Major Strikes and demonstrations

1946
Huge postwar strike wave sweeps across the nation

United Mine Workers win a health and welfare fund in bargaining with the coal operators

Nation-wide coal strike prompts US government to seize the mines to continue production

Electrical manufacturing strikes

General Motors strike

Pittsburgh Power strike

Railroad strike

Steelworkers launch 30-state strike against US Steel

1947
RJ Reynolds Tobacco Company Strike

Telephone Strike

1949
Hawaii Dock Strike

1950
United Auto Workers and General Motors sign a contract that provides for pensions, automatic cost-of-living wage adjustments, and guaranteed increases over the life of the contract

"Salt of the Earth" Strike of New Mexico Miners begin

1952
President Truman seizes the steel industry when the steel companies reject the Wage Stabilization Board recommendations. Supreme Court rules the action unconstitutional.

Steel Strike
1953  Louisiana Sugar Cane Workers' Strike

1954  Kohler Strike begins

1955  United Auto Workers win supplementary unemployment benefits in bargaining with Ford

      AFL and CIO merge with George Meany as first president,
      UMWA remains independent

      Southern Telephone Strike

1956  East Coast Longshoremen's Strike

      Steel Strike

1959  Steel Strike

1960  General Electric Strike

      Seamen's Strike

1962  New York City Newspaper Strike begins

      East Coast Longshoremen's Strike

1965  California Grape Workers' Strike

1966  New York City Transportation Strike

1967  Copper Strike begins

1968  Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr., is assassinated while supporting a strike by Memphis, Tennessee, sanitation workers.

      New York City Teachers' Strikes

1969  Charleston, South Carolina, Hospital Workers' Strike
Black Lung compensation bill passes in West Virginia after mass demonstrations by UMWA members

1970 Postal strike is first nationwide strike of public employees

General Motors Strike

Postal Workers' Strike, President Nixon declares a national emergency and orders 30,000 troops to New York City to break the first nationwide postal strike

1971 New York City Police Strike

1972 President Richard M. Nixon is reelected

Farah Clothing Workers' Strike and Boycott

Lordstown, Ohio, Auto Workers' Strike

Philadelphia Teachers' Strike begins

1974 Baltimore Police Strike

Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers union activist Karen Silkwood is killed during investigation of Kerr-McGee nuclear plant in Oklahoma

1975 First legal statewide public employees' strike in nation's history occurs in Pennsylvania

Washington Post Pressmen's Strike begins

1977 Bituminous Coal Strike begins

Coors Beer Strike and Boycott begins

J.P. Stevens Boycott begins

Willmar, Minnesota, Bank Workers' Strike
1978  Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, Newspaper Strike begins

1979  Independent Truckers' Strike

1981  President Ronald Reagan fires most of the nation's air traffic controllers for striking illegally and orders their union, the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Association, decertified.

400,000 unionists, the largest labor rally in American history takes place in Washington in protest against the policies of the Reagan administration

Baseball Players' Strike

1983  Phelps-Dodge Copper Strike begins

Yale University Clerical Workers' Strike

1985  Hormel Meatpackers' Strike begins

Los Angeles County Sanitation District Strike

Yale University Clerical Workers' Strike

1986  Trans World Airlines Flight Attendants' Strike

USX (United States Steel) Lockout begins

1987  Paperworkers' Strike and Lockout begins

Professional Football Players' Strike

1989  Eastern Airlines Workers' Strike

Mine Workers' Strike against Pittston Coal Company

1990  UMWA Pittston Strike ends, miners ratify a new contract

1991  Three hundred thousand unionists march in Washington, DC to demand workplace fairness and health care reform