

News

United States
Department
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20212

Information: (202) 691-6275 cbainfo@bls.gov
Media Contact: (202) 691-5902
Internet Address: <http://www.bls.gov/cba/home.htm>

USDL 07-0304
For Release: 10:00 A.M. EST
Tuesday, February 27, 2007

MAJOR WORK STOPPAGES IN 2006

Major work stoppages idled 70,000 workers with 2.7 million lost workdays in 2006, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. The number of workers involved declined from 2005, but the number of workdays lost increased by an additional 1 million over the 2005 figure. The major work stoppages series, which dates back to 1947, covers strikes and lockouts involving 1,000 or more employees and lasting at least one shift. For work stoppages that began in 2005, only days of idleness in calendar year 2006 are counted.

The total number of lockouts and strikes beginning in calendar year 2006 was 20. For 2005 there were 22 stoppages, with 1.7 million workdays of idleness involving 99,600 workers. (See table 1 and charts A-C). Of the 20 major work stoppages beginning in 2006, 12 were in private industry and eight were in State and local governments. In private industry, five work stoppages occurred in both manufacturing and construction, and one stoppage each in janitorial services and automotive dealerships. Of the eight work stoppages in State and local governments, four work stoppages involved municipal and county workers, two involved educational services, and one each in public transportation and health care.

While the number of work stoppages and workers involved both declined from 2005 to 2006, the number of lost workdays rose substantially, due to the length of some work stoppages. The mean length of a work stoppage beginning in 2006 was 26.5 days, up from 20 days in 2005 and 14.6 days in 2004. The median length of a work stoppage beginning in 2006 was 10 days, up from 6 days in 2005, and 5 days in 2004. Most work stoppages are relatively short in duration, but the mean is influenced by several long work stoppages. The longest work stoppage beginning in 2006 lasted 211 days and involved the AK Steel Corporation and the Armco Employees Independent Federation.

The largest work stoppage in terms of idleness was between Northwest Airlines and the Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association, with 812,100 workdays lost in 2006 and 1,183,800 workdays lost in total since the work stoppage began on August 20, 2005. The second largest work stoppage in terms of idleness, and the largest in terms of worker participation with 12,600 employees involved, was between the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company and the United Steelworkers of America, with 718,000 days idled in 2006.

Table A. Duration of work stoppages beginning in 2006, 2005, and 2004

Duration	2006		2005		2004	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1-2 days	5	25	4	18	3	18
3-10 days	6	30	8	36	6	35
11-20 days	5	25	5	23	2	12
21-30 days	1	5	1	5	1	6
31-40 days	1	5	1	5	2	12
41-50 days	0	0	0	0	0	0
>50 days	2	10	3	14	3	18

Note: Percent totals may not add to 100 because of rounding. The 2004 and 2005 numbers represent the total duration of all work stoppages initiated during those respective years. The 2006 numbers represent work stoppages initiated in 2006.

Table B. Number of work stoppages by the number of workers idled in 2006, 2005, and 2004

Number of workers idled	2006		2005		2004	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1,000 to 1,999	10	50	11	50	6	35
2,000 to 2,999	2	10	5	23	3	18
3,000 to 4,999	3	15	2	9	2	12
5,000 to 7,499	2	10	2	9	3	18
7,500 to 9,999	2	10	0	0	0	0
10,000 to 14,999	1	5	0	0	1	6
15,000 to 19,999	0	0	1	5	1	6
20,000 or more	0	0	1	5	1	6

Note: Percent totals may not add to 100 because of rounding.

Table C. Number of work stoppages by number of work days idled in 2006, 2005, and 2004

Number of days of idleness	2006		2005		2004	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1,000 to 4,999	2	10	3	14	0	0
5,000 to 9,999	5	25	4	18	4	24
10,000 to 14,999	2	10	1	5	1	6
15,000 to 19,999	2	10	4	18	1	6
20,000 to 29,999	2	10	2	9	2	12
30,000 to 49,999	2	10	2	9	1	6
50,000 to 74,999	1	5	1	5	2	12
75,000 to 99,999	0	0	1	5	1	6
100,000 to 199,999	2	10	2	9	2	12
200,000 to 299,999	0	0	0	0	2	12
300,000 or more	2	10	2	9	1	6

Note: Percent totals may not add to 100 because of rounding. The 2004 and 2005 numbers represent the number of work days idled of all work stoppages initiated during those respective years. The 2006 numbers represent work stoppages initiated in 2006.

The term “major work stoppage” includes both worker-initiated strikes and employer-initiated lockouts that involve 1,000 workers or more. 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 Reports from the Office of Employment and Unemployment Statistics, and from media sources such as the Daily Labor Report and the Wall Street Journal. 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 taking the number of workers involved in the strike or lock-out and multiplying it by the number of days workers are off the job.

For detailed work stoppage statistics, please visit <http://www.bls.gov/cba>

Table 1. Work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers, 1947-2006

Period	Number of work stoppages beginning in period	Numbers of workers involved (thousands) ¹	Days idle ²	
			Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time ³
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	(⁴)
2001	29	99	1,151	(⁴)
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
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

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers, 1947-2006 — Continued

Period	Number of work stoppages beginning in period	Numbers of workers involved (thousands) ¹	Days idle ²	
			Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time ³
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	(⁵)

¹ 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.

² 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.

³ Agricultural and government employees are included

in the calculation of estimated working time; private households, forestry, and fishery employees are excluded.

⁴ Less than .005.

⁵ Data not available.

Note: "Number of workers involved" in Table 1 reflects a tabulation of workers involved in a work stoppage that began in a specific year. "Number of workers involved" in Table 3 reflects a tabulation of all workers involved in a work stoppage in that year without making the distinction of when the work stoppage was initiated.

Table 2. Work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers beginning in 2006 (listed by date stoppage began).

Organizations involved and location	Industry code ¹	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers ²	Days idle
Sikorsky Aircraft Corp. Stratford, CT, West Palm Beach, FL International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 1150 Private Industry	336411	2/20/06	4/03/06	3,600	108,000
AK Steel Corp. Middletown, OH Armco Employees Independent Federation Private Industry	331111	3/01/06	(³)	2,300 ⁴	468,000
Santa Cruz County Government, Santa Cruz, CA Service Employees International Union Local 415 Local Government	921190	3/14/06	3/15/06	1,600	1,600
Denver Regional Transportation District Denver, CO Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1001 Local Government	485110	4/03/06	4/09/06	1,700	8,500
Greater Metropolitan Automotive Dealers Association of Minnesota Minneapolis, MN International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 974 Private Industry	441110	4/17/06	5/09/06	1,400	23,800
General Building Contractors Association (GBCA) Philadelphia, PA United Brotherhood of Carpenters Metropolitan Regional Council of Philadelphia Private Industry	238350	5/01/06	5/02/06	5,000	5,000
MidAmerica Regional Bargaining Association, Chicago, IL, Laborers International Union Private Industry	237310	6/01/06	6/04/06	2,000	4,000
Mason Contractors Association and Independent Employers, St. Louis, MO and Vicinity International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Private Industry	238140	6/01/06	6/08/06	1,200	7,200
Grove Masonry Maintenance Inc., Tuckpointing Contractors Association Chicago, IL International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Private Industry	238140	6/12/06	6/17/06	1,600	8,000

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers beginning in 2006 (listed by date stoppage began). — Continued

Organizations involved and location	Industry code ¹	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers ²	Days idle
Contra Costa County Danville, CA Service Employees International Union Local 535 The Association of Federal, State and Municipal Employees Locals 512 and 2700 Public Employees Local 1 The Western Council of Engineers, Physicians and Dentists of Contra Costa Local Government	921100	6/27/06	6/28/06	6,000	6,000
General Contractors Association of Greater New York New York, NY International Union of Operating Engineers Private Industry	237990	7/01/06	7/07/06	3,000	12,000
Gary School District Gary, IN Gary Teachers Union Local Government	611110	8/21/06	9/01/06	1,400	14,000
City of Los Angeles, CA Los Angeles, CA The Engineers and Architects Association Local Government	921100	8/22/06	8/23/06	7,500	15,000
Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital New Brunswick, NJ United Steelworkers Health Care Workers Council, Local 4-200 Local Government	622110	8/24/06	9/21/06	1,200	24,000
Detroit School District Detroit, MI Detroit Federation of Teachers, Local 231 Local Government	611110	8/28/06	9/13/06	9,500	104,500
Sacramento County, CA Sacramento, CA Stationary Engineers Local 39 American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees District Council 57 Local 146 United Public Employees Local 1 Local Government	921100	9/05/06	9/18/06	3,900	39,000
Bombardier Learjet Wichita, KS International Association of Machinists Local 639 Private Industry	336411	10/02/06	10/23/06	1,100	16,500

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers beginning in 2006 (listed by date stoppage began). — Continued

Organizations involved and location	Industry code ¹	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers ²	Days idle
Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. AL, NE, NY, NC, OH, KS, TN, TX, VA, WI United Steelworkers Private Industry	326210	10/06/06	12/29/06	12,600	718,200
ABM Janitorial Services, GCA Services Group Sanitors Services of Texas, Pritchard Industries Southwest Houston, TX Service Employees International Union Local 5 Private Industry	561720	10/23/06	11/20/06	1,300	26,000
Raytheon Missile Systems Tucson, AZ International Association of Machinists Local 933 Private Industry	336414	11/06/06	(³)	1,900	70,300

¹ Industry code is from the 2002 NAICS (North American Industry Classification System).

² BLS rounds figures to the nearest 100. Companies and unions may have rounded the figures before providing them to BLS.

³ This work stoppage was still active as of December 31, 2006. All data presented are for the 2006 calendar year.

⁴ Work stoppage began with 2,600 workers in March 2006. It later decreased to 2,400 workers in April; 2,300 workers in July; 1,900 workers in October; and 1,800 workers in November. Average number of workers is reported in the table.

Chart D. Number of major work stoppages beginning in period, 1947-2006

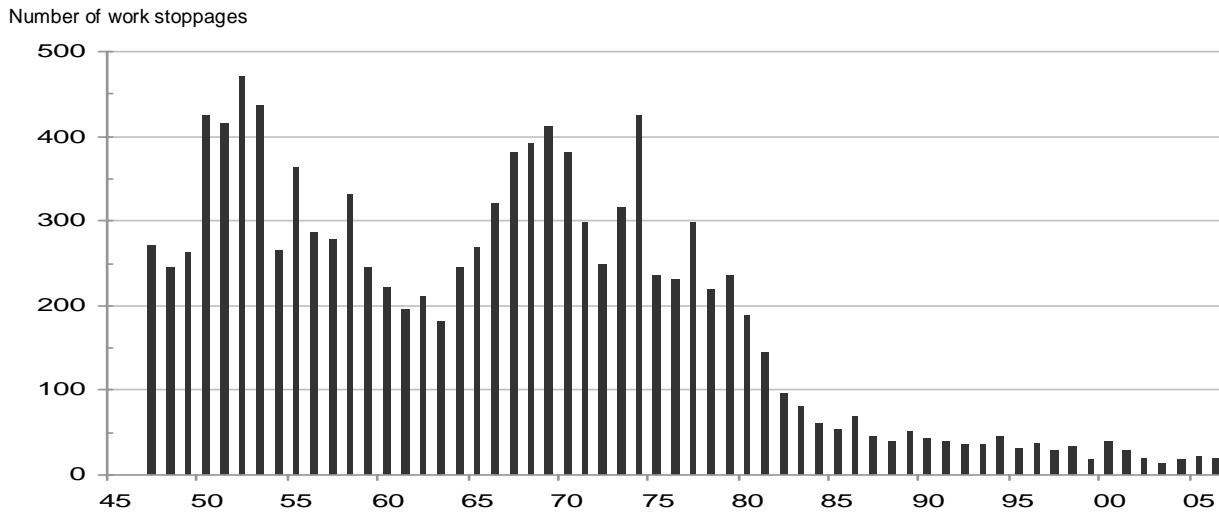


Chart E. Number of workers involved in major work stoppages beginning in period, 1947-2006

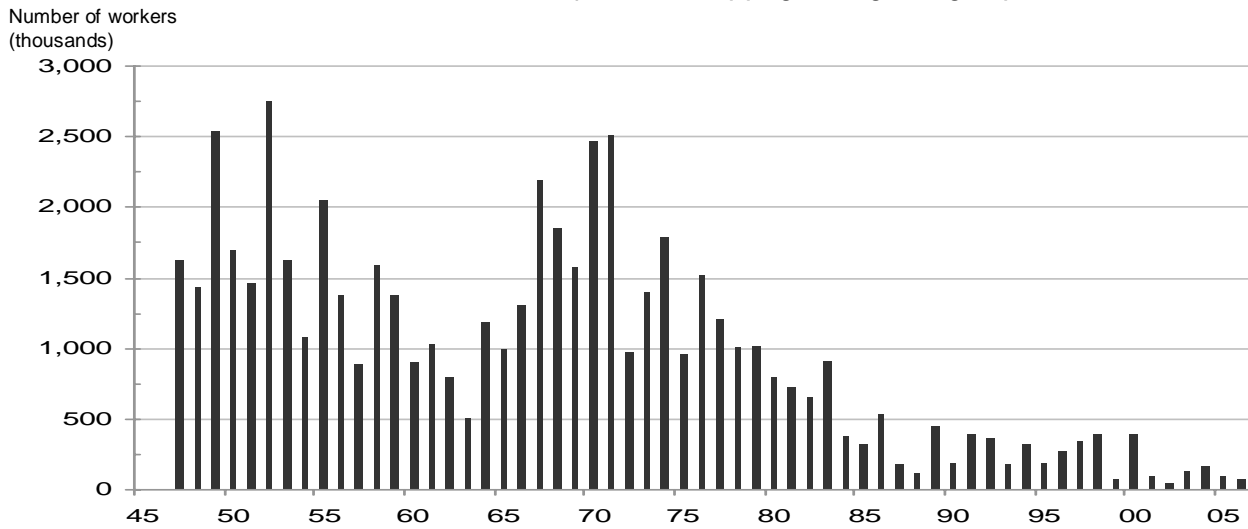


Chart F. Number of days of idleness from major work stoppages beginning in period, 1947-2006

