

Section 10.—Strikes and Lockouts*

Major issues in strikes and lockouts during 1954 are shown for the first time under three main groups: (1) renewal of agreement; (2) during term of agreement; and (3) no agreement in effect. Although only about one-half of the total number of work stoppages came within the first category, such disputes were by far the most significant in terms of time loss. Disputes arising during negotiations for a new agreement accounted for 53 p.c. of the stoppages, involved 82 p.c. of the workers and caused 95 p.c. of the total idleness; those occurring during term of agreement caused 25 p.c. of the stoppages and involved 14 p.c. of the workers but caused only 2 p.c. of the time loss; and disputes in establishments where no collective agreement was in effect at the time of occurrence accounted for 22 p.c. of the stoppages, involved 4 p.c. of the workers and caused 3 p.c. of the total time loss.

As in the past eight years the demand for wage increases and related questions was the central issue in the majority of stoppages in 1954 and this demand, linked with questions involving union security, changes in hours and conditions of work, was a factor in 59 p.c. of the stoppages which involved 80 p.c. of the workers and caused 96 p.c. of the total idleness. The average for the period 1946-53 was 58 p.c. of the stoppages, 70 p.c. of the workers and 88 p.c. of the total time loss.

Settlement of 72 of the 174 disputes occurring in 1954 was brought about by direct negotiations; provincial conciliation effected settlement in 33 cases and civic mediation in one; two disputes were referred to labour boards and six to arbitration; 40 by return of workers and replacement, the latter being a factor in 12 cases; and 10 were indefinite in result.

* A complete review of strikes and lockouts during 1953 and 1954 is given in Department of Labour reports.

