

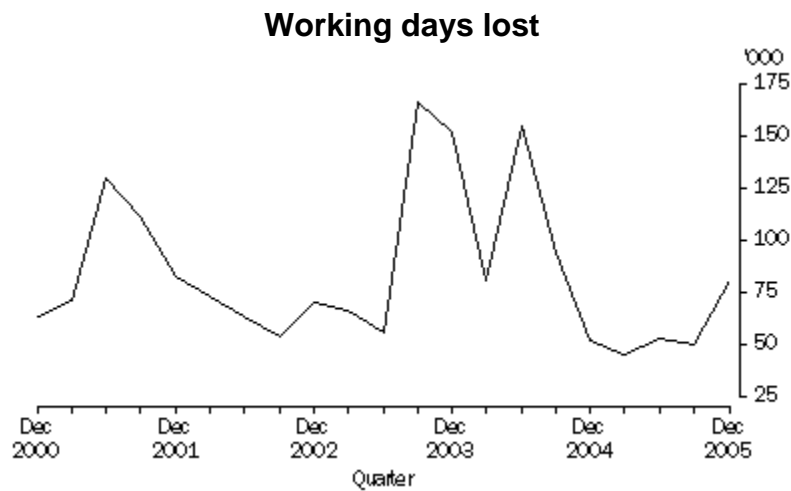
Industrial Disputes Australia, December 2005

Source: ABS 6321.0.55.001

DECEMBER KEY FIGURES

	Quarter		Year ended	
	September 2005	December 2005	December 2004	December 2005
Number of disputes				
Commenced in period (no.)	r144	84	682	462
Total (no.)	r150	96	692	472
Employees involved				
Newly involved ('000)	r68.1	102.1	193.3	240.5
Total ('000)	r68.4	102.6	194.0	241.0
Working days lost ('000)	r49.3	81.0	379.8	228.3

r revised



DECEMBER KEY POINTS

QUARTERLY ESTIMATES

- For the December quarter 2005, there were 96 disputes, 54 less than in the September quarter 2005.
- The number of employees involved in industrial disputes in the December quarter 2005 was 102,600, an increase from 68,400 in the September quarter 2005.
- There were 81,000 working days lost due to industrial disputation in the December quarter 2005, an increase from 49,300 in the September quarter 2005.
- The Education and Health and community services industries accounted for 25,500 (32%) of the total number of working days lost in the December quarter 2005. The Construction industry had the highest number of working days lost per thousand employees (40.1) for the quarter, followed by Coal mining (39.5) and Metal product and Machinery and equipment manufacturing (38.9).
- In the December quarter 2005, Victoria accounted for 33,800 (42%) of working days lost. Victoria also had the highest number of working days lost per thousand employees (15.3) for the quarter.

YEAR ENDED ESTIMATES

- During the year ended December 2005, there were 472 disputes, 220 less than in the year ended December 2004.
- During the year ended December 2005, there were 228,300 working days lost compared with 379,800 in the year ended December 2004.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE (QUARTER)

March 2006

June 2006

Release Date

8 June 2006

7 September 2006

NOTES ON ESTIMATES

ACTU 'NATIONAL DAY OF COMMUNITY PROTEST'

Industrial Disputes statistics for the December quarter 2005 include the ACTU 'National Day of Community Protest' which took place on 15 November 2005. Protest rallies took place in all capital cities and in major regional centres.

ABS data on the number of employees involved and working days lost, in respect of this dispute, are significantly lower than those reported in the media at the time of the dispute. The main reasons are:

- Employees who took authorised leave, such as time off in lieu, extended lunch breaks or paid leave, to participate in the rallies, are excluded from ABS industrial disputes statistics.
- Members of the general public, other than employees, who took part in the rallies, are excluded from ABS industrial disputes statistics.
- ABS data are mainly sourced from employers. Due to widespread involvement in the rallies, it has been difficult to identify all employers whose employees were on unauthorised absence on the day.

For further information on ABS scope and collection methodology for the Industrial Disputes collection, see the Explanatory Notes.

REVISIONS

Revisions have been made to the quarterly series as a result of disputes being identified after the release of the previous issue and as a result of correcting errors in previously reported data.

INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

TABLES

1. Industrial disputes which occurred during the quarter

	Number of disputes		Employees involved		
	Commenced in		Total	Newly involved	Total
	no.	no.	'000	'000	Working days lost '000
December Quarter 2003	172	187	114.9	116.3	151.5
March Quarter 2004	177	187	44.6	45.2	80.4
June Quarter 2004	175	190	63.2	65.0	154.2
September Quarter 2004	188	194	56.0	56.2	93.3
December Quarter 2004	142	149	29.6	33.6	51.9
March Quarter 2005	109	119	20.3	20.8	45.1
June Quarter 2005	125	138	50.1	53.4	52.8
September Quarter 2005	r144	r150	r68.1	r68.4	r49.3
December Quarter 2005	84	96	102.1	102.6	81.0

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2. Industrial disputes which occurred during the quarter, Industry

	September Quarter 2005		December Quarter 2005	
	Working days lost '000	Working days lost per thousand employees	Working days lost '000	Working days lost per thousand employees
Mining				
Coal mining	0.9	31.8	1.1	39.5
Other	0.4	4.1	0.1	0.5
Manufacturing				
Metal product; Machinery and equipment	6.1	17.2	15.0	38.9
Other	r2.5	r4.1	6.4	10.3
Construction	r21.3	37.4	23.0	40.1
Transport and storage; Communication services	2.4	4.4	5.7	10.4
Education; Health and community services	r14.3	r8.7	25.5	15.4
Other industries	1.5	0.3	4.2	0.9
All industries	r49.3	r5.7	81.0	9.3

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3. Industrial disputes which occurred during the quarter, States and territories

	September Quarter 2005		December Quarter 2005	
	Working days lost '000	Working days lost per thousand employees	Working days lost '000	Working days lost per thousand employees
New South Wales	22.1	7.9	24.7	8.7
Victoria	7.8	3.6	33.8	15.3
Queensland	r2.4	r1.4	7.9	4.6
South Australia	r3.8	r5.9	1.3	2.0
Western Australia	11.1	12.7	12.0	13.4
Tasmania	-	0.2	0.1	0.6
Northern Territory	2.2	25.2	1.1	12.4
Australian Capital Territory	-	0.1	-	0.2
Australia	r49.3	r5.7	81.0	9.3

- nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

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4. Industrial disputes which ended during the quarter(a)

	June Quarter 2005			September Quarter 2005		
	Number of Employees disputes	involved	Working days lost	Number of Employees disputes	involved	Working days lost
	no.	'000	'000	no.	'000	'000
CAUSE OF DISPUTE						
Enterprise Bargaining (EB) related						
Remuneration	23	12.9	23.1	26	11.6	9.5
Employment conditions (EB)	np	1.6	3.1	np	-	-
Other EB related	5	0.4	2.9	np	0.2	0.4
Non-EB related						
Remuneration	5	0.5	1.0	3	0.1	0.1
Employment conditions	13	1.9	1.3	13	1.4	2.4
Health and safety	28	5.6	5.1	34	7.4	9.4
Job security	14	0.8	1.7	9	1.0	1.7
Managerial policy	26	3.2	3.1	39	3.9	5.0
Union issues	15	8.7	4.8	10	1.2	1.0
Other non-EB related	np	0.1	-	np	62.3	31.1
Total	132	35.8	46.0	138	89.1	60.7

WORKING DAYS LOST PER EMPLOYEE INVOLVED						
Up to and including 1 day	78	21.1	10.0	75	80.4	41.6
Over 1 day and up to and including 2 days	33	12.5	22.7	36	5.1	8.1
Over 2 and less than 5 days	16	1.6	5.0	22	3.5	9.6
5 and less than 10 days	np	0.1	0.6	np	0.1	1.0
10 days and over	np	0.5	7.7	np	-	0.3
Total	132	35.8	46.0	138	89.1	60.7

REASON WORK RESUMED

Negotiation without intervention of a third party	28	3.0	10.3	35	5.0	5.9
State legislation	14	1.9	2.4	10	1.3	2.7
Federal legislation	11	1.4	1.7	16	3.3	7.3
Pre-determined return to work	27	13.0	20.6	25	3.0	3.4
Resumption without negotiation	41	14.4	7.9	40	75.6	39.8
Mediation	11	2.0	3.1	9	0.7	1.5
Other reasons	-	-	-	3	0.2	0.2
Total	132	35.8	46.0	138	89.1	60.7

- nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(a) See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 12