



INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, AUSTRALIA, MARCH 1983

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- MAIL INQUIRIES** *write to* Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616 or any of our State offices.

MAIN FEATURES

During March 1983 179,900 working days were lost in 195 disputes involving a total of 54,500 workers.

In the twelve months ended March 1983, 1.8 million working days were lost due to industrial disputes, (an average loss of 0.3 working days per employee) compared with 4.3 million days (about 0.8 working days per employee) in the twelve months ended March 1982.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

Previous December quarter issues of the publication *Industrial Disputes, Australia* (6322.0) have included tables of working days lost per thousand employees. Similar tables have now been included in this publication.

Coverage

2. The statistics relate only to disputes involving stoppages of work of ten man-days or more *at the establishments where the stoppages occurred*.

3. The figures of working days and wages lost relate to the losses due to industrial disputes (as defined in paragraph 5) and not to aggregate losses for the economy as a whole.

4. The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled mainly from data obtained from employers (both private and government) and trade unions concerning individual disputes and from reports of government authorities. Particulars of some stoppages (for example, those involving a large number of establishments) 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).

Definitions

5. For these statistics an *industrial dispute* 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.

6. *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.

7. Differences between monthly and annual totals of workers involved can occur due to temporary cessations

of stoppages that resume in subsequent months. Workers re-involved in this type of dispute are included in the monthly totals.

8. *Working days lost* refer to man-days lost by workers 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 workers involved and the duration of the dispute.

9. *Estimated loss in wages* represents the amount of wages and salaries lost by workers directly and indirectly involved in the dispute and the amount is generally reported by parties to the dispute.

10. *Working days lost per 1,000 employees* have been compiled from those lost by workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes involving stoppages of work of ten man-days or more in the establishments where the stoppages occurred. Working days lost in agriculture, etc. and in private households employing staff have been excluded.

11. The estimates of employees are obtained from the Labour Force survey.

Other ABS publications

12. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications:

Labour Statistics, Australia, 1980 (6101.0)(\$4.80, \$5.80 including postage)

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

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0) — *monthly* (\$1.00, \$1.70 including postage)

13. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- p preliminary
- nil or rounded to zero
- r revised

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

R.J. CAMERON
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)	
1980	2,420	2,429	1,165.2	1,172.8	3,320.2	2.8	152,022
1981	2,887	2,915	1,229.1	1,251.8	4,192.2	3.3	221,779
1982 p	2,045	2,060	691.3	722.9	2,158.0	3.0	133,624
Twelve months ended—							
March 1982	2,753	2,823	1,193.5	1,251.8	4,285.6	3.4	233,372
March 1983 p	1,917	1,950	620.9	647.4	1,795.7	2.8	116,271
1982—							
April	137	170	32.9	59.4	107.4	1.8	6,623
May	182	204	66.4	71.6	117.8	1.6	6,740
June	180	201	49.2	58.4	81.6	1.4	4,909
July p	204	233	72.8	105.2	198.8	1.9	12,941
August p	192	219	133.0	163.8	412.6	2.5	24,675
September p	163	194	65.9	84.1	167.2	2.0	11,608
October p	157	184	43.0	62.6	150.5	2.4	9,592
November p	162	195	31.1	64.1	102.1	1.6	6,517
December p	116	139	26.5	31.0	69.8	2.3	4,879
1983—							
January p	100	108	24.4	25.4	105.5	4.2	6,254
February p	159	186	36.3	49.7	102.4	2.1	7,219
March p	165	195	39.5	54.5	179.9	3.3	14,314

(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							All industries
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment		Construction	Transport and storage: Communication	Other industries (b)	
	Coal	Other		Other				
1980	710.7	197.7	615.9	728.4	217.9	215.9	633.7	3,320.2
1981	318.3	307.4	1,221.6	654.1	441.9	465.5	783.3	4,192.2
1982 p	525.8	157.1	241.8	333.0	231.1	296.2	373.1	2,158.0
Twelve months ended—								
March 1982	687.8	263.9	1,103.4	649.6	454.5	433.2	693.3	4,285.6
March 1983 p	152.6	138.6	255.6	311.6	256.4	326.9	354.1	1,795.7
1982—								
April	3.4	35.0	11.6	15.6	11.5	16.5	13.7	107.4
May	8.1	10.2	26.7	33.4	18.6	7.1	13.8	117.8
June	9.1	2.8	12.4	19.4	16.3	7.6	13.9	81.6
July p	31.7	10.5	16.4	13.1	29.8	31.4	66.0	198.8
August p	14.9	13.4	35.2	63.8	42.1	166.7	76.7	412.6
September p	19.5	11.8	25.3	46.5	15.8	3.7	44.6	167.2
October p	21.1	20.0	28.8	47.6	21.4	4.3	7.3	150.5
November p	3.3	5.5	40.1	35.9	11.5	2.6	3.2	102.1
December p	5.8	5.9	3.9	11.7	3.3	5.1	34.1	69.8
1983—								
January p	1.1	11.9	4.1	2.8	12.1	69.6	3.8	105.5
February p	18.4	8.9	21.8	10.4	28.7	7.7	6.4	102.4
March p	16.0	2.7	29.3	11.5	45.2	4.7	70.6	179.9

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

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

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust. (b)
1980	1,208.6	1,115.4	618.7	59.4	191.0	91.5	3,320.2
1981	1,918.6	1,235.5	465.8	158.8	244.0	64.3	4,192.2
1982 p	961.6	368.0	509.8	66.6	162.4	61.5	2,158.0
Twelve months ended—							
March 1982	1,993.1	1,186.1	502.0	166.9	263.7	66.3	4,285.6
March 1983 p	699.4	369.7	431.2	73.7	148.6	57.4	1,795.7
1982—							
April	29.9	11.9	18.9	4.4	27.9	13.5	107.4
May	45.7	45.3	8.7	1.3	9.7	5.6	117.8
June	40.2	15.7	12.8	2.7	8.3	0.4	81.6
July p	75.8	42.9	57.0	4.3	11.5	5.2	198.8
August p	73.2	38.5	263.7	19.1	15.1	1.6	412.6
September p	96.7	45.5	7.0	2.8	5.2	8.0	167.2
October p	44.4	66.2	7.6	1.3	20.7	9.8	150.5
November p	38.7	40.3	15.0	0.5	4.3	2.0	102.1
December p	31.2	11.4	3.4	8.1	4.3	8.7	69.8
1983—							
January p	81.5	6.8	8.6	0.2	7.5	0.2	105.5
February p	58.2	20.6	13.0	0.8	8.3	0.5	102.4
March p	83.9	24.4	15.4	28.1	25.9	1.9	179.9

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

CHART 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: INDUSTRIES, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES, TWELVE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 1982 AND 1983

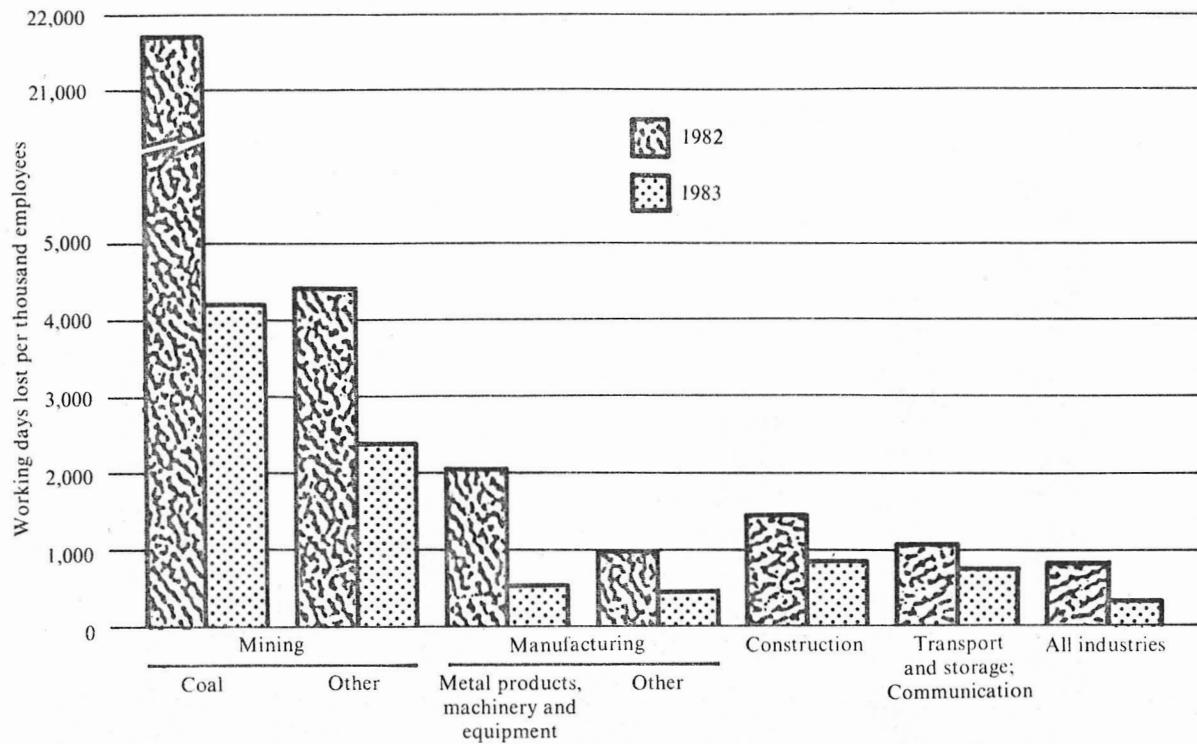


TABLE 4. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES(a) : INDUSTRIES, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES

Period	Mining		Manufacturing		Construction	Transport and storage; Communication	Other industries	All industries (b)
	Coal	Other	Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other				
1980	23,533	3,915	1,181	1,094	681	537	202	650
1981	10,011	5,141	2,285	989	1,423	1,104	239	800
1982	14,483	2,691	487	512	782	670	85	396
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>								
March 1982	21,628	4,413	2,064	982	1,463	1,028	210	818
March 1983	4,203	2,373	515	479	868	740	58	313

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) Excluding agriculture, etc. and private households employing staff.

CHART 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES, TWELVE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 1982 AND 1983

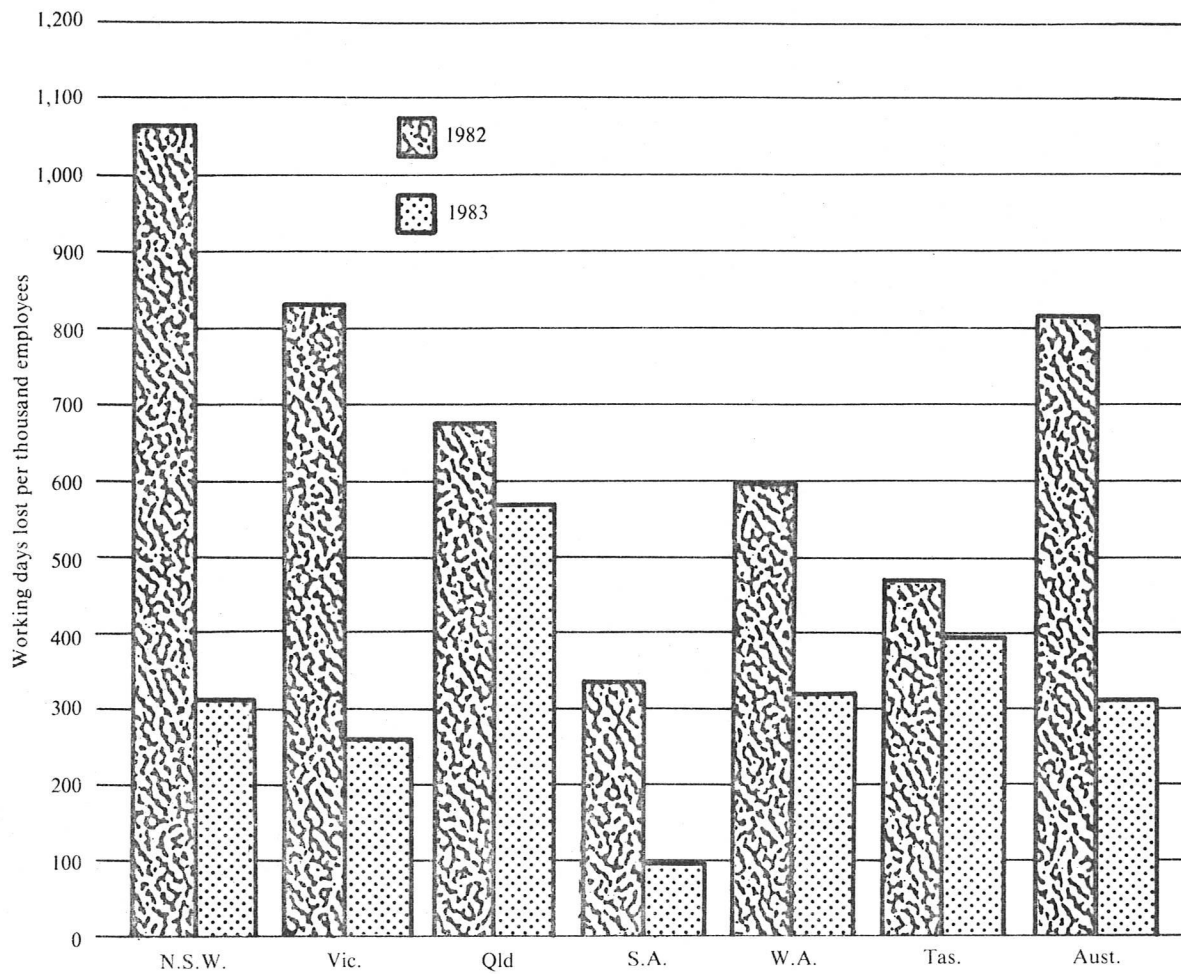


TABLE 5. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES(a): WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES(b)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.(c)
1980	660	792	866	132	445	659	650
1981	1,028	865	624	320	552	456	800
1982	481	260	672	102	352	432	396
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>							
March 1982	1,067	830	673	337	596	470	818
March 1983	312	259	568	95	321	397	313

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) Excludes agriculture, etc. and private households employing staff. (c) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.