

Strikes and lockouts by location in Sweden 1859-1938

The datasets described in this document have been extracted and digitized in the project *Från Sundsvall till Saltsjöbaden: Ett regionalt perspektiv på strejker och protester på den svenska arbetsmarknaden* [From Sundsvall to Saltsjöbaden: A regional approach to strikes and protests in the Swedish labour market] (VR 2014-1491). The project members were Kerstin Enflo (PI), Tobias Karlsson and Jakob Molinder.

Research assistance: Diego Cattolica, Maria Lundborg, Emelie Rhone Till, Scott Sutherland, Pedro Salas Rojo. Geo-coding: Robert Larsson, Erik Olofsson.

There are three interrelated datasets in this database.

- 1) The longest dataset 1859-1938 is built upon two separate datasets, covering the periods 1859-1902 and 1903-1927 that were extracted directly from printed sources, and information extracted from primary sources for the period 1928-1938. This dataset has been harmonized and covers only the number of work stoppages by location.
- 2) The first underlying dataset covers the period 1859-1902 and include many more variables. The data is recorded at the level of each work stoppage.
- 3) The second underlying dataset covers 1903-1927 and include many more variables. The data is recorded at the level of each work stoppage.

Cite the following publications for the data:

Cite dataset 1 as:

Molinder, Jakob, Tobias, Karlsson & Kerstin Enflo (2018) "The power resource theory revisited: what explains the decline in industrial conflicts in Sweden?" Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR), s. 1-27 27 s.(Discussion Paper series; nr. DP13130)

and

Karlsson, Tobias (2019) "Strikes and lockouts in Sweden: revisiting Raphael's list of work stoppages 1859-1902", Lund Papers in Economic History 192.

Cite dataset 2 as:

Karlsson, Tobias (2019) "Strikes and lockouts in Sweden: revisiting Raphael's list of work stoppages 1859-1902", Lund Papers in Economic History 192.

Cite dataset 3 as :

Enflo, Kerstin & Tobias Karlsson (2018) "From conflict to compromise: the importance of mediation in Swedish work stoppages 1907–1927", *European Review of Economic History*, hey023, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ereh/hey023>

All datasets, sources and variables included are further described in the following sections.

Dataset 1. Work stoppages by location 1859-1938 – a harmonized long-term dataset

The dataset summarizes all work stoppages by location that appear in three sources outlined below. We have tried to harmonize the data from the different sources as far as possible. In a few instances, it has not been possible to identify places in the source data (either because we could not locate the place or because the work stoppage took place at an imprecise location). In these cases, we have coded the location as either not found (N=31) or imprecise (N=89).

Each observation (row) in this dataset corresponds to a place in a given year.

Note that this dataset summarizes strikes and lockouts by year and location 1859-1938. Thus strikes and lockouts are aggregated into “work stoppages”. The user should be aware the vast majority of work stoppages were strikes.¹ Note also that no strikes were recorded to have taken place between 1859 and 1863.

The harmonized long-term dataset is presented in the files named: “workstoppages_1859_1938.xlsx”; “workstoppages_1859_1938.dta”

The variables included are:

Variable name	Explanation
year	Year of work stoppage (beginning)
placename	Town, commune or a parish.
county	County where placename is located.
n_sweref99:	SWEREF99, LON
e_sweref99:	SWEREF99, LAT
n_wgs84:	WGS84 coordinate, LON
e_wgs84:	WGS84 coordinate, LAT
n_stoppage:	Number of work stoppages (strike or lockout) by year and location
nonspec_location	Dummy=1 if the location cannot be specified to one particular coordinate
notfound_location	Dummy=1 if the location could not be found

2. Work stoppages 1859-1902

Data on work stoppages for the period 1859-1900 was collected by Axel Raphael, an economist and historian who served as the secretary of a public commission on state interference in strikes and lockouts that was appointed in 1899. In this position, Raphael went through newspapers retrospectively to get an idea of how the frequency, nature and geographical location of labour conflicts had changed over time. Raphael did a “complete review of some daily newspapers (mainly *Göteborgs-Posten*, *Stockholms Dagblad* and *Social-Demokraten*, for some work stoppages also others), at least one for various parts of the period” (*Förliknings- och skiljenämndskomiténs betänkande*, 1901, s. 144).

Historians have pointed out that Raphael’s list of work stoppages is incomplete, particularly for the 1860s and 1870s (Cederqvist 1980; Johansson 1982). This is not surprising since the only newspaper with connections to the labour movement that Raphael used (*Social-Demokraten*) was not founded until 1885. Raphael himself was aware of this shortcoming and in order to enable later generations of

¹ It would be possible to create a similar dataset that distinguishes between strikes and lockouts for the period 1859-1927 from data in the files “workstoppages_1859_1902” and “workstoppages_1903_1927”, respectively.

researchers the opportunity to complete the data set he choose to publish all data and not just summary tables. From the 1890s, the data appear to have a better coverage (Cederqvist 1980; Johansson 1982).

After the publication of the list for the years 1959-1900, Raphael continued collecting data on strikes and lockouts from newspapers until 15 June 1902. Thereafter the staff at *Kommerskollegium* continued his work for the rest of the year 1902. Work stoppages for the years 1901-1902 were published in *Arbetsstatistik E:1* (1909) in the same way as in the 1901 inquiry.

Interestingly, we observe no dramatic shift in the number of recorded work stoppages between 1902 and 1903, when the official Swedish statistics of work stoppages began. For a review and assessment of Raphael’s list, see Karlsson (2019).

The dataset for 1859-1902 in its entirety can be found in the accompanying files named: “workstoppages_1859_1902.xlsx”; “workstoppages_1859_1902.dta

Note that this is a micro-level dataset at the unit of each strike. Thus, strikes and lockouts can be distinguished (either by using the dummies ‘strike’ or ‘lockout’, or by consulting the string variable ‘action_type_raw’).

The variables included refer to raw data (cited as in the original source) and numeric data coded by us. When a variable refers to the raw data it its variable name bears the indication _raw.

The following variables are included:

Variable name	Column label in original source	Explanation
number		Counter
number_year		Counter by year
period		Period
start_year	Based on information in the column <i>Början</i>	Year conflict started
start_month	Based on information in the column <i>Början</i>	Month conflict started
start_day	Based on information in the column <i>Början</i>	Day conflict started
end_year	Based on information in the column <i>Slut</i>	Year conflict ended
end_month	Based on information in the column <i>Slut</i>	Month conflict ended
end_day	Based on information in the column <i>Slut</i>	Day conflict ended
action_type	Based on information in the column <i>Anmärkningar</i> .	Describes the type of conflict. 1=strike, 2=lockout, 3=lockout and strike, 4=blockade, 5=lockout and blockade, 6=boycott
profession	<i>Yrke</i>	Profession(s) involved in the conflict
hisco		Occupational code according to the HISCO system for the first-mentioned occupation
hisco_several		Dummy=1 if there are more than one occupation mention
placename	<i>Ort</i>	Town, commune or a parish. In a few cases a firm or a farm.
county_raw	<i>Län</i>	County mentioned in source
countycode		County number 1-24 (according to Jörberg 1972)

county_several		Conflict encompasses locations in more than one county
region		Region according to Arbetsstatistik VII, p. 58*
purpose_raw	<i>Arbetarnes syfte</i>	Explains the reason for the conflict, from the workers' point of view.
participants_raw	<i>Antal deltagande arbetare</i>	Describes the number of workers involved in a conflict, sometimes an interval is given.
participants_clean		Number of workers involved in conflict, median value in case of an interval.
result_numeric	Based on information in the column <i>Resultat för arbetarne</i> .	1=victory, 2=loss, 3=compromise
notes_raw	<i>Anmärkningar</i>	Notes regarding the type of conflict and involvement of other parties (for example arbitration and mediation)
interference	Based on information in the column <i>Resultat för arbetarne</i> .	1=arbitration (skiljedom, skiljenämnd, or the like), 2=mediation (medling), 3=other form of outside interference
sweref_n		SWEREF99, LON
sweref_e		SWEREF99, LAT
wgs84_n		WGS84 coordinate, LON
wgs84_e		WGS84 coordinate, LAT
nonspec_location		Dummy=1 if placename is not specific enough to geocode
notfound_location		Dummy=1 if placename could not be found
source		Source of information.

3. Work stoppages 1903-1927

For the period 1903-1927 we use statistics on work stoppages from three official publications from Statistics Sweden (Arbetsstatistik. E 1909–1911; Arbetsinställelser i Sverige 1913–1923; Arbetsinställelser och kollektivavtal 1924–1927). We have manually digitized the information and provided coordinates on the locations (the column *Ort*).

Systematic and continuous collection of statistics on work stoppages in Sweden began in 1903. The reliability of this branch of the Swedish official statistics for the period in question is generally considered to be good (see Mikkelsen 1990, p. 441 and Thörnqvist 1994, pp. 88-89), although Hamark (2014, pp. 163) has called attention to the omission of political strikes and strikes occurring at ‘political times’, such as events during the spring of 1917.

The gathering of data was initially based on information in daily journals and trade journals (Arbetsstatistik. E 1909, p. 9-10). If a conflict was encountered in a journal, questionnaires were sent out to the involved parties. The response rate was high; in the period 1903-1923, responses were gathered from both employer and worker representatives in almost 60 percent of all work stoppages (Mikkelsen 1992: p. 439). Other informants, such as local agents of the Board of Trade (Kommerskollegiums lokalombud) supplied complementing information. Occasionally annual reports from the trade union confederations and employers’ organizations and other sources were consulted. In principle, the statistics should include all conflicts – both small and large. The gathering of information through questionnaires served a twofold purpose: (1) to establish whether a conflict actually had resulted in work stoppages and (2) to uncover the causes, characteristics, and outcomes of the conflict. Cases where the parties supplied contradictory information on whether a conflict-related work stoppage actually had occurred were included in the statistics, but with notes about how the

parties had described the events. Until 1927, extensive information was included in the published reports for each individual work stoppage, namely: the beginning and end of a stoppage (dates), nature (strike or lockout), involved occupation(s), location, reason for conflict, number of directly involved employers and workers, whether workers were organized, the outcome of the conflict, the source of information, and additional notes.

The source data are the appendices (bilaga) of the official publications concerning work stoppages. In the publications each work stoppage is described shortly in the following manner (this example is taken from 1910):

https://www.scb.se/Grupp/Hitta_statistik/Historisk_statistik/_Dokument/Arbetsstatistik-1899-1913/E4-Arbetsinstallelser-i-Sverige-1910.pdf

56 ARBETSINSTÄLLELSER I SVERIGE 1910. 57 ARBETSINSTÄLLELSER I SVERIGE 1910.

Arbetsinställelser (strejker och lockouter)
i Sverige, påbörjade under år 1910.

a-g. = arbetsgivare, a. = arbetare, förl.-m. = statens förelämningsman, omb. = K. Kommerskollegii ombud.

Löpande nummer	Arbetsinställelser (strejker och lockouter)							i Sverige, påbörjade under år 1910.							Löpande nummer	
	1. Början	2. Slut	3. Varaktighet i dagar	4. Karaktär	5. Fack.	6. Ori.	7. Tvistepunkt.	8. Kända högsta antal	9. strejkannde arbetare	10. stängda arbetare	11. organiserade arbetsgivare	12. arbetare	13. Resultat.	14. Uppgifter förelägna från		15. Anmärkingar.
1	8 jan.	20 febr.	44	—	Arbetare vid kakelfabrik.	Västerås.	Lönefrågor.	1	15	—	Ja.	Ja.	Kompromiss.	a-g, a.	1	
2	13 jan.	13 febr.	32	—	Arbetare vid kakel- och leckkärlsfabrik.	Trollhättan.	Lönesänkning.	1	2	—	Ja.	Ja.	Arbetsens fordringar beviljades.	a-g, a.	2	
3	17 jan.	17 jan.	1	Strejk.	Grofarbetare vid mek. verkstad.	Trollhättan.	Arbetets anordning.	1	37	—	Ja.	—	Förutvarande villkor.	a-g, komm-nkända ordf.	3	
4	24 jan.	26 mars.	62	Lockout.	Arbetare vid glasbruk.	Österrik (Kronob. l.).	Lönesänkning.	1	—	17	Nej.	Delvis.	Kompromiss i hufvudsak enligt a-g:s villkor.	a-g, a.	4	
5	15 febr.	22 febr.	8	Strejk.	Garfveriarbetare.	Vänersborg.	Arbetares afskedande.	1	10	—	Nej.	Ja.	Nya arbetare antogs.	a-g, a.	5) De strejkannde arbetare skulle dock ha företagsnit vid upptagning.	5
6	19 febr.	4 mars.	14	Strejk.	Möbelsnickare.	Sjöbo (Jönk. l.).	Arbetares afskedande.	1	16	—	Nej.	Ja.	Kompromiss i hufvudsak enligt a-g:s villkor.	a-g, a.	6	
7	21 febr.	17 mars.	25	Strejk.	Bageriarbetare.	Enköping.	Löneförhöjning.	3	26	—	Nej.	Delvis.	Kompromiss.	a-g.	7) Vid ett arbetställe antogs nya arbetare i de strejkannde ställe.	7
8	22 febr.	28 febr.	7	Strejk.	Gjuteriarbetare.	Västerås.	Arbetares afskedande, löneförhöjning.	1	37	—	Ja.	Nej.	A-g:s villkor.	a-g, a.	8	
9	22 febr.	2 mars.	9	Strejk.	Garfveriarbetare.	Boden (Norrb. l.).	Lönefrågor.	1	6	—	Nej.	Ja.	A-g:s villkor.	a-g.	9) Dessutom blefvo 15 arbetare på grund af konflikten utan arbete.	9

The dataset for 1903-1927 in its entirety can be found in the accompanying files named: “workstoppages_1903_1927.xlsx”; “workstoppages_1903_1927.dta”

Note that this is a micro-level dataset at the unit of each strike. Thus, strikes and lockouts can be distinguished (either by using the dummies ‘strike’ or ‘lockout’, or by consulting the string variable ‘action_type_raw’).

The variables included refer to raw data (cited as in the original source) and numeric data coded by us. When a variable refers to the raw data its variable name bears the indication _raw.

The following variables are included:

Variable name	Column label in original sources	Explanation
number		Counter
start_year		Year conflict started
end_year		Year conflict ended
start_month	Based on information in the column <i>Början</i>	Month conflict started
start_day	Based on information in the column <i>Början</i>	Day conflict started

end_month	Based on information in the column <i>Slut</i>	Month conflict ended
end_day	Based on information in the column <i>Slut</i>	Day conflict ended
action_type_raw	<i>Karaktär</i>	Describes the type of conflict (<i>strejk, lockout, blandad</i> etc)
profession_raw	<i>Fack</i>	Profession(s) involved in conflict
SNIcode		Codes the professions into SNI codes 1-14 in the following way: 1=Mining & metal; 2=Stone, clay & glass; 3=Wood; 4=Paper, pulp & graphical; 5=Food; 6=Textile; 7=Leather; 8=Chemical; 9=Power, gas & waterworks; 10=trade; 11=Transport; 12=Agri&forestry; 13=Construction; 14=Other
placename	<i>Ort</i>	Town, commune or a parish. In a few cases a firm or a farm.
county		County where placename is located.
causes_raw	<i>Tvistepunkt</i>	Explains the reason for the conflict
causes_numeric		Codes the reasons for conflict into categories 1-9 in the following way: 1=Wage increase; 2=Against wage decrease; 3=Right to organize; 4 For collective agreement; 5=Against layoffs; 6=Working hours; 7=Personal issues; 8=Other issues; 9=Multiple causes. Note that these categories are not identical to those used in the official statistics.
org_employers_raw		Explains if explains if employer is organized
union_employees		Explains if workers are organized
result_raw		Explains the result of the conflict
informants_raw	<i>Uppgifter föreligga från</i>	Explains who sent in the report to the statistical office
multiplelocation		Dummy=1 if conflict took place in many locations
employersinvolved	<i>Känt högsta antal direkt berörda arbetsgivare</i>	Number of employers involved in conflict
strikingworkers	<i>Känt högsta antal strejkande arbetare</i>	Maximum number of workers involved in conflict (median value chosen if an interval was given in the source)
result_numeric	Based on the column <i>Resultat</i>	Codes the result of conflict into categories 1-3 in the following way: 1=workers won; 2=workers loss; 3=compromise (for a discussion, see Enflo & Karlsson 2018).
countycode		County number 1-24 (according to Jörberg 1972)
lockoutworkers	<i>Känt högsta antal utestängda arbetare</i>	Maximum number of workers in lockout (median value chosen if an interval was given in the source)
mediation	Based on information in the column <i>Anmärkingar</i>	Dummy=1 if mediation took place in the conflict

organized_yes	Based on information in the column <i>Organiserade arbetsgifvare</i>	Dummy=1 if employer is organized
organized_partly	-"-	Dummy=1 if employer is partly organized
organized_missing	-"-	Dummy=1 if information about employer organization is missing
organized_workers	Based on information in the column <i>Organiserade arbetare</i>	Dummy=1 if workers are organized
strike	Based on information in the column <i>Karaktär</i>	Dummy=1 if nature of conflict is a strike
lockout	Based on information in the column <i>Karaktär</i>	Dummy=1 if nature of conflict is a lockout
n_wgs84		WGS84 coordinate, LON
e_wgs84		WGS84 coordinate, LAT
n_sweref		SWEREF99, LON
e_sweref		SWEREF99, LAT

4. Work stoppages 1928-1938

Beginning with 1928 Statistics Sweden stopped producing the appendices summarizing each work stoppage. Therefore we have had to consult the underlying questionnaires that were sent out to the involved parties (see example picture below). The questionnaires can be found at the Swedish National Archives (*Riksarkivet*) in: Socialstyrelsen, förlikningsmannae Expeditionens arkiv, serie E5. Insända formulär angående arbetsinställelser. We have coded the years 1928 to 1938.

The questionnaires contain more information about the causes, outcomes and durations of the stoppages. However, the intense workload involved in collecting and transcribing all this information has led us to only collect data on year of the work stoppage (the year given in the section relating to *uppgifter*) and the place where the work stoppage took place (in which *stad, köping* or *socken*).

Strictly speaking, the date recorded refers to when the stoppage was reported to *Socialstyrelsen*.

K. SOCIALSTYRELSEN
 BYRÅN FÖR ALLMÄN SOCIALSTATISTIK
 Tel. 178 53

ARBETSKONFLIKTER B.

Att besvaras av arbetare.

Ett i huvudsak lika lydande formulär har samtidigt tillställts de arbetsgivare, som beröras av konflikten.
 För att den officiella statistiken rörande arbetsinställelser icke skall vara hänvisad uteslutande till den ena partens uppgifter, är det nödvändigt, att även förevarande formulär vederbörligen ifyllas och ärsändas.

Uppgifter angående en arbetskonflikt vid *Tästerås Ullspinneri- och Ångt A-B. i Tästerås* (stad, köping eller socken),
Tästmanlands län, till K. Socialstyrelsen avgivna den *17 mars 1928*.
 av *Tästerås Textilarbetarfackförening. Eric Westerbernd. ordf.*
 (Därest uppgifterna avgivits av annan än arbetarna själva eller deras organisation, torde detta uttryckligen angivas.)

Frågor.	Svar.
1. Förevarande redogörelse avser följande: yrkesgrenar (vilka)? arbetare (vilka specialiteter)? arbetsgivare, eventuellt arbetsplatser (namn)?	<i>Tästerås Ullspinneri och Ångt A-B. inom Ullspinnarkoncernen. Tästeråskar, spölskar, spinnare, maskinskar, och spinnararbet. Tästerås Ullspinneri och Ångt A-B.</i> med <i>19</i> arbetare. och <i>5</i> förmän.
2. Berörde konflikten (direkt eller indirekt) även andra än här ovan under punkt 1 upptagna? arbetare (vilka specialiteter)?	<i>Nej</i> Antal:

Note that there is no separate dataset for the period 1928-1938.

References

- Arbetsstatistik. E* (1909–1911). Stockholm.
- Arbetsinställelser i Sverige* (1913–1923). Stockholm.
- Arbetsinställelser och kollektivavtal* (1924–1927). Stockholm.
- Cederqvist, J. (1980). *Arbetare i strejk – studier rörande arbetarnas politiska mobilisering under industrialismens genombrott. Stockholm 1850-1909*. Diss. Stockholms University.
- Enflo, Kerstin & Tobias Karlsson (2018) "From conflict to compromise: the importance of mediation in Swedish work stoppages 1907–1927", *European Review of Economic History*, hey023, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ereh/hey023>
- Hamark, J. (2014), *Ports, Dock Workers and Labour Market Conflicts*, Diss. University of Gothenburg.
- Johansson, I. (1982), *Fackföreningar och strejker i Norrköping 1870-1910*. Stockholm: Tidens Förlag.
- Jörberg, L. (1972), *A History of Prices in Sweden 1732-1914: Volume One*. Lund: CWK Gleerup.
- Karlsson, Tobias (2019) "Strikes and lockouts in Sweden: revisiting Raphael's list of work stoppages 1859-1902", *Lund Papers in Economic History* 192.
- Meddelanden från K. Kommerskollegii afdelning för arbetsstatistik* (1910). Stockholm: Norstedt.
- Mikkelsen, F. (1992), *Arbejdskonflikter i Skandinavien 1848-1980*. Diss. København: Univ.
- Molinder, Jakob, Tobias, Karlsson & Kerstin Enflo (2018) "The power resource theory revisited: what explains the decline in industrial conflicts in Sweden?" Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR), (Discussion Paper series; nr. DP13130).
- Raphael, A. (red.) (1903), *Bihang till Riksdagens protokoll vid lagtima riksdagen i Stockholm år 1903. Samling 2. Afd. 2, Kommittébetänkanden m. m., Bd 2*. Stockholm: Riksdagen.
- Thörnqvist, C. (1994), *Arbetarna lämnar fabriken: strejkrörelser i Sverige under efterkrigstiden, deras bakgrund, förlopp och följder*, Diss. University of Gothenburg.