



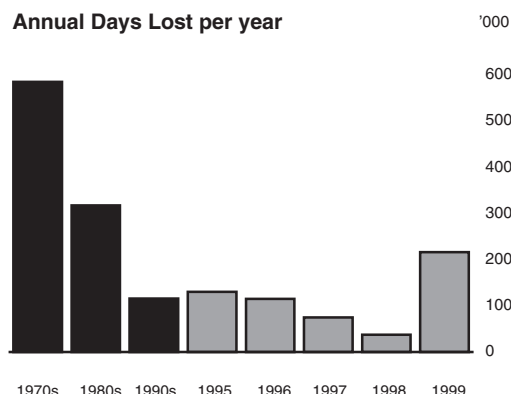
Central Statistics Office
An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh

17 April 2000

Industrial Disputes

Fourth Quarter 1999

Annual Days Lost per year



Disputes in Progress

	Disputes	Workers	Days lost
Q4 1998	12	1,029	3,366
Q3 1999	10	816	8,864
Q4 1999	9	32,203	178,532
Total 1998	34	8,060	37,374
Total 1999	32	36,505	215,587

Highest number of days lost since 1990

During 1999, an estimated 215,587 days were lost due to industrial disputes. This is the highest figure since 1990 when there were 222,916 days lost.

The 32 industrial disputes that occurred in 1999 affected 36,505 workers and 127 firms. About 90% of the workers involved in disputes during the year were in the services sector and the largest dispute was the nurses strike in October.

The effect of the nurses dispute can be seen in the results for the fourth quarter of 1999, when 178,532 days were lost. *See Table 1.*

Other features include:

- ◆ Last year's figure of 215,587 days lost in disputes was much higher than the 1998 total of 37,374 days. However, the results for the 1990s overall show that the number of days lost was considerably less than in previous decades.
- ◆ On average during the 1990s, 115,825 days per year were lost due to industrial disputes. This compares with 317,078 days per year in the 1980s and 583,978 in the 1970s. *See Graph.*

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Table 1 Industrial Disputes which began or were in progress in the fourth quarter of 1999

Industrial Group	Disputes which began in Q4 1999	Disputes in progress during Q4 1999			Total days lost
		Number of disputes	Number of firms	Number of workers	
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	—	—	—	—	—
Mining, quarrying and turf production	—	—	—	—	—
Food	—	—	—	—	—
Drink and tobacco	—	—	—	—	—
Textiles	—	—	—	—	—
Clothing and footwear	—	—	—	—	—
Woodworking and furniture	—	—	—	—	—
Paper and printing	—	—	—	—	—
Chemicals and chemical products	—	1	1	101	1,616
Clay products, glass, cement etc.	—	—	—	—	—
Metals and engineering	—	—	—	—	—
Other manufacturing	—	—	—	—	—
Construction and repair work (incl. building)	1	1	2	26	182
Electricity, gas water and sanitary services	—	—	—	—	—
Commerce	1	1	1	12	88
Transport, storage and communication	2	2	2	82	124
Services	4	4	11	31,982	176,522
Total Q4 1999	8	9	17	32,203	178,532

Table 2 Industrial Disputes which began or were in progress in 1999

Industrial Group	Disputes which began in 1999	Disputes in progress during 1999			Total days lost
		Number of disputes	Number of firms	Number of workers	
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1	1	1	26	1,144
Mining, quarrying and turf production	—	—	—	—	—
Food	2	2	2	164	723
Drink and tobacco	—	—	—	—	—
Textiles	—	—	—	—	—
Clothing and footwear	—	—	—	—	—
Woodworking and furniture	—	—	—	—	—
Paper and printing	—	—	—	—	—
Chemicals and chemical products	1	1	1	101	7,424
Clay products, glass, cement etc.	—	—	—	—	—
Metals and engineering	—	—	—	—	—
Other manufacturing	1	1	1	52	676
Construction and repair work (incl. building)	4	4	94	2,076	22,182
Electricity, gas water and sanitary services	2	2	1	375	616
Commerce	1	1	1	12	88
Transport, storage and communication	6	6	7	599	2,201
Services	14	14	19	33,100	180,533
Total 1999	32	32	127	36,505	215,587

Table 3 Industrial Disputes which began or were in progress in each quarter, 1993-1999

Year	Quarter	Disputes which began	Disputes in progress			
			Number of disputes ¹	Number of firms involved ¹	Workers involved ¹	Total days lost
1993	Quarter 1	15	16	16	2,378	13,673
	Quarter 2	16	23	23	3,368	18,342
	Quarter 3	9	12	12	7,049	23,257
	Quarter 4	7	9	9	447	6,040
	Total 1993	47	48	48	12,789	61,312
1994	Quarter 1	7	8	8	837	5,088
	Quarter 2	11	13	222	1,585	11,374
	Quarter 3	4	4	4	1,392	3,143
	Quarter 4	6	7	7	1,329	5,945
	Total 1994	28	29	238	5,007	25,550
1995	Quarter 1	14	14	14	2,134	5,334
	Quarter 2	10	11	11	28,762	89,872
	Quarter 3	5	7	7	8,339	31,466
	Quarter 4	4	5	5	624	3,628
	Total 1995	34	34	34	31,653	130,300
1996	Quarter 1	5	7	7	1,179	1,949
	Quarter 2	14	15	15	2,830	16,682
	Quarter 3	6	6	6	9,471	89,800
	Quarter 4	5	8	8	1,418	6,153
	Total 1996	30	32	30	13,339	114,584
1997	Quarter 1	9	9	9	838	13,814
	Quarter 2	10	12	17	4,343	55,249
	Quarter 3	3	7	7	119	2,121
	Quarter 4	6	6	6	433	3,324
	Total 1997	28	28	33	5,364	74,508
1998	Quarter 1	10	11	11	3,376	13,629
	Quarter 2	7	9	30	3,084	7,267
	Quarter 3	6	8	15	854	13,112
	Quarter 4	10	12	14	1,029	3,366
	Total 1998	33	34	62	8,060	37,374
1999	Quarter 1	6	6	7	787	2,033
	Quarter 2	10	11	101	3,204	26,158
	Quarter 3	8	10	11	816	8,864
	Quarter 4	8	9	17	32,203	178,532
	Total 1999	32	32	127	36,505	215,587

¹The quarterly totals in these columns will not always add to the annual total since an Industrial Dispute can be in progress in more than one quarter.

Background Notes

Sources The information on Industrial Disputes is based on details supplied by the Monitoring Unit of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and on information collected directly from other sources by the Central Statistics Office.

Scope Disputes are included in this release if they involve a stoppage of work lasting for at least one day and the total time lost is 10 or more person-days.

Days Lost In calculating days lost, it is assumed that work would have continued if no dispute had occurred. No allowance is made for loss of work from unemployment or other causes (such as bad weather) which might have happened even if there was no dispute. The number of days lost is calculated by multiplying the number of persons involved by the number of normal working days during which they were involved in the dispute. Persons working for approximately 40 hours per week are assumed to be working the equivalent of a 5 day week even if the work is spread over more than 5 days.

Disputes in Progress The tables show data on disputes which began and disputes which were in progress in each quarter. The quarterly figures for the number of disputes in progress and for the number of firms and workers involved will not always add to the annual total, since an industrial dispute can be in progress in more than one quarter.