



Timeline of Major Strikes, 1934

In his first year in office, President Franklin D. Roosevelt was wary of running a budget deficit. Consequently many early New Deal programs attempted to create temporary (rather than permanent) direct aid programs and to bring government planners, business and labor leaders together to create regulations. However, unemployment remained high and workers grew more militant. A wave of large and often violent strikes in 1934 put pressure on the government to do more to help workers.

- February 4** 2,000 taxi drivers take over Times Square in New York City to protest worsening working conditions and falling fares
- April 12** Workers in Toledo, Ohio's Auto-Lite Factory go on strike; about 10,000 workers eventually join the picket lines
- May 9** West Coast Waterfront Strike begins; virtually every port on the west coast shuts down as longshoremen go on strike
- May 16** Minnesota Teamster's Strike begins; about 3,000 truck drivers participate initially
- May 21-22** Violence in Minnesota escalates; about 35,000 building trades workers strike in solidarity with the teamsters
- May 23** "The Battle of Toledo," a six-day confrontation between strikers and National Guardsmen in the Auto-Lite Factory strike, begins; two workers are killed and about 200 injured
- July 5** "Bloody Thursday" in the ongoing West Coast Waterfront Strike; police kill 2 and injure at least 64 strikers in San Francisco
- July 16:** San Francisco's General Strike; in response to Bloody Thursday, all unions in San Francisco go on strike for four days
- July 20** After ongoing skirmishes since May, police open fire on striking teamsters in Minnesota, wounding dozens and killing 2
- September 4-22** Labor Day General Strike of textile workers; 400,000 textile workers from Rhode Island and Massachusetts to North Carolina and Alabama strike against National Recovery Act provisions that favor management over labor in the textile industry