

## CHAPTER 10

### INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

This chapter presents statistics of industrial disputes. The statistics are compiled mainly from data obtained from employers (both private and government) and trade unions concerning individual disputes and from reports of government authorities.

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.

**TABLE 10.1. SUMMARY OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : 1973 TO 1983**

Period	Workers involved ('000)							Total working days lost ('000)
	Number of disputes		Directly		Indirectly		Total	
	Commenced during period	Total	Newly involved (a)	Total	Newly involved (a)	Total	Newly involved (a)	Total
1973	n.a.	2,538	n.a.	758.0	n.a.	45.0	n.a.	803.0
1974	n.a.	2,809	n.a.	1,947.1	n.a.	57.8	n.a.	2,004.8
1975	n.a.	2,432	n.a.	1,343.8	n.a.	54.1	n.a.	1,398.0
1976	n.a.	2,055	n.a.	2,137.3	n.a.	52.6	n.a.	2,189.9
1977	2,083	2,090	539.0	539.4	56.8	56.8	595.8	596.2
1978	2,276	2,277	1,011.9	1,011.9	63.7	63.7	1,075.6	1,075.6
1979	2,040	2,042	1,816.7	1,818.0	44.9	44.9	1,861.6	1,862.9
1980	2,420	2,429	1,102.0	1,108.9	63.2	64.0	1,165.2	1,172.8
1981	2,887	2,915	1,152.5	1,175.2	76.5	76.6	1,229.1	1,251.8
1982	2,045	2,060	667.1	697.4	24.2	25.5	691.3	722.9
1983	1,780	1,788	427.8	445.2	25.4	25.4	453.2	470.6

(a) Comprises workers involved in disputes that commenced during the period and additional workers involved in disputes that continued from previous periods.

Source: *Industrial Disputes, Australia* (6322.0).

**TABLE 10.2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES, INDUSTRIES, 1973 TO 1983**

Period	Manufacturing					Transport and storage; Communication			All industries	
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment	Construction	Stevedoring services	Other industries (a)				
	Coal	Other								
1973	4,268	2,860	1,405	889	1,119	2,705	256	133	552	
1974	7,725	2,625	4,876	1,026	3,009	6,172	1,352	194	1,273	
1975	14,991	1,576	2,376	674	1,255	2,581	379	230	717	
1976	6,602	3,952	1,467	1,245	1,433	2,276	1,010	292	773	
1977	4,145	3,182	398	679	591	2,625	450	101	336	
1978	5,669	2,415	1,460	747	378	8,418	435	74	434	
1979	8,744	5,412	1,818	1,147	1,044	8,106	1,126	270	787	
1980(b)	23,533	3,915	1,181	1,094	681	2,356	354	202	650	
1981	10,011	5,141	2,285	989	1,423	3,041	957	239	800	
1982	14,483	2,691	487	512	782	—	670	85	396	
1983	3,240	3,390	348	186	1,269	—	489	42	249	

(a) Excluding agriculture, etc and private households employing staff. (b) For change in method of estimation see paragraph 265 to Appendix

Source: *Industrial Disputes, Australia* (6322.0).

**TABLE 10.3. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES, STATES AND AUSTRALIA, 1973 TO 1983**

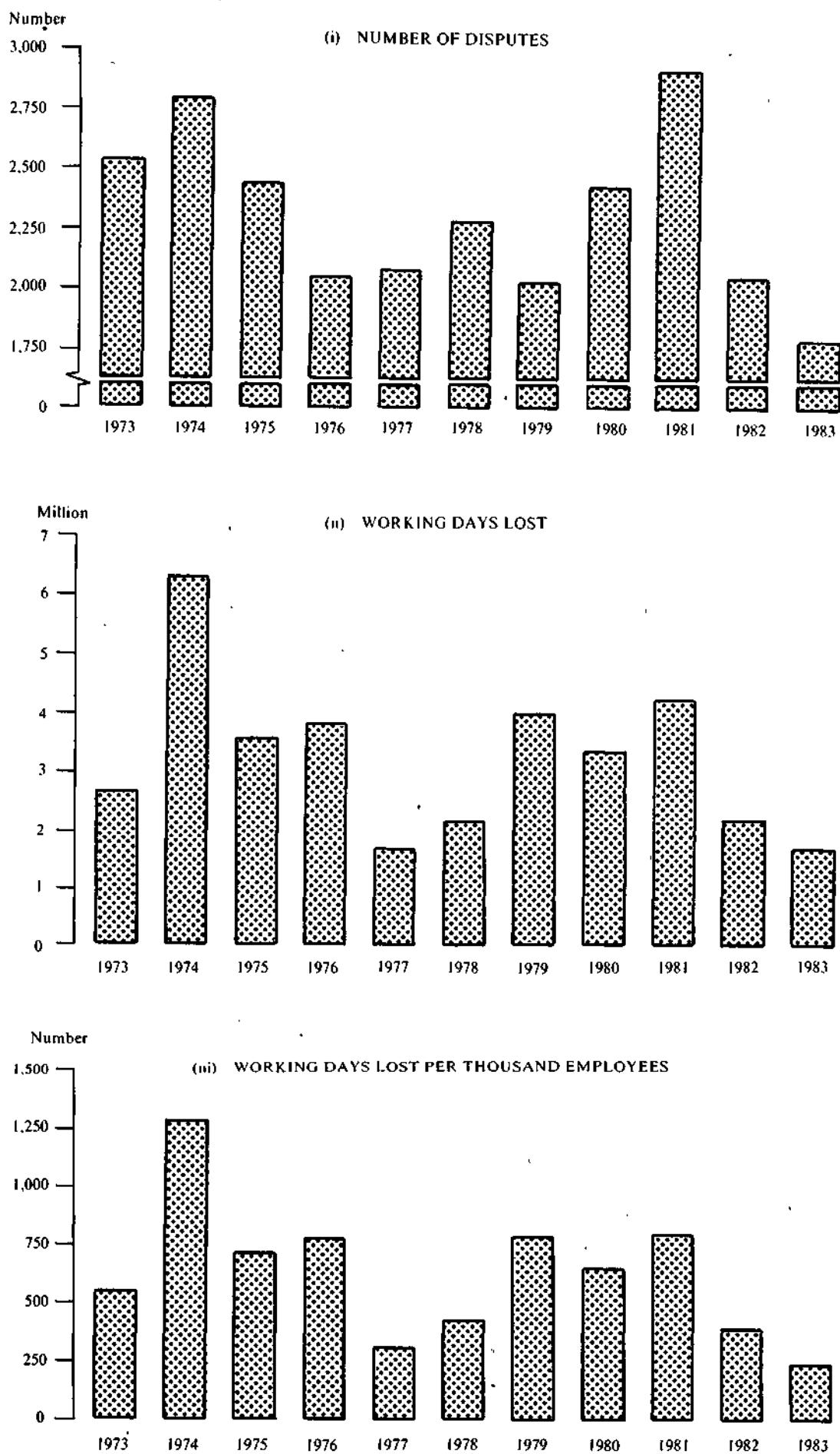
Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia(a)
1973	622	590	509	296	313	1,089	552
1974	1,462	1,757	807	686	656	672	1,273
1975	831	910	718	277	253	305	717
1976	827	1,051	638	323	623	464	773
1977	308	433	359	65	532	197	336
1978	555	346	536	172	473	261	434
1979	744	1,090	680	395	832	439	787
1980(b)	660	792	866	132	445	659	650
1981	1,028	865	624	320	552	456	800
1982	481	260	672	102	352	432	396
1983	288	163	178	114	581	471	249

(a) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (b) For change in method of estimation see paragraph 265 of Appendix II.

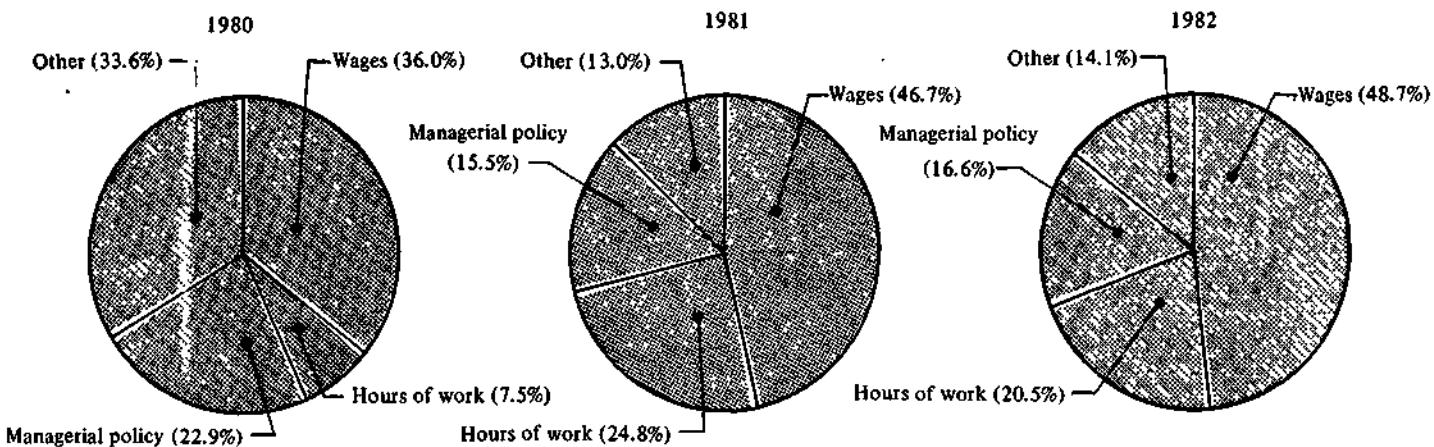
Source: *Industrial Disputes, Australia* (6322.0).

NOTE: Details shown in Charts 10.1 and 10.2 and Tables 10.1 to 10.3 relate to all disputes in progress during the year.

CHART 10.a. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, 1973 TO 1983



**CHART 10.b. PROPORTION OF WORKING DAYS LOST BY CAUSE: INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES ENDING DURING THE YEAR, 1980 TO 1982**



Source: *Industrial Disputes, Australia (6322.0)*

**TABLE 10.4. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES(a): WORKING DAYS LOST, INDUSTRIES AND CAUSE, 1980 TO 1982**

Cause of dispute	Manufacturing						Transport and storage; Communication			All industries	Proportion of total (per cent)											
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other	Construction	Stevedoring services	Other industries															
	Coal	Other																				
— '000 —																						
1980																						
Wages	52.5	44.9	102.9	471.0	101.5	1.6	43.4	284.0	1,101.8	36.0												
Hours of work	4.5	6.6	98.7	54.6	15.0	25.3	4.5	21.6	230.6	7.5												
Managerial policy	27.5	114.3	170.7	131.6	42.3	22.1	47.3	146.0	701.8	22.9												
Physical working conditions	35.3	17.1	36.5	30.6	25.1	5.8	9.8	7.0	167.1	5.5												
Trade unionism	28.3	12.8	13.9	19.3	9.1	1.6	12.2	6.3	103.4	3.4												
Other	328.3	2.8	154.0	79.3	21.2	18.6	25.4	128.1	757.6	24.7												
Total	476.4	198.4	576.6	786.3	214.2	74.9	142.6	592.9	3,062.4	100.0												
1981																						
Wages	58.0	136.5	473.9	287.7	296.1	10.9	255.1	548.6	2,066.9	46.7												
Hours of work	13.6	8.0	647.4	283.3	66.3	5.5	14.9	60.1	1,099.1	24.8												
Managerial policy	77.1	117.1	75.3	75.6	38.6	7.6	124.6	172.0	687.8	15.5												
Physical working conditions	48.2	13.8	50.9	5.5	14.0	7.9	3.6	32.7	176.5	4.0												
Trade unionism	23.4	21.6	7.7	2.8	18.0	10.1	1.5	2.3	87.4	2.0												
Other	255.9	9.0	5.5	10.7	11.2	4.2	5.0	8.1	309.6	7.0												
Total	476.2	305.9	1,260.8	665.5	444.3	46.2	404.6	823.9	4,427.4	100.0												
1982																						
Wages	534.7	21.6	45.5	203.7	65.5	17.9	31.3	161.1	1,081.4	48.7												
Hours of work	6.6	14.1	40.4	33.1	41.9	3.4	218.4	97.3	455.2	20.5												
Managerial policy	12.2	55.5	88.9	70.8	60.7	3.7	13.0	64.3	369.1	16.6												
Physical working conditions	26.1	13.2	25.1	11.8	36.2	3.8	1.6	37.8	155.6	7.0												
Trade unionism	4.6	43.0	2.1	3.0	14.2	0.8	0.6	8.4	76.7	3.5												
Other	2.4	9.7	11.9	19.7	15.2	5.2	10.4	6.5	81.0	3.7												
Total	586.6	157.0	214.0	342.0	233.7	34.8	275.3	375.4	2,219.0	100.0												

(a) Disputes ending during the year. Disputes continuing into the next year are not included.

Source: *Industrial Disputes, Australia (6322.0)*.

TABLE 10.5. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES(a) INDUSTRIES AND DURATION, 1982

Duration (working days)	Manufacturing					Transport and storage; Communication			All industries	
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment		Other	Construction	Stevedoring services	Other	Other industries	Total
	Coal	Other	Other	Construction	Other	Other	Other	Other	Total	Proportion of total
DISPUTES										
						—number—				per cent
Up to 1 day	145	190	335	48	81	61	64	87	1,011	49.3
Over 1 to 2 days	37	107	99	42	40	7	25	56	413	20.1
Over 2 to 3 days	18	37	24	20	25	4	15	29	172	8.4
Over 3 to less than 5 days	10	30	27	20	25	2	13	21	148	7.2
5 to less than 10 days	6	28	33	24	48	2	18	31	190	9.3
10 to less than 20 days	5	7	18	19	14	1	4	14	82	4.0
20 to less than 40 days	1	7	2	4	13	—	1	2	30	1.5
40 days and over	—	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	5	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>2,051</b>	<b>100.0</b>
WORKERS INVOLVED (DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY)										
						—'000—				per cent
Up to 1 day	28.0	24.2	88.6	26.6	25.7	14.2	16.1	50.1	273.4	39.1
Over 1 to 2 days	18.5	15.9	42.5	33.8	23.6	2.1	14.2	39.2	189.9	27.2
Over 2 to 3 days	2.8	4.0	7.9	9.4	1.7	2.7	8.2	25.5	62.1	8.9
Over 3 to less than 5 days	1.4	3.2	5.0	4.1	9.8	0.9	4.4	15.2	44.0	6.3
5 to less than 10 days	6.0	3.7	4.4	6.3	8.4	0.6	21.2	18.4	69.0	9.9
10 to less than 20 days	36.7	0.5	1.7	3.4	1.6	0.7	0.2	2.4	47.4	6.8
20 to less than 40 days	0.1	3.1	0.3	3.1	1.1	—	—	0.2	7.9	1.1
40 days and over	—	—	—	5.2	0.3	—	—	—	5.5	0.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>93.5</b>	<b>54.7</b>	<b>150.4</b>	<b>91.9</b>	<b>72.3</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>64.2</b>	<b>151.1</b>	<b>699.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>
WORKING DAYS LOST										
						—'000—				per cent
Up to 1 day	27.6	11.1	55.0	20.9	20.9	9.8	8.2	33.7	187.1	8.4
Over 1 to 2 days	25.3	23.9	54.2	52.8	44.3	2.4	25.7	62.3	290.8	13.1
Over 2 to 3 days	6.7	9.8	20.0	24.4	4.5	6.0	23.2	57.8	152.6	6.9
Over 3 to less than 5 days	5.2	12.4	20.6	16.8	36.8	4.2	18.2	56.2	170.4	7.7
5 to less than 10 days	23.8	25.5	32.8	41.5	58.9	3.0	196.4	133.4	515.1	23.2
10 to less than 20 days	495.0	8.0	24.8	44.8	17.5	9.4	3.0	26.6	629.0	28.3
20 to less than 40 days	3.0	66.5	6.6	72.0	33.1	—	0.6	5.4	187.3	8.4
40 days and over	—	—	—	68.9	17.8	—	—	—	86.7	3.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>586.6</b>	<b>157.0</b>	<b>214.0</b>	<b>342.0</b>	<b>233.7</b>	<b>34.8</b>	<b>275.3</b>	<b>375.4</b>	<b>2,219.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Disputes ending in 1982. Disputes continuing into the next year are not included.

Source: *Industrial Disputes, Australia* (6322.0).