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Coverage
United Kingdom

Theme
The Economy



1.04 million working days lost to disputes in 2007

Economic & Labour Market Review

A total of 1.041 million working days were lost to strikes in 2007, according to the annual article looking in detail at labour disputes, published in today's *Economic & Labour Market Review*, up on the 755,000 lost in 2006. The number of disputes was down – 142 stoppages in 2007 compared with 158 the year before.

As well as being higher than the 2006 figure, the 2007 total of 1.041 million working days lost is higher than the average number of working days lost in the 1990s (660,000). However, it is considerably lower than the average for both the 1980s (7.2 million) and the 1970s (12.9 million). The number of stoppages is also well down on past levels – the average number of stoppages was 1,129 a year in the 1980s.

The average number of working days lost per 1,000 employees was 38 in 2007, up from 28 in 2006. However, this figure varies very greatly between different industries. The industry with the highest rate in 2007 was transport, storage and communication, where 422 days were lost per 1,000 employees, up from only 25 days the previous year.

The region with the highest rate of working days lost in 2007 was the North West, where 55 days were lost per 1,000 employees. The lowest loss was in the East Midlands, where the equivalent figure was 19. The sharpest increase was in London where the rate went from 10 days per 1,000 employees in 2006 to 44 in 2007.

Looking at the reasons for disputes, the biggest number of days lost in 2007 was in disputes over wages. These accounted for 684,000 of the total 1.041 million days lost. Virtually all the remaining loss was to strikes over working hours (316,000 days), with only 40,000 days lost to disputes over all other causes.

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Other articles this month include:

Modernisation of the UK's National Accounts: progress and plans for Blue Book and Pink Book 2008

Blue Book 2008 will introduce the first phase of modernisation of the National Accounts that will deliver incremental improvements over the next three to four years, while there will also be a number of methodological improvements in the *Pink Book*. This article sets out more detail on the scope of the 2008 publications.

Labour Force Survey: reweighting and seasonal adjustment review 2008

This article explains the revisions to the LFS arising from the annual seasonal adjustment review and reweighting to bring both aggregate estimates and analysis from the microdata into line with the latest ONS population estimates and projections.

Review of Labour Statistics for the United Nations Statistics Commission

Early in 2007 ONS was asked by the UN Statistics Division to carry out a review of labour market statistics. This was very well received on its presentation in February 2008, and recommendations are to be taken forward by UNSD and the International Labour Organisation.

Impact of methodological changes to the Index of Production

This article looks at the impact of the improved methods implemented in the Index of Production published on 10 March 2008.

BACKGROUND NOTES

1. *Economic & Labour Market Review* is available on the website at www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=1469
2. **National Statistics** are produced to high professional standards as set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from political interference. © Crown Copyright 2008.