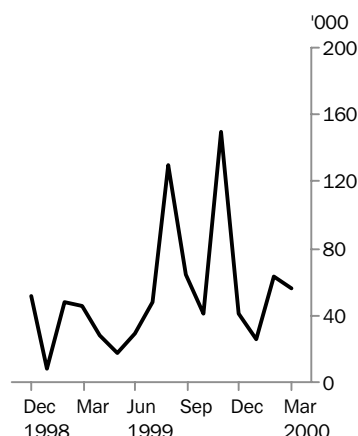


INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) MON 19 JUNE 2000

Working days lost



MARCH KEY FIGURES

	<i>Feb 2000</i>	<i>Mar 2000</i>	<i>12 months ended Mar 2000</i>
Number of disputes	83	77	758
Number of employees ('000)	71.9	27.4	503.2
Working days lost ('000)	63.6	56.3	694.1
Working days lost per thousand employees	92

MARCH KEY POINTS

MONTHLY ESTIMATES

- There were 56,300 working days lost due to industrial disputation in March 2000, an 11% decrease from February 2000 (63,600).
- There were 77 industrial disputes during March 2000. This is the second consecutive month with 16 continuing disputes (i.e. disputes which continued from the previous month). This is the highest number of continuing disputes since July 1991 (25).
- The Construction industry recorded a 48% (8,300) increase in working days lost compared to February 2000. This industry accounted for 46% (25,700) of days lost during March.
- Western Australia recorded its highest number of working days lost (14,400) since April 1997 (20,200).

ANNUAL ESTIMATES

- There were 758 disputes in the 12 months ended March 2000, 30% more than in the 12 months ended March 1999 (582). The number of employees and working days lost also increased (up 37% and 31% respectively).
- In the 12 months ended March 2000, Victoria and New South Wales recorded the largest increases in the number of working days lost (up 50% and 47% respectively) compared to the 12 months ended March 1999.
- There were 92 working days lost per thousand employees in the 12 months ended March 2000, the highest number since the 12 month period ended May 1997 (105).

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Margaret Livingston on Melbourne 03 9615 732, or the National Information Service on 1300 135 070.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE

RELEASE DATE

April 2000

19 July 2000

May 2000

17 August 2000

June 2000

18 September 2000

July 2000

17 October 2000

August 2000

17 November 2000

September 2000

18 December 2000

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CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

There are no revisions to monthly data in this issue. Some revisions have been made to historical annual data as a result of earlier revisions.

.....

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

. . not available

n.p. not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless
otherwise indicated

r revised

W. McLennan
Australian Statistician

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES WHICH OCCURRED DURING THE PERIOD, Australia

NUMBER OF DISPUTES... EMPLOYEES INVOLVED.....

Period	Commenced in period	Total	Newly involved	Total	Working days lost
	no.	no.	'000	'000	'000
1997	444	447	315.0	315.4	534.2
1998	516	519	347.8	348.4	526.3
1999	725	729	460.5	460.9	650.4
1999					
January	22	26	3.6	3.9	8.3
February	64	69	44.5	45.8	47.9
March	72	78	14.4	15.0	45.6
April	42	49	17.2	18.2	28.2
May	71	74	12.6	12.9	17.1
June	60	71	20.5	23.0	28.7
July	69	84	34.6	36.4	48.0
August	77	89	166.8	168.1	130.2
September	69	74	61.9	62.2	64.9
October	62	72	19.4	52.8	40.4
November	63	72	51.0	83.4	150.1
December	55	70	14.1	49.7	41.1
2000					
January	57	67	16.4	17.4	25.6
February	67	83	70.3	71.9	63.6
March	61	77	17.5	27.4	56.3
Twelve months ended					
March 1998	452	454	306.4	306.7	544.0
March 1999	r 571	r 582	r 362.5	r 366.3	r 529.9
March 2000	751	758	502.2	503.2	694.1

WORKING DAYS LOST, By Industry—Australia

Period	MINING.....		MANUFACTURING.....						
	Coal	Other	<i>Metal product; Machinery and equipment</i>		Const- ruction	<i>Transport and storage; Communication services</i>	<i>Education; Health and community services</i>	Other industries	All industries
			<i>Other</i>	<i>Other</i>					
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
1997	95.7	1.1	76.9	68.7	107.8	47.7	94.0	42.1	534.2
1998	60.4	1.4	27.5	67.7	210.9	52.8	75.8	29.8	526.3
1999	26.0	2.0	104.2	80.3	165.1	20.3	224.1	28.4	650.4
1999									
January	2.2	0.0	1.1	1.6	2.0	0.1	0.0	1.1	8.3
February	3.4	0.0	1.4	1.5	2.6	0.4	35.4	3.2	47.9
March	1.7	0.2	2.0	8.7	26.2	0.7	3.1	3.0	45.6
April	0.7	0.5	3.5	5.1	16.6	0.1	0.0	1.6	28.2
May	0.9	0.1	3.4	7.2	3.0	1.1	0.3	1.1	17.1
June	1.4	0.0	10.3	6.1	7.2	1.8	0.8	1.1	28.7
July	1.5	0.2	9.5	8.4	22.5	0.4	2.4	3.0	48.0
August	8.3	0.5	27.6	27.4	24.2	5.7	29.9	6.6	130.2
September	1.1	0.0	29.9	4.8	10.1	3.6	13.4	2.0	64.9
October	0.8	0.0	2.5	1.4	20.4	2.5	12.2	0.5	40.4
November	2.0	0.0	6.2	4.1	27.7	2.8	104.1	3.3	150.1
December	2.0	0.5	6.7	3.9	2.7	1.1	22.5	1.8	41.1
2000									
January	3.5	2.5	4.4	5.4	7.0	1.7	0.2	1.0	25.6
February	3.0	0.2	6.6	5.5	17.4	13.6	14.9	2.3	63.6
March	0.5	0.1	9.4	8.2	25.7	2.0	7.7	2.8	56.3
Twelve months ended									
March 1998	113.9	1.1	76.2	76.4	113.2	48.8	71.3	43.1	544.0
March 1999	41.1	1.5	29.8	65.6	214.3	47.2	95.3	35.2	529.9
March 2000	25.6	4.7	120.0	87.4	184.4	36.4	208.4	27.3	694.1

WORKING DAYS LOST

	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory	Australia
Period	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
1997	153.7	212.1	92.0	8.0	60.1	5.7	0.5	2.1	534.2
1998	188.5	200.0	51.6	16.1	61.2	3.1	0.7	5.1	526.3
1999	316.5	218.2	52.2	15.0	43.4	0.3	0.3	4.3	650.4
1999									
January	2.7	4.3	0.1	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.3
February	40.3	4.7	0.3	0.9	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	47.9
March	7.8	9.6	22.8	1.8	3.4	0.0	0.0	0.2	45.6
April	2.1	21.9	1.5	0.1	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	28.2
May	3.1	8.8	1.2	0.9	2.9	0.1	0.0	0.0	17.1
June	3.9	15.6	2.7	1.7	4.7	0.0	0.0	0.2	28.7
July	23.4	19.6	1.4	0.3	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	48.0
August	32.2	67.9	10.9	7.0	8.5	0.1	0.1	3.6	130.2
September	33.8	24.0	3.7	0.1	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	64.9
October	16.7	8.0	6.4	0.4	8.7	0.0	0.0	0.1	40.4
November	121.4	25.4	0.6	1.1	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	150.1
December	29.1	8.4	0.5	1.0	1.8	0.0	0.2	0.1	41.1
2000									
January	7.5	7.1	2.8	0.6	7.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	25.6
February	20.1	20.6	17.8	2.0	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.1	63.6
March	11.7	19.6	4.1	6.3	14.4	0.2	0.0	0.1	56.3
Twelve months ended									
March 1998	163.4	246.0	69.6	6.6	49.8	5.7	0.5	2.4	544.0
March 1999	207.0	r 164.7	r71.7	r18.0	59.9	3.1	0.7	4.9	r 529.9
March 2000	305.0	246.9	53.8	21.2	61.9	0.6	0.3	4.4	694.1

WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES, By Industry: Australia—12 months ended

MINING..... MANUFACTURING.....

<i>Twelve months ended</i>	<i>Coal</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Metal product; Machinery and equipment</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Const- ruction</i>	<i>Transport and storage; Communi- cation services</i>	<i>Education; Health and community services</i>	<i>Other industries</i>	<i>All industries</i>
1999									
January	2 961	22	75	106	515	112	57	8	72
February	2 688	22	77	97	513	103	72	8	73
March	2 043	25	78	103	525	100	71	9	72
April	2 248	34	85	102	518	97	70	9	73
May	2 202	36	78	98	377	97	59	9	62
June	2 200	37	103	104	269	97	50	9	56
July	2 300	40	114	114	308	95	51	8	59
August	2 708	42	187	154	336	40	72	8	69
September	2 668	42	259	138	318	32	80	8	72
October	2 503	43	261	130	341	36	89	8	74
November	2 454	29	274	121	388	42	158	7	88
December	1 445	35	282	120	381	42	165	7	87
2000									
January	1 448	72	285	126	383	45	166	7	89
February	1 429	76	299	132	417	72	150	7	91
March	1 362	75	319	131	415	75	154	7	92
March 1996	4 561	1 212	90	129	114	87	119	15	85
March 1997	6 833	26	146	74	907	38	157	12	122
March 1998	4 752	20	188	120	300	104	55	11	76

WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES—12 months ended

<i>Twelve months ended</i>	<i>New South Wales</i>	<i>Victoria</i>	<i>Queensland</i>	<i>South Australia</i>	<i>Western Australia</i>	<i>Tasmania</i>	<i>Northern Territory</i>	<i>Australian Capital Territory</i>	<i>Australia</i>
1999									
January	77	109	37	29	81	19	8	35	72
February	90	97	37	30	82	19	8	33	73
March	85	88	53	33	81	19	8	34	72
April	81	95	53	33	78	16	8	34	73
May	71	72	47	31	79	15	8	24	62
June	60	70	40	33	77	14	8	10	56
July	65	77	38	31	80	14	8	11	59
August	69	107	40	40	76	6	2	34	69
September	80	108	41	37	62	5	3	33	72
October	82	110	44	35	66	5	2	34	74
November	126	114	43	34	61	3	2	32	88
December	126	116	38	27	57	2	3	30	87
2000									
January	127	116	40	28	65	3	4	30	89
February	119	125	53	30	66	3	4	30	91
March	121	130	39	38	81	4	4	30	92
March 1996	76	71	114	39	168	20	32	26	85
March 1997	132	121	172	55	69	73	37	129	122
March 1998	68	136	54	12	70	35	6	17	76

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES ENDING DURING THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 2000, Australia

	<i>Number of disputes</i>	<i>Employees involved</i>	<i>Working days lost</i>
	<i>no.</i>	<i>'000</i>	<i>'000</i>

CAUSE OF DISPUTE

Wages	47	82.4	54.2
Leave, pensions, compensation	28	24.2	39.0
Managerial policy	448	173.0	369.7
Physical working conditions	118	25.5	45.1
Trade unionism	66	9.1	6.5
Hours of work	8	0.7	1.3
Other	29	180.1	138.2
Total	744	495.0	654.1

DURATION OF DISPUTE

Up to and including 1 day	416	340.3	213.5
Over 1 and up to and including 2 days	142	64.4	93.7
Over 2 and less than 5 days	129	84.2	254.2
5 and less than 10 days	41	3.8	24.4
10 and less than 20 days	13	1.8	26.2
20 days and over	3	0.5	42.2
Total	744	495.0	654.1

METHOD OF SETTLEMENT

Negotiation	182	37.8	76.7
State legislation	66	13.2	25.4
Federal and joint Federal-State legislation	113	30.5	119.9
Resumption without negotiation	371	412.3	429.6
Other methods	12	1.3	2.6
Total	744	495.0	654.1

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 The statistics in this publication relate to disputes which involved stoppages of work of ten working days or more at the establishments where the stoppages occurred. Ten working days is equivalent to the amount of ordinary time worked by ten people in one day, regardless of the length of the stoppage, for example, 3,000 workers on strike for 2 hours would be counted as 750 working days lost (assuming they work an 8 hour day).

2 The statistics of working days lost relate to the losses due to industrial disputes only (see the definition of 'Disputes' in the Glossary). Effects on other establishments, such as stand-downs because of lack of materials, disruption of transport services, power cuts, etc. are not included.

3 The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled mainly from data obtained from employers (both private and public sector), from trade unions and from reports of government authorities. Particulars of some stoppages, e.g. State or Australia wide general strikes may have been estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving only a broad measure of the extent of industrial disputes as defined above.

TYPE OF DISPUTE

4 Included in these statistics are the following types of industrial disputes:

- unauthorised stopwork meetings;
- unofficial strikes;
- sympathetic strikes (e.g. strikes in support of a group of workers already on strike);
- political or protest strikes;
- general strikes;
- work stoppages initiated by employers (e.g. lockouts); and
- rotating or revolving strikes (i.e. strikes which occur when workers at different locations take turns to stop work).

Excluded from these statistics are work-to-rules, go-slows, bans (e.g. overtime bans) and sit-ins. In addition, industrial disputes in which employees resign are deemed to have been resolved. Statistics on those disputes will cease to be collected from the date of the employees' resignations.

CHANGE IN METHODOLOGY

5 The basis for the calculation of working days lost per thousand employees was changed in the January 1995 edition of this publication to use estimates of employees taken from the ABS Labour Force Survey only. Estimates have been recalculated on this basis for each 12 monthly period back to December 1990 and are available on request. For the January 1987 to December 1994 editions of this publication, estimates of employees were taken predominantly from the ABS Survey of Employment and Earnings (*Wage and Salary Earners* (Cat. no. 6248.0)).

6 The basis for the calculation of the number of disputes was changed in the November 1992 publication and the series revised back to September 1991. Prior to September 1991, disputes affecting more than one industry and/or State were counted as a separate dispute in each industry and State and in the Australian total. From September 1991 onwards, a dispute affecting more than one industry and/or State is counted once in each industry and/or State, but only once at the broader industry and Australia level. The reason for the change was to align the method of counting the number of industrial disputes with the International Labour Organisation guidelines. This change does not affect the estimates of employees involved or working days lost.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INDUSTRY CLASSIFICATION

7 Industry information on a monthly basis from January 1994 and on an annual basis from December 1994 is classified according to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC)—for more details refer to *Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification*, 1993, (Cat. no. 1292.0). It replaces the Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC) which had been in use for many years. Data for periods prior to January 1994 for monthly data and December 1994 for annual data have been classified only according to ASIC.

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

8 Inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in information provided by respondents or in processing by the ABS. Although considerable care is taken in questionnaire design; in the instructions given to respondents; and in editing the returns; these inaccuracies may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

9 Users may also wish to refer to the following publications and standard data services which are available from ABS Bookshops:

- *Employees Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership* (Cat. no. 6310.0)—issued annually
- *Industrial Disputes, Australia*, (Cat. no. 6322.0)
- *Labour Force, Australia* (Cat. no. 6203.0)—issued monthly
- *Labour Statistics, Australia*, (Cat. no. 6101.0)
- *Working Arrangements, Australia*, (Cat. no. 6342.0)—issued irregularly

10 Current publications and other products produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products, Australia* (Cat. no. 1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Release Advice* (Cat. no. 1105.0) which lists products to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Release Advice are available from any ABS office, are available by subscription and can also be accessed through the ABS Internet Homepage (<http://www.abs.gov.au>).

UNPUBLISHED STATISTICS

11 A range of unpublished data is also available on request including dispute details at more detailed industry levels, cross-classified by State/Territory, and finer cause of dispute and method of settlement categories than those published. Considerable time series exist for most variables. Inquiries regarding data availability and the associated charges should be directed to Margaret Livingston on 03 9615 7329 .

ROUNDING

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

G L O S S A R Y

Cause of dispute The statistics for cause of industrial disputes relate to the reported main cause of stoppage of work and not necessarily all causes that may have been responsible for the stoppage of work. For these reasons, the statistics do not reflect the relative importance of all causes of disputes as perceived by both employers and employees. The causes are classified from information supplied by employers and according to standards determined by the International Labour Organisation. The classification of causes is as follows:

Wages. Claims involving general principles relating to wages e.g. increase (decrease) in wages; variation in method of payment or combined claims relating to wages, hours or conditions of work in which the claim about wages is deemed to be the most important. Combined claims in which the other claims are deemed to be the most important are included under the relevant clause. Disputes over award restructuring are included under managerial policy.

Leave, pensions, compensation. Claims involving general principles relating to holidays and leave provisions; pension and retirement provisions; workers' compensation provisions; insertion of penal clause provisions in awards.

Managerial policy. Disputes concerning the exercise of managerial control by employers, e.g. terms and conditions of employment (other than disputes specifically about wages and hours); new awards and agreements; award restructuring; enterprise bargaining (including disputes over wages, leave, hours of work etc. where they are part of enterprise bargaining); work practices; principles of promotion or deployment of staff including roster complaints and retrenchments; disciplinary matters including alleged victimisation of union officials; employment of particular persons; disagreement with managerial decisions.

Physical working conditions. Disputes concerning physical working conditions and safety issues, e.g. protective clothing and equipment; first aid services; uncomfortable working conditions; lack of, or the condition of, amenities; claims for assistance; shortage or poor distribution of equipment or material; condition of equipment; new production methods and equipment; arduous physical tasks.

Trade unionism. Disputes concerning employment of non-unionists, inter-union and intra-union disputes; sympathy stoppages in support of employees in another industry; recognition of union activities.

Hours of work. Claims involving general principles relating to hours of work, e.g. decrease (increase) in hours, distribution of hours.

Other. Disputes concerning protests directed against persons or situations other than those relating to the employer/employee relationship, e.g. political matters; fining and jailing of persons; lack of work; lack of adequate transport; non-award public holidays; accidents and attendance at funerals. Stoppages for which no reason is given are also included in this category.

G L O S S A R Y

Disputes	<p>For these statistics, an <i>industrial dispute</i> is defined as a withdrawal from work by a group of employees, or a refusal by an employer or a number of employers to permit some or all of their employees to work, each withdrawal or refusal being made in order to enforce a demand, to resist a demand, or to express a grievance.</p> <p>A dispute affecting several establishments is counted as a single dispute if it is organised or directed by one person or organisation; otherwise it is counted as a separate dispute at each establishment (in each State or Territory) and in each industry in which it occurred.</p> <p>A dispute affecting more than one industry and/or State is counted once in each industry and State but only once at the broader industry and Australia level. Prior to September 1991 disputes covering more than one industry and/or State were counted differently (refer to paragraph 6 of the Explanatory Notes for details).</p> <p>When there is a return to work between stoppages over the same issue, and the return to work is for less than two complete months, the stoppages are counted as a single dispute. When the return to work is for two or more months, the dispute is considered to have ended at the time of the return to work. Should a subsequent stoppage occur, it is counted as a new dispute.</p>
Disputes which occurred during the period	<p><i>Disputes which occurred during the period</i> encompasses those disputes which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ started in a previous month or year and ended in the reference period, or ▪ began and ended in the reference period, or ▪ began in the reference period and continued into the next period, or ▪ started prior to the reference month or year, continued through the reference period and into the next period.
Duration of dispute	<p>The <i>duration</i> of a dispute is the average number of working days lost per employee involved in the dispute. The duration of the dispute is calculated by dividing the number of working days lost in the dispute by the number of employees involved (both directly and indirectly).</p>
Employees	<p><i>Employees</i> refers to wage and salary earners only. Excluded are persons who are self-employed (e.g. building sub-contractors, owner-drivers of trucks) and employers.</p> <p><i>Employees directly involved</i> are those who actually participated in the dispute in order to enforce or resist a demand or to express a grievance.</p> <p><i>Employees indirectly involved</i> are those who ceased work at the establishment where the stoppages occurred, but who are not themselves parties to the dispute. Employees who ceased work at establishments other than those where the stoppages occurred are excluded (see paragraph 2 of the Explanatory Notes).</p>

G L O S S A R Y

Employees continued	<p><i>Employees newly involved</i> are those who are involved in the dispute for the first time during a dispute. Total employees comprises <i>newly</i> involved employees and employees involved for a second period in the same dispute.</p> <p><i>Total employees involved</i> for any period of time are obtained by adding together the number of employees involved in each dispute in the period. For any period of time the figures may include details of the same employees involved in more than one dispute. The longer the period of reference, the more chance there is of some double counting in the number of employees involved. Where there are varying numbers of employees involved during the progress of a dispute, the figures of employees involved relate to the largest number of individual employees involved on any one day. Generally, the <i>total</i> number of employees involved for each year will equal the sum of the total number of employees involved in the first month of a year plus the number of employees <i>newly</i> involved in subsequent months. Differences between monthly and annual totals can occur due to the temporary cessation of stoppages which resume in subsequent months. Employees re-involved in this type of dispute are not classified as employees <i>newly</i> involved in stoppages in the second period in which the dispute occurs.</p>
Industry	<p>Industry is classified according to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification 1993 (see paragraph 7 of the Explanatory Notes).</p>
Method of Settlement	<p>Statistics of the <i>method of settlement</i> of industrial disputes relate to the method directly responsible for ending the stoppage of work as reported and not necessarily to the method (or methods) responsible for settling all matters in dispute. For these reasons, they do not reflect the relative importance of the work of various industrial tribunals operating under State and Federal legislation. The classification of method of settlement is as follows:</p> <p><i>Negotiation.</i> Private negotiation between the parties involved, or their representatives, without the intervention or assistance of authorities constituted under State or Federal industrial legislation.</p> <p><i>State legislation.</i> Intervention or assistance of an industrial authority or authorities created by or constituted under State conciliation and arbitration or wages board legislation, or reference to such authorities or compulsory or voluntary conference. Intervention, assistance or advice of State government officials or inspectors.</p> <p><i>Federal and joint Federal–State legislation.</i> Compulsory or voluntary conference or by intervention or assistance of, or reference to, the industrial relations commissions created by or constituted under the Industrial Relations Act, Coal Industry Acts, Stevedoring Industry Act, and other acts such as the Navigation Act; Public Service Arbitration Act. Intervention, assistance or advice of Federal government officials or inspectors.</p>

G L O S S A R Y

Method of Settlement <i>continued</i>	<p><i>Resumption without negotiation.</i> This category may include some disputes which are settled subject to subsequent negotiation of a formal nature, such as industrial court hearings. Stop-work meetings are included, and this category may also include disputes settled by ‘resumption’ as stated, but about which no further information is available.</p> <p><i>Other methods.</i> Mediation; filling places of employees on strike or locked out; closing establishments permanently; dismissal or resignation of employees.</p>
Other industries	<p>Other industries comprises those industries not included in the specified industry groupings. Other industries comprises Agriculture, forestry and fishing; Electricity, gas and water supply; Wholesale trade; Retail trade; Accommodation, cafes and restaurants; Finance and insurance; Property and business services; Government administration and defence; Cultural and recreational services; Personal and other services.</p>
Working days lost	<p><i>Working days lost</i> refers to working days lost by employees directly and indirectly involved in the dispute and figures are generally as reported by parties to the dispute. For some disputes working days lost are estimated on the basis of the number of employees involved and the duration of the dispute.</p>
Working days lost per thousand employees	<p><i>Working days lost per thousand employees</i> are calculated for the 12 month period by dividing the total number of working days lost by the total number of employees and multiplying by 1,000. The number of employees is obtained from the ABS Labour Force Survey, and is averaged over the 12 month period. Refer to paragraph 5 of the Explanatory Notes for further information.</p>

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- INTERNET** www.abs.gov.au the ABS web site is the best place to start for access to summary data from our latest publications, information about the ABS, advice about upcoming releases, our catalogue, and Australia Now—a statistical profile.
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