

## Microsoft Outlook

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**From:** Pomerantz, Anne  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2009 2:31 PM  
**To:** ML-R19-Professionals (R); ML-RES-POR-Professionals (R); Schaff, David  
**Cc:** ML-R19-Supervisors (R); ML-RES-POR-Supervisors (R); Hayashi, Minoru N.  
**Subject:** Interesting article from the DLR this morning

### Work Stoppages

#### Major Strikes, Lockouts in 2008 Idled Fewer Workers, Caused More Lost Work Time

Major lockouts and strikes idled less than half as many employees in 2008 than the previous year but resulted in 55 percent more lost workdays, according to figures released Feb. 11 by the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The number of new strikes or lockouts involving 1,000 workers or more declined last year to 15, down from 21 in 2007 and the fewest since 14 in 2003, BLS reported.

Those initiated in 2008 idled 72,000 workers, 117,000 fewer than the 189,000 employees involved in major work stoppages the prior year.

On the other hand, the amount of work time lost because of all major work stoppages that occurred last year, including those that began in 2007 and continued in 2008, rose to almost 2.0 million days, an increase of 55 percent from the 1.3 million lost workdays the preceding year.

Of the 15 strikes and lockouts initiated in 2008, 12 were in the private sector and three were in state and local government, all in education. Private sector strikes and lockouts accounted for 84 percent of all workers idled and 97 percent of total workdays lost, BLS said.

Within private industry, manufacturing accounted for the highest number of new work stoppages last year, at six, followed by health care, with three.

Including one strike that began in 2007 and continued in 2008, 16 major work stoppages were in effect for at least part of last year, down from 24 in 2007.

The largest work stoppage initiated last year in terms of both lost workdays and employees was the International Association of Machinists' walkout at Boeing Co. plants in Washington and Oregon, which idled 27,000 workers and resulted in just over 1 million days of lost work time. The strike ended Nov. 1 when union members approved a new collective bargaining agreement ([213 DLR A-10, 11/4/08](#)).

The next largest work stoppage last year was the nationwide strike by the Writers Guild of America against the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, lasting 68 days from November 2007 to February 2008, when union members ratified a new contract ([39 DLR A-1, 2/28/08](#)). Some 10,500 writers were idled, resulting in a total of 630,000 lost workdays over the entire period, about half in 2008.

The longest work stoppage that began in 2008 was the job action by the United Auto Workers against American Axle & Manufacturing Holdings Inc., which idled 3,600 workers at plants in Michigan and New York for 63 days. The strike, which ended May 22 after the company and the union reached a

tentative agreement ([97 DLR A-8, 5/20/08](#)), also was the second largest in terms of lost work time, at more than one-quarter million workdays.

The average duration of major work stoppages initiated last year was 14.9 days, up from 10.5 days on average in 2007, but nine of the 15 new strikes or lockouts lasted 10 days or less.

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