

than a fourth of all strike idleness—compared with three-tenths and one-tenth, respectively, in 1956. Federal, State, and other government mediation and conciliation services helped settle about a third of the stoppages involving almost half of the workers and two-thirds of the idleness; in 1956, they helped settle about the same proportion of stoppages, involving three-fifths of the workers and four-fifths of all idleness.

Workers returned to their jobs or were replaced by new employees without negotiation of settlements in 17 percent of the strikes recorded. Ten percent of the workers and 7 percent of the man-days of idleness were accounted for in this group. In almost 1 percent of the year's strikes, the establishments involved discontinued business.

### Disposition of Issues

As usual, in the vast majority of strikes the issues in dispute were settled or otherwise disposed of when the work stoppage ended (table 14). These disputes (which include those resolved by agreement to use the company's grievance procedure and those in which the workers returned without a formal agreement or settlement that there would be further negotiation regarding the issues) accounted for 88 percent of the strikes and workers involved and 94 percent of the total idleness.

Work was resumed while negotiations between the parties were continued on the disputed issues in approximately 5 percent of the year's strikes ending in 1957. These stoppages included a slightly smaller percentage of workers and about 2 percent of the idleness. The remainder were ended by agreement to return to work while negotiating with the aid of a third party, by submitting the dispute to arbitration, or by referral of the issues to government or other agencies for a decision or an employee representation election.

# TRENDS IN WORK STOPPAGES

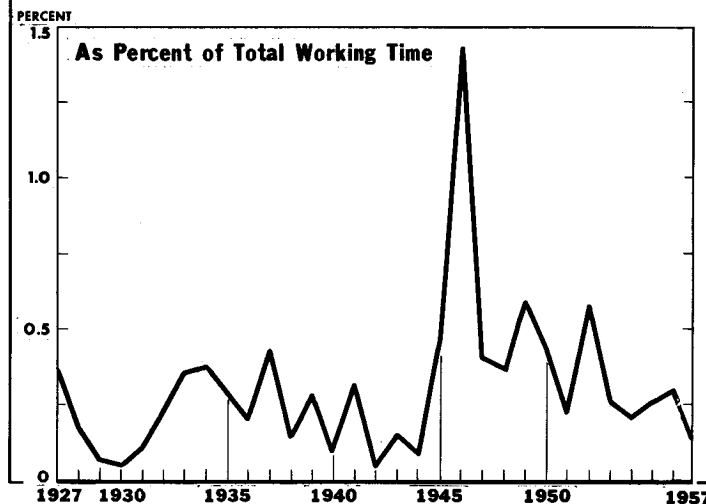
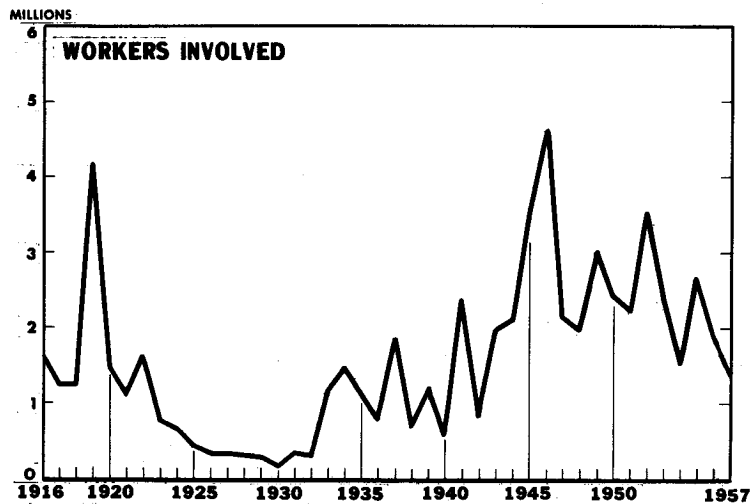
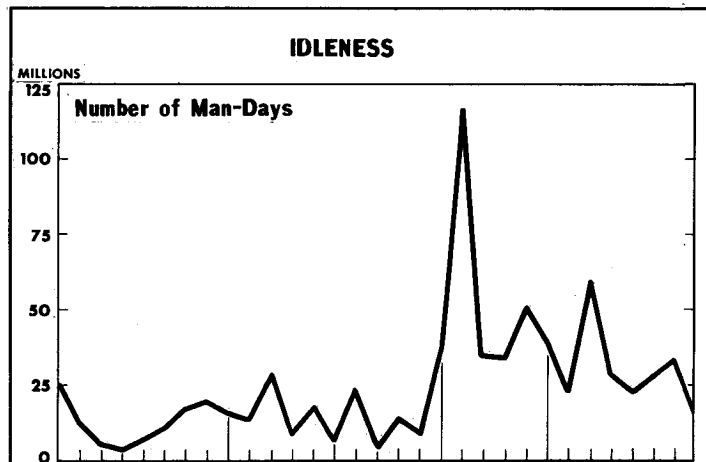
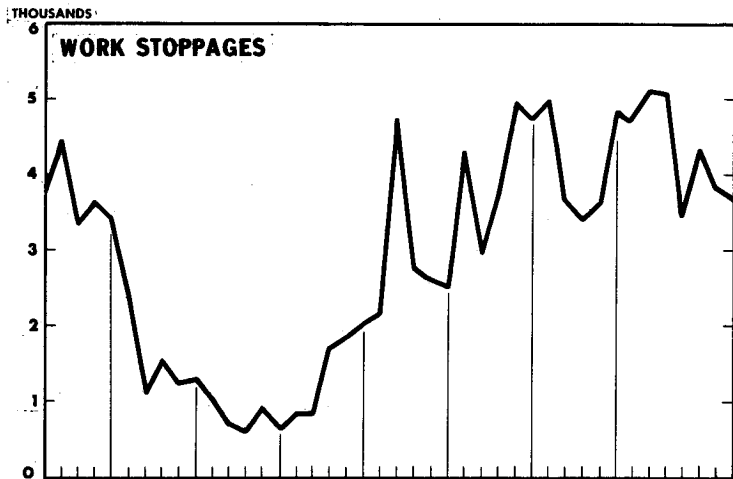


TABLE 1.—Work stoppages in the United States, 1927-57 <sup>1</sup>

Year	Work stoppages		Workers involved <sup>2</sup>		Man-days idle during year		
	Number	Average duration (calendar days) <sup>3</sup>	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	3,673	19.2	1,390	3.1	16,500	.14	11.4
1958	3,694	19.7	2,060	4.6	24,000	.22	11.6
1959							
1960							

<sup>1</sup> 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 appears in the Handbook of Labor Statistics (BLS Bull. 1016), table E-2. For a discussion of the procedures involved in the collection and compilation of work stoppage statistics, see Techniques of Preparing Major BLS Statistical Series (BLS Bull. 1168), Ch. 12.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

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