

Survey on Labour Disputes Statistics

Background of the Survey

The first statistics on labour disputes were compiled in 1897 by the Commerce and Industry Bureau, Agriculture and Commerce Ministry and the Police Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, followed in turn by the Social Affairs Bureau of the same ministry, the Labour Bureau (and later the Employment Bureau and the Labour Policy Bureau) of the Ministry of Health and Welfare, and by the Labour Policy Bureau of the Ministry of Labour. In September 1948, this survey came under the jurisdiction of the Labour Statistics and Research Bureau, Ministry of Labour (known today as the Statistics and Information Department, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare), which has conducted it since then.

Over the decades the survey has been amended several times. The most recent important change was made in January 1950, when the scope and standards for compilation were partially amended to obtain more accurate statistics and to better conform to international standards.

Aim of Survey

This aim of this survey is to study labour disputes in order to gather basic information labour for administration purposes.

Scope of Survey

All labour disputes

Period of Survey

The survey is based on conditions each month for labour disputes from start to settlement, as of the end of the month.

Method of Survey

Representatives of both labour and management who are parties to the dispute are interviewed by staff from the prefectural Labour Policy Department or Labour Policy Office.

Definitions

Labour dispute : any dispute over workers' status between labour and management for the settlement of which a third party intervenes through

conciliation, mediation, or arbitration, or where acts of dispute have occurred.

Total dispute : the total of all dispute accompanied by acts of dispute or settled by third party intervention.

Act of dispute : action taken by either or both parties to attain an objective which disrupts normal business operation (strikes of a half day or more, lockouts, strikes of a half day or less, slowdowns, and production takeovers).

Strike of a half day or more : temporary work stoppage by a workers' organization to obtain an objective. Strikes of a half day or less are excluded.

Lockout : stoppage of business activity by an employer as a means of dispute, accompanied by employer's announcement to that effect.

Strike of a half day or less : temporary work stoppage by a workers' organization to obtain an objective, with an aggregate duration of less than one-half of one working day.

Slowdown : reduction in work efficiency by a workers' organization to obtain an objective while continuing to work.

Production takeover : where a business establishment is occupied by workers against the will of the employer and production and operation are conducted according to the workers' policies.

Working days lost : aggregate person-days lost by dispute participants during a strike lasting a half day or more and lockouts (excluding number of person-days lost indirectly).

Standards for Tabulation

1. Until December 1949, in cases where two or more types of acts of dispute were used in one dispute during a survey period, e.g. a slowdown at the beginning and a lockout later during the period (month or year), only the last act in the period was counted. Since January 1950, however, each act has been counted separately, although it is counted only once in the column for total number of disputes accompanied by acts.
2. In cases where a strike or other workers' act of dispute occurs simultaneously with an employer's lockout, the dispute is tabulated in the column for each act but counted as one dispute in the column for total number of disputes (excluding duplications).
3. In cases where two types of major demand are made in one dispute, each

major demand is counted