

TABLE 1.—Work stoppages in the United States, 1927-56¹

Year	Work stoppages		Workers involved ²		Man-days idle during year		
	Number	Average duration (calendar days) ³	Number (thousands)	Percent of total employed	Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time of all workers	Per worker involved
1927	707	26.5	330	1.4	26,200	0.37	79.5
1928	604	27.6	314	1.3	12,600	.17	40.2
1929	921	22.6	289	1.2	5,350	.07	18.5
1930	637	22.3	183	.8	3,320	.05	18.1
1931	810	18.8	342	1.6	6,890	.11	20.2
1932	841	19.6	324	1.8	10,500	.23	32.4
1933	1,695	16.9	1,170	6.3	16,900	.36	14.4
1934	1,856	19.5	1,470	7.2	19,600	.38	13.4
1935	2,014	23.8	1,120	5.2	15,500	.29	13.8
1936	2,172	23.3	789	3.1	13,900	.21	17.6
1937	4,740	20.3	1,860	7.2	28,400	.43	15.3
1938	2,772	23.6	688	2.8	9,150	.15	13.3
1939	2,613	23.4	1,170	4.7	17,800	.28	15.2
1940	2,508	20.9	577	2.3	6,700	.10	11.6
1941	4,288	18.3	2,360	8.4	23,000	.32	9.8
1942	2,968	11.7	840	2.8	4,180	.05	5.0
1943	3,752	5.0	1,980	6.9	13,500	.15	6.8
1944	4,956	5.6	2,120	7.0	8,720	.09	4.1
1945	4,750	9.9	3,470	12.2	38,000	.47	11.0
1946	4,985	24.2	4,600	14.5	116,000	1.43	25.2
1947	3,693	25.6	2,170	6.5	34,600	.41	15.9
1948	3,419	21.8	1,960	5.5	34,100	.37	17.4
1949	3,606	22.5	3,030	9.0	50,500	.59	16.7
1950	4,843	19.2	2,410	6.9	38,800	.44	16.1
1951	4,737	17.4	2,220	5.5	22,900	.23	10.3
1952	5,117	19.6	3,540	8.8	59,100	.57	16.7
1953	5,091	20.3	2,400	5.6	28,300	.26	11.8
1954	3,468	22.5	1,530	3.7	22,600	.21	14.7
1955	4,320	18.5	2,650	6.2	28,200	.26	10.7
1956	3,825	18.9	1,900	4.3	33,100	.29	17.4
1957							
1958							
1959							
1960							

¹ The number of stoppages and workers relate to those 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 appear in BLS Bull. 1016, Handbook of Labor Statistics, table E-2. For a discussion of the procedures involved in the collection and compilation of work stoppage statistics, see BLS Bull. 1168, Techniques of Preparing Major BLS Statistical Series, Chapter 12.

² In this and subsequent tables, workers are counted more than once in these figures if they were involved in more than 1 stoppage during the year.

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

TABLE 2.—Work stoppages involving 10,000 or more workers, selected periods

Period	Stoppages involving 10,000 or more workers					
	Number	Percent of total for period	Workers involved		Man-days idle	
			Number (thousands)	Percent of total for period	Number (thousands) ¹	Percent of total for period
1935-39 average	11	0.4	365	32.4	5,290	31.2
1947-49 average	18	.5	1,270	53.4	23,800	59.9
1945	42	.9	1,350	38.9	19,300	50.7
1946	31	.6	2,920	63.6	66,400	57.2
1947	15	.4	1,030	47.5	17,700	51.2
1948	20	.6	870	44.5	18,900	55.3
1949	18	.5	1,920	63.2	34,900	69.0
1950	22	.5	738	30.7	21,700	56.0
1951	19	.4	457	20.6	5,680	24.8
1952	35	.7	1,690	47.8	36,900	62.6
1953	28	.5	650	27.1	7,270	25.7
1954	18	.5	437	28.5	7,520	33.3
1955	26	.6	1,210	45.6	12,300	43.4
1956	12	.3	758	39.9	19,600	59.1

Includes idleness in any stoppages beginning in earlier years.

TABLE 3.—Monthly trends in work stoppages, 1955-56

Month	Number of stoppages		Workers involved in stoppages			Man-days idle during month	
	Beginning in month	In effect during month	Beginning in month (thousands)	In effect during month		Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time of all workers
				Number (thousands)	Percent of total employed		
1955							
January	229	322	49	69	0.17	386	0.04
February	255	347	92	122	.30	610	.07
March	310	435	164	212	.51	1,680	.18
April	352	497	211	308	.74	2,730	.31
May	432	616	177	324	.77	2,820	.32
June	506	734	487	593	1.39	3,380	.36
July	464	718	637	776	1.82	3,320	.39
August	496	740	236	384	.89	3,060	.31
September	453	717	234	381	.88	2,770	.30
October	431	654	214	292	.67	2,470	.27
November	242	451	84	201	.46	2,630	.29
December	150	303	61	178	.40	2,340	.25
1956							
January	260	357	88	192	.44	2,150	.24
February	270	390	82	196	.45	2,270	.25
March	264	394	69	193	.44	2,020	.21
April	382	516	141	199	.46	1,540	.17
May	478	648	202	287	.65	2,910	.30
June	372	576	115	230	.52	2,010	.21
July	377	570	591	669	1.52	12,500	1.35
August	398	625	137	699	1.56	2,960	.29
September	336	541	156	209	.46	1,630	.19
October	332	524	133	178	.40	1,180	.11
November	242	403	158	204	.45	1,460	.15
December	114	240	29	53	.12	472	.05

TABLE 4.—Major issues involved in work stoppages, 1956

Major issues	Stoppages beginning in 1956				Man-days idle during 1956 (all stoppages)	
	Number	Percent of total ¹	Workers involved		Number ¹	Percent of total ¹
			Number ¹	Percent of total ¹		
All issues -----	3, 825	100. 0	1, 900, 000	100. 0	33, 100, 000	100. 0
Wages, hours, and supplementary benefits -----	1, 821	47. 6	1, 270, 000	66. 8	24, 300, 000	73. 5
Wage increase -----	1, 094	28. 6	924, 000	48. 6	19, 300, 000	58. 2
Wage decrease -----	10	. 3	600	(²)	660, 000	2. 0
Wage increase, hour decrease -----	45	1. 2	7, 680	. 4	66, 600	. 2
Wage increase, pension and/or social insurance benefits -----	258	6. 7	105, 000	5. 5	2, 210, 000	6. 7
Pension and/or social insurance benefits -----	23	. 6	9, 120	. 5	41, 800	. 1
Other ³ -----	391	10. 2	224, 000	11. 8	2, 100, 000	6. 3
Union organization, wages, hours, and supplementary benefits -----	329	8. 6	81, 200	4. 3	5, 070, 000	15. 3
Recognition, wages, and/or hours -----	202	5. 3	21, 200	1. 1	494, 000	1. 5
Strengthening bargaining position, wages, and/or hours -----	32	. 8	6, 020	. 3	3, 730, 000	11. 3
Closed or union shop, wages, and/or hours -----	95	2. 5	54, 000	2. 8	841, 000	2. 5
Union organization -----	445	11. 6	102, 000	5. 4	1, 100, 000	3. 3
Recognition -----	301	7. 9	22, 700	1. 2	420, 000	1. 3
Strengthening bargaining position -----	42	1. 1	66, 600	3. 5	494, 000	1. 5
Closed or union shop -----	77	2. 0	11, 300	. 6	149, 000	. 5
Discrimination -----	13	. 3	480	(²)	6, 060	(²)
Other -----	12	. 3	1, 370	. 1	29, 800	. 1
Other working conditions -----	862	22. 5	375, 000	19. 7	2, 160, 000	6. 5
Job security -----	416	10. 9	184, 000	9. 7	1, 270, 000	3. 9
Shop conditions and policies -----	387	10. 1	149, 000	7. 8	562, 000	1. 7
Workload -----	55	1. 4	38, 300	2. 0	199, 000	. 6
Other -----	4	. 1	4, 190	. 2	124, 000	. 4
Interunion or intraunion matters -----	317	8. 3	67, 600	3. 6	423, 000	1. 3
Sympathy -----	68	1. 8	25, 600	1. 3	179, 000	. 5
Union rivalry ⁴ -----	27	. 7	2, 330	. 1	23, 200	. 1
Jurisdiction ⁵ -----	214	5. 6	37, 100	2. 0	212, 000	. 6
Union administration ⁶ -----	8	. 2	2, 550	. 1	8, 760	(²)
Not reported -----	51	1. 3	4, 630	. 2	22, 800	. 1

¹ In this and subsequent tables the sum of the individual items may not equal the totals for the group, because the individual figures have been rounded.

² Less than 0.05 percent.

³ Issues such as retroactivity, holidays, vacations, job classification, piece rates, incentive standards, or other related matters unaccompanied by proposals to effect general changes in wage rates are included in this category. Slightly more than a third of the stoppages in this group occurred over piece rates or incentive standards.

⁴ Includes disputes between unions of different affiliation such as those between unions affiliated with the AFL-CIO and nonaffiliates.

⁵ Includes disputes between unions of the same affiliation. Some jurisdictional stoppages are small, brief, and local in scope and frequently are not reported either by cooperating agencies or by newspapers; hence, these figures do not include all such stoppages that may have occurred during the year.

⁶ Includes disputes within a union over the administration of union affairs or regulations.

TABLE 5.—Work stoppages by industry group, 1956

Industry group	Stoppages beginning in 1956		Man-days idle during 1956 (all stoppages)	
	Number	Workers involved	Number	Percent of estimated working time of all workers
All industries -----	¹ 3,825	1,900,000	33,100,000	0.29
MANUFACTURING -----	¹ 1,986	1,360,000	27,100,000	0.63
Primary metal industries -----	238	573,000	12,700,000	3.81
Fabricated metal products (except ordnance, machinery, and transportation equipment) -----	229	87,700	1,420,000	.50
Ordnance and accessories -----	15	11,200	90,700	.27
Electrical machinery, equipment, and supplies -----	106	62,700	3,050,000	.99
Machinery (except electrical) -----	211	113,000	3,630,000	.83
Transportation equipment -----	145	123,000	1,800,000	.40
Lumber and wood products (except furniture) -----	47	4,920	82,400	.04
Furniture and fixtures -----	96	21,100	245,000	.26
Stone, clay, and glass products -----	113	76,400	994,000	.69
Textile mill products -----	70	18,200	426,000	.16
Apparel and other finished products made from fabrics and similar materials -----	129	13,800	173,000	.06
Leather and leather products -----	54	8,940	74,000	.08
Food and kindred products -----	160	71,300	513,000	.13
Tobacco manufactures -----	4	790	20,600	.08
Paper and allied products -----	51	15,200	233,000	.16
Printing, publishing, and allied industries -----	31	5,900	105,000	.05
Chemicals and allied products -----	92	37,500	399,000	.19
Products of petroleum and coal -----	19	8,450	174,000	.27
Rubber products -----	55	81,300	580,000	.83
Professional, scientific, and controlling instruments; photographic and optical goods; watches and clocks -----	33	7,030	134,000	.16
Miscellaneous manufacturing industries -----	89	16,200	295,000	.23
NONMANUFACTURING -----	¹ 1,856	544,000	6,020,000	.09
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing -----	6	2,030	10,400	(²)
Mining -----	321	129,000	1,320,000	.65
Construction -----	784	231,000	2,680,000	.35
Trade -----	336	37,100	558,000	.02
Finance, insurance, and real estate -----	15	840	38,400	(²)
Transportation, communication, and other public utilities -----	243	130,000	1,170,000	.11
Services—personal, business, and other -----	126	10,700	227,000	(²)
Government—administration, protection, and sanitation ³ -----	27	3,460	11,100	(²)

¹ This figure is less than the sum of the figures below because a few stoppages extending into 2 or more industry groups have been counted in this column in each industry group affected; workers involved and man-days idle were divided among the respective groups.

² Not available.

³ Municipally operated utilities are included in "transportation, communication, and other public utilities."