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INQUIRIES

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INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, MAY 1977

MAIN FEATURES

Industrial dispute statistics for May 1977 show that there were —

- 234 disputes
- 67,700 workers involved
- 153,700 working days lost

Disputes during May involving air transport employees, collieries staff in New South Wales, and meat workers in Victoria accounted for over 40 per cent of all working days lost in the month.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

More detailed information about disputes appears in the quarterly bulletin *Industrial Disputes* (Reference No. 6.6).

2. The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled according to the Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC), described in the Bureau publication *Australian Standard Industrial Classification* (Preliminary Edition), 1969, Vol. 1.

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. Disputes not settled at the end of a year are included as new disputes in the figures for the following year. 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 figures. Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components are due to rounding.

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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)
	Beginning in month	Total (a)	Beginning in month	Total (a)	Number (a) ('000)	Average days per worker involved (b)	
1972	..	2,298	..	1,113.8	2,010.3	1.8	32,074
1973	..	2,538	..	803.0	2,634.7	3.3	45,206
1974	..	2,809	..	2,004.8	6,292.8	3.1	128,302
1975	..	2,432	..	1,398.0	3,509.9	2.5	95,761
1976	..	2,055	..	2,189.9	3,799.2	1.7	114,552
1976 —							
May	182	211	83.7	91.2	128.6	1.4	3,887
June (c)	164	187	308.5	400.9	573.0	1.4	16,763
July (c)	142	168	1,293.3	1,625.0	1,673.4	1.0	48,664
August	178	203	64.8	73.0	203.9	2.8	6,677
September	189	222	49.7	63.0	143.4	2.3	4,713
October	174	206	45.2	56.4	182.5	3.2	6,266
November	194	233	41.4	52.9	159.8	3.0	5,436
December	89	121	16.3	24.4	62.3	2.6	2,233
1977 —							
January	119	119	17.2	17.2	28.4	1.7	919
February	182	197	35.8	36.7	109.9	3.0	3,657
March	237	266	73.0	76.9	169.0	2.2	5,724
April (d)	131	162	24.2	33.7	98.8	2.9	3,510
May (d)	193	234	59.3	67.7	153.7	2.3	5,989

(a) Refers to all disputes operative and workers involved in the period — see paragraph 4, above. (b) Monthly figures are not comparable with yearly figures — see paragraph 4, above. (c) Includes Medibank stoppages. (d) Subject to revision.

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

Period	Manufacturing				Transport and storage; communication		Other industries (c)	All industries	
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other	Construction	Stevedoring services			Other
	Coal	Other							
1972	60.8	62.0	620.2	393.7	407.8	39.2	205.2	221.3	2,010.3
1973	87.5	155.3	800.8	661.4	439.3	49.5	93.2	347.6	2,634.7
1974	163.0	146.5	2,850.8	756.7	1,188.7	111.1	516.2	559.4	6,292.5
1975	343.3	90.0	1,279.2	464.1	497.0	46.2	146.7	643.5	3,509.9
1976	159.1	215.0	775.0	856.5	535.8	37.1	388.0	832.6	3,799.2
1976 -									
May	3.6	13.7	13.6	13.7	17.5	3.1	50.7	12.7	128.6
June (d)	10.1	17.3	128.6	88.5	87.7	5.5	102.2	133.1	573.0
July (d)	30.6	30.4	366.5	355.3	223.9	14.0	183.2	469.6	1,673.4
August	54.6	4.0	64.3	33.3	19.6	2.6	6.3	19.5	203.9
September	10.6	26.6	27.2	36.6	28.6	2.1	4.6	7.2	143.4
October	7.0	16.6	23.5	88.8	29.8	0.7	2.6	13.5	182.5
November	8.0	9.5	20.9	70.0	21.7	1.5	7.0	21.1	159.8
December	4.0	13.0	10.0	18.7	10.6	1.6	0.2	4.2	62.3
1977 -									
January	2.5	1.0	5.1	6.1	6.8	0.6	2.5	3.7	28.4
February	6.0	9.8	25.9	30.9	24.7	1.6	1.0	10.1	109.9
March	17.3	8.6	19.0	72.2	23.0	3.7	11.7	13.6	169.0
April (e)	3.2	33.0	13.6	34.0	4.0	0.7	1.0	9.4	98.8
May (e)	23.7	4.9	18.8	54.5	14.1	0.2	33.1	4.4	153.7

(a) Australian Standard Industrial Classification - see paragraph 2, page 1. (b) Refers to all disputes operative in the period - see paragraph 4, page 1. (c) ASIC divisions A, D, F, I to L. (d) Includes Medibank stoppages. (e) Subject to revision.

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

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust. (b)
1972	866.8	638.4	292.2	60.9	94.6	19.2	2,010.3
1973	1,098.1	780.5	310.2	130.6	117.3	140.1	2,634.7
1974	2,665.0	2,386.6	529.5	316.5	256.9	88.5	6,292.5
1975	1,477.8	1,221.7	473.3	127.6	100.7	40.6	3,509.9
1976	1,456.5	1,420.0	426.0	151.8	252.1	62.2	3,799.2
1976 -							
May	44.4	35.4	18.7	6.6	15.6	4.4	128.6
June (c)	91.4	443.9	20.2	4.6	11.5	0.5	573.0
July (c)	729.4	525.6	236.7	93.9	48.8	25.0	1,673.4
August	95.9	72.9	12.3	8.7	6.8	7.1	203.9
September	32.1	38.9	33.0	3.6	29.3	5.3	143.4
October	76.4	52.5	28.0	5.8	15.7	...	182.5
November	86.3	34.4	20.0	1.7	15.7	0.9	159.8
December	30.2	12.1	2.1	2.8	14.4	0.4	62.3
1977 -							
January	14.7	2.8	5.2	0.4	2.0	0.9	28.4
February	24.5	41.5	26.1	4.5	12.2	1.1	109.9
March	48.8	72.4	32.6	2.7	10.6	1.5	169.0
April (d)	12.1	33.4	14.2	3.9	33.3	0.1	98.8
May (d)	57.3	56.6	25.8	4.6	5.1	2.9	153.7

(a) Refers to all disputes operative in the period - see paragraph 4, page 1. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (c) Includes Medibank stoppages. (d) Subject to revision.

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