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## MAJOR WORK STOPPAGES IN 2012

In 2012, 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 beginning in 2012 equaled the total from 2011. Major work stoppages beginning in 2012 idled 148,000 workers, higher than 2011 with 113,000 idled workers. In 2012, there were 1.13 million days idle from major work stoppages in effect, also higher than 2011 with 1.02 million days idle. (See charts 1 and 2, and table 1.) Over 40 percent (8 of 19) of major work stoppages beginning in 2012 occurred in November and December. (See table 2.)

Chart 1. Annual major work stoppages, 2005-2012

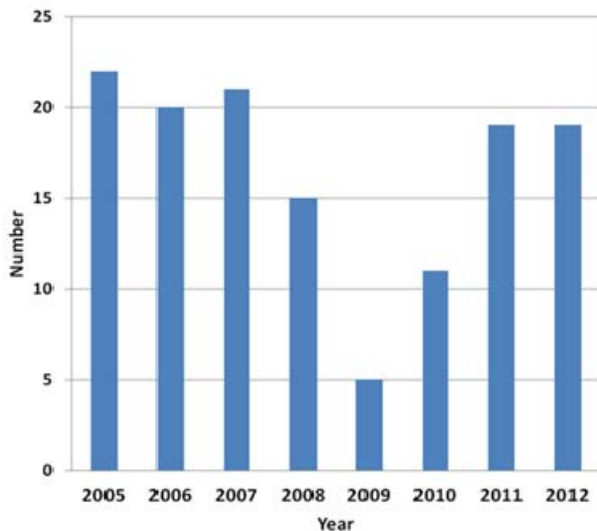
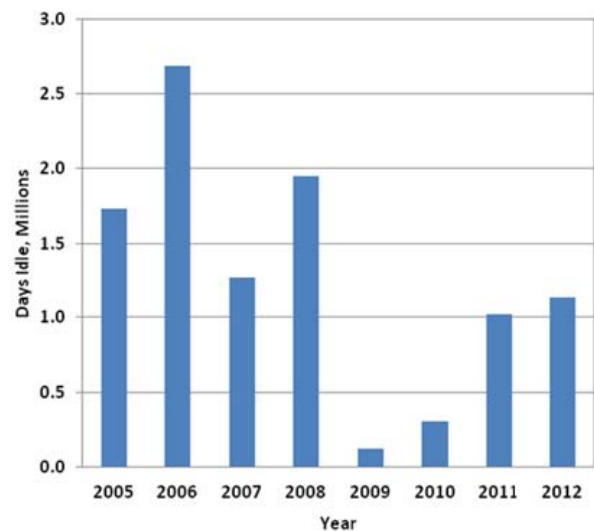


Chart 2. Annual days idle from major work stoppages, 2005-2012, in millions



The largest work stoppage beginning in 2012 in terms of number of workers and total days idle was between the Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Teachers Union, with 26,500 workers accounting for 185,500 days idle. The longest work stoppage beginning in 2012 was between Lockheed Martin Corporation and the International Association of Machinists, Local 776, with 3,600 workers accounting for 172,800 days idle. (See table 2.) The Lockheed Martin Corporation work stoppage lasted 48 workdays.

The major work stoppage between the American Crystal Sugar Company and the Bakery, Confectionary, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers, Sugar Council resulted in a total of 308,100 days idle in 2012, and nearly 445,000 cumulative days idle since beginning on August 1, 2011. The number of workers involved in the work stoppage fell below 1,000 workers in December 2012 and will no longer be counted in major work stoppage estimates.

## 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 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 lost workdays 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, 1947-2012**

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>
2012 .....	19	148	1,131	( <sup>4</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

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers, 1947-2012 — 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>
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	( <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 2012**

Organizations involved, location, and sector	Industry code <sup>1</sup>	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers <sup>2</sup>	Days idle
Kaiser Permanente Hospitals CA, Statewide California Nurses Association National Union of Healthcare Workers International Union of Operating Engineers Local 39 Stationary Engineers (Private Industry) .....	622110	1/31/12	1/31/12	21,000	21,000
Riverside County Regional Medical Center Riverside, CA Service Employees International Union Local 721 (Local Government) .....	622110	1/31/12	1/31/12	5,600	5,600
Rockford School District 205 Rockford, IL Rockford Education Association (Local Government) .....	611110	3/29/12	3/30/12	1,900	3,800
Lockheed Martin Corporation Fort Worth, TX International Association of Machinists Local 776 (Private Industry) .....	336411	4/23/12	6/28/12	3,600	172,800
Sutter Health Hospitals San Francisco Bay Area, CA California Nurses Association (Private Industry) .....	622110	5/1/12	5/5/12	4,500	18,000
AT&T, Inc. CA and NV Communications Workers of America (Private Industry) .....	517110	6/8/12	6/8/12	14,000	14,000
Sutter Health Hospitals San Francisco Bay Area, CA California Nurses Association (Private Industry) .....	622110	6/13/12	6/17/12	4,500	13,500
Consolidated Edison New York City and Westchester County, NY Utility Workers of America Local 1-2 (Private Industry) .....	221122	7/1/12	7/26/12	8,000	144,000
Sutter Health Hospitals Alameda and San Mateo Counties, CA California Nurses Association (Private Industry) .....	622110	7/3/12	7/7/12	3,700	11,100
AT&T, Inc. CA, CT and NV Communications Workers of America (Private Industry) .....	517110	8/7/12	8/8/12	21,200	42,400
City of Chicago Public School District 299 Chicago, IL Chicago Teachers Union (Local Government) .....	611110	9/10/12	9/18/12	26,500	185,500

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 2. Work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers beginning in 2012 — Continued**

Organizations involved, location, and sector	Industry code <sup>1</sup>	Beginning date	Ending date	Number of workers <sup>2</sup>	Days idle
Sutter Health Hospitals San Francisco Bay Area, CA California Nurses Association (Private Industry) .....	622110	11/1/12	11/5/12	3,300	9,900
Raley's, Nob Hill Stores Northern CA and Northern NV United Food and Commercial Workers Union (Private Industry) .....	445110	11/4/12	11/13/12	7,400	44,400
Hostess Brands Nationwide Bakery, Confectionary, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union (Private Industry) .....	311812	11/9/12	11/21/12	5,000	40,000
Sutter Health Hospitals and Hospital Corporation of America San Francisco Bay Area, CA California Nurses Association (Private Industry) .....	622110	11/20/12	11/24/12	5,000	15,000
Pacific Maritime Association Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, CA International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 63A Office Clerical Unit (Private Industry) .....	488310	11/27/12	12/4/12	5,500	33,000
Community Unit School District 300 Carpentersville, IL Area Local Education Association of District 300 (Local Government) .....	611110	12/4/12	12/4/12	1,300	1,300
Goodman Manufacturing Company Fayetteville, TN International Association of Machinists Local Lodge 2385 (Private Industry) .....	333415	12/9/12	12/13/12	1,100	4,400
Sutter Health Hospitals and Hospital Corporation of America San Francisco Bay Area, CA California Nurses Association (Private Industry) .....	622110	12/24/12	12/24/12	5,000	5,000

<sup>1</sup> Industry code is from the 2012 NAICS (North American Industry Classification System).

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