

ABS STATISTICS ON INDUSTRIAL ACTION—MARCH 2008

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Statistics released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) on 13 March 2008 confirm that industrial action in the construction and building industry has risen slightly from 3.1 days lost per 1000 employees to 3.8 days lost per 1000 employees.

Despite this, the figures are still very low historically.

The statistics reflect the success of reforms such as the introduction of the *Building and Construction Industry Improvement Act 2005* (Cth) (BCII Act), and the National Code of Practice for the Construction Industry (Code).

Recent data released by the ABS shows that industrial disputes have increased in recent months. Key figures released by the ABS on 13 March 2008 show that for the December 2007 quarter, the number of working days lost per 1000 employees in the construction industry rose to 3.8 working days. This is higher than the figure for the September 2007 quarter where 3.1 working days per 1000 employees were lost due to industrial disputes. Nevertheless, this figure is still significantly lower than previous years. For example, in the March 2005 quarter, the number of working days lost per 1000 employees in the construction industry was 43.5.

Overall, there has been a significant decrease in industrial action over the years. By way of comparison, the September 1996 quarter recorded a loss of 263.9 working days per 1000 employees for the construction industry.

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