

Industrial disputes

INTRODUCTION

Strikes are one manifestation of industrial conflict. The ILO's International Conference of Labour Statisticians defines strikes as a temporary work stoppage or closure of a workplace resulting from the initiative of one or more groups of workers or employers to enforce or resist demands and express grievances, or to support other workers or employers in their demands or grievances. The most comprehensive indicator of industrial conflicts is the proportion of the hours of work that is lost because of strikes, but this is available only in a few countries. Therefore, the main indicator used here is the ratio between the number of working days lost because of strikes and that of all employees.

International comparability of data on strikes is affected by differences in definitions and measurement. Many countries exclude from their official records small work stoppages, and use different thresholds relating to the number of workers involved and/or the number of days lost. Strikes statistics in some countries may also exclude stoppages in particular industries, such as the public sector (as in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Latvia, Portugal and Turkey) or of a particular type, such as political and unauthorised strikes (as in Chile, Costa Rica, Estonia, Hungary, Israel, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States). Conversely, some countries may include workers indirectly involved (i.e. those who are unable to work because others at their workplace are on strike) as in Costa Rica, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, the Slovak Republic, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States or work stoppages caused by the shortage of materials supplied by firms involved in strike. In general, forms of industrial action that do not involve full-work stoppages, such as "go-slows", silent and other protests on the workplace are not included.

DISCLAIMER

Information for Israel are supplied by and under the responsibility of the relevant Israeli authorities. The use of such data by the OECD is without prejudice to the status of the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem and Israeli settlements in the West Bank under the terms of international law.

Trends in industrial disputes

Annual averages of work days lost per 1 000 salaried employees

	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
OECD countries											
Australia	223	207	79	61	26	13	24	27	13	7	8
Austria	8	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	0
Belgium	45	34	33	77	187	..	..	..	..	196	54
Canada	313	451	141	133	305	84	93	61	100	114	119
Chile	..	78	96	29	23	64	47	44	71	76	55
Czech Republic	..	..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Denmark	1048	41	84	51	20	8	6	4	380	7	4
Estonia	..	..	..	0	0	0	0	46	0	0	0
Finland	84	444	493	126	322	..	60	8	12	19	52
France	727	528	784	581	164	318	77	60	79	81	..
Germany	2	14	8	0	1	1	2	3	4	4	31
Greece	620	12056	219	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hungary	..	..	73	46	0	5	..	0	..	..	..
Iceland	866	2	1889	367	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ireland	501	258	132	71	17	4	2	6	10	28	20
Israel	478	841	143	972	104	61	195	158	17	33	53
Italy	266	342	65	59	56	..	..	..	..	..	..
Japan	6	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	..	..
Korea	8	410	30	142	56	30	25	53	35	35	23
Latvia	..	..	..	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	28
Mexico ^a	..	24	8	35	9	2	2	3	2	..	..
Netherlands	20	38	117	1	6	8	3	31	3	6	..
New Zealand	..	269	40	8	18	3	3	43	0	1	..
Norway	38	79	27	239	5	217	0	150	5	61	10
Poland	..	13	5	7	0	1	2	1	1	0	9
Portugal	100	45	20	11	7	19	17	32	22	7	5
Slovak Republic	..	..	..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Slovenia	..	..	..	9	46	..	..	15	..	..	..
Spain	428	275	157	294	61	43	32	90	79	44	37
Sweden	126	189	177	0	0	7	0	9	2	..	..
Switzerland	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	3
Turkey ^b	32	644	585	38	16	3	1	2	19	23	7
United Kingdom	304	84	19	21	9	15	55	10	17	31	6
United States	73	55	51	161	13	2	8	9	2	1	5
Non-OECD countries											
Costa Rica ^c	..	12225	3036	..	5	59	31	44	67	1412	6
Lithuania	..	..	..	9	1	0	0	3	0	1	2

..: not available.

a) The statistics concern strikes at establishments and enterprises covered by federal jurisdiction. As a result, strikes at enterprises under local jurisdiction are not included.

b) See Annex Table below for a list of economic activity or sectors that are excluded.

c) Strikes in 2014 taking place mainly in the Ministry of Education and involving 75 000 workers during 29 days.

Source: ILOSTAT and national statistical offices for working days not worked and OECD Annual Labour Force Statistics Database and national statistical offices for total number of employees.

Industrial disputes: source and definition

Country	Strikes	Lockouts	Minimum criteria for inclusions in statistics	Exclusions	Are political stoppages included?	Are indirectly affected workers included?	Sources and notes
Australia	Yes	Yes	Ten workdays not worked.	No	Yes	No	The statistics are collected, compiled and published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.
Austria	Yes	No	No restrictions on size.	Public sector	Yes	No	The statistics are collected by the craft unions and are compiled and published by Österreichischer Gewerkschaftsbund (ÖGB) (Austrian trade union federation).
Belgium	Yes	Yes	No restrictions on size; excluding public sector stoppages.	Public sector	Yes	No	Institut national de statistique.
Canada	Yes	Yes	Data gathered covers strikes and lockouts which amount to 10 or more person days lost.	No	Yes	No	The statistics are collected, compiled and published by Labour Program, ESDC.
Chile	Yes	Yes	Duration of at least two hours.	No	No	No	The statistics are collected, compiled and published by the Dirección del Trabajo.
Costa Rica	Yes	Yes	Duration of two hours and at least three workers involved.	No	No	Yes	The statistics are collected, compiled and published by the Departamento de Relaciones de Trabajo, Registro Diario.
Czech Republic	Yes	Yes	None	Armed forces	Yes	Yes	District statistical offices.
Denmark	Yes	Yes	100 workdays not worked.	No	Yes	Yes	Voluntary reports submitted annually by EO.
Estonia	Yes	Yes	..	No	No	Yes	The data are collected on the base of information got from National Conciliator when the labour dispute arise and published by Statistics Estonia.
Finland	Yes	Yes	Duration of at least one hour.	No	Yes	Yes	The statistics are collected and compiled by employers' associations and by the Tilastokeskus (Central Statistical Office - CSO), and published by the CSO.
France	Yes	No	The product of the duration and the number of workers involved should be at least one workday.	Agriculture and the Civil Service are not covered (also transports in 1996-2004 and firms with 1 to 9 employees since 2005).	Yes	Yes	The statistics are collected by the Sections de l'inspection du travail. They are compiled by the Direction départementale du travail, the Direction régionale du travail and the Administration centrale of the Ministère du Travail (Section des études et de la statistique). This latter organisation is also responsible for publishing the data.

Industrial disputes: source and definition (Cont.)

Country	Strikes	Lockouts	Minimum criteria for inclusions in statistics	Exclusions	Are political stoppages included?	Are indirectly affected workers included?	Sources and notes
Germany	Yes	Yes	Data are recorded for all strikes and lockouts. However, because of the difficulty of recording adequately figures on minor strikes, published data concern strikes involving at least 10 workers and lasting at least one day in the establishment (betrieb) involved, or in which at least 100 working days are not worked in the establishment.	The civil service is not covered by the statistics.	Yes	No	The statistics are collected by the local employment offices, compiled by the main office of the Federal Employment Institution (Bundesagentur für Arbeit) and published by the Federal Statistical Office (Statistisches Bundesamt).
Hungary	Yes	No	Ten workers involved	No	No	Yes	Hungarian Central Statistical Office.
Ireland	Yes	Yes	Duration of at least one day or aggregate time not worked of at least 10 workdays.	No	Yes	Yes	The statistics are collected, compiled and published by the Central Statistics Office.
Israel	Yes	Yes	From 1972, a total of at least ten days not worked for total strikes and lockouts, and lasting at least two hours for both total and partial strikes.	Non-military security forces and the army.	No	No	Since 1971 until 1981 the statistics have been collected and compiled by the Ministry of Labour & Social Affairs in collaboration with the Histadrut. Since then the data are collected by the Ministry with the consultation of the labour organisations and are published by the Ministry and by the Central Bureau of Statistics.
Italy	Yes	Yes	None	No	Yes	No	The statistics are collected by the police at the provincial level, and are compiled and published by the Istituto centrale di statistica (ISTAT).
Japan	Yes	Yes	Series on work stoppages concerns strikes lasting half a day or more, strikes lasting less than half a day and all lockouts.	No	Yes	No	The statistics are collected by prefectural offices in charge of labour administration, and compiled and published by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.
Korea	Yes	Yes	None	No	No	No	The statistics are collected, compiled and published by the Ministry of Labour.
Latvia	Yes	No	..	Public sector.	No	..	..

Industrial disputes: source and definition (Cont.)

Country	Strikes	Lockouts	Minimum criteria for inclusions in statistics	Exclusions	Are political stoppages included?	Are indirectly affected workers included?	Sources and notes
Lithuania	Yes	No	None	No	No	Yes	Statistics Lithuania.
Mexico	Yes	No	Duration of at least two hours.	The statistics concern strikes at establishments and enterprises covered by Federal jurisdiction. As a result, strikes at enterprises under local jurisdiction are not included.	No	No	Statistical information is provided by the General Directorate of Registry of Associations (Dirección General de Registro de Asociaciones) and the General Directorate of Labor Statistics and Research (Dirección General de Investigación y Estadísticas del Trabajo), both of the Secretariat of Labor and Social Welfare.
Netherlands	Yes	Yes	None	No	Yes	Yes	The statistics are collected, compiled and published by the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS).
New Zealand	Yes	Yes	From the beginning of 2000, published statistics relate to complete strikes and lockouts that involve the equivalent of five or more person-days of work lost. Previously, published statistics related to 10 or more person-days of work lost. Partial strikes and partial lockouts are also included in the published statistics provided they meet the threshold of five or more person-days of work lost.	Prior to 1988, public sector stoppages (including state-owned enterprises) were not included in the statistics. Previously, statistics on work stoppages related only to the private sector. Both private and public sectors are now subject to the Employment Relations Act 2000.	Yes	Yes	The statistics are collected and published by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.
Norway	Yes	Yes	Duration of at least one day.	No	Yes	No	The statistics are based on information collected by the Confederation of Norwegian Business and Industry, the Norwegian Federation of Trade Unions and other trade unions, and are compiled and published by the Central Bureau of Statistics (Statistisk Sentralbyrå).

Industrial disputes: source and definition (Cont.)

Country	Strikes	Lockouts	Minimum criteria for inclusions in statistics	Exclusions	Are political stoppages included?	Are indirectly affected workers included?	Sources and notes
Poland	Yes	No	Duration of one hour	No	Yes	Yes	Central Statistical Office.
Portugal	Yes	No	None but general strikes at the national level are excluded. Lockouts are expressly forbidden in the legislation on strikes.	Although the agricultural sector is not specifically excluded, its coverage is limited. Since the new methodology was introduced in 1986, public administration has been excluded.	Yes	No	The statistics are collected by the Ministério do Trabalho, Solidariedade e Segurança Social in collaboration with the Direção Geral do Emprego e das Relações de Trabalho (DGERT) and the Gabinete de Estratégia e Planeament (GEP). They are compiled and published by the Gabinete de Estratégia e Planeament (GEP).
Slovak Republic	Yes	No	None	No	Yes	Yes	Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic (SOSR).
Slovenia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Spain	Yes	Yes	Duration of at least one hour.	Up to 1988, civil servants working in public administrations did not have the right to strike and were therefore not included in the statistics. Members of the armed forces or military establishments are forbidden by law to strike.	Yes	No	The statistics are collected by the Ministerio de Trabajo y Seguridad Social (MTSS) on the basis of data supplied by the competent labour authorities, and are compiled and published by the MTSS.
Sweden	Yes	Yes	Total time not worked of at least eight workhours, even if only eight persons stop work for one hour each.	No	Yes	No	The statistics are collected and compiled by the National Conciliator's Office, and published by Statistics Sweden.
Switzerland	Yes	Yes	Duration of at least 24 hours.	International organisations and embassies are not covered.	Yes	Yes	The statistics are collected, compiled and published by the Swiss Federal Statistical Office (SFSO). Office fédérale de l'industrie, des arts et métiers et du travail (OFIAMT).

Industrial disputes: source and definition (Cont.)

Country	Strikes	Lockouts	Minimum criteria for inclusions in statistics	Exclusions	Are political stoppages included?	Are indirectly affected workers included?	Sources and notes
Turkey	Yes	Yes	None but sympathetic or solidarity strikes, political strikes and general strikes are considered to be unlawful and are not included in the statistics, nor are other unofficial strikes, go-slows, working to rule, overtime bans or sit-ins	Life or property saving, funeral and mortuary, production, refining and distribution of city water, electricity, natural gas and petroleum as well as petrochemical works, production of which starts from naphtha or natural gas; banking services; in workplaces operated directly by Ministry of National Defence, General Command of Gendarmerie and Coast Guard Command, firefighting and urban public transportation services carried out by public institutions and in hospitals.	No	Yes	The statistics are collected, compiled and published by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security.
United Kingdom	Yes	Yes	At least 10 workers involved or lasting at least one day, unless the aggregate number of days not worked is greater than 100. These minima have been fixed in order to eliminate the smallest strikes or lockouts. There can be some uncertainty in identifying very short stoppages, and recording problems are significantly worse for small stoppages. Their exclusion has a negligible effect on the main indicator, working days not worked.	Armed forces	No	No	The statistics are collected, compiled and published by the Office for National Statistics.
United States	Yes	Yes	A minimum of 1 000 workers simultaneously involved, with the stoppage lasting at least a full shift. Prior to 1982: stoppages involving six employees or more and lasting at least a full shift.	No	No	Yes	The statistics are collected, compiled and published by the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT
PARIS, SEPTEMBER 2017