



AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS Canberra

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INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, AUSTRALIA, MAY 1981

PHONE INQUIRIES *for more information about these statistics*—contact Mr Ansis Rieksts on Canberra (062) 52 6576 or any of our State offices.

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MAIN FEATURES

During May 1981 approximately 216,200 working days were lost by 107,700 workers involved in 340 disputes in which 10 man-days or more were lost. Whilst the number of disputes is the highest for May since 1974 when there were 356 disputes in progress, the working days lost figure is the lowest for May since 1977 when 153,700 working days were lost.

The main dispute (over a shorter working week) which has been in progress for many months, involved metal product industry employees in five States.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

More detailed information about disputes appears in the quarterly publication *Industrial Disputes, Australia* (6322.0).

2. The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled according to the Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC), described in *Australian Standard Industrial Classification, 1978*, Vol. 1 (1201.0).

Coverage

3. The statistics refer only to disputes involving stoppages of work of ten man-days or more. Workers involved include workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Workers indirectly involved are those thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but who are not themselves parties to the dispute. Particulars of some stoppages (e.g. those involving a large number of establishments) may have been estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving a broad measure of the extent of stoppages of work (as defined).

4. Stoppages of work occurring at different times and at different establishments, but having a common cause may be regarded as one industrial dispute. However, an industrial dispute occurring in more than one State is counted as a separate dispute in each State. The monthly statistics refer to all disputes operative in the month, including those disputes that commenced in previous months. In Table 1 details of the number of disputes and workers involved are shown separately for disputes beginning in the month and for all disputes. Average days lost per worker involved on a monthly basis are not comparable with the yearly averages, because workers involved are included in each month in which they are involved in disputes, while they are counted once only for each dispute in the annual statistics.

Related publications

5. Users may also wish to refer to the following publication:

Industrial Disputes, Australia (6322.0)—quarterly and annual.

6. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- p preliminary—figure subject to revision
- r revised
- nil or rounded to zero

7. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

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Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: AUSTRALIA

Period	Number of disputes		Workers involved ('000)		Working days lost		Estimated loss in wages(a) (£ '000)
	Commenced in period	Total(a)	Newly involved(b)	Total(a)	Number(a) ('000)	Average days per worker involved(c)	
1978	2,276	2,277	1,075.6	1,075.6	2,130.8	2.0	78,404
1979	2,040	2,042	1,861.6	1,862.9	3,964.4	2.1	148,614
1980	2,420	2,429	1,165.2	1,172.8	3,320.2	2.8	152,022
1980—							
April	140	172	40.2	65.0	132.4	2.0	6,547
May	171	222	177.9	207.8	409.2	2.0	19,228
June	170	227	39.3	104.8	219.4	2.1	10,120
July	222	271	52.9	135.8	318.3	2.3	16,317
August	201	252	74.8	141.1	316.5	2.2	15,791
September	273	317	63.6	114.6	218.5	1.9	10,296
October	284	345	75.8	135.7	254.2	1.9	11,387
November	240	310	104.9	129.8	250.1	1.9	12,318
December	142	211	38.9	61.7	126.7	2.1	6,256
1981—							
January p	156	184	50.3	64.9	89.8	1.4	4,531
February p	261	317	83.8	115.2	158.8	2.5	15,738
March p	270	339	70.9	110.5	148.1	2.4	13,279
April p	200	270	46.7	91.6	176.2	1.9	9,766
May p	275	340	67.5	107.7	216.2	2.0	11,291

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) Comprises workers involved in disputes which commenced during the month and additional workers involved in disputes which continued from the previous month. (c) Monthly figures are not comparable with yearly figures.

TABLE 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES(a): INDUSTRIES, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST ('000)

Period	Manufacturing			Construction	Transport and storage/Communication		Other industries (b)	All industries	
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment		Struck/docking services	Other			
1978	142.3	125.1	732.1	490.2	134.1	122.9	166.9	217.2	2,130.8
1979	232.6	283.6	929.7	749.0	114.3	359.7	435.8	859.7	3,964.4
1980	710.7	197.7	615.9	728.4	217.9	73.4	142.5	633.7	3,320.2
1980—									
April	50.8	26.9	14.5	11.9	10.6	2.9	1.4	13.5	152.4
May	150.7	13.9	93.5	92.7	17.8	4.7	18.8	17.1	409.2
June	21.4	4.5	24.0	77.5	17.9	7.2	14.6	52.2	219.4
July	137.2	5.9	39.4	58.7	34.9	4.0	3.6	34.5	318.3
August	108.2	11.7	58.0	44.7	26.5	16.8	21.0	29.5	316.5
September	47.0	15.6	52.4	31.3	15.1	5.8	6.3	44.9	218.5
October	15.7	40.7	41.6	61.6	35.3	1.0	8.4	49.8	254.2
November	9.7	29.5	40.8	64.9	9.0	3.0	6.6	86.4	250.1
December	6.1	12.1	30.2	38.8	8.6	0.8	3.9	26.1	126.7
1981—									
January p	4.8	4.8	12.9	11.9	6.6	2.2	5.3	41.3	89.8
February p	12.7	139.5	43.1	22.8	16.9	5.7	42.1	134.1	318.8
March p	121.7	41.4	98.7	16.0	24.7	5.3	25.8	145	1248.1
April p	12.6	9.8	60.2	12.3	28.6	7.1	17.5	19.2	176.2
May p	11.6	29.2	109.6	16.8	22.6	3.5	11.4	11.5	216.2

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) ASIC divisions A, D, F, I to L.

TABLE 3. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES(a): WORKING DAYS LOST ('000)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.(b)
1978	970.8	468.1	360.3	79.1	197.9	35.4	2,130.8
1979	1,369.9	1,486.1	467.9	186.5	348.1	59.8	3,964.4
1980	1,208.6	1,115.4	618.7	59.4	191.0	19.0	3,320.2
1980—							
April	62.2	16.1	13.6	1.8	30.3	—	132.4
May	168.3	124.8	73.0	11.8	15.1	8.8	409.2
June	85.4	40.2	39.2	9.6	38.9	2.1	219.4
July	114.0	46.5	130.4	6.3	16.1	4.0	318.3
August	70.8	94.6	134.3	2.9	4.3	7.1	316.5
September	70.6	60.5	58.1	2.2	14.1	9.7	218.5
October	104.7	47.0	46.6	7.0	13.3	34.0	254.2
November	120.8	55.6	33.6	7.1	14.5	17.0	250.1
December	53.7	41.0	13.9	0.2	12.6	0.9	126.7
1981—							
January p	63.8	9.2	12.2	0.9	2.1	1.6	89.8
February p	218.0	40.7	26.5	7.5	115.8	2.5	318.8
March p	129.6	149.6	40.6	5.6	117.8	0.5	1248.1
April p	87.0	41.7	27.1	7.5	7.2	0.2	176.2
May p	121.7	36.0	29.4	4.4	15.5	1.0	216.2

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.