

THE UNION COUNCIL OF THE OSTRAVA DISTRICT
AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WAGE SYSTEM,
1949-59

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This article offers an overview of the policies governing wage allocation during the 1950s. It traces changes in the system of work norms and wage rates in the period 1950-52 and again in 1958-59. Those changes aimed at ensuring swift economic growth while at the same time keeping wage rises to a minimum. Special attention is devoted to the participation of the unified trade union, ROH, and especially its supreme organs, the District Councils, in the wage reforms. Its activities are examined in the exemplary case of the most important industrial district in prewar Czechoslovakia, the Ostrava district. Analysis of wage policies in the Ostrava district gives ample evidence that the role of the unions after the February 1948 turn-around switched from an organization representing workers' interests to the role of agent of the highest state and party organs.