

**Strikes and Lockouts in Recent Years.**—A marked improvement in industrial relations, as compared with the two preceding years, was shown during 1948 by statistics of disputes between workers and employers which resulted in work stoppages. During 1948, the loss of time due to strikes was little more than one-third of the loss in 1947 and about one-fifth of that in 1946, the peak year. The number of strikes and lockouts in 1948 and the number of workers involved were the lowest recorded for any year since 1939.

The demand for higher wages, to offset increases in the cost of living, was the central issue in two-thirds of the strikes during the year, causing about 85 p.c. of the total time loss. In 1947, about 90 p.c. of the time loss resulted from disputes over wage increases. Such demands were often linked with various questions involving unionism, working conditions, vacations with pay, etc. Since 1945, when most of the strike idleness resulted from questions involving unionism, the question of union recognition has not been an issue. There were no sympathetic strikes recorded during 1948. The great variety and complexity of causes leading to strikes present difficulties in classification for statistical purposes as there are usually several points in dispute in each case.

In the manufacturing group of industries, which has the largest working force, time loss resulting from strikes in 1948 was greater than in all other groups combined. In 1947 the greatest time loss was in the mining group. There were two important strikes in the coal-mining industry during 1948 and nine lesser stoppages. In all mining, the time loss was about one-third of the total for the year. Based on the number of wage and salary workers in Canada, the total amount of time lost was about 0.1 p.c. of the estimated working time. In 1947 it was about 0.25 p.c., and in 1946 about 0.5 p.c.

Settlement of 40 p.c. of the strikes in 1948 was brought about by direct negotiations, approximately the same proportion as in the previous year. Negotiations played an important part in settlement of differences in many other cases, following reference to conciliation boards, labour courts, etc. In 1948, about 35 p.c. of the stoppages were settled by conciliation, reference to labour boards, commissioners, and arbitration, about the same percentage as in 1947.

**44.—Strikes and Lockouts, 1939-48**

NOTE.—Figures for years prior to 1939 will be found in corresponding tables in previous editions of the Year Book.

Year	Coal Mining			Industries Other Than Coal Mining			All Industries			
	Strikes and Lockouts in Existence During Year	Workers Involved	Time Loss in Man-Working Days*	Strikes and Lockouts in Existence During Year	Workers Involved	Time Loss in Man-Working Days	Strikes and Lockouts in Existence During Year	Strikes and Lockouts Beginning in Year	Workers Involved	Time Loss in Man-Working Days
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1939.....	48	31,102	111,274	74	9,936	113,314	122	120	41,038	224,588
1940.....	65	31,223	68,734	103	29,396	197,584	168	166	60,619	266,318
1941.....	45	38,136	109,069	186	48,955	324,845	231	229	87,091	433,914
1942.....	53	19,670	66,318	301	94,246	383,884	354	352	113,916	450,202
1943.....	111	59,017	204,980	291	159,387	836,218	402	401	218,404	1,041,198
1944.....	46	11,180	28,507	153	64,110	461,632	199	195	75,290	490,139
1945.....	39	27,422	183,102	158	68,646	1,274,318	197	196	96,068	1,457,420
1946.....	42	21,414	43,854	186	118,060	4,472,539	228	225	139,474	4,516,393
1947.....	11	45,467	1,314,334	225	58,653	1,083,006	236	232	104,120	2,397,340
1948.....	11	14,695	303,639	143	28,125	582,154	154	147	42,820	885,793