

**Ministry**

**Employment & Labour**

**Republic of South Africa**

Private Bag X499, PRETORIA, 0001. Laboria House 215 Schoeman Street, PRETORA Tel: (012) 392 9620 Fax: 012 320 1942

Private Bag X9090, CAPE TOWN, 8000. 120 Plein Street, 12th Floor, CAPE TOWN Tel: (021) 466 7160 Fax 021 432 2830

[www.labour.gov.za](http://www.labour.gov.za)

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION 29 [CW33E]**

***Strike actions***

**29. Ms H S Boshoff (Mpumalanga: DA) to ask the Minister of Employment and Labour:**

(a) How many working days were lost as a result of strike actions in the (i) 2013/14, (ii) 2014/15, (iii) 2015/16, (iv) 2016/17, (v) 2017/18 and (vi) 2018/19 financial years, (b) which sectors experienced the highest rate of strike actions, (c) how much was lost in wages in respect of strike actions for the said period, (d) what was the employment-to-population ratio, (e)(i) how many low-skilled workers were employed for the said period and (ii) which sector was the largest component that employed such workers? CW33E

**REPLY:**

The honourable member should be appraised that the Department of Employment and Labour has continually published an annual analysis of the strike incidents (January to December) in the country. This is in line with the national and international requirements. The strikes information is based on the information supplied by the employers in the Labour Relations Act (LRA) Forms 9.2 after the strike incident ended in a particular work place. All industrial action reports are accessible through the DEL website (***Noting that the 2019 Industrial Action results are still under development phase).***

1. How many working days were lost as a result of strike actions in the (i) 2013/14, (ii) 2014/15, (iii) 2015/16, (iv) 2016/17, (v) 2017/18 and (vi) 2018/19 financial years,

***Calendar year (January to December)***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year (January to December) | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
| No. of Strikes and lockouts | 114 | 88 | 110 | 122 | 132 | 165 |
| Working days lost | 1 847 006 | 10 264 775 | 903 921 | 960 489 | 946 323 | 1 158 945 |

1. which sectors experienced the **highest rate** of strike actions,

In all the years, the Community industry recorded the highest strike actions as per the DEL strike database.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year (January to December) | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
| Sector | Community | Community | Community | Community | Community | Community |
| Number of strike | 34 | 30 | 34 | 47 | 58 | 77 |

1. how much was lost in wages in respect of strike actions for the said period,

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year (January to December) | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
| Wages Lost (Rands) | 6 732 108 487 | 6 176 768 282 | 116 546 293 | 161 049 109 | 251 409 542 | 266 898 061 |

(d) what was the employment-to-population ratio,

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year (January to December) | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
| Employment to population ratio | 43.3 | 43.0 | 44.2 | 43.5 | 43.1 | 43.3 |

(e) (i) how many low-skilled workers were employed for the said period and

According to Statistics SA report (Labour Market Dynamics), proportions of low skilled workers were published. However, the details could not be obtained at the time this reply was concluded.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year | Low- skilled occupation | Semi- Skilled Occupation | Skilled occupation |
| 2013 | 42,8 | 45,2 | 12,0 |
| 2014 | 28,2 | 47.2 | 24.6 |
| 2015 | 30.2 | 47.6 | 22.3 |
| 2016 | 29,7 | 46,9 | 23,4 |
| 2017 | 29,5 | 47,0 | 23,5 |

(ii) Which sector was the largest component that employed such workers?

The largest component of low-skilled workers were employed in the construction industry but the domestic sector is another sector where low-skilled workers are also employed.