

# UAW on strike

A glimpse of walkouts against GM and other automakers



**February 1937:**  
The UAW organizes at GM after a series of sit-down strikes at plants in Flint, Detroit and across the country. GM commits to negotiate a collective bargaining agreement with the UAW.



**April 1937:**  
Sit-down strikes end at Chrysler after the automaker agrees to recognize the union and negotiate a contract.

**1984:**  
UAW strikes 25 GM facilities over local issues. The strike lasts 13 days.

**Sept. 24, 2007:**  
Thousands of UAW workers across the country walk off the job at GM plants in the first nationwide strike during auto contract negotiations since 1976.



**1939:**  
So-called "strategy strike" at key plants shuts down GM and leads to exclusive UAW bargaining rights, seniority rights and the groundwork for skilled-trades apprenticeship.

Source: Detroit News research

**1945:**  
A 113-day strike occurs nationwide after GM balks at union request not to pass on to consumers any wage increases. In March 1946, the UAW and GM sign a contract that provides an 18½-cents-per-hour raise, paid vacations, overtime pay and other changes.



**1949:**  
UAW briefly strikes Ford River Rouge plant and wins first employer-paid pension plan.

**1970:**  
UAW launches a national strike against GM to obtain wage increases and cost-of-living allowance improvements. The UAW also wins 30-and-out provision, which allows workers to retire after 30 years of service.

**1976:**  
UAW strikes against target company, Ford Motor Co. Settlement comes within 30 days and workers receive more paid personal holidays and other benefits.

**1998:**  
Workers at two GM parts plants in Flint walk out for 54 days, shutting down the company and costing the automaker \$2.2 billion. The strike focuses on work rules and GM's plans to eliminate jobs.

