

the workers in 1969. Although the relative distribution of man-days idle between the manufacturing and non-manufacturing sectors remained at approximately the same level, in absolute terms idleness increased substantially in both sectors—58 percent and 51 percent, respectively. Industries sustaining the most idleness in the year were contract construction (15.2 million man-days) and transportation equipment (14.0 million man-days).

### Annual trends in work stoppages

In 1970, the United States economy experienced rising prices and a slow or negative rate of growth. As measured by constant (1958) dollar GNP, the economy declined at a 0.4 percent annual rate. At the same time, consumer prices rose at an annual rate of 5.9 percent, although the rate of change decreased, quarter by quarter. Unemployment rose sharply during 1970, from a low of 3.9 percent in January to 6.0 percent in December.

Union demands in contract renegotiations and settlements reflected the inflationary situation in the economy. In the first 9 months of 1970, nonmanufacturing employees' wages increased an average of 11.6 percent over the life of the contracts; manufacturing workers', 6.4 percent. Average annual increases negotiated in major settlements (those contracts involving 5,000 or more workers in the bargaining unit) were 10.0 percent, compared to 8.1 percent in 1969.

For the seventh straight year, the number of work stoppages in the United States rose. Even though 1970's total of 5,716 strikes was the highest ever recorded by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the rate of increase was not significant. Only 16 more strikes were recorded in 1970 than in 1969, while the average annual increase in stoppages from 1963-69 was 390. However, incomplete 1971 data indicate that the number of work stoppages has peaked. (See table A-1 and charts I and II).

All other basic measures of strike activity were on the rise in 1970. The number of workers involved in 1970 disputes, the highest since 1952, was 33.2 percent higher than the number in 1969. The percentage of the total work force idled during 1970 (4.7) matched 1953's level, but was not as high as 1952's level of 7.3 percent. Man-days lost during 1970 totaled 66.4 million, or 0.37 percent of estimated working time. Both these figures are the highest levels recorded since 1959, when man-days idle accounted for 0.50 percent of estimated working time. Man-days idle per worker involved in strikes was 20.1 in 1970, again the highest level since 1959, the year of the 116-day basic steel strike.

### Monthly trends

In contrast to the last 2 years when idleness peaked in May, in 1970 the high point was reached in October, when 11.6 million man-days were lost. (See table A-2.) The late peak in 1970 (0.73 percent of estimated working time) was the result of six major strikes which were in effect during October. These stoppages, involving approximately 495,000 workers, occurred in education and in the construction, airlines, and automobile industries. For the most part, man-days lost and percent of estimated working time lost were higher for each month in 1970 than for the corresponding months of 1969. (See table A-2.) In 1970, the month which had the lowest idleness (0.15 percent of estimated working time) was February. The low point for 1969 occurred in September and was also 0.15 percent.

Primary because many construction agreements are negotiated in the spring, the number of strikes beginning or in effect in any month will peak in May or June. May 1970 was no exception, when 699 strikes were initiated. Disputes in effect during the month reached a peak in June, which experienced 1,060 strikes. Although there were slight aberrations, 1970's distribution of new stoppages involving at least 1,000 workers substantially followed the same pattern of 1968 and 1969. (See table 1.) In April, the number of these larger strikes reached a peak and declined in the months thereafter, except for a slight rise in September and October. For every month of 1970, except those of the second quarter, the number of these larger stoppages beginning in any month was always below that of the corresponding month of 1969; the months in the first and fourth quarters were below 1968's levels as well.

### Affiliation of unions

Strikes in which AFL-CIO unions participated in 1970 declined 2 percent from the 1969 level of 66 percent, while man-days idle attributable to such stoppages accounted for only 48 percent of the total, a drastic drop from 69 percent in 1969. (See table A-3.) Major stoppages initiated by the United Auto Workers and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, two unaffiliated unions, were responsible for 78 percent of all idleness due to strikes by unaffiliated unions and 31 percent of total idleness for 1970.

In 1970, the AFL-CIO represented approximately 71 percent of total union and professional and public employees association membership.<sup>4</sup> The Federation represents 77 percent of all union membership in the United States, a drop from 1966's level of 85 percent, before the disaffiliation of the United Auto Workers.

<sup>4</sup> In previous years, only union membership was included in this figure.

**Table 1. Monthly distribution of new strikes involving 1,000 workers or more 1968-70**

| Month                | 1970 | 1969 | 1968 |
|----------------------|------|------|------|
| January .....        | 12   | 29   | 29   |
| February .....       | 15   | 28   | 31   |
| March .....          | 29   | 32   | 33   |
| First quarter .....  | 56   | 89   | 93   |
| April .....          | 59   | 44   | 52   |
| May .....            | 57   | 53   | 50   |
| June .....           | 50   | 45   | 35   |
| Second quarter ..... | 166  | 142  | 137  |
| July .....           | 41   | 42   | 40   |
| August .....         | 28   | 34   | 32   |
| September .....      | 32   | 35   | 27   |
| Third quarter .....  | 101  | 111  | 99   |
| October .....        | 33   | 38   | 34   |
| November .....       | 18   | 21   | 21   |
| December .....       | 7    | 11   | 8    |
| Fourth quarter ..... | 58   | 70   | 63   |
| Total .....          | 381  | 412  | 392  |

The number of stoppages initiated by professional and public employee associations declined to 123 in 1970, from 141 in 1969. Estimated working time lost attributable to these strikes also decreased, from 0.7 percent of the total to 0.5 percent, even though the actual number of man-days lost increased by 42,100.

#### Size of stoppages

Some 3.3 million workers were idled in 1970 stoppages, the highest level since 1952. (See table A-1.) Man-days of idleness recorded in 1970 (66.4 million) increased 54.9 percent over the 1969 level.

In 1970, the relative distribution of work stoppages by number of workers involved generally followed a familiar pattern. (See table A-7.) Approximately half of the disputes involved fewer than 100 workers. Of the other size groupings, the individual grouping generally constituted a smaller and smaller percentage of stoppages as the magnitude of the grouping increased. Only 6.7 percent of 1970's strikes idled at least 1,000 workers. These 381 disputes (a decline of 31 from 1969) accounted for 74.7 percent of all workers idle and 79.4 percent of all man-days lost.

There were 34 stoppages each involving 10,000 workers or more, an increase of nine over 1969. (See table A-4.) These stoppages accounted for 50 percent of all workers involved and 53 percent of man-days idle in 1970, the highest levels since 1949 and 1959, respectively. Of the 34 stoppages, five were in manufacturing.

Major stoppages in nonmanufacturing included three railroad disputes, two bituminous coal strikes, two trucking disputes, 10 construction stoppages and three strikes involving telephone personnel. The remainder of the nonmanufacturing major stoppages took place in the airline, taxi, longshore, and hotel industries. In the government sector, school teachers conducted four major work stoppages. In addition, a nationwide postal strike idled 152,100 workers and tied up mail delivery in several parts of the country, for 9 days. (See table A-5.)

The strike involving the greatest number of man-days was the General Motors dispute, which started in September and continued into 1971. This dispute accounted for 17.8 million man-days lost in 1970, 26.9 percent of the total idleness for the year.

#### Contract status

For the second time since contract status was first tabulated in 1960, more than half of all strikes have occurred during the renegotiation or reopening of an agreement. (See table 2.) Nevertheless, the status of

**Table 2. Percent of stoppages and idleness by contract status, 1968-70**

| Contract status                                                           | Stoppages |       |                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------|------------------|
|                                                                           | 1970      | 1969  | 1968             |
| All stoppages .....                                                       | 100.0     | 100.0 | 100.0            |
| Negotiation of first agreement or union recognition. ....                 | 12.7      | 14.2  | 13.4             |
| Renegotiation of agreement (expiration or reopening) ....                 | 51.0      | 48.6  | 52.9             |
| During term of agreement (negotiation of new agreement not involved) .... | 33.4      | 34.5  | 31.4             |
| Other .....                                                               | 2.0       | 2.2   | 1.8              |
| Insufficient information to classify .....                                | .9        | .5    | .5               |
| Man-days                                                                  |           |       |                  |
| All stoppages .....                                                       | 100.0     | 100.0 | 100.0            |
| Negotiation of first agreement or union recognition. ....                 | 3.7       | 4.8   | 3.1              |
| Renegotiation of agreement (expiration or reopening) ....                 | 90.5      | 85.4  | 86.0             |
| During term of agreement (negotiation of new agreement not involved) .... | 5.5       | 9.5   | 9.9              |
| Other .....                                                               | .2        | .2    | .9               |
| Insufficient information to classify .....                                | .1        | .1    | ( <sup>1</sup> ) |

<sup>1</sup> Less than 0.05.

NOTE: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

agreements in 1970 work stoppages followed the general pattern of recent years: 51 percent occurred during renegotiations, 33 percent during the terms of an agreement, and 13 percent while the union was either seeking recognition or bargaining over a first contract.

In 1970, the pace of collective bargaining was intense in relation to 1969, a year of relatively light bargaining. Key contracts, involving 1,000 workers or more, affected 5 million workers, approximately 4.9 million by expirations and the remainder by wage reopenings.

Compared to 1969's level of 59 percent, workers idled due to strikes over renegotiations accounted for 70 percent of all workers involved in stoppages. Man-days idle due to these conflicts also rose in 1970, from 85 to 91 percent of the total. The absolute number of man-days lost in this category rose sharply, from 36.6 to 60.1 million. Twenty-five disputes involving 10,000 workers or more each were responsible for 51 percent of this figure. (See table A-7.) Ninety-one percent of the strikes in this category concerned economic issues, including 22 of the 25 major strikes occurring during renegotiation. (See table A-6.) Although constituting only 4 percent of the renegotiation disputes, other contractual matters accounted for 31 percent of the man-days lost, due primarily to the General Motors dispute, which was precipitated by local plant issues supplementary to the national contract and which idled approximately 355,000 workers in the fall and winter months of 1970.

Strikes during the term of the agreement accounted for only 6 percent of the man-days lost in 1970. Of these stoppages, 89 percent lasted less than 2 weeks, and 70 percent involved fewer than 250 workers. (See table A-20, A-7.) Stoppages in mining and contract construction were responsible for 55 percent of all disputes occurring during the term of the contract, 24 percent of workers idle, and 26 percent of man-days lost. (See table A-12.) In 1969, mining and construction strikes constituted 32 percent of all idleness incurred during the term of the contract. This category of dispute constituted 93 percent of all mining strikes and 48 percent of all those in construction.

Approximately 80 percent of all disputes involving union security (the same percentage as 1969) took place during an attempt by the union to gain recognition or negotiate a first agreement. Industries having the highest number of strikes in this category were wholesale and retail trade, government, and other services, all of which are not highly organized. Although two conflicts, one in California and one in Kentucky, combined idled 33,000 workers, most of these first contract disputes were small, 90 percent involving fewer than 250 workers. Over half of these strikes lasted more

than 2 weeks; and 12 percent extended 90 days or longer.

## Major issues

In past years, most strikes centered around economic issues; 1970 was no exception. General wage changes accounted for 50 percent of all stoppages in 1970, as was true in 1969. (See table A-8.) Approximately 15 percent of the disputes in 1969 and 1970 centered around plant administration issues, which was the second largest classification. However, the proportion of man-days lost in each classification differed from past years, in some case significantly, as follows:

| Major issues                               | Percent of man-days lost |       |       |       |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|                                            | 1967                     | 1968  | 1969  | 1970  |
| All issues . . . . .                       | 100.0                    | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Economic <sup>1</sup> . . . . .            | 74.5                     | 75.1  | 67.7  | 56.8  |
| Other contractual matters . . . . .        | .8                       | 1.6   | .6    | 27.6  |
| Union security and organization . . . . .  | 15.3                     | 8.5   | 17.4  | 9.2   |
| Job security . . . . .                     | 2.7                      | 3.2   | 5.3   | .6    |
| Plant administration . . . . .             | 3.9                      | 9.2   | 6.6   | 2.6   |
| Other working conditions . . . . .         | .7                       | .9    | 1.0   | .6    |
| Interunion or intraunion matters . . . . . | 2.1                      | 1.4   | 1.2   | 2.4   |

<sup>1</sup> Includes wage changes, supplementary benefits, wage adjustments, and hours of work.

NOTE: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

Economic issues were involved in more than half the strikes in 1970, and were responsible for about 57 percent of the man-days lost. (See table A-8.) Of the 34 major stoppages beginning in 1970, 25 precipitated by the inability of the parties to agree on wages and related matters. Fifty-eight percent of all economic strikes lasted at least 2 weeks. (See table A-19.) Stoppages involving fewer than 250 employees constituted 73 percent of all disputes in this category, but were responsible for only 8 percent of the workers involved and 10 percent of man-days lost. (See table A-9.) Eighty-five percent of all strikes over economic issues took place during renegotiation of a contract.

The number of strikes in the classification "other contractual matter," which covers contract duration and local issues, usually has been small. In 1969, there were only 88, less than 2 percent of the total number.

In 1970, the number of stoppages rose one-fifth. However, the percent of man-days idle attributable to this issue increased significantly due to the General Motors dispute. Concerned with local issues, this strike involved 355,000 workers, extended from September 15, 1970, until late January 1971, and constituted 27 percent of all man-days lost in 1970. The other stoppages in this category were relatively small and short.

Of the 587 strikes concerned with union organization and security, 204 dealt solely with recognition, and 170 more included recognition and some other issue. (See table A-8.) Seventy-eight percent of all disputes in this category took place during the negotiation of a first agreement. Although three major stoppages (one each in construction, longshoring, and education) centered around some form of union security 90 percent of the strikes concerning union security involved fewer than 250 people. Fifty-eight percent of the disputes lasted longer than 2 weeks and 13 percent were in effect for at least 90 days. Only general wage changes accounted for more stoppages (211) lasting 90 days or longer. (See table A-19.)

Discipline or discharge cause the greatest number of stoppages in the plant administration category. Five percent of total strikes and 1 percent of man-days lost were attributable to such conflicts. Although 65 percent of the strikes over plant administration involved fewer than 250 employees, four (involving bituminous coal companies, the Baltimore & Ohio, Southern Pacific and Louisville & Nashville Railroads, the New York Telephone Company, and New Jersey Bell Telephone) idled at least 10,000 workers each. Seventy-six percent of plant administration disputes extended less than a week.

### **Industries affected**

Time lost due to strike idleness in the manufacturing sector amounted to 38.0 million man-days in 1970, an increase of 58 percent over 1969. (See table A-10.) Reversing last year's decline, idleness in nonmanufacturing increased by 9.6 million man-days, or 51 percent, and reached the highest absolute level of idleness for this sector since 1946. A substantial increase in strike idleness from 1969 was also experienced in the government sector in 1970—to 2.0 million man-days. Compared to 1969, the number of stoppages beginning in the year decreased 12 percent in manufacturing, increased 12 percent in nonmanufacturing, and remained approximately the same in the government sector. The number of workers involved in stoppages increased by 85 percent in the nonmanufacturing sector and by 108 percent in the government sector. In manufacturing, however, the number of workers involved in labor disputes declined by 14 percent.

In 1970, the average duration of work stoppages in the manufacturing and in the government sectors increased by 18.1 calendar days and 2.2 calendar days, respectively. Work stoppages in nonmanufacturing in 1970 extended 7.0 fewer calendar days on the average than in 1969.

As a result of 10 major stoppages, contract construction experienced the most idleness of any industry this year (15.2 million man-days) and the greatest level of idleness ever recorded for the industry. (See table A-11.) The transportation equipment industry, which experienced 14.0 million man-days of idleness or the next greatest level, had the highest percentage of estimated work time lost of any industry in 1970. The 12.3 million man-days lost by General Motors heavily influenced the idleness total for this industry. Due primarily to 11 major stoppages, including the nationwide railroad strike in December, the transportation, communication, and utility industry grouping reported a 79 percent increase in idleness over the 1969 level. The high average duration of strikes within the trucking industry (48.2 days) also helps to explain the large increase in the idleness level for this category.

Two major strikes in the rubber and miscellaneous plastic products industry resulted in the industry's highest level of idleness since 1967 and the second highest since 1937. The electrical, machinery, equipment, and supplies industry incurred the highest absolute idleness for that industry since 1946 as a result of the General Electric strike, The General Motor's dispute, and several small-but-lengthy work stoppages. About one-third of the idleness was attributable to the G.E. stoppage.

Five major strikes that began in 1970, including the nationwide U.S. Post Office stoppage and four teacher strikes, resulted in a substantial increase in idleness in the government sector for that year. Because of large and extended teachers' strikes, estimated working time lost in the government sector increased from 0.02 percent in 1969 to 0.06 percent in 1970. Teachers' strikes accounted for approximately 50 percent of total idleness in the government sector.

Several other industries sustained idleness levels above "the all industries" average of 0.37 percent of estimated working time: Fabricated metal products, except ordnance, machinery and transportation equipment (0.97); machinery, except electrical (0.72); primary metals (0.69); mining (0.54); stone, clay, and glass products (0.51); chemicals and allied products (0.50); and paper and allied products (0.42). (See table A-10.)

## Government work stoppages<sup>5</sup>

A significant deceleration in the frequency of government stoppages occurred in 1970: Only one more stoppage took place in 1970 than in 1969, contrasted to 150 more strikes in 1969 than in 1968. However, workers involved and man-days lost rose sharply; they increased by 173,500 and 1,277,600, respectively. (See table A-10.) Much of this rise was due to the postal worker strike, which idled 152,100 workers for 9 days.

The distribution of public strikes among the different levels of government varied little from earlier pattern: Most (386) were conducted on the local level.<sup>6</sup> Three Federal Government stoppages took place in the year. Aside from the postal workers, compositors at the Government Printing Office and air traffic controllers in several States also were involved in labor conflicts. The remaining 23 disputes involved State government employees.

The percent of government employees involved in strikes in 1970 (2.7) was still below the national average of 4.7 percent. Nearly 2.4 percent of all workers employed on the local level and 0.3 percent employed by State governments engaged in stoppages during the year. More government strikes took place in Michigan (60) than in any other State, followed by Ohio, which had 54 stoppages.

Thirty-seven percent of government strikes were initiated by teachers, most of whom were employed by local school boards. Sanitation workers, who were responsible for the second highest number of stoppages conducted by an occupational group, accounted for 13 percent of all government strikes. Teachers' disputes accounted for more man-days lost during the year than any other group, and, if the postal strike is excluded, idle the highest number of government workers. (See table A-15.) Strikes in public schools and libraries accounted for more stoppages (187) than any other government service.

Nearly 55 percent of the government disputes concerned general wage changes, and some form of economic issue was the focus of 60 percent of all government strikes. The next most frequent issues were plant administration and union organization and security which accounted for 17 and 14 percent, respectively, of all government stoppages. (See table A-14.)

General wage changes were responsible for 42 percent of the man-days lost due to government strikes; 33 percent of total idleness was attributable to disputes over wage adjustments, including the postal workers' stoppage. Union organization and security conflicts accounted for 20 percent of the total idleness figure.

Demands for general wage increases precipitated the highest number of strikes, 25 percent of the total. Again

excluding the postal strike, the issue that idled the most workers and was responsible for more man-days lost than any other was wages and working conditions. Demands for higher wages and improved working conditions accounted for 17 percent of all the workers idled and were responsible for 19 percent of all man-days lost by government strikes.

Forty-two percent of all government strikes in 1970 took place during the renegotiation or reopening of a contract. Although only a slight increase from 1969, the 1970 level was substantially higher than 1968's level of 31 percent. The proportion of disputes occurring during the term of the agreement increased from 12 percent in 1969 to 17 percent in 1970. The relative distribution of disputes involving the negotiations of a first contract and those not involving a contract declined by 10 and 6 percentage points, respectively, since 1968. (See table A-12.)

A large proportion of government strikes were very short in 1970; 22 percent lasted only 1 day. On the other hand, the highest percentage of workers involved (57 percent) and man-days idle (42 percent) were attributed to stoppages lasting from 7 to 14 days. (See table A-13.)

### Stoppages by location

*Region.* The East North Central region ranked first in idleness in 1970; 0.90 percent of estimated working time was lost, an increase of almost 300 percent over 1969. (See table A-16.) The General Motors stoppage, a major component of the total, contributed 47 percent of the idleness in the region. Affected by a 197-day construction strike in Kansas City, Mo., which accounted for 37 percent of the region's idleness, the West North Central region experienced 0.69 percent of estimated working time lost, or the second highest level of idleness. Third was the East South Central region which incurred 0.57 percent; a construction strike in Birmingham, Ala., accounted for 29 percent of this idleness. Idleness in 1970 declined below that of the previous year in the New England and in the West South Central regions.

*States.* Nine major stoppages contributed to the 11.1 million man-days of idleness, or 1.75 percent of estimated working time, that occurred in Michigan in 1970, the highest level for any State. (See tables A-5, A-16, and A-18.) The General Motors strike alone accounted for 81 percent of the idleness in the State; the 9.0 million man-days of idleness attributed to this strike in

<sup>5</sup> See BLS Report No. 348, *Work Stoppages in Government, 1958-68 and Summary Report, 1960, 1969-70.*

<sup>6</sup> Includes county, city, school district, and other local government units.

Michigan was larger than the idleness total for any other State in 1970. Ohio, which experienced 7.5 million man-days idle (0.86 percent of estimated working time lost), had the second highest level of time lost. The General Motors strike accounted for approximately 35 percent of the Ohio idleness; two large stoppages within the rubber industry, the nationwide trucking strike, and an intrastate construction strike, also affected the idleness total in Ohio. New York, experiencing the effects of the General Motors strike, the nationwide postal strike, and a taxicab strike in New York City, had the third highest idleness. Illinois and Missouri, which experienced 4.9 and 4.6 million man-days idle, respectively, had the fourth and fifth highest levels of idleness. Twelve other States had more than 1 million man-days of idleness each.

In addition to the States having high idleness totals, several had substantially higher percents of estimated total private, nonagricultural working time lost than the national average of 0.44 percent. West Virginia (1.00 percent) experienced the effects of a 214-day construction strike and two large interstate bituminous coal strikes. A 4-month construction strike involving 15,000 workers in the Birmingham, Ala., area (the work stoppage was still in effect at the end of the year) raised the idleness ratio in that State to 0.94 percent. Indiana (0.82 percent) was affected by the General Motors strike; a 113-day construction strike influenced the rate of idleness in Nevada (0.64 percent).

*Metropolitan areas.* Because of the General Motors strike and a 13-day construction dispute, Detroit sustained the highest level of strike idleness of any metropolitan area in 1970 (4.9 million man-days or 1.30 percent of total nonagricultural working time). An area-wide stoppage against five trucking associations moved the Chicago metropolitan area to the second highest level of idleness (3.5 million man-days idle or 0.46 percent of total nonagricultural working time). Kansas City, Kans.-Mo., which was third in the absolute level of idleness, experienced a 197-day construction strike and sustained 3.4 million man-days of idleness or 2.60 percent of total nonagricultural working time. Several other metropolitan areas sustained more than 1 million man-days of idleness each: Flint, New York SMSA, Cleveland, Philadelphia, Los Angeles-Long Beach, Birmingham, Buffalo, St. Louis, Atlanta, Cincinnati, and Minneapolis-St. Paul.

For the 12th consecutive year, the New York SMSA had the highest incidence of work stoppages (352). Experiencing 188 strikes, Philadelphia ranked second. Chicago (170), Pittsburgh (159), San Francisco-Oakland (129), and Detroit (127) followed, respectively. Four other metropolitan areas (Buffalo, Cleveland, St. Louis

and Los Angeles) each sustained 100 strikes or more. (See table A-17.)

### Duration

All measures of strike duration indicated that stoppages were longer in 1970 than in recent years. The mean duration for stoppages ending in the year was 25.0 calendar days, an increase of 2.5 days from 1969 and 1.5 days from the average for the decade. When the duration was weighted by the workers involved, the mean duration increased to 28.8 days, which may indicate that the larger stoppages were longer than those involving smaller numbers of workers. The median duration (11 days) was the highest since this measure was first calculated in 1950. Man-days idle per worker involved (20.1) reached its highest level since 1959. (See table 3.)

As the low median implies, historically a large proportion of stoppages were of short duration. In 1970, 38 percent of the stoppages ended in less than 1 week and 56 percent in 2 weeks or less. (See table A-20.) In 1969, 60 percent of the stoppages had been settled within 2 weeks. Stoppages ending within 2 weeks accounted for 58 percent of the workers involved in all stoppages and 10 percent of the man-days idle in 1970, compared to 54 percent of the workers and 12 percent of the man-days in 1969. (See table A-13.) Thirteen percent of all stoppages lasted for only 1 day in 1970 and involved 22 percent of all workers. (See table A-21.) In 1969, 13 percent of the stoppages had ended within 1 day, but involved only 10 percent of all workers.

The number of longer stoppages, those extending beyond 30 days, increased by 12 percent between 1969 and 1970. Most of the increase occurred in the 60- to 89-day grouping which rose from 272 strikes in 1969 to 359 in this year. Although the absolute number of workers involved in longer strikes increased by 30 percent in 1970, the proportion of workers affected by strikes continuing 30 days or more remained essentially unchanged—29.7 percent in 1970 compared to 29.4 percent in 1969. Man-days of idleness attributable to longer strikes in 1970 increased by 13.6 million, of which 11.6 million were accounted for by prolonged work stoppages—those extending 90 days or longer.

Prolonged strikes (334) increased for the fourth consecutive year and were the highest ever recorded. The number of workers involved in prolonged strikes rose by 71 percent from 1969; the man-days idle increased 104 percent. Although only 10 percent of all workers were involved in prolonged strikes, they accounted for 44 percent of all man-days lost in 1970 compared to 30 percent in 1969. About 66 percent of the prolonged

**Table 3. Work stoppages by mean and median duration, man-days idle per workers, and number of prolonged strikes, 1954-70**

| Year       | All stoppages ending during year |                                          |
|------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
|            | Mean duration                    | Median duration                          |
| 1954 ..... | 22.5                             | 6                                        |
| 1955 ..... | 18.5                             | 8                                        |
| 1956 ..... | 18.9                             | 8                                        |
| 1957 ..... | 19.2                             | 8                                        |
| 1958 ..... | 19.7                             | 8                                        |
| 1959 ..... | 24.6                             | 10                                       |
| 1960 ..... | 23.4                             | 10                                       |
| 1961 ..... | 23.7                             | 9                                        |
| 1962 ..... | 24.6                             | 9                                        |
| 1963 ..... | 23.0                             | 8                                        |
| 1964 ..... | 22.9                             | 8                                        |
| 1965 ..... | 25.0                             | 9                                        |
| 1966 ..... | 22.2                             | 9                                        |
| 1967 ..... | 22.8                             | 9                                        |
| 1968 ..... | 24.5                             | 10                                       |
| 1969 ..... | 22.5                             | 10                                       |
| 1970 ..... | 25.0                             | 11                                       |
|            | Man-days idle per worker         | Number of prolonged strikes <sup>1</sup> |
|            |                                  |                                          |
| 1954 ..... | 14.7                             | 172                                      |
| 1955 ..... | 10.7                             | 137                                      |
| 1956 ..... | 17.4                             | 132                                      |
| 1957 ..... | 11.4                             | 124                                      |
| 1958 ..... | 11.6                             | 133                                      |
| 1959 ..... | 36.7                             | 221                                      |
| 1960 ..... | 14.5                             | 201                                      |
| 1961 ..... | 11.2                             | 191                                      |
| 1962 ..... | 15.0                             | 224                                      |
| 1963 ..... | 17.1                             | 203                                      |
| 1964 ..... | 14.0                             | 189                                      |
| 1965 ..... | 15.1                             | 221                                      |
| 1966 ..... | 12.9                             | 210                                      |
| 1967 ..... | 14.7                             | 232                                      |
| 1968 ..... | 18.5                             | 261                                      |
| 1969 ..... | 17.3                             | 274                                      |
| 1970 ..... | 20.1                             | 334                                      |

<sup>1</sup> Extending 90 days or longer.

disputes were over economic issues, although demands for union organization and security accounted for 23 percent of the total. (See table A-19.) Twenty-five percent of the prolonged stoppages occurred during attempts to negotiate an initial contract. (See table A-20.) Most long strikes occurred in manufacturing: 58.4 percent of all stoppages exceeding 30 days and 69.4 percent of all stoppages extending 90 days or more. (See table A-13.) Machinery, except electrical industry experienced

8.4 percent of all stoppages extending for 30 days or more, the highest for any industry group this year.

Strikes within the electrical machinery, equipment and supplies industry extended 78.7 days on the average, the highest average duration of any industry in the manufacturing sector this year. A 122-day General Electric stoppage, which began on October 27, 1969, and involved 163,800 workers, and a 101-day RCA stoppage, which involved 13,200 workers, greatly influenced the duration statistic. Strikes in the lumber and wood products, except furniture industry extended an average of 59.0 days, the second highest average duration in manufacturing; work stoppages in the transportation equipment industry, extending an average of 48.1 days, had the third highest duration. (See table A-10.)

### Mediation

Mediatory assistance was employed in 46 percent of the stoppages ending in 1970. (See table A-22.) Federal mediators<sup>7</sup> were most widely used and participated in 79 percent of the disputes employing mediation, or 37 percent of all stoppages.<sup>8</sup> These disputes accounted for 83 percent of the idleness incurred during the year. The use of Federal mediation in settling disputes declined slightly this year. In 1969, 83 percent of the disputes employing mediation, or 40 percent of all strikes, involved Federal mediation.

Eighty-three percent of the stoppages using mediators occurred during renegotiation of labor agreements. Federal mediators attempted to assist the parties in 62 percent of the strikes. Mediation was used in 45 percent of the stoppages occurring during attempts to establish collective bargaining, but in only 6 percent of the stoppages arising during the term of the agreement.

### Settlement

In 84 percent of the stoppages ending in 1970, settlements were either reached or procedures were established to resolve issues remaining in dispute. (See table A-23.) Thirteen percent of the stoppages were terminated without a formal settlement being reached; employers resumed operations either with new employees or with returning strikers. In slightly less than 2 percent of the stoppages, a court injunction was necessary before work resumed. Of the 732 stoppages without a

<sup>7</sup> Two agencies, the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service and the National Mediation Board, conduct most of the mediation on the Federal level. Occasionally, officials of the Department of Labor or other persons designated by the President are directly involved. Several States also have mediation agencies.

<sup>8</sup> Includes combined mediation of Federal and State agencies.

formal settlement, 446 were associated with stoppages occurring during the term of an agreement.

Settlements were reached in 73 percent of those stoppages occurring during attempts to establish a collective bargaining relationship. On the other hand, settlements were concluded in 95 percent of the stoppages occurring during the renegotiation of a contract and in 73 percent of the work stoppages occurring during the terms of a contract.

#### Procedures for handling unsettled issues

In 627 instances in 1970, the disputing parties agreed to resume work before all issues had been resolved. In nearly 48 percent of the cases, the unresolved issues were submitted to government agencies; 15 percent were settled by direct negotiation; and 14 percent submitted to final and binding arbitration. The parties

decided on other means for resolving their unsettled disputes in 24 percent of the cases.

Most instances of unresolved disputes occurred in stoppages during the term of the agreement (85 percent). (See table A-24.) These stoppages accounted for 74 percent of all cases submitted to arbitration and 89 percent of all those referred to a governmental agency. Fifty-three percent of the unresolved issues that occurred during the negotiation of an initial agreement were referred to a government agency, while arbitration and direct negotiations were employed in 76 percent of the unresolved issues in strikes arising during the renegotiation of an agreement.

Interunion or intraunion matters accounted for 66 percent of strike cases in which issues remained unsettled, as table 4 indicates. Wages and hours accounted for 43 percent of the workers and 27 percent of the man-days in stoppages in which issues remained unsettled before work was resumed.

**Table 4. Unresolved issues in work stoppage, 1970**

(Workers and man-days idle in thousands)

| Percent                                    | Stoppages |         | Workers involved |         | Man-days idle |         |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------|---------|------------------|---------|---------------|---------|
|                                            | Number    | Percent | Number           | Percent | Number        | Percent |
| Total stoppages covered <sup>1</sup> ..... | 613       | 100.0   | 392.5            | 100.0   | 2,672.0       | 100.0   |
| Wages and hours .....                      | 41        | 6.7     | 169.6            | 43.2    | 712.0         | 26.6    |
| Fringe benefits .....                      | 4         | .7      | .3               | .1      | 4.0           | .2      |
| Union organization .....                   | 34        | 5.5     | 14.2             | 3.6     | 358.8         | 13.4    |
| Working conditions .....                   | 98        | 16.0    | 64.9             | 16.5    | 383.0         | 14.3    |
| Interunion .....                           | 407       | 66.4    | 93.9             | 23.9    | 629.4         | 23.6    |
| Combinations .....                         | 18        | 2.9     | 4.9              | 1.3     | 91.6          | 3.4     |
| Other .....                                | 11        | 1.8     | 44.7             | 11.4    | 493.1         | 18.5    |

<sup>1</sup> Excludes stoppages which have no information on issues unsettled or no agreement for issues remaining.

Note: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.



# Appendix A. Tables

Table A-1. Work stoppages in the United States, 1927-70<sup>1</sup>

| Year      | Work stoppages |                   |                  | Workers involved <sup>2</sup> |                           | Man-days idle during year |                                         |                 |                     |
|-----------|----------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
|           | Number         | Duration          |                  | Number (thousands)            | Percent of total employed | Number (thousands)        | Percent of estimated total working time |                 | Per worker involved |
|           |                | Mean <sup>3</sup> | Median           |                               |                           |                           | Total economy                           | Private nonfarm |                     |
| 1927..... | 707            | 26.5              | 3                | 330                           | 1.4                       | 26,200                    | ( <sup>4</sup> )                        | 0.37            | 79.5                |
| 1928..... | 604            | 27.6              | ( <sup>4</sup> ) | 314                           | 1.3                       | 12,600                    | ( <sup>4</sup> )                        | .17             | 40.2                |
| 1929..... | 921            | 22.6              | ( <sup>4</sup> ) | 289                           | 1.2                       | 5,350                     | ( <sup>4</sup> )                        | .07             | 18.5                |
| 1930..... | 637            | 22.3              | ( <sup>4</sup> ) | 183                           | .8                        | 3,320                     | ( <sup>4</sup> )                        | .05             | 18.1                |
| 1931..... | 810            | 18.8              | ( <sup>4</sup> ) | 342                           | 1.6                       | 6,890                     | ( <sup>4</sup> )                        | .11             | 20.2                |
| 1932..... | 841            | 19.6              | ( <sup>4</sup> ) | 324                           | 1.8                       | 10,500                    | ( <sup>4</sup> )                        | .23             | 32.4                |
| 1933..... | 1,695          | 16.9              | ( <sup>4</sup> ) | 1,170                         | 6.3                       | 16,900                    | ( <sup>4</sup> )                        | .36             | 14.4                |
| 1934..... | 1,856          | 19.5              | ( <sup>4</sup> ) | 1,470                         | 7.2                       | 19,600                    | ( <sup>4</sup> )                        | .38             | 13.4                |
| 1935..... | 2,014          | 23.8              | ( <sup>4</sup> ) | 1,120                         | 5.2                       | 15,500                    | ( <sup>4</sup> )                        | .29             | 13.8                |
| 1936..... | 2,172          | 23.3              | ( <sup>4</sup> ) | 789                           | 3.1                       | 13,900                    | ( <sup>4</sup> )                        | .21             | 17.6                |
| 1937..... | 4,740          | 20.3              | ( <sup>4</sup> ) | 1,860                         | 7.2                       | 28,400                    | ( <sup>4</sup> )                        | .43             | 15.3                |
| 1938..... | 2,772          | 23.6              | ( <sup>4</sup> ) | 688                           | 2.8                       | 9,150                     | ( <sup>4</sup> )                        | .15             | 13.3                |
| 1939..... | 2,613          | 23.4              | ( <sup>4</sup> ) | 1,170                         | 3.5                       | 17,800                    | 0.21                                    | .28             | 15.2                |
| 1940..... | 2,508          | 20.9              | ( <sup>4</sup> ) | 577                           | 1.7                       | 6,700                     | .08                                     | .10             | 11.6                |
| 1941..... | 4,288          | 18.3              | ( <sup>4</sup> ) | 2,360                         | 6.1                       | 23,000                    | .23                                     | .32             | 9.8                 |
| 1942..... | 2,968          | 11.7              | ( <sup>4</sup> ) | 840                           | 2.0                       | 4,180                     | .04                                     | .05             | 5.0                 |
| 1943..... | 3,752          | 5.0               | ( <sup>4</sup> ) | 1,980                         | 4.6                       | 13,500                    | .10                                     | .15             | 6.8                 |
| 1944..... | 4,956          | 5.6               | ( <sup>4</sup> ) | 2,120                         | 4.8                       | 8,720                     | .07                                     | .09             | 4.1                 |
| 1945..... | 4,750          | 9.9               | ( <sup>4</sup> ) | 3,470                         | 8.2                       | 38,000                    | .31                                     | .47             | 11.0                |
| 1946..... | 4,985          | 24.2              | ( <sup>4</sup> ) | 4,600                         | 10.5                      | 116,000                   | 1.04                                    | 1.43            | 25.2                |
| 1947..... | 3,693          | 25.6              | ( <sup>4</sup> ) | 2,170                         | 4.7                       | 34,600                    | .30                                     | .41             | 15.9                |
| 1948..... | 3,419          | 21.8              | ( <sup>4</sup> ) | 1,960                         | 4.2                       | 34,100                    | .28                                     | .37             | 17.4                |
| 1949..... | 3,606          | 22.5              | ( <sup>4</sup> ) | 3,030                         | 6.7                       | 50,500                    | .44                                     | .59             | 16.7                |
| 1950..... | 4,843          | 19.2              | 8                | 2,410                         | 5.1                       | 38,800                    | .33                                     | .40             | 16.1                |
| 1951..... | 4,737          | 17.4              | 7                | 2,220                         | 4.5                       | 22,900                    | .18                                     | .21             | 10.3                |
| 1952..... | 5,117          | 19.6              | 7                | 3,540                         | 7.3                       | 59,100                    | .48                                     | .57             | 16.7                |
| 1953..... | 5,091          | 20.3              | 9                | 2,400                         | 4.7                       | 28,300                    | .22                                     | .26             | 11.8                |
| 1954..... | 3,468          | 22.5              | 9                | 1,530                         | 3.1                       | 22,600                    | .18                                     | .19             | 14.7                |
| 1955..... | 4,320          | 18.5              | 8                | 2,650                         | 5.2                       | 28,200                    | .22                                     | .26             | 10.7                |
| 1956..... | 3,825          | 18.9              | 7                | 1,900                         | 3.6                       | 33,100                    | .24                                     | .29             | 17.4                |
| 1957..... | 3,673          | 19.2              | 8                | 1,390                         | 2.6                       | 16,500                    | .12                                     | .14             | 11.4                |
| 1958..... | 3,694          | 19.7              | 8                | 2,060                         | 3.9                       | 23,900                    | .18                                     | .22             | 11.6                |
| 1959..... | 3,708          | 24.6              | 10               | 1,880                         | 3.3                       | 69,000                    | .50                                     | .61             | 36.7                |
| 1960..... | 3,333          | 23.4              | 10               | 1,320                         | 2.4                       | 19,100                    | .14                                     | .17             | 14.5                |
| 1961..... | 3,367          | 23.7              | 9                | 1,450                         | 2.6                       | 16,300                    | .11                                     | .12             | 11.2                |
| 1962..... | 3,614          | 24.6              | 9                | 1,230                         | 2.2                       | 18,600                    | .13                                     | .16             | 15.0                |
| 1963..... | 3,362          | 23.0              | 8                | 941                           | 1.1                       | 16,100                    | .11                                     | .13             | 17.1                |
| 1964..... | 3,655          | 22.9              | 8                | 1,640                         | 2.7                       | 22,900                    | .15                                     | .18             | 14.0                |
| 1965..... | 3,963          | 25.0              | 9                | 1,550                         | 2.5                       | 23,300                    | .15                                     | .18             | 15.1                |
| 1966..... | 4,405          | 22.2              | 9                | 1,960                         | 3.0                       | 25,400                    | .15                                     | .18             | 12.9                |
| 1967..... | 4,595          | 22.8              | 9                | 2,870                         | 4.3                       | 42,100                    | .25                                     | .30             | 14.7                |
| 1968..... | 5,045          | 24.5              | 10               | 2,649                         | 3.8                       | 49,018                    | .28                                     | .32             | 18.5                |
| 1969..... | 5,700          | 22.5              | 10               | 2,481                         | 3.5                       | 42,869                    | .24                                     | .28             | 17.3                |
| 1970..... | 5,716          | 25.0              | 11               | 3,305                         | 4.7                       | 66,414                    | .37                                     | .44             | 20.1                |

<sup>1</sup> The number of stoppages and workers relate to those stoppages beginning in the year; average duration, to those ending in the year. Man-days of idleness include all stoppages in effect.

Available information for earlier periods appears in *Handbook of Labor Statistics*, BLS Bulletin 1666 (1970), tables 153-158. For a discussion of the procedures involved in the collection and compilation of work stoppage statistics, see BLS *Handbook of Methods for Surveys and Studies*, Bulletin 171 (1972), ch. 19. Agricultural and government employees are included in the total employed.

<sup>2</sup> In these tables, workers are counted more than once if they were involved in more than 1 stoppage during the year.

<sup>3</sup> Figures are simple averages; each stoppage is given equal weight regardless of its size.

<sup>4</sup> Not available.

Table A-2. Work stoppages by month, 1969-70

| Month          | Number of stoppages |         |                        |         | Workers involved            |         |                             |         | Man-days idle               |         |                                            |
|----------------|---------------------|---------|------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------------|
|                | Beginning in month  |         | In effect during month |         | Beginning in month          |         | In effect during month      |         | Number<br>(in<br>thousands) | Percent | Percent of<br>estimated<br>working<br>time |
|                | Number              | Percent | Number                 | Percent | Number<br>(in<br>thousands) | Percent | Number<br>(in<br>thousands) | Percent |                             |         |                                            |
| 1969.....      | 5,700               | 100.0   | 9,145                  | 100.0   | 2,481                       | 100.0   | 4,656                       | 100.0   | 42,869                      | 100.0   | 0.24                                       |
| January.....   | 342                 | 6.0     | 511                    | 5.6     | 184.9                       | 7.5     | 264.3                       | 5.7     | 3,173.3                     | 7.4     | .21                                        |
| February.....  | 385                 | 6.8     | 578                    | 6.3     | 177.1                       | 7.1     | 339.9                       | 7.3     | 2,565.8                     | 6.0     | .18                                        |
| March.....     | 436                 | 7.6     | 651                    | 7.1     | 158.1                       | 6.4     | 386.3                       | 8.3     | 2,412.5                     | 5.6     | .16                                        |
| April.....     | 578                 | 10.1    | 831                    | 9.1     | 309.7                       | 12.5    | 462.3                       | 9.9     | 3,755.0                     | 8.8     | .24                                        |
| May.....       | 723                 | 12.7    | 1,054                  | 11.5    | 286.3                       | 11.5    | 507.7                       | 10.9    | 4,744.7                     | 11.1    | .32                                        |
| June.....      | 565                 | 9.9     | 911                    | 10.0    | 214.6                       | 8.6     | 500.0                       | 10.7    | 4,722.7                     | 11.0    | .31                                        |
| July.....      | 528                 | 9.3     | 883                    | 9.7     | 255.0                       | 10.3    | 461.5                       | 9.9     | 4,311.0                     | 10.1    | .27                                        |
| August.....    | 538                 | 9.4     | 915                    | 10.0    | 191.2                       | 7.7     | 394.8                       | 8.5     | 3,634.3                     | 8.5     | .24                                        |
| September..... | 554                 | 9.7     | 904                    | 9.9     | 185.6                       | 7.5     | 274.5                       | 5.9     | 2,193.4                     | 5.1     | .15                                        |
| October.....   | 531                 | 9.3     | 850                    | 9.3     | 337.0                       | 13.6    | 420.9                       | 9.0     | 3,167.5                     | 7.4     | .19                                        |
| November.....  | 324                 | 5.7     | 611                    | 6.7     | 131.0                       | 5.3     | 367.6                       | 7.9     | 4,307.6                     | 10.0    | .31                                        |
| December.....  | 196                 | 3.4     | 446                    | 4.9     | 50.8                        | 2.0     | 276.0                       | 5.9     | 3,881.8                     | 9.1     | .24                                        |
| 1970.....      | 5,716               | 100.0   | 9,626                  | 100.0   | 3,305                       | 100.0   | 6,557                       | 100.0   | 66,414                      | 100.0   | .37                                        |
| January.....   | 279                 | 4.9     | 458                    | 4.8     | 71.1                        | 2.2     | 269.8                       | 4.1     | 3,710.8                     | 5.6     | .25                                        |
| February.....  | 330                 | 5.8     | 529                    | 5.5     | 116.3                       | 3.5     | 329.6                       | 5.0     | 2,110.6                     | 3.2     | .15                                        |
| March.....     | 427                 | 7.5     | 630                    | 6.5     | 316.2                       | 9.6     | 402.5                       | 6.1     | 2,471.2                     | 3.7     | .16                                        |
| April.....     | 640                 | 11.2    | 884                    | 9.2     | 451.1                       | 13.6    | 523.1                       | 8.0     | 5,431.1                     | 8.2     | .34                                        |
| May.....       | 699                 | 12.2    | 1,050                  | 10.9    | 331.1                       | 10.0    | 675.4                       | 10.3    | 6,650.7                     | 10.0    | .46                                        |
| June.....      | 657                 | 11.5    | 1,060                  | 11.0    | 288.1                       | 8.7     | 538.0                       | 8.2     | 5,845.6                     | 8.8     | .36                                        |
| July.....      | 585                 | 10.2    | 989                    | 10.3    | 242.4                       | 7.3     | 467.1                       | 7.1     | 5,112.1                     | 7.7     | .32                                        |
| August.....    | 527                 | 9.2     | 950                    | 9.9     | 127.3                       | 3.9     | 340.7                       | 5.2     | 3,851.8                     | 5.8     | .26                                        |
| September..... | 560                 | 9.8     | 971                    | 10.1    | 591.1                       | 17.9    | 785.0                       | 12.0    | 8,669.5                     | 13.1    | .57                                        |
| October.....   | 448                 | 7.8     | 881                    | 9.2     | 231.1                       | 7.0     | 753.9                       | 11.5    | 11,573.6                    | 17.4    | .73                                        |
| November.....  | 340                 | 5.9     | 695                    | 7.2     | 83.6                        | 2.5     | 552.0                       | 8.4     | 7,798.0                     | 11.7    | .54                                        |
| December.....  | 224                 | 3.9     | 529                    | 5.5     | 455.5                       | 13.8    | 919.9                       | 14.0    | 3,188.7                     | 4.8     | .20                                        |

NOTE: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

Table A-3. Work stoppages by affiliation of unions involved, 1970

| Affiliation                                           | Stoppages beginning in year |         |                             |         | Man-days idle during year   |         |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|
|                                                       | Number                      | Percent | Workers involved            |         | Number<br>(in<br>thousands) | Percent |
|                                                       |                             |         | Number<br>(in<br>thousands) | Percent |                             |         |
| Total.....                                            | 5,716                       | 100.0   | 3,305                       | 100.0   | 66,414                      | 100.0   |
| AFL-CIO.....                                          | 3,678                       | 64.3    | 2,091.9                     | 63.3    | 31,698.8                    | 47.7    |
| Unaffiliated unions.....                              | 1,656                       | 29.0    | 1,024.4                     | 31.0    | 26,935.9                    | 40.6    |
| Single firm unions.....                               | 78                          | 1.4     | 19.9                        | .6      | 319.4                       | .5      |
| Different affiliations <sup>1</sup> .....             | 86                          | 1.5     | 100.9                       | 3.1     | 7,098.9                     | 10.7    |
| Professional and public<br>employee associations..... | 123                         | 2.2     | 60.3                        | 1.8     | 324.4                       | .5      |
| No union involved.....                                | 95                          | 1.6     | 7.9                         | .2      | 36.3                        | .1      |

<sup>1</sup> Includes work stoppages involving unions of different affiliations—either 1 union or more affiliated with AFL-CIO and 1 unaffiliated union or more, or 2 unaffiliated unions or more.

NOTE: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.