

Engineering Strike Statistics for Engineering Employers' Federation Companies, 1920-1970

SUMMARY INFORMATION

Project Title: An evaluation of UK engineering strikes between 1920 and 1970

Investigators: Professor R.A. Hart, Dept. of Economics, University of Stirling

Project duration: 1st July 2006 – 31st April 2008

Funding body: Economic and social Research Council
Grant RES-000-22-1804

Source material: EEF Volumes held by University of Warwick Modern Record Centre.

Ministry of Labour Gazette 1960 – 1970 (various volumes)
“Numbers Unemployed in Principle Towns and Development Area” and “Regional analysis of unemployment”

Denham, J and P McDonald. 1996. Unemployment statistics from 1881 to the present day. *Labour Market Trends* 104 (January), 5 – 18.

Database compiled by: Prof. R.A Hart, Dept of Economics, University of Stirling
J. Elizabeth Roberts, Dept of Economics, University of Stirling

Data Collection: July 2006 – August 2007

Software used: Microsoft Excel and STATA9

Contents of Database: A STATA file containing data on company level strikes within the Engineering Employers' Federation between 1920 and 1970. The data include where and when the strike started, the strike duration in days (and where less than a day, hours), the company and unions involved, the number of people affected - both on strike and made idle – and the reason for and outcome of the strike.

Two STATA files giving unemployment rates – annual unemployment rates from 1914 to 2001 and monthly district (54 districts) unemployment rates from January 1960 to December 1970.

(Also available from the UKDA in SPSS and tab delimited format)

Also an Excel file giving a brief history of each union involved in the strikes, including union amalgamations.

Publications using EEF data:

Hart, R.A. 2008. Piece work Pay and hourly pay over the cycle. Labour Economics (forthcoming)

Hart, R A. 2007. Women doing men's work and women doing women's work: female work and pay in British wartime engineering. Explorations in Economic History 44, 114-130

Hart, R A. 2005. General human capital and employment adjustment in the Great Depression; apprentices and journeymen in UK engineering. Oxford Economic Papers 57, 169-189

Hart, R A. 2003. Overtime working, the Phillips curve, and the wage curve: British engineering, 1926-1966. Manchester School 71, 97-112

Hart, R A. 2001. Hours and wages in the Depression: British engineering, 1926-1938. Explorations in Economic History, 478-502.

Hart, R.A. and D.I.MacKay, 1975, Engineering earnings in Britain, 1914-68, Journal of the Royal Statistical Society (Series A) 138, 32-50.

Copyright: Engineering Employers' Federation

Documentation contact: Professor R.A. Hart, Dept. of Economics,
University of Stirling

THE DATA

We provide a unique historical dataset that records the complete strike records of the Engineering Employers' Federation (EEF) member companies for the unbroken period from 1920 to 1970. The strike records come from a set of EEF volumes that are stored at the University of Warwick's Modern Records Centre. The data are very comprehensive: for each strike, they report the name of the company involved, the union(s) involved, the geographical engineering district (e.g. Coventry), the cause of the strike, the outcome or resolution, the strike duration in days (with precise start dates), the numbers involved (by men, women and boys), the classes of workers involved (e.g. tool room fitters, machinemen), and numbers of workers incidentally made idle as a result of the strike. The level of detail is consistent for each and every year over the half century covered. We have transcribed these data on to spreadsheets in a systematic fashion so that they are useful for statistical analysis. There are no censored durations data because all reported strikes had ended at the end of the data.

Also provided are the annual unemployment rates from 1914 to 2001 and the monthly district unemployment rates covering 54 districts for the period 1960-1970.

All the strikes data from the original manuscripts was initially entered in Microsoft Excel spreadsheets with one Excel spreadsheet for each year of data. These individual spreadsheets were then checked to ensure that the variable specifying the year in which the strike started agreed with the year the data covered. All these files were then joined together, the company names standardised across the years, the union names standardised and abbreviated across the years and finally the data converted into STATA format.

The resulting data covers the years 1920 to 1970. It contains information on 10944 strikes involving 132 different unions, 1909 companies and 68 districts.

The annual unemployment file covers the year 1914 to 2001 and was taken from Denham, J and P McDonald. 1996. Unemployment statistics from 1881 to the present day. *Labour Market Trends* 104 (January), 5 – 18.

The monthly district unemployment file is for the years 1960 to 1970 and is taken from the tables “Numbers Unemployed in Principle Towns and Development Area” and “District analysis of unemployment” in the Ministry of Labour Gazette. It gives the unemployment rate for each month and covers 54 towns and districts.

The union spreadsheet contains a brief history of how most of the unions developed, when and with whom they merged and, in some cases, an estimate of their membership numbers. It also contains several useful web-site links that cover these topics.

DATA FILES

Strikes Data – file name: SkDataA.dta

variable name	type	format	variable label
ctype	str1	%9s	Category of strike
ccode	byte	%8.0g	Category of strike
assregion	str16	%16s	Strike district name
assid	byte	%8.0g	Strike district identity number
firmname	str156	%156s	Company name
subsid	str29	%29s	Company subsidiary
works	str68	%68s	Company works
natreg	byte	%8.0g	National/Regional strike marker
unions	str48	%48s	Unions involved
classes	str77	%77s	Occupations of strikes
qtype	str2	%9s	Question at issue
qcode	byte	%8.0g	Question at issue
description	str244	%244s	Brief description of reason for strike
total	long	%12.0g	Total workers on strike
men	long	%12.0g	No. of men on strike
women	int	%8.0g	No. of Women on strike
boys	int	%8.0g	No. of Boys on strike
laididle	int	%8.0g	Made Idle
durd	float	%9.0g	Duration (Days)
durh	float	%9.0g	Duration (Hours)
rtype	str2	%9s	Strike outcome
rcode	byte	%8.0g	Strike outcome
outcome	str244	%244s	Brief description of strike outcome
datebegun	str11	%11s	Date strike began
sday	int	%8.0g	Day strike began
smonth	byte	%8.0g	Month strike began
syear	int	%8.0g	Year strike began

Years covered:- 1920 to 1970

Notes

- 1) Duration given in days (durd). If hours given (durh), strike lasted less than 1 day.
- 2) From 1920 to 1961 the number of men, women and boys are given
From 1962 to 1970 only the total is given

Monthly District Unemployment Rates – files name: Unemp6070data.dta

variable name	type	format	variable label
-----	-----	-----	-----
syear	int	%8.0g	Year
smonth	byte	%8.0g	Month
U	float	%9.0g	Unemployment rate
			District identity
assid	byte	%9.0g	number
assregion	str15	%15s	District name

Period covered:- January 1960 to December 1970

Union File – file name:- UnionInfo.xls

variable name	variable label
-----	-----
Id	Union identity number
Abbrev	Abbreviation of Union name
Union	Union name
Membership1	Early membership number
Membership2	Later membership number
History	A brief history of the union

Classifications

Districts

Id	District	Id	District
1	Aberdeen	39	North West
2	Barrow	40	Nottingham
3	Bedfordshire	41	Oldham
4	Belfast Marine	42	Otley
5	Birkenhead	43	Ptrbrgh
6	Birmingham	44	Preston
7	Blackburn	45	Rochdale
8	Bolton	46	St Helens
9	Border Counties	47	Sheffield
10	Bradford	48	Shropshire
11	Burnley	49	Wakefield
12	Burton	50	West Of England
14	Chester	51	Wigan
15	Coventry	52	South Wales
16	Derby	53	Scottish
18	Dublin	54	Grimsby
19	Dundee	55	Explosives
20	East Anglian	56	West Riding
21	East Scotland	57	West Midlands
22	Grantham	58	Brdgblndng (Bridge building)
23	Halifax	59	Admiralty Contractors
24	Heavy Woollen	63	Area Committees/Site Groups
25	Huddersfield	64	East Midlands
26	Hull	65	Lancashire
27	Keighley	66	Yorkshire
28	Kilmarnock	68	Mid-Anglian
29	Leeds	69	Northern Counties
30	Leicester	70	National
31	Lincoln	71	South Eastern
32	Liverpool	72	Various Areas
33	London	73	Mid Counties
34	Outside London	74	Cheshire
35	Manchester		
36	North East Coast		
37	Northern Ireland		
38	North Staffordshire		

Category of Strike

	ctype	ccode
1920-1956		
Strikes in Breach of Provisions for Avoiding Disputes	C	3
Strikes After a Failure to Arrive at a Settlement Under Provisions for Avoiding Disputes	D	3
Strikes in Which Unions Concerned are Not Parties to Provisions for Avoiding Disputes	E	3
Strikes affecting non-union workpeople (and apprentices, boys and youths)	F	3

	ctype	ccode
1957-1970		
Manual Workers - Strikes in Breach of Provisions for Avoiding Disputes	A	1
Manual Workers - Strikes Not In Breach Of Provisions For Avoiding Disputes	A	2
Staff Workers - Strikes in Breach of Provisions for Avoiding Disputes	B	1
Staff Workers - Strikes Not In Breach Of Provisions For Avoiding Disputes	B	2

National/Regional strike marker

	natreg
Strike local to district	0
National strike	1
Regional strike	2

Unions

Abbreviation Union

ABFSW	Association of Blacksmiths, forge and Smithy Workers
ACTSS	Association of Clerical, Technical and Supervisory Staff
AEF	Amalgamated Union Of Engineering and foundry workers
AESD	Association of Engineering and Shipbuilding Draughtsmen
AEU	Amalgamated Engineering Union
AMEGGS	Amalgamated Machine Engine and Iron Grinders and Glaziers Society
AMU	Amalgamated Moulders Union
APAC	Association of Patternmakers & Allied Craftsmen
ASB	Amalgamated Society of Brass workers
ASBSBSW	Amalgamated Society of Boilermakers, Shipwrights, Blacksmith, and Structural Workers
ASC	Amalgamated Society of Coremakers
ASCCMJ	Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners
ASCJ	Amalgamated Society of Carpenters, Cabinet Makers and Joiners
ASCM	Amalgamated Society of Carters and Motormen
ASCW	Association of Scientific Workers
ASE	Amalgamated Society of Engineers
ASMM	Amalgamated Society of Machine Makers
ASPD	Amalgamated Society of Painters and Decorators
ASRVB	Amalgamated Society of Railway Vehicle Builders
ASS	Amalgamated Smiths and Strikers
ASSET	Association of Supervisory Staffs, Executives & Technicians
ASSM	Amalgamated Society of Spring Makers
ASSMTG	Amalgamated Society of Spring Makers, Toolmakers and Grinders
ASTMS	Association of Scientific, Technical & Managerial Staffs
ASW	Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers
ASWM	Amalgamated Society of Wood Machinists
ATGWU	Amalgamated Transport and General Workers' Union
AUBTW	Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers
AUFW	Amalgamated Union Of Foundry Workers
BFS	Brass Finishers' Society
BISKATA	British Iron, Steel and Kindred Trades Association
BISSS	Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders Society
BKS	Blacksmiths' Society
BMMU	Birmingham Metal Mechanics' Union
BMS	Boilermakers' Society
BMSMC	Birmingham and Midlands Sheet Metal Workers and Coppersmiths' Society
BMSMWS	Birmingham and Midlands Sheet Metal Workers Society
BRSMWS	Birmingham Sheet Metal Workers Society
BRTTS	British Roll Turners Trade Association
BSMWS	Bristol Sheet Metal Workers Society
BWU	Braziers' Workers Union

CAWU	Clerical and Administrative Workers Union
CEU	Constructional Engineering Union
CMS	Coremakers' Society
CS	Coppersmiths' Society
CSBSMW	National Society of Coppersmiths, Braziers and Sheet Metal Workers
SEU	Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions
SEUC	Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions (Clyde district)
DATA	Draughtsmen and Allied Technicians Association
DAWU	Distributive and Allied Workers Union
DS	Dressers' Society
EJC	Engineering Joint Committee
ETU	Electrical Trade Union
EU	Engineering Unions
GIFA	General Iron Fitters Association
GMWU	General and Municipal Workers Union
GUCJ	General Union of Carpenters and Joiners
GWU	General Workers Union
HDEU	Heating and Domestic Engineers
IEFU	Irish Engineering and Foundry Union
IEU	Irish Engineers' Union
IFA	Iron Founding Workers Association
IFS	Iron Founders Society
IMU	Iron Moulders Union
IS	Iron and Steel kindred trades
ISMD	Iron and Steel Metal Dressers
ISTC	Iron and Steel Trades Federation
LSMWS	London Sheet Metal Workers Society
LU	Labourers Union
MDKTS	Manchester District Kindred Trades Federation of the Export Shipping Industry
NABL	National Association of Building Labourers
NACSS	National Association for Clerical and Supervisory Staff
NAUL	National Amalgamated Union of Labour
NBCWS	National Builders and Construction Workers Society
NBMM	National Brass and Metal Mechanics
NEB	North of England Brass Moulders
NFBTO	National Federation of Building Trades Operatives
NFCU	National Federation of Construction Unions
NFTA	National Furniture Trade Association
NGWU	National General Workers Union
NSB	National Society of Brassworkers
NSCBMW	National Society of Coppersmiths, Braziers & Metal Workers
NSMM	National Society of Metal Mechanics
NSPD	National Society of Painters and Decorators
NSPW	National Union of Pottery Workers

NSW	National Society of Wood Machinists
NUB	The National Union of Blastfurnacemen, Ore Miners, Coke Workers and Kindred Trades
NUCL	National Union of Clerks
NUDAGMW	National Union of Domestic Appliance and General Metal Workers
NUE	National Union of Enginemen and Firemen
NUEFMEW	National Union of Enginemen, Firemen and Electrical Workers
NUFTO	National Union of Furniture Trade Operatives
NUFW	National Union of Foundry Workers
NUGMW	National Union of General and Municipal Workers
NUGSAT	National Union of Gold, Silver and Allied Trades
NUGW	National Union of General Workers
NUOHDE	National Union of Operative Heating and Domestic Engineers
NUS	National Union of Scalemakers
NUSM	National Union of Sheet Metal Workers
NUSMB	National Union of Sheet Metal Workers and Braziers
NUSMC	National Union of Sheet Metal Workers and Coppersmiths
NUSMWC	National Union of Sheet Metal workers and Coppersmiths
NUVB	National Union of Vehicle Builders
OBS	Operative Bricklayers Society
OMRSMS	Operative Mule and Ring Spindle Makers Society
OPS	Operative Plumbers Society
PS	Painters' Society
PTU	Plumbing Trades Union
SAIM	Scottish Association of Iron Moulders
SAISBD	Scottish Association of Iron, Steel and Brass Dressers
SBFSW	Society of Blacksmiths Forge and Smithy Workers
SBU	Scottish Brassmoulders Union
SDTU	Sign and Display Trade Union
SEM	Society of Engineers and Machinists
SGGWU	Stove, Grate and General Workers Union
SHPCW	Ship Constructors and Shipwrights
SHPESCS	Shipbuilding Engineering and Steel Commercial Staff Association
SHPW	Shipwrights' Society
SIWLPS	Sheet Iron Workers and Light Platers Society
SMWU	Scottish Metal Workers Union
SSA	The Shipbuilders & Shiprepairers Association
TGWU	Transport and General Workers Union
TS	Toolmakers' Society
UBM	United Brass Moulders' Union
UJBFA	United Journeymen Brassfounders and Fitters Association
UMF	United Metal Founders Society
UMWA	United Machine Workers Association
UOPA	United Operative Plumbers association
UOSFMS	United Operative Spindle and Flyer Makers' Society

UPA	United Patternmakers Association
USBSSW	United Society Of Boilermakers, Shipbuilders and Structural Workers
WS	Woodworkers' Society

Strike Outcome

Unsuccessful strikes	rtype	rcode
Work resumed unconditionally	U	1
Work resumed. Discussions resumed.	U	2
Strike continued into following year	U	3
Workers dismissed	U	4
Workers voluntarily left firm	U	5
Misc. Unsuccessful Strike	U	99

Successful strikes	rtype	rcode
Discussions/Investigations opened	S	1
Matter resolved pending discussions	S	2
Partial concessions made	S	3
Full demands met	S	4
Work resumed	S	5
Misc. Successful Strike	S	99

Token Strike	rtype	rcode
Token Strike only	T	1