

Table 2: Strikes, Workers and Workdays in Canada, by decade, 1960-2009¹

April 11, 2012

Decade	Number of Strikes and Lockouts³	Number of Strikers⁴	Number of Working days lost^{3,5}	Number of Person days lost^{1,3}
1960-1969	4,161	1,736,925	90,690	30,200,710
1970-1979	8,212	5,194,145	223,875	73,464,250
1980-1989	6,783	3,548,031	248,351	54,295,420
1990-1999	3,412	1,857,010	146,052	25,580,730
2000-2009	2,196	1,224,408	97,247	21,051,627
Total	24,764	13,560,519	806,215	204,592,737

Notes:

1. The data on work stoppages include strikes and lockouts which last 10 or more person-days. Person-days are calculated by multiplying the number of workers by the number of work days. Data on person-days lost use full time equivalents (FTE) which aggregates several part-time workers into a single worker.
2. Non-agricultural paid employment and labour force data are from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey (LFS). No survey was conducted in 1979. Statistics Canada only began including union status in LFS data in 1997 so the number of workers in this table includes all part time and full time employees whether or not they are unionized. Although many of these workers could not go on 'legal' strike, the HRSDC data do include some 'strikes' by unorganized workers.
3. Stoppage data is up to date as of December 31, 2009. As a result, the working days and person days lost from strikes continuing beyond 2009 are truncated as of Dec 31. For example, a strike beginning on Dec 20, 2009 and continuing until January 31, 2010, involving 2 workers, would only be counted as 7 working days and 14 person days lost. Stoppages which continue from one year to the next are counted only once, in the year they started.
4. In workplaces covered by essential service legislation, the number of workers on strike only includes those on strike, and not those who continue to work because of such legislation. So the number of workers on strike may be different than the size of the bargaining unit.
5. HRSDC data indicate both calendar days and working days. Calendar days refers to the number of calendar days in the month, while "The days counted as working day are those on which the establishment involved would normally be in operation (five days per week)" From the Work Stoppage Master File. Number of working days lost includes days lost to both strikes and lockouts.
6. Working days not worked per 1000 Non-Agricultural Paid Workers is a calculation based on the number of person days lost divided by the number of non-agricultural paid workers.
7. HRSDC records the maximum number of workers on strike over the course of the stoppage.

Source: Work Stoppage Data, Workplace Information Directorate, Human Resources and Social Development Canada