

US Military Strikes, 1966

2024-09-27

This document provides cursory descriptive statistics on work stoppages in the United States for the year 1966. The data for this project is drawn from archival documents that were generated by the Labor Relations staff at the Detroit Tank Arsenal (DTA).

The year 1966 is an interesting and important year regarding work stoppages within the military industrial complex. The archival holdings of the DTA's Labor Relations staff demonstrate a ten-fold increase in strike activity from the years 1963 and '64 on one side (1965 is missing from the archives) and 1966 on the other.

Furthermore, the data found in this document turns our current picture of 1960s military industry labor on its head. Under "Ordnance and accessories," The Bureau of Labor Statistics Work Stoppage Analysis for the year 1966 lists only thirteen strikes involving 8680 workers and 62,500 worker-hours lost. The DTA Labor Relations documents demonstrate work stoppages on a much wider scale: around eight times as many strikes involving five times as many workers.

Because of limitations to the DTA Labor Relations data, this is only the short glimpse of the much deeper and broader picture of US labor unrest during the Vietnam War.

This finding allows us to begin understanding the social and political economic effects of the Johnson administration's decision to intensify military involvement in Vietnam and begin folding this new understanding into the wider history of wartime political economy and labor history in the twentieth century US.

Table 1: Total Events and Total Workers Involved

Total_Events	Total_Workers
102	46264

Table 2: Count of Observations by Type

Type	count
authorized strike	75
potential strike (averted)	7
wildcat strike	20

Table 3: Summary of Total Strikes, Total Strikers, and Total Work-days Lost to both Authorized and Wildcat Strikes

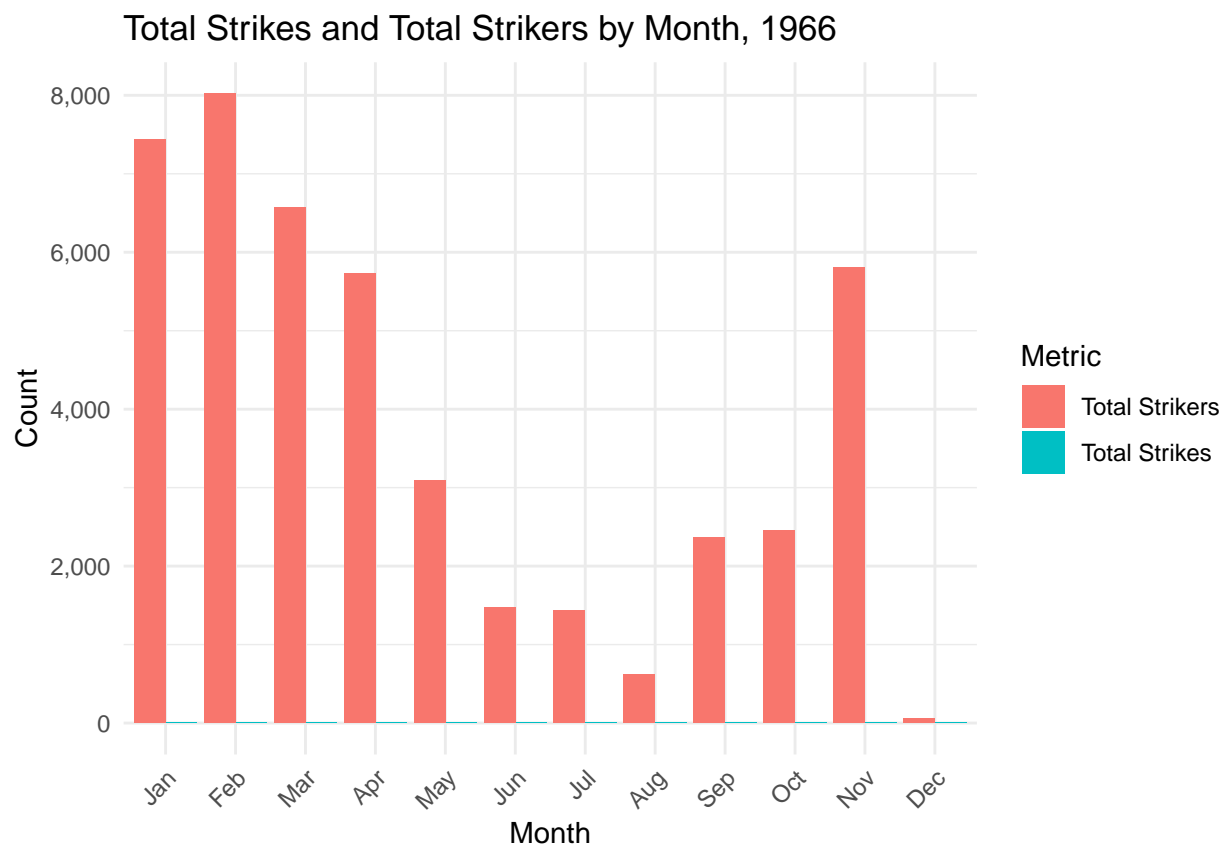
total_strikes	total_strikers	worker_days_lost
95	45,052	785,989

Table 4: More Summary

mean_strikers	median_strikers	ssl_strikers	min_strikers	max_strikers	mean_length	median_length	thin_length	max_length
776.7586	311	1034.388	3	5200	25.84783	13.5	0	183

Table 5: Total Strikes and Total Strikers by Month, 1966

Metric	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total Strikes	6	9	10	10	6	12	10	7	8	8	6	3
Total Strikers	7433	8020	6574	5732	3089	1468	1433	623	2360	2452	5808	60



Rustbelt Strikes

```
## # A tibble: 13 x 2
##   State      total_strikers
##   <chr>          <dbl>
## 1 alabama           65
## 2 california       1456
## 3 connecticut      4000
## 4 illinois         5082
## 5 indiana          9245
```

```
## 6 kentucky          3400
## 7 michigan:south    3444
## 8 minnesota         675
## 9 new york:main     1380
## 10 ohio            10483
## 11 pennsylvania     690
## 12 washington:main  184
## 13 wisconsin        2410
```

```
## Warning in validateCoords(lng, lat, funcName): Data contains 5 rows with either
## missing or invalid lat/lon values and will be ignored
```

What cities are in the data?

Table 6: Number of 1-Strike Cities

num_cities_once
65

Table 7: Top 10 Cities by Number of Strikes

Location	total_strikes	total_strikers
Detroit, Michigan	5	350
Lima, Ohio	4	2029
Chicago, Illinois	3	2413
Dayton, Ohio	3	600
Milwaukee, Wisconsin	3	450
Akron, Ohio	2	1600
Buffalo, New York	2	150
Elyria, Ohio	2	0
Fort Wayne, Indiana	2	1065
San Jose, California	2	1219

Table 8: Top 10 Cities by Number of Strikers

Location	total_strikes	total_strikers
Columbus, Indiana	1	5200
Stratford, Connecticut	1	4000
Newark, Ohio	1	2500
Chicago, Illinois	3	2413
Northlake, Illinois	1	2105
Lima, Ohio	4	2029
Marion, Indiana	1	1839
Akron, Ohio	2	1600
Columbus, Ohio	1	1350
Milwaukee, Wisconsin	1	1250

Table 9: Summary of Strikes and Employees on Strike by City

Location	total_strikes	total_strikers
Columbus, Indiana	1	5200
Stratford, Connecticut	1	4000
Newark, Ohio	1	2500
Chicago, Illinois	3	2413
Northlake, Illinois	1	2105
Lima, Ohio	4	2029
Marion, Indiana	1	1839
Akron, Ohio	2	1600
Columbus, Ohio	1	1350
Milwaukee, Wisconsin	1	1250
San Jose, California	2	1219
Horseheads, New York	1	1200
Kalamazoo, Michigan	1	1130
Warren, Michigan	1	1100
Fort Wayne, Indiana	2	1065
Wausau, Wisconsin	1	680
Minneapolis, Minnesota	1	675
Dayton, Ohio	3	600
Kent, Ohio	1	550
Maple Heights, Ohio	1	512
Evansville, Indiana	1	500
Lebanon, Pennsylvania	1	500
Princeton, Indiana	1	451
Milwaukee, Wisconsin	3	450
Detroit, Michigan	5	350
Manistee, Michigan	1	320
Mattoon, Illinois	1	302
Rock Falls, Illinois	1	262
Coldwater, Michigan	1	217
Springfield, Ohio	1	217
Delphos, Ohio	1	210
Galion, Ohio	1	200
Jeannette, Pennsylvania	1	190
Renton, Washington	1	184
Buffalo, New York	2	150
Cincinnati, Ohio	1	135
Traverse City, Michigan	1	135
Hayward, California	1	134
Lansing, Michigan	1	120
Claremont, California	1	100
Toledo, Ohio	1	80
Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin	1	80
Anniston, Alabama	1	65
Oak Park, Michigan	1	50
Long Island, New York	1	30
Livonia, Michigan	1	22
Alameda, California	1	3
Elyria, Ohio	2	0
Tulsa, Oklahoma	2	0
Atlanta, Georgia	1	0

Location	total_strikes	total_strikers
Bucyrus, Ohio	1	0
California	1	0
Carrollton, Texas	1	0
Charleston, West Virginia	1	0
Cleveland, Ohio	1	0
Edison, New Jersey	1	0
Elba, Alabama	1	0
Elmira, New York	1	0
Erie, Pennsylvania	1	0
Fostoria, Ohio	1	0
Fullerton, California	1	0
Highland, Illinois	1	0
LaPorte, Indiana	1	0
Louisville, Kentucky	1	0
Lynn, Massachusetts & Everett, Massachusetts	1	0
Massillon, Ohio	1	0
New Haven, Connecticut	1	0
Oshkosh, Wisconsin	1	0
Pontiac, Michigan	1	0
Port Huron, Michigan	1	0
Roseville, Michigan	1	0
South Bend, Indiana	1	0
St Marys, Ohio	1	0
St Paul, Minnesota	1	0
Troy, New York	1	0
Watertown, New York	1	0