



Information: (202) 691-6275 workstoppagesinfo@bls.gov
Media Contact: (202) 691-5902
Internet Address: <http://www.bls.gov/wsp>

USDL 09-0150
For Release: 10:00 A.M. EST
Wednesday, February 11, 2009

MAJOR WORK STOPPAGES IN 2008

Major work stoppages idled 72,000 workers for nearly two million workdays in 2008, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. In 2008, the number of workers idled declined by more than half compared with 2007 when there were 189,000 workers idled for 1.3 million workdays. In 2008, the largest work stoppage in total days idle and number of workers was between the Boeing Company and the International Association of Machinists Districts 24, 70, and 751 with 27,000 workers accounting for 1,053,000 lost workdays.

In 2008, there were 15 major lockouts and strikes involving 1,000 or more workers compared with 21 major work stoppages in 2007. (See table 1 and charts A-F) Of the 15 major work stoppages beginning in 2008, 12 were in private industry and three were in State and local government. In private industry, seven work stoppages occurred in goods-producing industries along with five in service-producing industries. All three major work stoppages in State and local government were in educational services.

The longest work stoppage that began in 2008 was between American Axle & Manufacturing, Incorporated and the United Auto Workers International Union Locals 235, 262, 424, 846, and 2093, which was 63 days. Another long stoppage, between the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers and the Writers Guild of America West and East, was in effect in 2008 (having begun in November of 2007 and ending in February 2008) and lasted 68 days. The mean length of a major work stoppage in 2008 was 14.9 days, up from 10.5 days in 2007. However, the majority of work stoppages in 2008 were shorter with nine lasting 10 days or less (See table A).

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 full shift. For work stoppages that began prior to 2008, only days of idleness in calendar year 2008 are counted.

Table A. Duration of work stoppages beginning in 2008, 2007, and 2006

Duration	2008		2007		2006	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1-2 days	4	27	6	29	5	25
3-10 days	5	33	6	29	6	30
11-30 days	3	20	7	33	6	30
31-50 days	2	13	2	10	1	5
>50 days	1	7	0	0	2	10

Note: Percent totals may not add to 100 because of rounding. The annual numbers represent the total duration of all work stoppages initiated during each calendar year.

Table B. Number of work stoppages by the number of workers idled in 2008, 2007, and 2006

Number of workers idled	2008		2007		2006	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1,000 to 1,999	5	33	8	38	10	50
2,000 to 2,999	4	27	2	10	2	10
3,000 to 4,999	2	13	4	19	3	15
5,000 to 7,499	2	13	3	14	2	10
7,500 to 9,999	1	7	0	0	2	10
10,000 to 19,999	0	0	1	5	1	5
20,000 or more	1	7	3	14	0	0

Table C. Number of work stoppages by number of work days idled in 2008, 2007, and 2006

Number of days of idleness	2008		2007		2006	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1,000 to 4,999	2	13	2	10	2	10
5,000 to 9,999	3	20	3	14	5	25
10,000 to 14,999	2	13	3	14	2	10
15,000 to 19,999	0	0	3	14	2	10
20,000 to 29,999	1	7	1	5	2	10
30,000 to 49,999	2	13	4	19	2	10
50,000 to 99,999	3	20	1	5	1	5
100,000 to 299,999	1	7	3	14	2	10
300,000 or more	1	7	1	5	2	10

Note: The annual numbers represent the number of work days idled of all work stoppages initiated during each calendar year.

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 lockout and multiplying it 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. For more information on work stoppage definitions and methods, please see <http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch8.pdf>.

For detailed monthly and annual work stoppage statistics, please see <http://www.bls.gov/wsp>.

Table 1. Work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers, 1947-2008

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
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
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

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers, 1947-2008 — 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
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 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.

Table 2. Work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers beginning in 2008

Organizations involved, location, and industry type	Industry code ¹	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers ²	Days idle
Volvo Trucks North America Dublin, VA, United Auto Workers International Union Local 2069 Private Industry	336120	2/01/08	3/17/08	2,500	77,500
American Axle & Manufacturing, Inc. Cheektowaga, Tonawanda, NY, Detroit, Hamtramck, Three Rivers, MI, United Auto Workers International Union Locals 235, 262, 424, 846, 2093 Private Industry	336350	2/26/08	5/22/08	3,600	226,800
Sutter Hospitals San Francisco Bay Area, CA, California Nurses Association Private Industry	622110	3/21/08	3/30/08	4,000	24,000
University of Michigan Ann Arbor, MI, Graduate Employees Organizations State Government	611310	3/25/08	3/25/08	1,700	1,700
General Motors Corporation Lansing, MI, United Auto Workers International Union Local 602 Private Industry	336111	4/17/08	5/16/08	2,300	50,600
General Motors Corporation Kansas City, MO, United Auto Workers International Union Local 31 Private Industry	336111	5/05/08	5/21/08	2,400	31,200
Bay Area Maintenance Contractors San Francisco Bay Area, CA, Service Employees International Union Local 1877 Private Industry	561720	5/19/08	5/28/08	1,800	12,600
Indiana Construction Association Indiana, Laborers International Union of North America Private Industry	236220	6/04/08	6/05/08	2,900	5,800
Performance Transportation Services AZ, CA, DE, IL, IN, KY, MA, MI, MN, NJ, NM, NY, OH, PA, TX, UT, International Brotherhood of Teamsters Private Industry	484121	6/09/08	6/13/08	1,300	6,500
University of California California (Statewide), American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 3299 State Government	611310	7/14/08	7/18/08	8,500	42,500

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers beginning in 2008 — Continued

Organizations involved, location, and industry type	Industry code ¹	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers ²	Days idle
Hawker Beechcraft, Inc. Wichita, Salina, KS, International Association of Machinists Local 733 and 2328 Private Industry	336411	8/04/08	8/28/08	5,200	98,800
Daughters of Charity Health System California, Service Employees International Union / United Health Care Workers West Private Industry	622110	8/28/08	8/29/08	1,800	1,800
Bellevue School District Washington, Bellevue Education Association Local Government	611110	9/02/08	9/12/08	1,200	10,800
The Boeing Company Puget Sound Area, WA, Gresham, OR, Wichita, KS, Edwards Air Force Base, CA, International Association of Machinists Districts 24, 70, 751 Private Industry	336411	9/06/08	11/01/08	27,000	1,053,000
Sutter Hospitals, Daughters of Charity and Alliance Clinic San Francisco Bay Area, CA, Service Employees International Union United Health Care Workers West Private Industry	622110	10/29/08	10/29/08	6,000	6,000

¹ Industry code is from the 2007 NAICS (North American Industry Classification System).

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

Chart A. Number of major work stoppages in effect, by month, 2004-2008

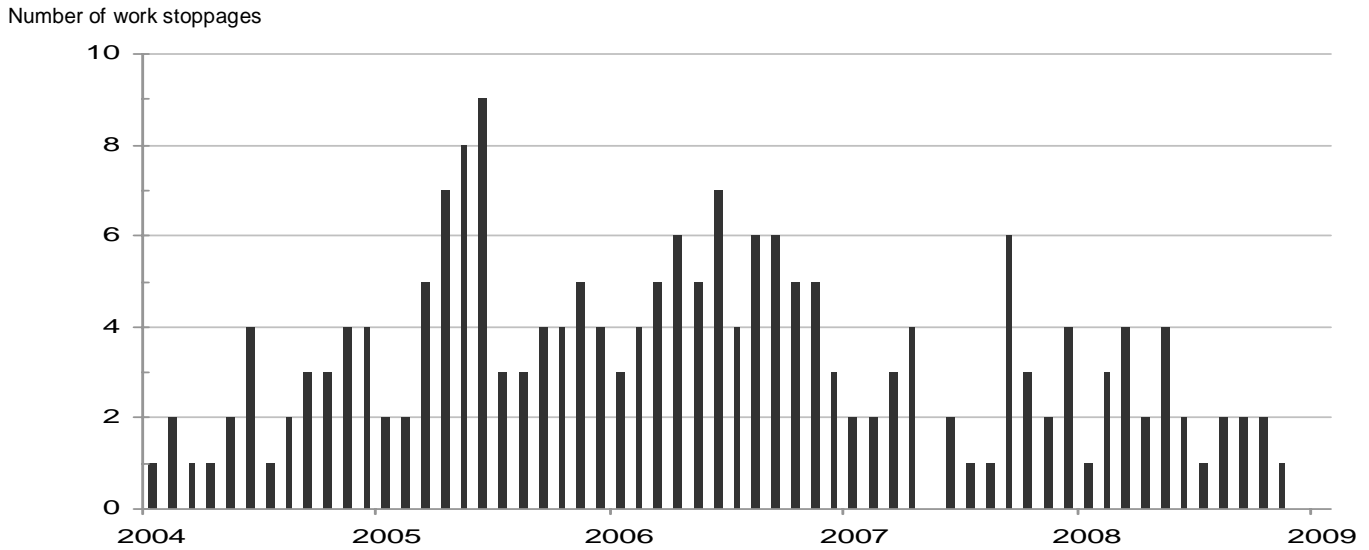


Chart B. Number of workers involved in major work stoppages in effect, by month, 2004-2008

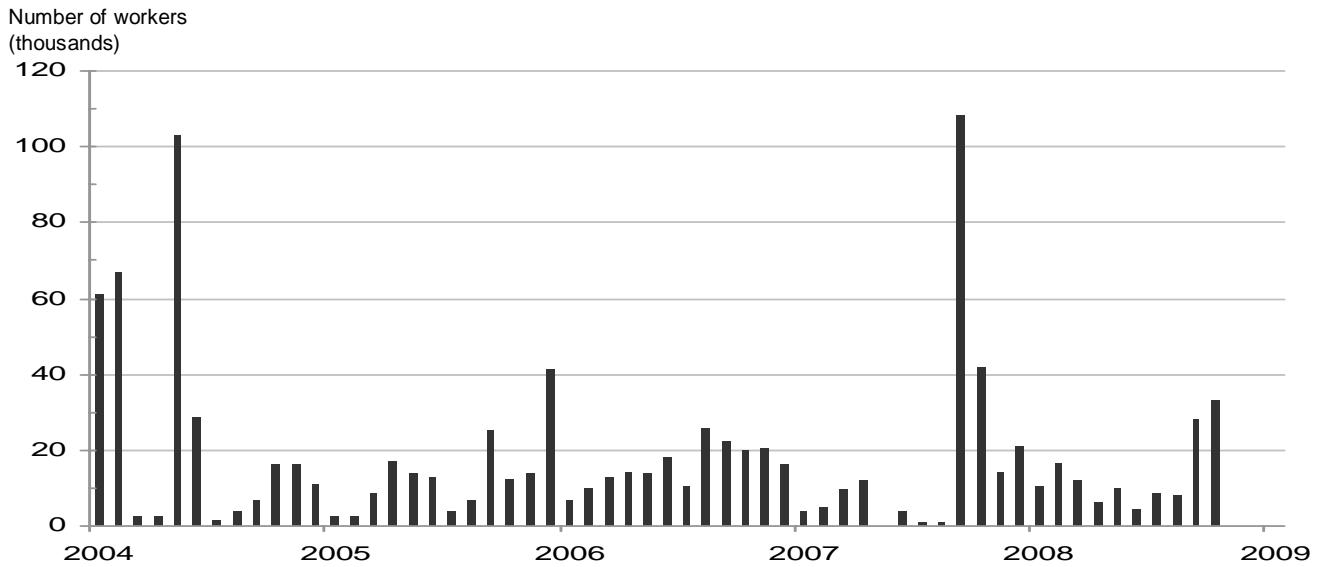


Chart C. Number of days of idleness from major work stoppages in effect, by month, 2004-2008

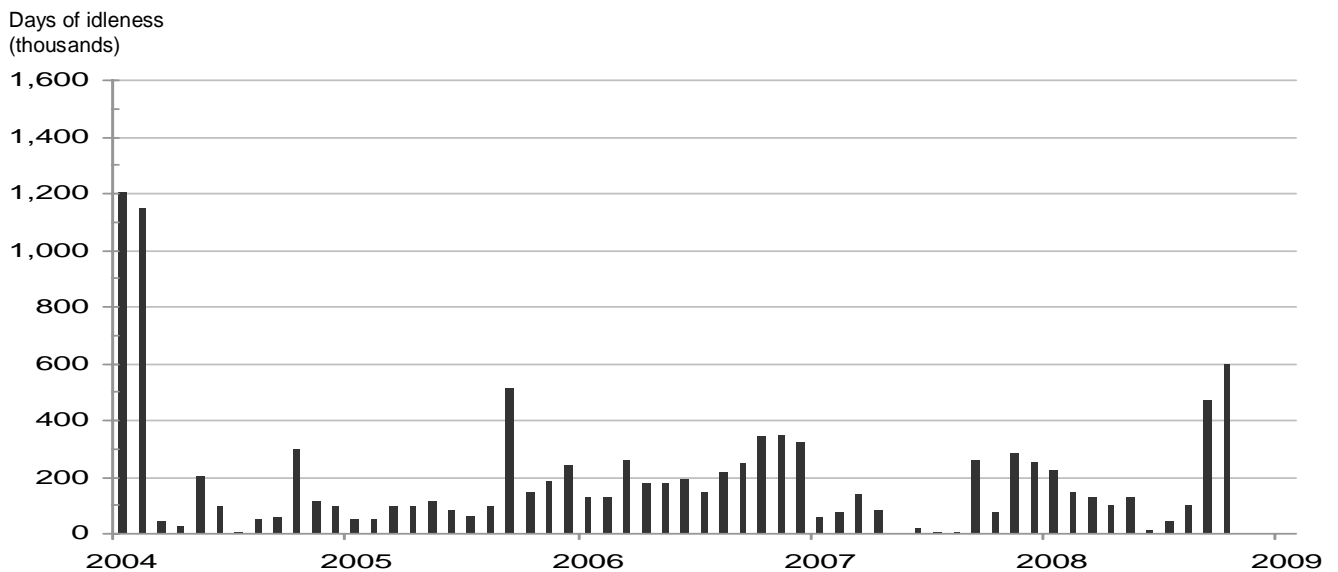


Chart D. Number of major work stoppages beginning in period, 1947-2008

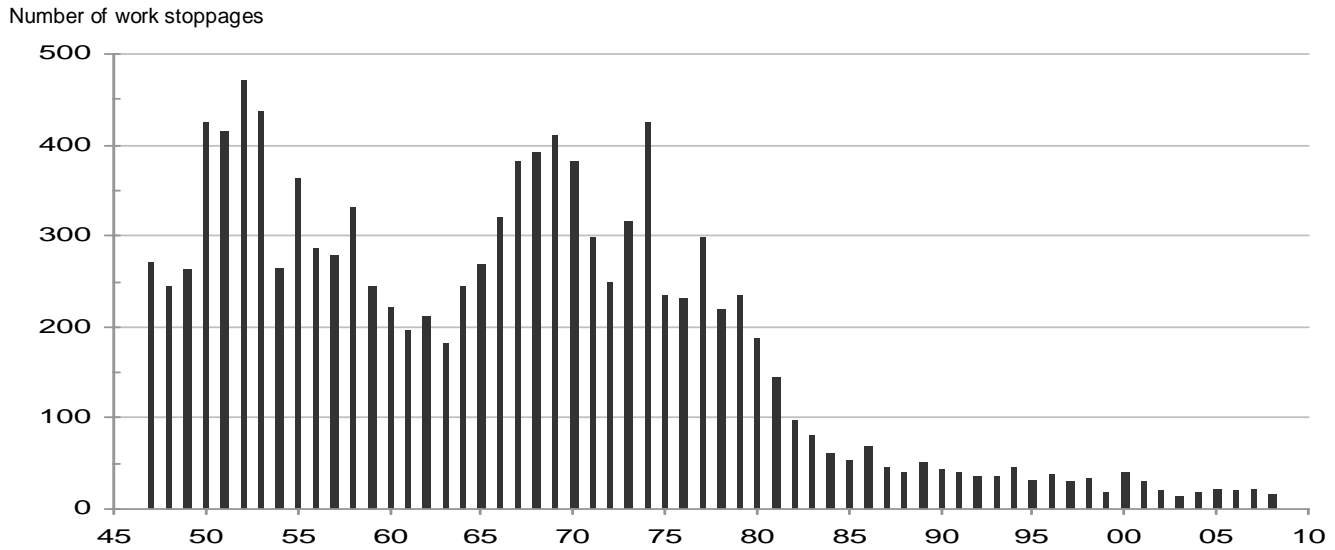


Chart E. Number of workers involved in major work stoppages beginning in period, 1947-2008

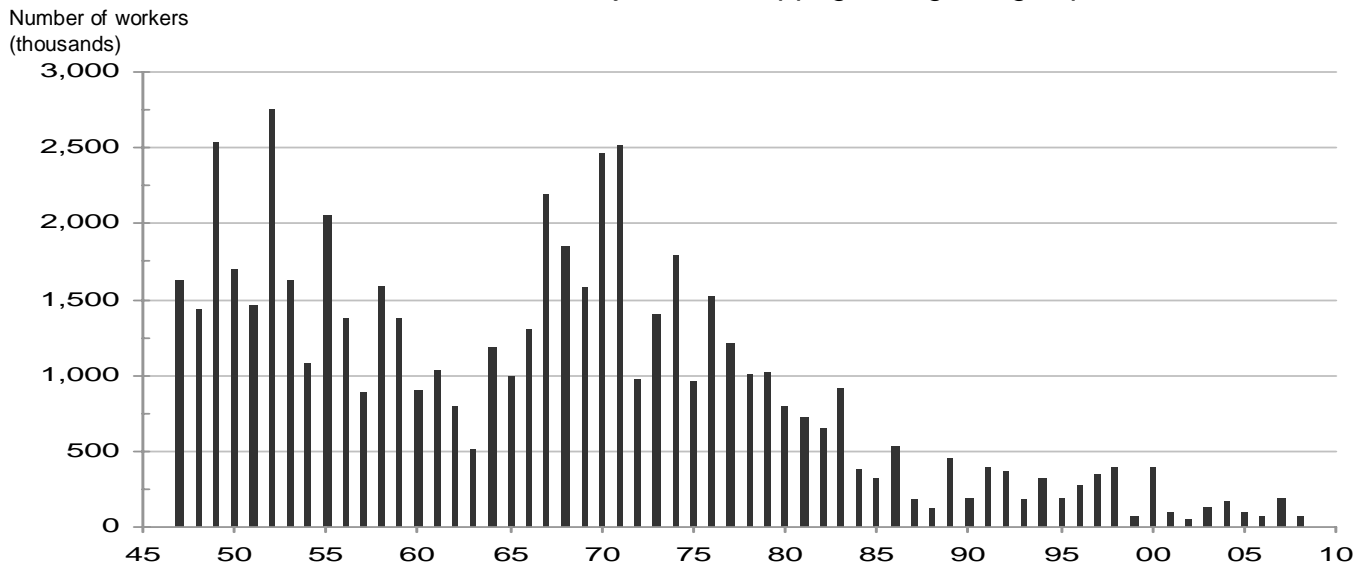


Chart F. Number of days of idleness from major work stoppages beginning in period, 1947-2008

