

Have Union Strikes Gone By The Wayside?

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**David J.
Pryzbylski**
Partner

Bloomberg BNA [published an article](#) on Nov. 27 examining the ever declining amount of union-sponsored strikes in America. According to the report, “The number of strikes held in 1990 was 793, and that dropped to 102 in 2015.” Various factors may be affecting this, including the [ongoing decline](#) in the number of American private sector union members (only 6.4 percent of all such workers belong to a union now) and the fact many workers these days are not willing to forgo getting a paycheck. The Bloomberg article describes some of the hardships workers currently on strike in New York and New Jersey are facing: “Striking is a bedrock of union power, [a union member currently on strike] said, but it can take a toll on workers. He paints a picture of single mothers struggling to feed their children and union members who are forced to sleep in their cars because of paltry subsistence strike wages.” While the number of strikes as a whole is on the decline, companies too can face hardships during work stoppages in the event they occur – from struggles to meet customer demands to decreased quality when using replacement workers (at least at first when they are getting trained). Accordingly, companies facing a labor agreement expiration should consider careful contingency planning to help safeguard the company in the event of a strike, as they remain a possibility even if their volume is dwindling.

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