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MAJOR WORK STOPPAGES IN 2017

In 2017, there were 7 major work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers and lasting at least one shift, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Since the series began in 1947 this is the second lowest number of major work stoppages recorded in a year, the lowest annual total was 5 in 2009. (See table 1.)

Major work stoppages beginning in 2017 idled 25,000 workers, the second lowest number of workers idled annually since 1947. The lowest number of workers idled was 13,000 in 2009. In 2017 the information industry sector had the most workers idled by a major work stoppage with 15,000 workers, which accounted for over half of all workers idled. Public administration accounted for the second largest number of workers idled by major work stoppages with over 5,000 workers, or a fifth of all workers idled. (See tables 1 and 2 and chart 2.)

Chart 1. Number of workers idled (in thousands), 2008-17

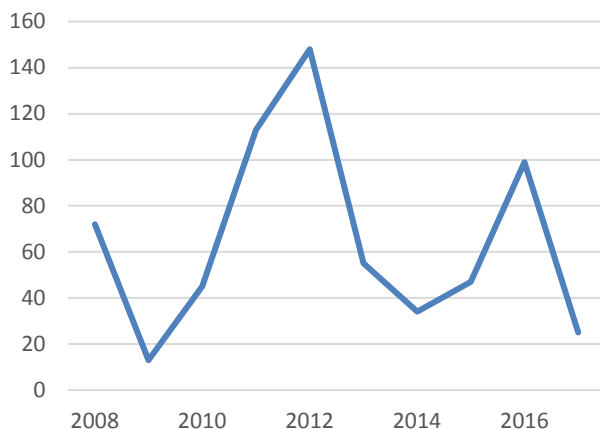
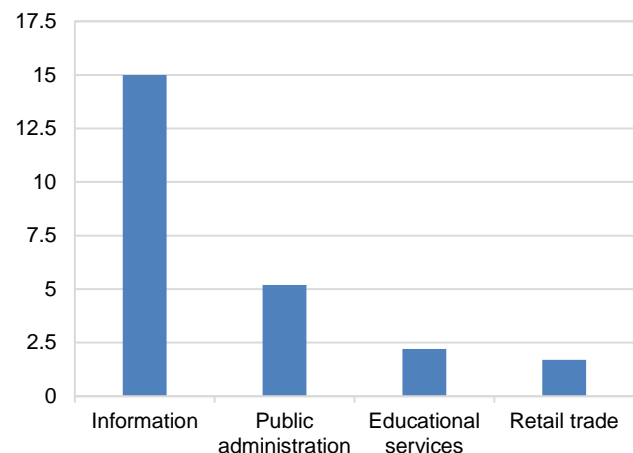


Chart 2. Number of workers idled (in thousands) by industry, 2017



In 2017, the largest major work stoppage by days idle occurred between Charter Communications and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers union with 345,600 total days idle and involving 1,800 workers. This work stoppage was one of two major work stoppages within the information industry, the second was between AT&T and the Communication Workers of America involving 13,200 workers and lasting one day.

The work stoppage between the Chicago New Car Dealer Committee and the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers union involved 1,700 workers for a total of 56,100 days idle. (See table 2.)

TECHNICAL NOTE

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, employer group or union) is contacted to verify the duration and number of workers idled by the stoppage.

Work stoppages are strikes or lockouts. A strike is a temporary stoppage of work by a group of employees (not necessarily union members) to express a grievance or enforce a demand. A lockout is a temporary withholding or denial of employment during a labor dispute to enforce terms of employment upon a group of employees. Because of the complexity of most labor-management disputes, BLS makes no attempt to distinguish between strikes and lockouts in work stoppages statistics.

Number of workers includes all workers made idle for one shift or longer in establishments directly involved in a stoppage. It includes those who initiate the strike as well as others in the establishment who honor picket lines or are idled because the plant is closed down. Other branches or plants of the struck employer may also be affected, and workers so idled are counted. The data do not account for secondary idleness, i.e., the effect of a stoppage on other establishments or industries whose employees may be made idle as a result of material or service shortages.

Days of idleness are the aggregate number of work days lost as a result of a work stoppage. It is calculated by multiplying the number of workers involved in the stoppage by the number of days the stoppage is in effect. Aggregate figures are the result of summing all products thus obtained. The number of lost workdays for every major work stoppage is based on a 5-day workweek (Monday through Friday), excluding federal holidays.

Percent of estimated working time lost is calculated by dividing the days of idleness for the period by the available work days for the period. The available work days for the period is computed by multiplying the average employment for the period by the number of days typically worked by most employed workers during that period. In these computations, Saturdays (when customarily not worked), Sundays, and established Federal holidays are excluded. Also, private household, forestry, and fishery employees are excluded from the average employment data.

Monthly time series data since 1981 have been published for the series below and are available at www.bls.gov/wsp/#data. Annual averages are also available for some series back to 1947.

- 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

Detailed work stoppage data since 1993 are available at www.bls.gov/wsp/monthly_listing.htm and include organization(s) involved, location, beginning and ending dates, the number of workers, and total days of idleness. Additional historical information from 1936 to 1979 are available at www.bls.gov/wsp/wspfaq.htm#Question_10.

Table 1. Work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers, 1947-2017

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
2017	7	25	440	(4)
2016	15	99	1,543	(4)
2015	12	47	740	(4)
2014	11	34	200	(4)
2013	15	55	290	(4)
2012	19	148	1,131	(4)
2011	19	113	1,020	(4)
2010	11	45	302	(4)
2009	5	13	124	(4)
2008	15	72	1,954	.01
2007	21	189	1,265	(4)
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

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers, 1947-2017 — 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
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
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 Percent of estimated working time is calculated using employment estimates from the Current Employment Statistics program and the number of workdays in the month and number of days idle from the Work Stoppages program.

⁴ Less than .005.

⁵ Data not available.

Table 2. Work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers beginning in 2017

Organizations involved, location, and sector	Industry code ¹	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers ²	Days idle ³
University of California Statewide CA International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 2010, CX Unit (Clerical) (State Government)	611310	1/10/17	1/10/17	2,200	2,200
AT&T Inc. Los Angeles, CA, NV Communications Workers of America (Private Industry)	517110	3/22/17	3/22/17	13,200	13,200
Charter Communications Inc. NY, NJ International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 3 (Private Industry)	517110	3/28/17	ongoing	1,800	345,600
Tufts Medical Center Boston, MA Massachusetts Nurses Association (Private Industry)	622110	7/12/17	7/17/17	1,200	3,600
Chicago New Car Dealer Committee Chicago, IL International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (Private Industry)	441110	8/01/17	9/15/17	1,700	56,100
Riverside County Municipal Government Riverside, CA Service Employees International Union, Local 721 (Local Government)	921100	9/06/17	9/07/17	2,300	4,600
City of Oakland Oakland, CA Service Employees International Union, Local 1021 International Technical and Professional Engineers, Local 21 (Local Government)	921100	12/05/17	12/11/17	2,900	14,500

¹ Industry code is from the 2012 NAICS (North American Industry Classification System).

² The number of workers involved is rounded to the nearest 100.

³ Days idle includes all stoppages in effect during the calendar year. For work stoppages beginning in a prior year, days idle are counted for current calendar year totals but not listed in this table.