

## Labor Day



Labor Day in the U.S. is always the first Monday in September. It was created by Congress to honor the union and trade workers in the United States and was first celebrated in 1882. Labor Day became a national holiday in 1894. The day was first organized by the Central Labor Union<sup>1</sup> and was to be celebrated by working people having a day off and with street parades and celebrations honoring those working people that made our nation great.

Now Labor Day has taken on different meanings. There aren't usually parades (unless it is an election year). People generally think of Labor Day as the mark of the end of summer vacations, the beginning of the school year, and the start of the football season. They often celebrate this day off from work with a "last summer barbecue" or a picnic.

Here are some of the past and future dates of Labor Days. These are all Mondays.<sup>2</sup>

Sep 1, 1986	Sep 6, 1999	Sep 3, 2012
Sep 7, 1987	Sep 4, 2000	Sep 2, 2013
Sep 5, 1988	Sep 3, 2001	Sep 1, 2014
Sep 4, 1989	Sep 2, 2002	Sep 7, 2015
Sep 3, 1990	Sep 1, 2003	Sep 5, 2016
Sep 2, 1991	Sep 6, 2004	Sep 4, 2017
Sep 7, 1992	Sep 5, 2005	Sep 3, 2018
Sep 6, 1993	Sep 4, 2006	Sep 2, 2019
Sep 5, 1994	Sep 3, 2007	Sep 7, 2020
Sep 4, 1995	Sep 1, 2008	Sep 6, 2021
Sep 2, 1996	Sep 7, 2009	Sep 5, 2022
Sep 1, 1997	Sep 6, 2010	Sep 4, 2023
Sep 7, 1998	Sep 5, 2011	Sep 2, 2024

1. Do you see any patterns in these dates? Please describe the patterns that you see and be ready to discuss them in class.
2. Can you explain why you think these patterns turn up? Again, be ready to add your ideas to the class discussion.<sup>3</sup>
3. Find the dates that Labor Day will fall on for the next ten years.

<sup>1</sup> The Central Labor Union of New York, Brooklyn, and New Jersey was an early trade union organization that later broke up into various locals, which are now AFL-CIO members. The establishment of the CLU predates the consolidation of New York City (1897) by nearly two decades and is best known as the organization that created the American Labor Day holiday.

<sup>2</sup> Source: <http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/labor-day>

<sup>3</sup> Hints: How many days are in a week? How many days are in a year? Does the number of days in a week divide evenly into the number of days in a year? What happens during leap years?