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## MAJOR WORK STOPPAGES IN 2014

In 2014, there were 11 major work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers and lasting at least one shift, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The 11 major work stoppages beginning in 2014 were down from the 15 major work stoppages beginning in 2013, and equaled the second lowest annual total (11 in 2010) of work stoppages since the series began in 1947. The lowest annual total was 5 in 2009. (See chart 1 and table 1.)

Major work stoppages beginning in 2014 idled 34,000 workers, lower than the 2013 total of 55,000 idled workers. In 2014, there were 200,000 days idle from major work stoppages in effect, also lower than 2013 with 290,000 days idle. In 2014, private industry organizations accounted for 9 of the 11 major work stoppages in 2014. In addition, 7 of the 11 major work stoppages beginning in 2014 occurred in the health care and social assistance industry and the educational services industry. (See table 2.)

Chart 1. Annual major work stoppages, 2009-2014

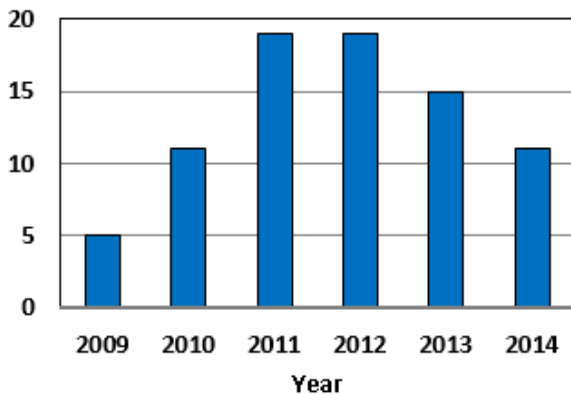
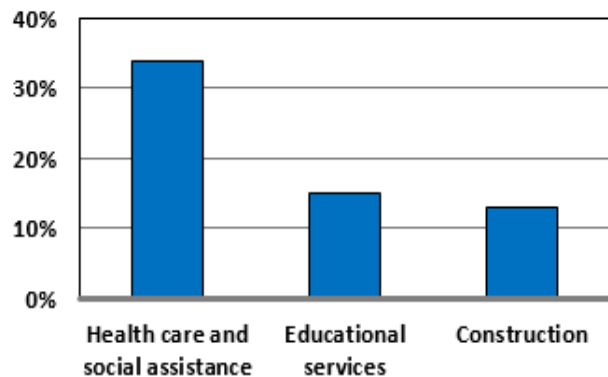


Chart 2. Percent of major work stoppages by selected industry group, 2009-2014



In 2014, the largest major work stoppage in both days idle and duration was between FairPoint Communications and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Locals 2320, 2326, and 2327 and the Communications Workers of America Local 1400, with 1,700 workers accounting for 86,700 days idle in 2014. The work stoppage was still ongoing at the end of 2014. (See table 2.)

Between 2009 and 2014, there have been 80 major work stoppages (average of 13.3 major work stoppages per year). Three industry groups combined for over 60 percent of all major work stoppages during the six year period: health care and social assistance (34 percent), educational services (15 percent), and construction (13 percent). (See chart 2.) Manufacturing had 11 percent of all major work stoppages between 2009 and 2014.

## TECHNICAL NOTE

The major work stoppages series dates back to 1947. The term “major work stoppage” includes both worker-initiated strikes and employer-initiated lockouts that involve 1,000 workers or more and lasting at least one shift. BLS does not distinguish between lockouts and strikes in its statistics.

Information on work stoppages is obtained from reports from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, state labor market information offices, BLS Strike Report from the Office of Employment and Unemployment Statistics, and from media sources. One or both parties involved in the work stoppage (employer or union) is contacted to verify the duration and number of workers idled by the stoppage.

Days of idleness is calculated by multiplying the number of workers involved in the strike or lockout by the number of days workers are off the job. The number of lost workdays for every major work stoppage is based on a 5-day workweek (Monday through Friday), excluding Federal holidays.

### Monthly major work stoppages data

The Bureau of Labor Statistics compiles detailed monthly statistics on major work stoppages at [www.bls.gov/wsp](http://www.bls.gov/wsp).

Detailed data for each major work stoppage since 1993 includes the organization involved, location, beginning and ending work stoppage dates, the number of workers, and days idle.

Monthly time series data since 1981 have been published ([data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/surveymost?ws](http://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/surveymost?ws)) for the following tables:

- Number of work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more beginning in the period
- Number of work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more in effect in the period
- Number of workers involved in work stoppages beginning in the period
- Number of workers involved in work stoppages in effect in the period
- Days of idleness resulting from work stoppages in effect in the period
- Days of idleness resulting from work stoppages in effect in the period, as a percent of estimated working time

### Major work stoppages detailed information and measures

For more information on Work Stoppages methods and measures, see “Chapter 8. National Compensation Measures” of the *BLS Handbook of Methods* at: [www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch8.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch8.pdf).

**Table 1. Work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers, 1947-2014**

Period	Number of work stoppages beginning in period	Numbers of workers involved (thousands) <sup>1</sup>	Days idle <sup>2</sup>	
			Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time <sup>3</sup>
2014 .....	11	34	200	( <sup>4</sup> )
2013 .....	15	55	290	( <sup>4</sup> )
2012 .....	19	148	1,131	( <sup>4</sup> )
2011 .....	19	113	1,020	( <sup>4</sup> )
2010 .....	11	45	302	( <sup>4</sup> )
2009 .....	5	13	124	( <sup>4</sup> )
2008 .....	15	72	1,954	.01
2007 .....	21	189	1,265	( <sup>4</sup> )
2006 .....	20	70	2,688	.01
2005 .....	22	100	1,736	.01
2004 .....	17	171	3,344	.01
2003 .....	14	129	4,091	.01
2002 .....	19	46	660	( <sup>4</sup> )
2001 .....	29	99	1,151	( <sup>4</sup> )
2000 .....	39	394	20,419	.06
1999 .....	17	73	1,996	.01
1998 .....	34	387	5,116	.02
1997 .....	29	339	4,497	.01
1996 .....	37	273	4,889	.02
1995 .....	31	192	5,771	.02
1994 .....	45	322	5,021	.02
1993 .....	35	182	3,981	.01
1992 .....	35	364	3,989	.01
1991 .....	40	392	4,584	.02
1990 .....	44	185	5,926	.02
1989 .....	51	452	16,996	.07
1988 .....	40	118	4,381	.02
1987 .....	46	174	4,481	.02
1986 .....	69	533	11,861	.05
1985 .....	54	324	7,079	.03
1984 .....	62	376	8,499	.04
1983 .....	81	909	17,461	.08
1982 .....	96	656	9,061	.04
1981 .....	145	729	16,908	.07
1980 .....	187	795	20,844	.09
1979 .....	235	1,021	20,409	.09
1978 .....	219	1,006	23,774	.11
1977 .....	298	1,212	21,258	.10
1976 .....	231	1,519	23,962	.12
1975 .....	235	965	17,563	.09
1974 .....	424	1,796	31,809	.16
1973 .....	317	1,400	16,260	.08
1972 .....	250	975	16,764	.09
1971 .....	298	2,516	35,538	.19
1970 .....	381	2,468	52,761	.29
1969 .....	412	1,576	29,397	.16
1968 .....	392	1,855	35,367	.20
1967 .....	381	2,192	31,320	.18
1966 .....	321	1,300	16,000	.10
1965 .....	268	999	15,140	.10

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers, 1947-2014 — Continued**

Period	Number of work stoppages beginning in period	Numbers of workers involved (thousands) <sup>1</sup>	Days idle <sup>2</sup>	
			Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time <sup>3</sup>
1964 .....	246	1,183	16,220	.11
1963 .....	181	512	10,020	.07
1962 .....	211	793	11,760	.08
1961 .....	195	1,031	10,140	.07
1960 .....	222	896	13,260	.09
1959 .....	245	1,381	60,850	.43
1958 .....	332	1,587	17,900	.13
1957 .....	279	887	10,340	.07
1956 .....	287	1,370	26,840	.20
1955 .....	363	2,055	21,180	.16
1954 .....	265	1,075	16,630	.13
1953 .....	437	1,623	18,130	.14
1952 .....	470	2,746	48,820	.38
1951 .....	415	1,462	15,070	.12
1950 .....	424	1,698	30,390	.26
1949 .....	262	2,537	43,420	.38
1948 .....	245	1,435	26,127	.22
1947 .....	270	1,629	25,720	( <sup>5</sup> )

<sup>1</sup> Number of workers involved includes only those workers who participated in work stoppages that began in the calendar year. Workers are counted more than once if they are involved in more than one stoppage during the reference period. Numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand.

<sup>2</sup> Days idle includes all stoppages in effect during the reference period. For work stoppages that are still ongoing

at the end of the calendar year, only those days of idleness in the calendar year are counted.

<sup>3</sup> Agricultural and government employees are included in the calculation of estimated working time; private households, forestry, and fishery employees are excluded.

<sup>4</sup> Less than .005.

<sup>5</sup> Data not available.

**Table 2. Work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers beginning in 2014**

Organizations involved, location, and sector	Industry code <sup>1</sup>	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers <sup>2</sup>	Days idle <sup>3</sup>
University of Illinois at Chicago Chicago, IL UIC United Faculty Local 6456 (State Government) .....	611310	2/18/14	2/19/14	1,100	2,200
Johns Hopkins Hospital Baltimore, MD Service Employees International Union United Healthcare Workers East Local 1199 (Private Industry) .....	622110	4/09/14	4/11/14	2,000	6,000
Army Fleet Support, LLC Fort Rucker, AL International Association of Machinists Lodge 2003 (Private Industry) .....	488190	4/28/14	5/4/14	3,000	15,000
Queen of the Valley Medical Center, Sutter Tracy Community Hospital, Watsonville Community Hospital Central CA California Nurses Association, National Nurses United (Private Industry) .....	622110	8/14/14	8/15/14	1,000	1,000
Zodiac Seats US Gainesville, TX United Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 767 (Private Industry) .....	336360	9/23/14	10/25/14	1,300	29,900
Waukegan School District 60 Waukegan, IL Lake County Federation of Teachers Local 504 (Local Government) .....	611110	10/2/14	10/30/14	1,200	24,000
FairPoint Communications ME,NH,VT International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Locals 2320, 2326, and 2327 Communications Workers of America Local 1400 (Private Industry) .....	517110	10/17/14	ongoing	1,700	86,700
Kaiser Permanente Hospitals and Sutter Hospitals Northern and Central CA, Providence Hospital, Washington, D.C. California Nurses Association, National Nurses United <sup>4</sup> (Private Industry) .....	622110	11/11/14	11/12/14	19,000	19,000
St. Joseph Medical Center, St. Clare Hospital Takoma, WA, Lakewood, WA Service Employees International Union Local 1199NW (Private Industry) .....	622110	11/18/14	11/19/14	1,100	1,100
SFO Airport Restaurant Employer Council San Francisco International Airport, CA UNITE HERE Local 2 (Private Industry) .....	722510	12/11/14	12/12/14	1,000	2,000

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 2. Work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers beginning in 2014 — Continued**

Organizations involved, location, and sector	Industry code <sup>1</sup>	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers <sup>2</sup>	Days idle <sup>3</sup>
MedStar Washington Hospital Center Washington, D.C. National Nurses United (Private Industry) .....	622110	12/22/14	12/31/14	1,900	13,300

<sup>1</sup> Industry code is from the 2012 NAICS (North American Industry Classification System).

<sup>2</sup> The number of workers involved is rounded to the nearest 100.

<sup>3</sup> Days idle is measured by multiplying the cumulative number of lost workdays by the number of workers involved in the work stoppage.

<sup>4</sup> Counted as a one day strike due to Federal holiday on 11/11/2014.