

# News

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## MAJOR WORK STOPPAGES IN 2005

Major lockouts and strikes idled 99,600 workers with 1.7 million workdays of idleness in 2005, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Both measures declined from the prior year despite an increase in the number of work stoppage events.

The total number of lockouts and strikes increased to 22 in 2005. Comparable figures for 2004 were 17 stoppages, 170,700 workers idled and 3.3 million workdays of idleness. (See Tables 1 & 3 and Charts A-C and G-H). 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 span two different calendar years, only those days of idleness in calendar year 2005 are counted.

Of the 22 major work stoppages beginning in 2005, 17 were in private industry and 5 were in State and local governments. In private industry, the largest number of work stoppages occurring in one industry was six, in manufacturing. Of the eight work stoppages occurring in service providing industries, the majority were in plumbing and mechanical contractors, while one was in the airline industry and another in the telecommunications industry. In State and local governments, three work stoppages occurred at colleges and universities and two were in transportation.

### Changes to Major Work Stoppages News Release

There are two new tables (B and C) and five new charts (D through H) in this news release.

Table B shows the relative size of the major work stoppages that occurred in 2005. Table C shows a combination of the duration (Table A) and size (Table B) of the major work stoppages that occurred in 2005.

Charts D through F focus on the number of work stoppages in effect, by month, over the last five years. Chart D depicts the number of work stoppages; Chart E depicts the number of workers involved; and Chart F depicts the number of days of idleness.

Charts G and H focus on the number of work stoppages beginning in the referenced month, over the last five years. Chart G depicts the number of work stoppages and Chart H depicts the number of workers involved. See the note on page 12 for more information about the new charts.

The largest work stoppage in terms of idleness in 2005 was between Northwest Airlines and the Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association with 371,700 days idle. The second largest was the work stoppage between the Boeing Company and the International Association of Machinists, District 751, with 366,000 days idle. The third largest work stoppage in 2005 was a work stoppage that began in 2004 between Ormet and United Steel Workers of America locals 5724 & 5760 with 324,300 days idle in 2005. All three of these work stoppages were still ongoing at the beginning of 2006.

The average length of a work stoppage beginning in 2005 was 20 days. The longest work stoppage lasted 96 days and involved Asarco, Inc. and the United Steelworkers of America Locals 915, 5252, 88601 and 88602 and the International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers, Local 75. The second longest was the Northwest Airlines, Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association work stoppage that lasted 91 days. The longest work stoppage in effect during 2005 was between Ormet and the United Steel Workers of America, which lasted 251 days in 2005. This work stoppage began in 2004 and does not contribute to the average length of 20 days for a work stoppage beginning in 2005.

The largest work stoppage in terms of worker participation in 2005 involved the New York City Metropolitan Transit Authority and the Transit Workers Union, Local 100 and idled 35,000 employees. The second largest was the Boeing Company and the International Association of Machinist, District 751 where 18,300 workers were idled. The third largest involved the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority and the Transport Workers Union Local 234, United Transportation Union Local 1594 and idled 5,300 workers.

Table A. Duration of work stoppages beginning in 2005, 2004, and 2003

Duration	2005		2004		2003	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1-2 days	4	18	3	18	1	7
3-10 days	8	36	6	35	6	43
11-20 days	5	23	2	12	1	7
21-30 days	1	5	1	6	2	14
31-40 days	1	5	2	12	1	7
41-50 days	0	0	0	0	1	7
>50 days	3	14	3	18	2	14

Note: Percent totals may not add to 100 because of rounding. The 2003 and 2004 numbers represent the total duration of all work stoppages initiated during those respective years. The 2005 numbers represent work stoppages initiated in 2005; at the beginning of 2006, two work stoppages that were initiated in 2005 were still ongoing.

Table B. Number of work stoppages by the number of workers idled in 2005, 2004, and 2003

Number of workers idled	2005		2004		2003	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1,000 to 1,999	11	50	6	35	4	29
2,000 to 2,999	5	23	3	18	1	7
3,000 to 4,999	2	9	2	12	4	29
5,000 to 7,499	2	9	3	18	2	14
7,500 to 9,999	0	0	0	0	0	0
10,000 to 14,999	0	0	1	6	1	7
15,000 to 19,999	1	5	1	6	1	7
20,000 or more	1	5	1	6	1	7

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

Table C. Number of work stoppages by number of work days idled in 2005, 2004, and 2003

Number of days of idleness	2005		2004		2003	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1,000 to 4,999	3	14	0	0	0	0
5,000 to 9,999	4	18	4	24	2	14
10,000 to 14,999	1	5	1	6	2	14
15,000 to 19,999	4	18	1	6	0	0
20,000 to 29,999	2	9	2	12	3	21
30,000 to 49,999	2	9	1	6	3	21
50,000 to 74,999	1	5	2	12	0	0
75,000 to 99,999	1	5	1	6	0	0
100,000 to 199,999	2	9	2	12	3	21
200,000 to 299,999	0	0	2	12	0	0
300,000 or more	2	9	1	6	1	7

Note: Percent totals may not add to 100 because of rounding. The 2003 and 2004 numbers represent the number of work days idled of all work stoppages initiated during those respective years. The 2005 numbers represent work stoppages initiated in 2005; at the beginning of 2006, two work stoppages that were initiated in 2005 were still ongoing.

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, 1947-2005**

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>
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
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

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers, 1947-2005 — 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>
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.

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 regardless of when the work stoppage was initiated.

**Table 2. Work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers beginning in 2005**

Organizations involved and location <sup>1</sup>	Industry code <sup>2</sup>	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers <sup>3</sup>	Days idle
Lockheed Martin Corporation Marietta, GA Association of Machinists, Lodge 709 .....	336411	3/08/05	3/15/05	3,000	18,000
Cooper Tire Texarkana, AR United Steelworkers of America, Local 752 .....	326211	3/14/05	4/11/05	1,700	34,000
Elevator Manufacturers Association of New York New York, NY (Kone, Inc.; Otis Elevator Co.; Schindler Elevator Corp.) .....	333921	3/17/05	6/26/05	1,200	85,200
University of California Oakland, CA American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSME), Local 3299 .....	611310	4/14/05	4/15/05	7,000	7,000
University of California Oakland, CA Coalition of University Employees .....	611310	4/14/05	4/15/05	2,000	2,000
University of California Oakland, CA University Professional and Technical Employees .....	611310	4/14/05	4/15/05	2,000	2,000
Plumbing & Mechanical Contractors Association Chicago, IL United Association of Steamfitters, Local 601 .....	236200	4/14/05	5/02/05	1,800	23,400
Mechanical Contractors Association Philadelphia, PA United Association of Steamfitters, Local 420 .....	236200	5/01/05	5/04/05	2,700	8,100
Construction Employers Association Cleveland, OH Laborers International Union of North America .....	236200	5/02/05	5/11/05	2,100	16,800
NSTAR Baintree, MA Utility Workers Union of America, Local 369 .....	221110	5/15/05	6/01/05	1,900	22,800
Coca-Cola Southern CA & South Windsor, CT International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Locals 848, 896, 962, 986, 1035 .....	312111	5/23/05	6/03/05	1,900	17,100
Moving and Storage Companies New York City area, NY International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local 814 .....	484210	5/25/05	6/13/05	1,000	12,000

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 2. Work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers beginning in 2005 — Continued**

Organizations involved and location <sup>1</sup>	Industry code <sup>2</sup>	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers <sup>3</sup>	Days idle
Mechanical Contractors Association Pittsburgh, PA United Association of Steamfitters, Local 449 .....	236000	6/01/05	6/09/05	1,000	7,000
Mid-Michigan Mechanical Contractors Association Michigan United Association of Steamfitters, Local 333 .....	236000	6/01/05	6/03/05	1,000	3,000
Los Angeles Hotel Employers Council Los Angeles, CA UNITE HERE, Local 11 .....	721110	6/09/05	6/11/05	2,400	7,200
Asarco, Inc. Tucson, AZ United Steelworkers of America, Locals 915, 5252, 88601, 88602 .....	212231	6/30/05	11/15/05	1,400 <sup>4</sup>	134,100
Allied Building Metals Industries, Inc. International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental, and Reinforcing Iron Workers .....	236220	7/08/05	7/22/05	1,500	16,500
Northwest Airlines Corporation Eagan, MN Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association, Ind. ....	481111	8/20/05	( <sup>5</sup> )	4,100 <sup>6</sup>	371,700
The Boeing Company Puget Sound Area; Portland, OR; Wichita, KS International Association of Machinist, District 751 .....	336411	9/02/05	9/30/05	18,300	366,000
Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority Philadelphia, PA Transportation Workers Union, Local 234, United Transportation Union, Local 1594 ...	485111	10/31/05	11/07/05	5,300	31,800
The Boeing Company Huntington Beach, Torrance, Vandenberg and Edwards Air Force Bases, CA; Cape Canaveral, FL; Huntsville and Decatur, AL International Association of Machinist .....	336411	11/02/05	( <sup>5</sup> )	1,400 <sup>7</sup>	57,300
New York City Metropolitan Transit Authority New York, NY Transit Workers Union, Local 100 .....	485110	12/20/05	12/23/05	35,000	105,000

<sup>1</sup> Labor organizations are affiliated with the AFL-CIO except where noted as Independent (Ind.).

<sup>2</sup> Industry code is from the 2002 NAICS (North American Industry Classification System).

<sup>3</sup> BLS rounds figures to the nearest 100. Companies and unions may have rounded the figures before providing them to BLS.

<sup>4</sup> Number of workers idled was 1,100 until August 1, 2005, when it increased to 1,500.

<sup>5</sup> This work stoppage was still active as of December 31, 2005. All data presented are for the 2005 calendar year.

<sup>6</sup> Number of workers idled was 4,200 until December 1, 2005, when it decreased to 3,000.

<sup>7</sup> Number of workers idled was 1,500 until December 1, 2005, when it decreased to 1,300.



**Table 3. Work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers, detailed monthly data, 2003 - 2005**

Period	Number of work stoppages beginning in period	Number of work stoppages in effect during the month	Numbers of workers involved (thousands) includes ongoing work stoppages	Days idle (thousands) includes ongoing work stoppages
2005 .....	22	( <sup>1</sup> )	161	1736
January .....	0	2	3	50
February .....	0	2	3	49
March .....	3	5	9	98
April .....	4	7	17	95
May .....	5	8	14	116
June .....	4	9	13	84
July .....	1	3	4	65
August .....	1	3	7	98
September .....	1	4	25	513
October .....	1	4	12	145
November .....	1	5	14	182
December .....	1	4	42	242
2004 .....	17	( <sup>1</sup> )	320	3340
January .....	0	1	61	1204
February .....	1	2	67	1147
March .....	1	1	2	44
April .....	0	1	2	26
May .....	2	2	103	204
June .....	3	4	29	94
July .....	0	1	2	3
August .....	2	2	4	53
September .....	2	3	7	57
October .....	1	3	16	300
November .....	2	4	17	115
December .....	3	4	11	98
2003 .....	14	( <sup>1</sup> )	277	4091
January .....	1	2	19	49
February .....	0	0	0	0
March .....	2	2	4	19
April .....	1	1	4	40
May .....	1	1	1	8
June .....	1	1	4	16
July .....	0	1	4	12
August .....	3	3	8	36
September .....	0	2	3	51
October .....	5	5	82	1169
November .....	0	3	77	1219
December .....	0	2	71	1473

<sup>1</sup> Not applicable

Chart A. Number of major work stoppages, 1947-2005

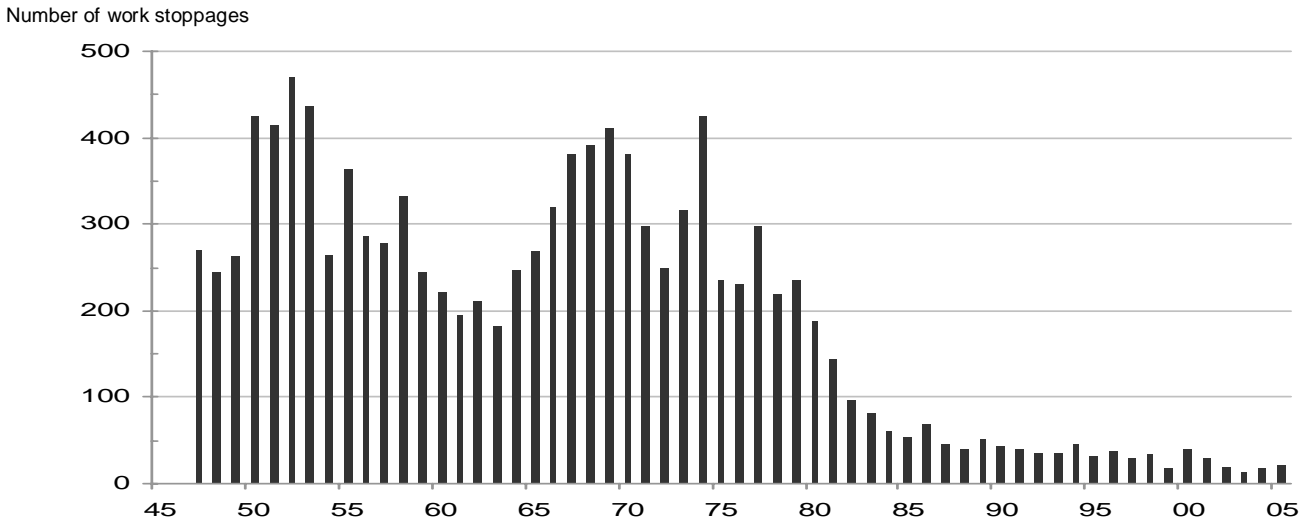


Chart B. Number of workers involved in major work stoppages, 1947-2005

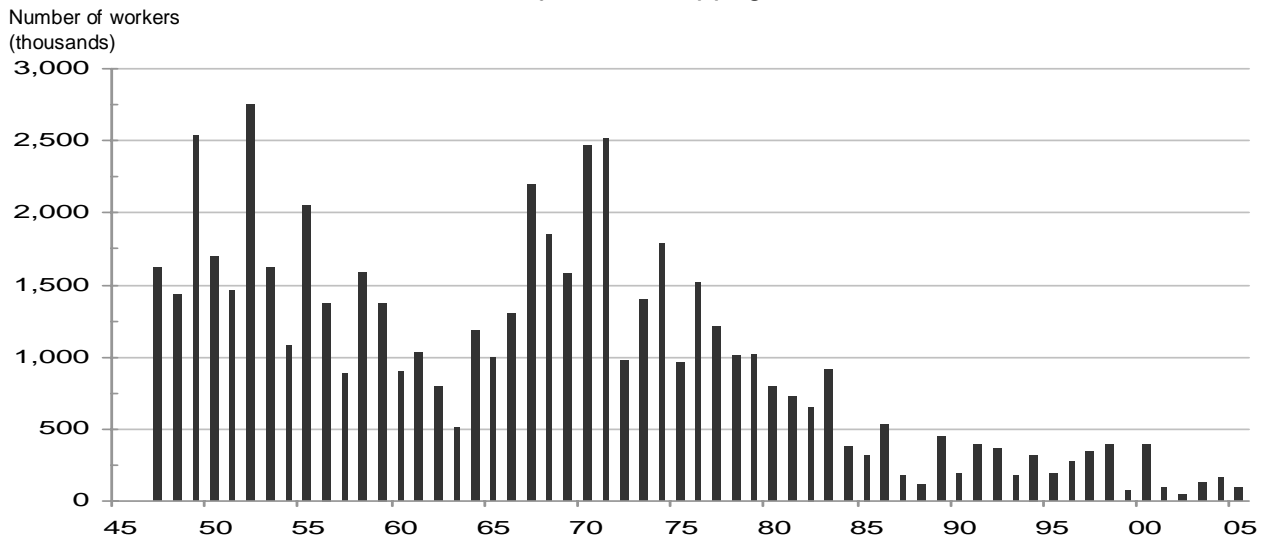


Chart C. Number of days of idleness from major work stoppages, 1947-2005

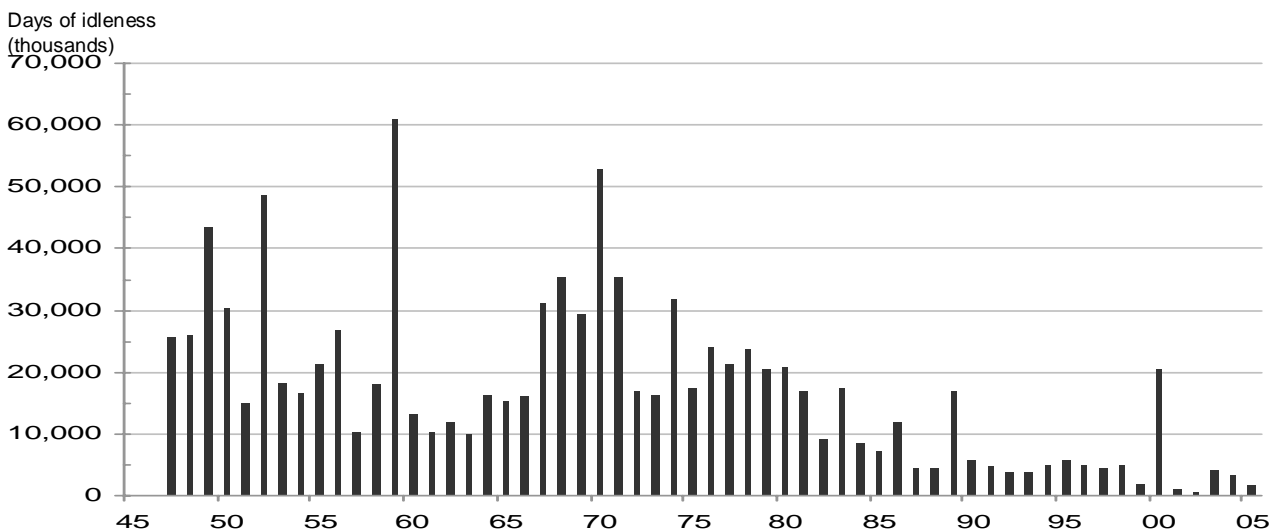


Chart D. Number of major work stoppages in effect, by month, 2001-2005

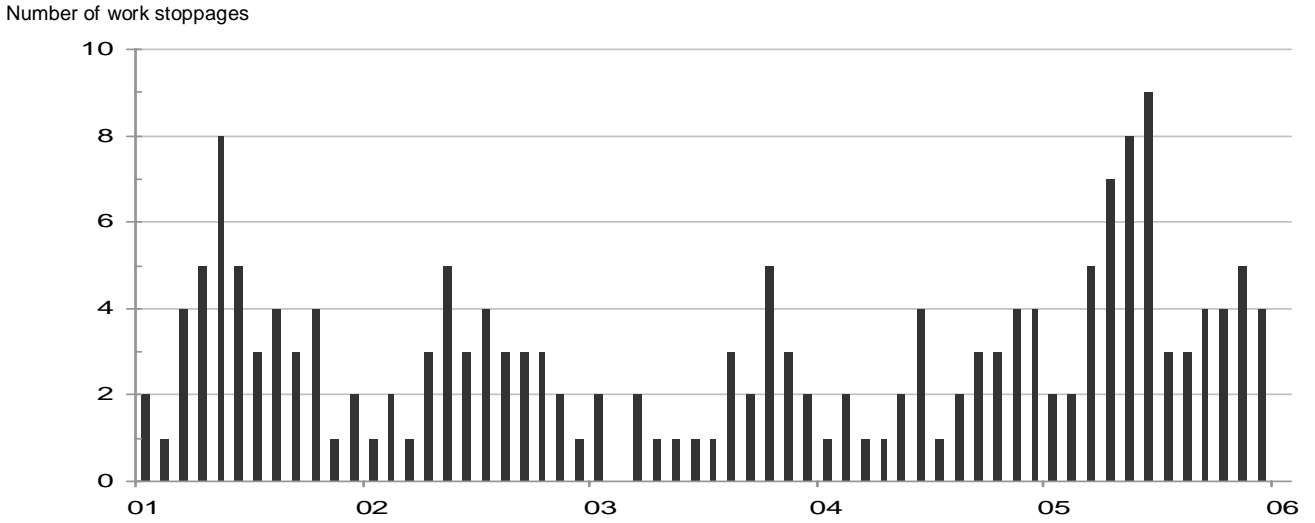


Chart E. Number of workers involved in major work stoppages in effect, by month, 2001-2005

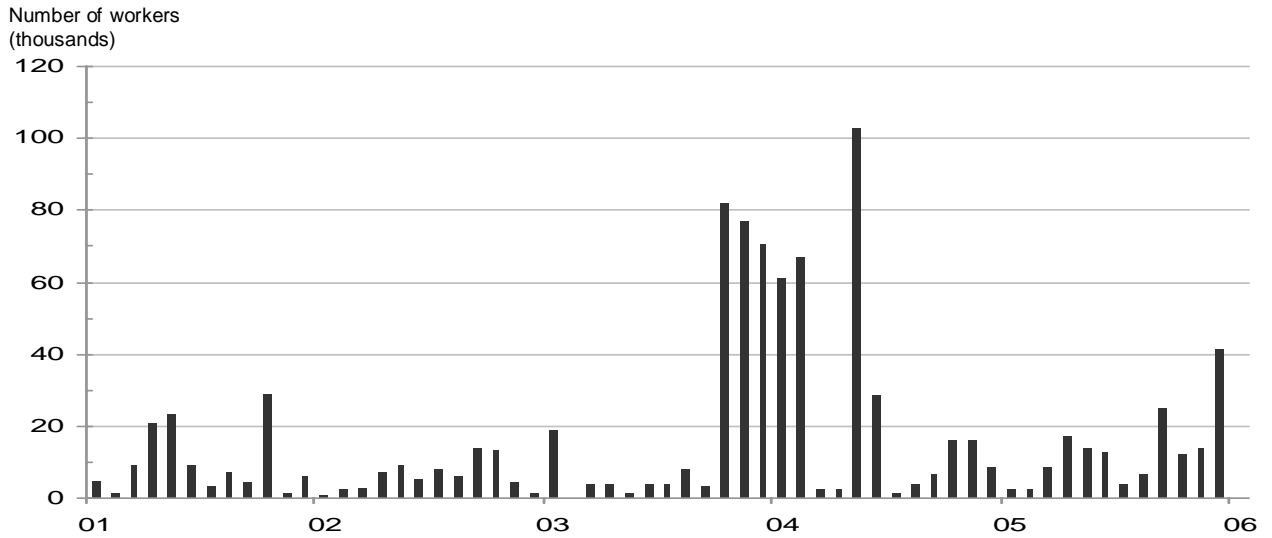


Chart F. Number of days of idleness from major work stoppages in effect, by month, 2001-2005

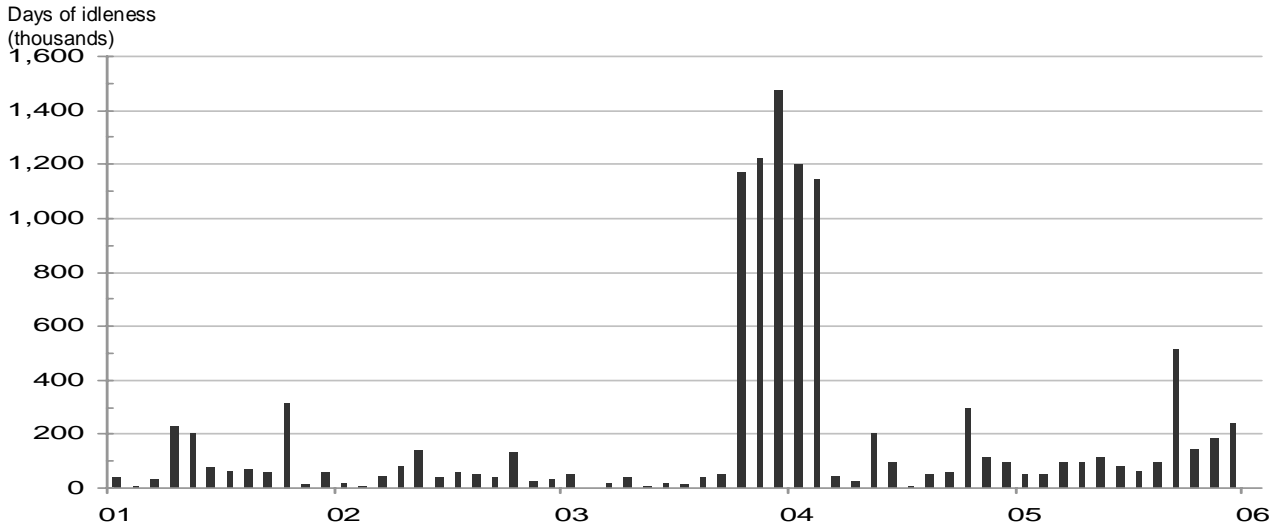


Chart G. Number of major work stoppages beginning, by month, 2001-2005

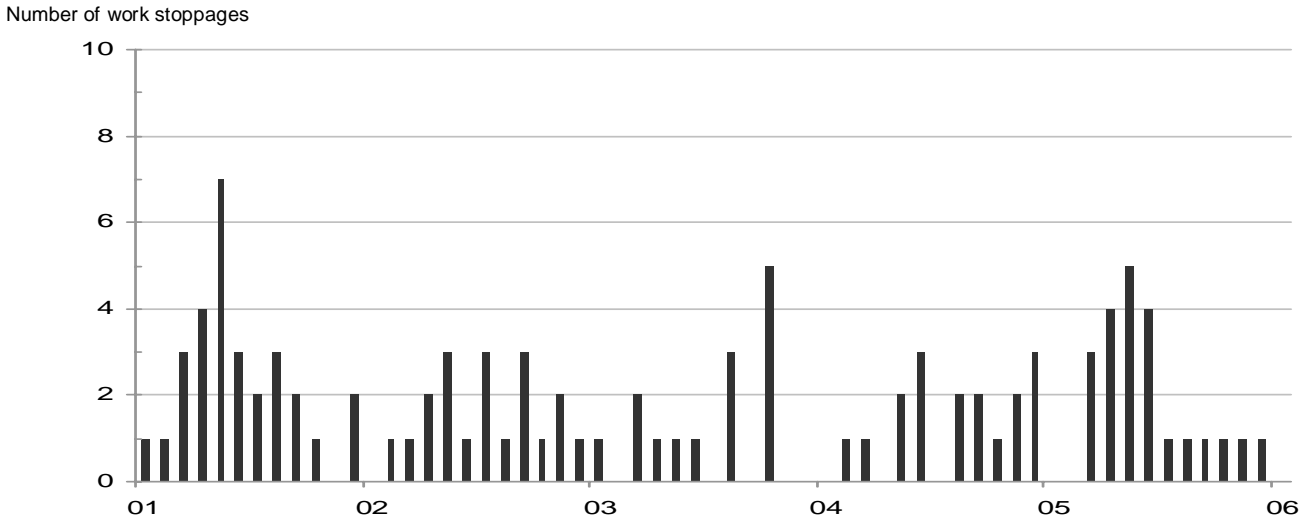
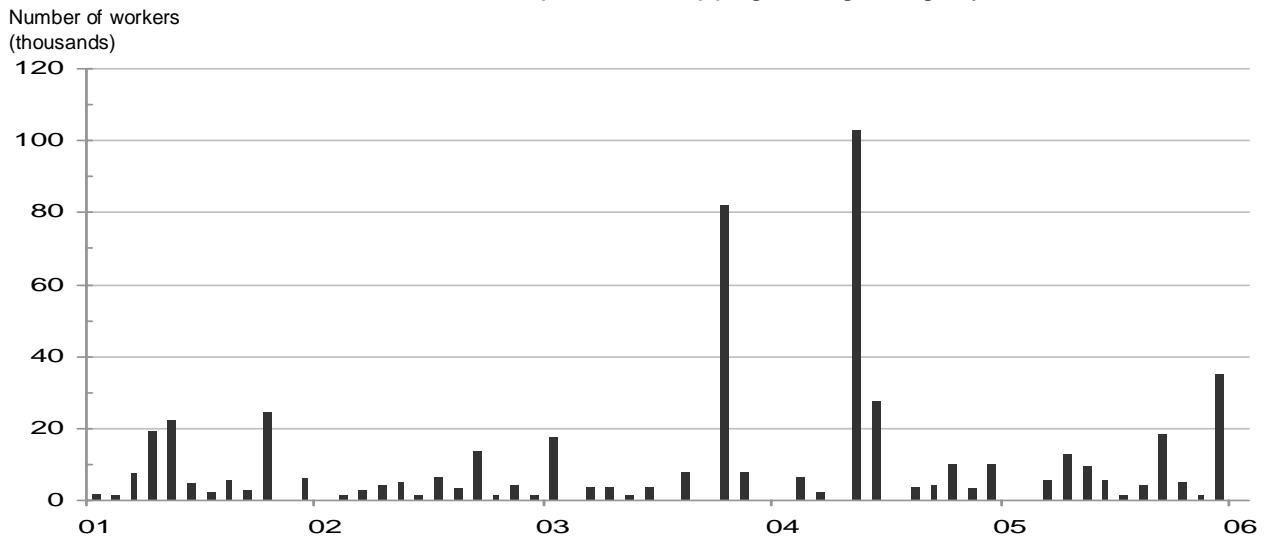


Chart H. Number of workers involved in major work stoppages beginning, by month, 2001-2005



A note about Charts D-H. The term “major work stoppages beginning” refers to work stoppages that are initiated during the reference period, while the term “major work stoppages in effect” refers to all work stoppages that are active during the reference period. For example, if a work stoppage began in January 2005 and ended in March 2005, that work stoppage would be listed once in the “major work stoppages beginning” charts (Charts G & H). This work stoppage would also be listed for the months of January 2005, February 2005, and March 2005 in the “major work stoppages in effect” charts (Charts D, E, & F) because the work stoppage was active during 3 different months. In all cases, the “major work stoppages in effect” will be equal to or greater than the “number of work stoppages beginning”.