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## MAJOR WORK STOPPAGES IN 2011

In 2011, there were 19 major strikes and lockouts involving 1,000 or more workers and lasting at least one shift, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The 19 major work stoppages in 2011 idled 113,000 workers for 1.02 million lost workdays, a large increase compared to 2010 with 11 major work stoppages idling 45,000 workers for 302,000 lost workdays. In 2009, there were record lows of 5 major work stoppages idling 13,000 workers for 124,000 lost workdays. (See table 1.)

Chart 1. Annual major work stoppages, 2004-2011

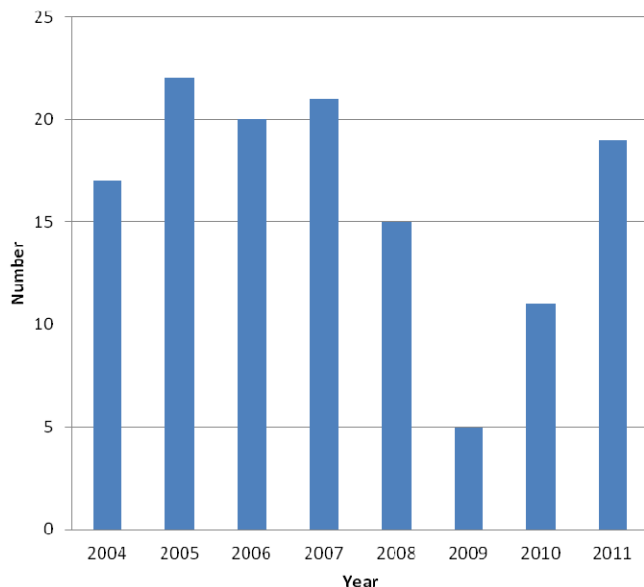
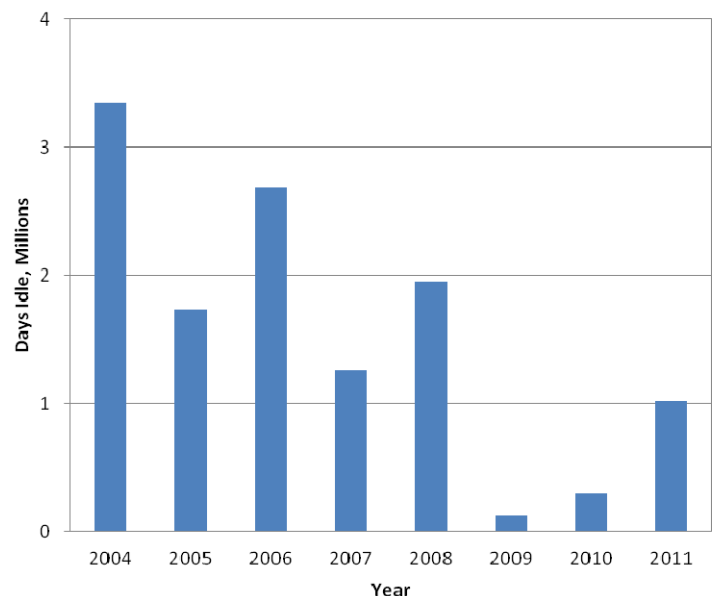


Chart 2. Annual days idle from major work stoppages, 2004-2011, in millions



The longest work stoppage beginning in 2011 was between American Crystal Sugar Company and the Bakery, Confectionary, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers, Sugar Council. The ongoing work stoppage began in August and has lasted throughout the remainder of 2011 (105 workdays) with 1,300 workers accounting for 136,500 lost workdays. The largest work stoppage in 2011 in terms of number of workers and total workdays idle was between Verizon Communications and the Communications Workers of America and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, with 45,000 workers accounting for 450,000 lost workdays. (See table 2.)

This release includes information for the work stoppage between the National Football League (NFL) and the NFL Players Association. The work stoppage between the National Basketball Association (NBA) and the NBA Players Association involved fewer than 1,000 workers and is therefore not part of this data series.

## 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 Reports from the Office of Employment and Unemployment Statistics, and from major 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 working days lost 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 <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 (<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, 1947-2011**

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>
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
1964 .....	246	1,183	16,220	.11
1963 .....	181	512	10,020	.07
1962 .....	211	793	11,760	.08

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers, 1947-2011 — 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>
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 2011**

Organizations involved, location, and sector	Industry code <sup>1</sup>	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers <sup>2</sup>	Days idle
Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center Los Angeles, CA National Union of Healthcare Workers (Private Industry) .....	622110	3/2/11	3/2/11	1,000	1,000
Hawaiian Electric, Maui Electric & Hawaii Electric Light Company Hawaii International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1260 (Private Industry) .....	221112	3/4/11	3/7/11	1,300	2,600
Washington Hospital Center Washington, D.C. National Nurses United (Private Industry) .....	622110	3/4/11	3/8/11	1,100	3,300
National Football League Nationwide National Football League Players Association (Private Industry) .....	711211	3/12/11	7/25/11	1,900	178,600
Plumbing and Piping Industry Council Inc. dba Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors Association Tualatin, OR United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 290 (Private Industry) .....	238220	4/11/11	4/25/11	1,500	16,500
General Building Contractors Association, Philadelphia, PA & DE Area Metropolitan Regional Council of Carpenters of Philadelphia & Vicinity Council (Private Industry) .....	236220	5/4/11	5/12/11	3,000	21,000
Interior Finish Contractors Association Philadelphia, PA Area Metropolitan Regional Council of Carpenters of Philadelphia & Vicinity Council (Private Industry) .....	236220	5/4/11	5/12/11	2,500	17,500
Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center Los Angeles, CA National Union of Healthcare Workers (Private Industry) .....	622110	5/18/11	5/18/11	2,000	2,000
Mason Contractors Association St. Louis, MO Bricklayers Local 1 (Private Industry) .....	238140	6/1/11	7/20/11	1,000	35,000
Mechanical Contractors Association of Kansas City Kansas City, MO Pipefitters Local 533 (Private Industry) .....	238220	6/1/11	6/8/11	1,500	9,000
Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors' Association of Milwaukee Milwaukee, WI United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 601 (Private Industry) .....	238220	6/30/11	7/22/11	2,500	40,000

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 2. Work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers beginning in 2011 — Continued**

Organizations involved, location, and sector	Industry code <sup>1</sup>	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers <sup>2</sup>	Days idle
American Crystal Sugar Company MN, IA, ND Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers, Sugar Council (Private Industry) .....	311313	8/1/11	ongoing	1,300	136,500
Verizon Communications East Coast States Communications Workers of America & International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (Private Industry) .....	517110	8/7/11	8/20/11	45,000	450,000
Hyatt Hotels IL,CA, HI UNITE-HERE Locals 1,2,5,11 (Private Industry) .....	721110	9/8/11	9/14/11	3,000	15,000
City of Tacoma Tacoma, WA Tacoma Teachers Association (Local Government) .....	611110	9/13/11	9/22/11	1,900	15,200
Sutter Hospitals, Kaiser Permanente Hospitals, Children's Hospital and Research Center CA California Nurses Association/National Nurses United, National Union of Healthcare Workers & International Union of Operating Engineers Local 39 (Private Industry) .....	622110	9/22/11	9/22/11	29,000	29,000
Sutter Hospitals, Children's Hospital and Research Center CA California Nurses Association/National Nurses United (Private Industry) .....	622110	9/23/11	9/26/11	6,000	12,000
Cooper Tire and Rubber Company Findlay, Ohio United Steel Workers Local 207L (Private Industry) .....	326211	11/28/11	ongoing	1,000	24,000
Sutter Hospitals, Memorial Care Hospitals Los Angeles Area, San Francisco Bay Area, CA California Nurses Association/National Nurses United (Private Industry) .....	622110	12/22/11	12/23/11	6,000	12,000

<sup>1</sup> Industry code is from the 2007 NAICS (North American Industry Classification System).

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