

## Strikes and Lockouts in Canada, 1960-2009

April 11, 2012

Year started	Number of Non-Agricultural Paid Workers <sup>2</sup>	Number of Strikes and Lockouts <sup>3</sup>	Number of Strikers <sup>4,7</sup>	Percent of Non-Agricultural Paid Workers	Number of Working days lost <sup>3,5</sup>	Number of Person days lost <sup>1,3</sup>	Working days not worked per 1000 Non-Agricultural Paid Workers <sup>6</sup>
1960	4,522,000	268	46,683	1.0%	4,868	723,930	160.1
1961	4,578,000	272	96,748	2.1%	5,827	1,382,920	302.1
1962	4,705,000	290	71,305	1.5%	5,541	1,423,810	302.6
1963	4,867,000	318	81,061	1.7%	6,609	825,010	169.5
1964	5,074,000	327	99,982	2.0%	8,644	1,982,750	390.8
1965	5,343,000	479	166,198	3.1%	9,090	2,050,550	383.8
1966	5,658,000	582	408,188	7.2%	10,258	5,090,080	899.6
1967	5,953,000	498	246,733	4.1%	10,075	4,171,290	700.7
1968	6,068,000	559	217,122	3.6%	14,964	4,889,510	805.8
1969	6,380,000	568	302,905	4.7%	14,814	7,660,860	1200.8
1970	6,465,000	505	257,150	4.0%	12,480	6,477,710	1002.0
1971	6,637,000	547	236,768	3.6%	14,042	2,915,350	439.3
1972	6,893,000	556	701,127	10.2%	15,063	8,057,790	1169.0
1973	7,181,000	677	344,161	4.8%	17,078	5,500,150	765.9
1974	7,637,000	1,172	586,205	7.7%	27,068	9,428,040	1234.5
1975	7,817,000	1,103	493,186	6.3%	35,239	11,621,450	1486.7
1976	8,158,000	920	1,540,887	18.9%	27,151	10,672,740	1308.3
1977	8,678,000	742	209,889	2.4%	19,496	3,616,370	416.7
1978	8,840,000	1,003	384,745	4.4%	27,397	8,732,310	987.8
1979	-	987	440,027	-	28,861	6,442,340	-
1980	9,519,000	952	437,707	4.6%	32,170	9,892,830	1039.3
1981	9,842,000	943	315,976	3.2%	30,939	7,623,220	774.6
1982	10,144,000	611	458,611	4.5%	25,315	5,748,710	566.7
1983	9,786,000	576	324,235	3.3%	21,568	4,505,990	460.5
1984	9,805,000	653	176,125	1.8%	23,594	4,020,360	410.0
1985	10,060,000	762	156,485	1.6%	31,050	2,973,700	295.6
1986	10,375,000	657	473,593	4.6%	21,783	7,145,140	688.7
1987	10,744,000	578	564,340	5.3%	22,866	3,706,360	345.0
1988	10,963,000	483	201,583	1.8%	19,262	4,972,650	453.6

1989	11,340,000	568	439,376	3.9%	19,804	3,706,460	326.8
1990	11,598,000	519	249,579	2.2%	21,391	4,994,280	430.6
1991	11,679,000	399	247,708	2.1%	15,140	2,393,190	204.9
1992	11,414,000	353	148,392	1.3%	15,203	2,105,690	184.5
1993	11,303,000	323	93,712	0.8%	15,339	1,478,570	130.8
1994	11,310,000	312	69,902	0.6%	14,119	1,558,580	137.8
1995	11,526,000	282	141,068	1.2%	9,409	1,398,090	121.3
1996	11,764,000	297	272,889	2.3%	15,270	3,394,880	288.6
1997	11,758,000	229	252,742	2.1%	10,621	3,656,730	311.0
1998	11,964,000	341	238,639	2.0%	14,365	2,291,110	191.5
1999	12,212,000	357	142,379	1.2%	15,195	2,309,610	189.1
2000	12,603,000	320	132,457	1.1%	13,833	1,696,020	134.6
2001	13,027,000	324	214,078	1.6%	12,230	2,050,670	157.4
2002	13,304,000	251	159,407	1.2%	10,845	3,307,440	248.6
2003	13,650,000	221	72,249	0.5%	10,576	1,339,152	98.1
2004	13,965,000	260	251,613	1.8%	12,505	3,360,727	240.7
2005	14,265,000	228	193,154	1.4%	7,522	3,887,830	272.5
2006	14,464,000	126	39,844	0.3%	7,591	904,231	62.5
2007	14,782,000	181	62,126	0.4%	7,867	1,758,557	119.0
2008	15,111,000	165	39,529	0.3%	8,733	913,140	60.4
2009	15,383,000	120	59,951	0.4%	5,545	1,833,860	119.2
Total	481,114,000	24,764	13,560,519	2.8%	806,215	204,592,737	425.2

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