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor were involved in half of the strikes, including 32 percent of the total workers involved and accounting for 22 percent of the total idleness. Congress of Industrial Organizations affiliates were involved in 29 percent of the strikes, including 60 percent of the total workers involved and accounting for 72 percent of the total idleness.

In addition to the figures shown in table 9 for the A. F. of L. and C. I. O. organizations, affiliates of these two groups were involved in most of the 75 strikes in which 2 rival unions were involved. Such rival union disputes, however, accounted for only a minor fraction of the total strike activity during the year, including less than 2½ percent of the workers involved in all strikes and less than 3 percent of the total man-days idle.

Of the 434 strikes by unaffiliated unions, 398 were called by locals of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. Most of these were in small contract clothing shops in New York City. Some of these were organization strikes and many of them were due to alleged contract violations. The I. L. G. W. U. strikes, though numerous, accounted for only about 3 percent of the total workers involved in all strikes.

TABLE 9.—*Strikes Ending in 1939, by Types of Labor Organizations Involved*

Labor organization involved	Strikes		Workers involved		Man-days idle	
	Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total
Total.....	2,639	100.0	1,177,883	100.0	18,520,503	100.0
American Federation of Labor.....	1,312	49.7	371,822	31.6	4,057,473	21.9
Congress of Industrial Organizations.....	764	29.0	704,031	59.7	13,265,150	71.7
Unaffiliated unions ¹	434	16.4	60,018	5.1	607,150	3.3
2 rival unions.....	75	2.8	28,571	2.4	525,755	2.8
Company unions ²	4	.2	1,909	.2	19,332	.1
No organization.....	50	1.9	11,532	1.0	45,643	.2

¹ Not affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, the Congress of Industrial Organizations, or the railroad brotherhoods but covering workers of more than 1 employer.

² Organizations confined to 1 company.

Causes of Strikes

Any statistical presentation of the causes of strikes is likely to appear more plausible than the actual situations warrant. The various parties concerned in the disputes frequently assign different reasons. Again, a strike may be called for one reason but during the progress of the strike the situation or leadership may change sufficiently to bring about a shift in demands or statement of grievances. Very few strikes are due to only one or two causes; in most cases the issues are many and complex. The following classification of causes of strikes is necessarily based upon some arbitrary determinations, although the most careful judgment has been used to ferret out the major issues.

TABLE 10.—Major Issues Involved in Strikes Ending in 1939

Major issue	Strikes		Workers involved		Man-days idle	
	Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total
All issues.....	2,639	100.0	1,177,883	100.0	18,520,503	100.0
Wages and hours.....	699	26.5	351,703	29.9	3,311,779	17.9
Wage increase.....	441	16.7	133,758	11.3	1,502,523	8.2
Wage decrease.....	131	5.0	36,007	3.1	874,590	4.7
Wage increase, hour decrease.....	97	3.7	43,113	3.7	462,526	2.5
Wage decrease, hour increase.....	8	.3	127,064	10.8	414,563	2.2
Hour increase.....	8	.3	1,829	.2	20,603	.1
Hour decrease.....	14	.5	9,932	.8	36,974	.2
Union organization.....	1,411	53.5	641,298	54.4	13,841,951	74.7
Recognition.....	360	13.7	29,751	2.5	902,481	4.9
Recognition and wages.....	272	10.3	68,468	5.8	1,289,554	7.0
Recognition and hours.....	11	.4	1,280	.1	28,720	.2
Recognition, wages, and hours.....	242	9.2	32,535	2.8	651,953	3.5
Strengthening bargaining position.....	25	.9	62,667	5.3	1,849,653	10.0
Closed or union shop.....	324	12.3	423,674	35.9	8,645,621	46.6
Discrimination.....	127	4.8	16,288	1.4	434,348	2.3
Other.....	50	1.9	6,635	.6	39,621	.2
Miscellaneous.....	529	20.0	184,882	15.7	1,366,773	7.4
Sympathy.....	48	1.8	12,065	1.0	59,867	.3
Rival unions or factions.....	81	3.1	40,868	3.5	564,825	3.0
Jurisdiction ¹	75	2.8	8,671	.7	68,809	.4
Other.....	276	10.4	120,239	10.2	652,458	3.6
Not reported ²	49	1.9	3,039	.3	20,814	.1

¹ It is probable that the figures here given do not include all jurisdictional strikes. Owing to the local nature of these disputes, it is difficult for the Bureau to find out about all of them.

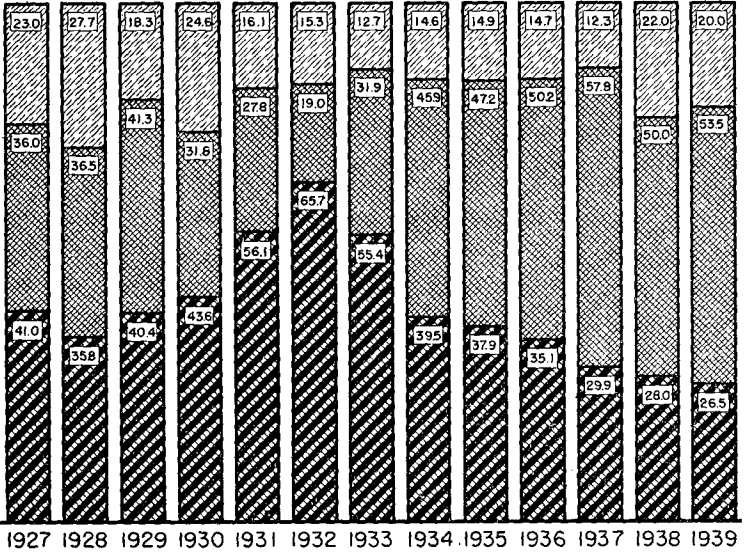
² Most of the strikes in this group were against women's clothing manufacturers—many of them in New York City. The union involved regarded them as strikes for the enforcement of the union agreements but the specific issue involved in each case was not reported.

Union-organization matters—recognition, closed shop, etc.—were the major issues in 53½ percent of the strikes ending in 1939. These strikes included 54 percent of the total workers involved and caused 75 percent of the total idleness resulting from all strikes. The bituminous-coal stoppage—in the “closed or union shop” classification—accounted for a large share of this idleness. Wages and hours were the major issues in 26½ percent of the strikes, including 30 percent of

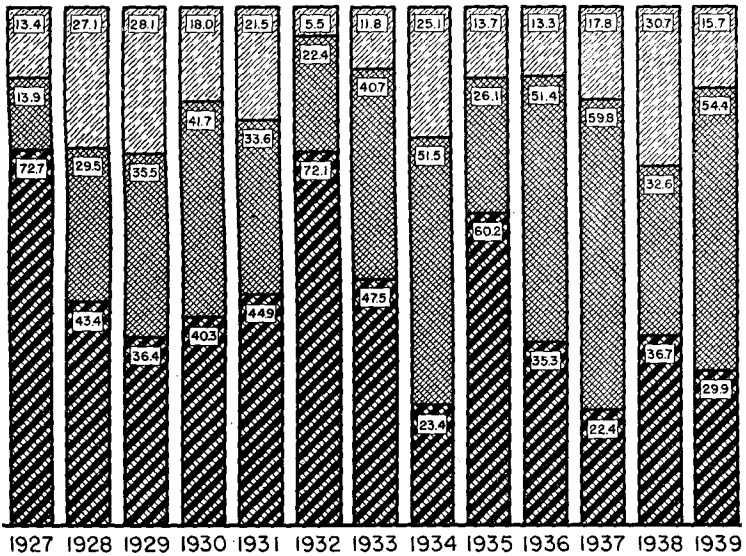
CHART 3.

MAJOR ISSUES INVOLVED IN STRIKES 1927-1939

PERCENT OF STRIKES



PERCENT OF WORKERS INVOLVED IN STRIKES



MAJOR ISSUES:
 MISCELLANEOUS
 UNION ORGANIZATION
 WAGES AND HOURS

the workers involved and causing 18 percent of the total idleness. About four-fifths of the wage-and-hour strikes were for wage increases and one-fifth were defensive strikes, that is, protests against decreased wages or increased hours.

In 20 percent of the strikes, including 16 percent of the total workers and accounting for 7 percent of the total idleness, the major issues were miscellaneous matters other than wage-and-hour or union-organization issues. This group includes sympathy, jurisdictional, rival union, and factional strikes as well as disputes over such matters as seniority, vacations, division of work, job classifications, and other grievances concerning conditions of work.

Results of Strikes

The results of most strikes are fairly well known when the disputes are terminated. In some cases, however, subsequent developments may reveal that the apparent results immediately at the close of the strikes do not indicate the final effects. The results recorded statistically must of necessity be the apparent results at the close of the strikes, since it is impossible to keep in touch with later developments or to determine, in many cases, what bearing the strikes have on what happens later.

Of the 2,639 strikes ending in 1939, about 40 percent resulted in substantial gains to the workers, that is, the strikers obtained substantially everything that was demanded. These strikes included 42 percent of the total workers involved and accounted for 48 percent of the total man-days idle. About 32 percent of the strikes, including 34 percent of the workers involved and accounting for 37 percent of the total idleness, resulted in partial gains or compromises. Approximately 19 percent of the strikes, including 18 percent of the workers involved and accounting for 10½ percent of the total idleness, resulted in little or no gains for the workers.

TABLE 11.—Results of Strikes Ending in 1939

Result	Strikes		Workers involved		Man-days idle	
	Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total
Total.....	2,639	100.0	1,177,833	100.0	18,520,503	100.0
Substantial gains to workers.....	1,048	39.7	493,149	41.8	8,874,685	48.0
Partial gains or compromises.....	852	32.3	397,776	33.8	6,896,797	37.2
Little or no gains to workers.....	494	18.7	209,478	17.8	1,951,930	10.5
Jurisdiction, rival union, or faction settlements.....	156	5.9	49,539	4.2	633,634	3.4
Indeterminate.....	40	1.5	24,805	2.1	143,526	.8
Not reported ¹	49	1.9	3,136	.3	19,931	.1

¹ Most of the strikes in this group were against small shops in the women's clothing industry. The union involved regarded many of them as being satisfactorily settled yet the exact terms of settlement were not reported.

About 46 percent of the wage-and-hour strikes were substantially won by the workers and only 10 percent were lost (see table 12). Of the union-organization strikes, 44 percent were won but 25 percent brought the workers little or no gains. A larger proportion (43 percent) of the wage-and-hour disputes were compromised than were the union-organization disputes (31 percent). In terms of number of strikes, the wage-and-hour strikes were, on the whole, slightly more successful than the strikes over union-organization issues. In terms of number of workers involved, however, the reverse is true. Of the workers involved in the wage-and-hour disputes, only 19 percent won, 41 percent obtained compromise settlements, and 40 percent gained little or nothing. In the union-organization strikes, 63 percent of the workers won substantially what was demanded, 31 percent obtained compromise settlements, and 6 percent gained little or nothing. The above figures are influenced greatly, of course, by the successful bituminous-coal stoppage in the union-organization group and the unsuccessful WPA stoppages in the wage-and-hour group.

TABLE 12.—Results of Strikes Ending in 1939, in Relation to Major Issues Involved

Major issue	Total		Strikes resulting in—					
	Number	Per cent	Substantial gains to workers	Partial gains or compromises	Little or no gains to workers	Jurisdiction, rival union, or faction settlements	Indeterminate	Not reported
	Strikes		Percent of strikes					
All issues.....	2,639	100.0	39.7	32.3	18.7	5.9	1.5	1.9
Wages and hours.....	699	100.0	46.2	43.2	10.3			.3
Wage increase.....	441	100.0	41.7	48.3	9.8			.2
Wage decrease.....	131	100.0	65.6	20.6	13.0			.8
Wage increase, hour decrease.....	97	100.0	43.3	50.5	6.2			
Wage decrease, hour increase.....	8	100.0	25.0	25.0	50.0			
Hour increase.....	8	100.0	50.0	50.0				
Hour decrease.....	14	100.0	35.7	50.0	14.3			
Union organization.....	1,411	100.0	43.6	30.8	25.1		.4	.1
Recognition.....	360	100.0	45.3	16.1	37.8		.8	
Recognition and wages.....	272	100.0	41.5	39.0	19.1			.4
Recognition and hours.....	11	100.0	45.5	9.0	45.5			
Recognition, wages, and hours.....	242	100.0	50.8	30.6	18.2			.4
Strengthening bargaining position.....	25	100.0	48.0	28.0	24.0			
Closed or union shop.....	324	100.0	35.5	43.2	21.3			
Discrimination.....	127	100.0	48.0	26.8	24.4		.8	
Other.....	50	100.0	46.0	30.0	22.0		2.0	
Miscellaneous.....	529	100.0	20.8	21.7	12.9	29.5	6.6	8.5
Sympathy.....	48	100.0	18.7	18.7	20.8		41.8	
Rivals unions or factions.....	81	100.0				100.0		
Jurisdiction.....	75	100.0				100.0		
Other.....	276	100.0	36.6	38.4	19.2		5.4	.4
Not reported.....	49	100.0			10.2			89.8

TABLE 12.—Results of Strikes Ending in 1939, in Relation to Major Issues Involved—
Continued

Major issue	Total		Strikes resulting in—					Not reported
	Number	Percent	Substantial gains to workers	Partial gains or compromises	Little or no gains to workers	Jurisdiction, rival union, or faction settlements	Indeterminate	
	Workers		Percent of workers involved					
All issues.....	1, 177, 883	100.0	41.8	33.8	17.8	4.2	2.1	0.3
Wages and hours.....	351, 758	100.0	18.8	40.7	40.5	-----	-----	(¹)
Wage increase.....	133, 758	100.0	25.9	67.2	6.9	-----	-----	(¹)
Wage decrease.....	36, 007	100.0	58.7	30.3	10.8	-----	-----	.2
Wage increase, hour decrease.....	43, 113	100.0	14.5	72.4	13.1	-----	-----	-----
Wage decrease, hour increase.....	127, 064	100.0	1.3	1.6	97.1	-----	-----	-----
Hour increase.....	1, 829	100.0	36.2	63.8	-----	-----	-----	-----
Hour decrease.....	9, 932	100.0	17.7	79.6	2.7	-----	-----	-----
Union organization.....	641, 298	100.0	63.3	30.6	6.0	-----	-----	(¹)
Recognition.....	29, 751	100.0	40.3	31.8	26.4	-----	1.5	-----
Recognition and wages.....	68, 468	100.0	43.6	45.9	10.3	-----	-----	.2
Recognition and hours.....	1, 280	100.0	73.5	19.5	7.0	-----	-----	-----
Recognition, wages, and hours.....	32, 535	100.0	27.5	65.4	7.1	-----	-----	(¹)
Strengthening bargaining position.....	62, 667	100.0	5.9	84.3	9.8	-----	-----	-----
Closed or union shop.....	423, 674	100.0	81.0	16.5	2.5	-----	-----	-----
Discrimination.....	16, 288	100.0	31.9	49.6	18.4	-----	-----	.1
Other.....	6, 635	100.0	46.1	39.4	14.1	-----	-----	.4
Miscellaneous.....	184, 882	100.0	11.1	31.6	15.7	26.8	13.2	1.6
Sympathy.....	12, 065	100.0	3.2	73.5	5.6	-----	17.7	-----
Rival unions or factions.....	40, 868	100.0	-----	-----	-----	100.0	-----	-----
Jurisdiction.....	8, 671	100.0	-----	-----	-----	100.0	-----	-----
Other.....	120, 239	100.0	16.7	41.4	23.4	-----	18.5	(¹)
Not reported.....	3, 039	100.0	-----	-----	5.7	-----	-----	94

¹ Less than a tenth of 1 percent.

In table 13 the 2,639 strikes ending in 1939 are classified according to results and duration. The successful strikes, generally speaking, tended to be of rather short duration. As strikes continued on for a month or more the chances of a wholly successful settlement seem to have diminished. Of the strikes lasting less than 1 week, nearly half were won by the workers, 25 percent were compromised, and 15 percent resulted in little or no gains. The proportion of successful strikes diminished while the proportions of compromised and lost strikes increased in strikes of longer duration. Of those lasting 3 months or more, only 22 percent were substantially won, 33 percent were compromised, and 40 percent resulted in little or no gains.

TABLE 13.—Results of Strikes Ending in 1939 in Relation to Their Duration

Duration of strikes	Total	Number of strikes resulting in—				Total	Percent of strikes resulting in—			
		Substantial gains to workers	Partial gains or compromises	Little or no gains to workers	Other ¹		Substantial gains to workers	Partial gains or compromises	Little or no gains to workers	Other ¹
Total.....	2,639	1,048	852	494	245	100.0	39.7	32.3	18.7	9.3
Less than 1 week.....	952	465	237	140	110	100.0	48.8	24.9	14.7	11.6
1 week and less than ½ month.....	593	233	216	96	48	100.0	39.3	36.4	16.2	8.1
½ and less than 1 month.....	460	156	174	82	48	100.0	33.9	37.9	17.8	10.4
1 and less than 2 months.....	380	128	140	89	23	100.0	33.7	36.8	23.4	6.1
2 and less than 3 months.....	116	36	40	32	8	100.0	31.0	34.5	27.6	6.9
3 months or more.....	138	30	45	55	8	100.0	21.7	32.6	39.9	5.8

¹ Includes strikes for which sufficient information was not available, as well as those involving rival unions, jurisdiction, and other questions, the results of which cannot be evaluated in terms of their effect on the welfare of all workers concerned.

The data in table 14 indicate that a large proportion of the successful strikes were among the smaller disputes and that the percentage of successful strikes decreased as the number of workers involved increased. A large proportion of the smaller strikes were quite definitely won or lost, while more of the large disputes were compromised. Only about one-fourth of the strikes involving less than 100 workers were compromised, while about half of those involving 250 or more workers were settled on a compromise basis.

TABLE 14.—Results of Strikes Ending in 1939, in Relation to Number of Workers Involved

Number of workers involved	Total	Number of strikes resulting in—				Total	Percent of strikes resulting in—			
		Substantial gains to workers	Partial gains or compromises	Little or no gains to workers	Other ¹		Substantial gains to workers	Partial gains or compromises	Little or no gains to workers	Other ¹
Total.....	2,639	1,048	852	494	245	100.0	39.7	32.3	18.7	9.3
6 and under 20.....	659	295	126	190	48	100.0	44.8	19.1	28.8	7.3
20 and under 100.....	1,066	470	310	174	112	100.0	44.1	29.1	16.3	10.5
100 and under 250.....	415	140	164	65	46	100.0	33.7	39.5	15.7	11.1
250 and under 500.....	220	71	106	26	17	100.0	32.3	48.2	11.8	7.7
500 and under 1,000.....	147	40	78	19	10	100.0	27.2	53.1	12.9	6.8
1,000 and under 5,000.....	109	29	56	16	8	100.0	26.6	51.4	14.7	7.3
5,000 and under 10,000.....	15	2	8	3	2	100.0	13.3	53.4	20.0	13.3
10,000 workers and over.....	8	1	4	1	2	100.0	12.5	50.0	12.5	25.0

¹ Includes strikes for which sufficient information was not available, as well as those involving rival unions, jurisdiction, and other questions, the results of which cannot be evaluated in terms of their effect on the welfare of all workers concerned.

Methods of Negotiating Settlements

About 41 percent of the strikes ending in 1939 were settled by direct negotiations between employers and union officials. These strikes, on the average, were the smaller disputes—including only 20½ per-

cent of the total workers involved and accounting for about 11 percent of the total man-days idle as a result of all strikes. Government officials or boards assisted in negotiating settlements for 38 percent of the strikes. These strikes included 62 percent of the total workers involved and caused 78 percent of the total idleness resulting from all strikes. About 2 percent of the strikes were settled with the assistance of private conciliators or arbitrators.

Of the 1,005 strikes settled with the assistance of government officials or boards, 970 were settled through conciliation methods, and in 35 strikes the issues in dispute were arbitrated. Of the 48 strikes in which private conciliators or arbitrators assisted, conciliation methods were used to settle 14, and in 34 some or all of the issues went to arbitration.

About 17 percent of the strikes, including 16 percent of the workers involved and accounting for 9 percent of the total man-days idle, were terminated without formal settlements. In most of these cases the strikers returned to work on the employers' terms without settlement of the disputed issues, or they lost their jobs entirely when employers replaced them with new workers, moved to other localities, or went out of business.

TABLE 15.—*Methods of Negotiating Settlements of Strikes Ending in 1939*

Negotiations toward settlements carried on by—	Strikes		Workers involved		Man-days idle	
	Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total
Total.....	2,639	100.0	1,177,883	100.0	18,520,503	100.0
Employers and workers directly.....	31	1.2	8,289	.7	29,067	.2
Employers and representatives of organized workers directly.....	1,093	41.4	241,609	20.5	1,996,221	10.8
Government officials or boards.....	1,005	38.1	724,751	61.6	14,516,966	78.3
Private conciliators or arbitrators.....	48	1.8	18,891	1.6	345,582	1.9
Terminated without formal settlement.....	460	17.4	184,182	15.6	1,627,442	8.8
Not reported.....	2	.1	161	(¹)	5,225	(¹)

¹ Less than a tenth of 1 percent.

Sit-Down Strikes

Sit-down strikes, first receiving attention in 1936, had almost disappeared in 1939. In 1936 there were 48 so-called sit-down strikes. In 1937 the number increased to 477, but by 1938 they decreased to 52. There were only 6 strikes during 1939 in which all or part of the strikers remained at their workplaces for one or more days after ceasing work. The number of workers idle in connection with these 6 strikes was 3,416, although the number participating in the sit-down or stay-in feature is not known. Five of the 6 strikes, involving 3,391 workers, occurred in February 1939 and 1 strike of 25 workers in March.

One of these six strikes occurred in a refrigerator-manufacturing plant, two were in plants manufacturing nonferrous-metal products, there was one in a garment factory, one in a flour and grain mill, and one in mining.

Two of these strikes were over wage-and-hour issues, two were due to disputes over union-organization matters, one was to collect back wages due, and one was in protest against a company system of staggering work. Two of them were successful from the workers' viewpoint, two were compromised, and two brought the workers little or no gains.

