

# One in 3 defiant says NCB

By David Felton  
Labour Correspondent

The drift back to work by striking miners which the National Coal Board has tried to encourage has shown little sign of gathering pace with only small numbers of miners joining their working colleagues.

Board officials have mounted a propaganda exercise in north Derbyshire in the hope of persuading a large-scale return to work but fewer than 500 men are working, compared with 200 in the early days of the strike.

The board estimates that about 49,000 people are working in the industry out of a total workforce of just more than 178,000 that includes deputies and managers. The best guess the board can make is that about one third of the membership of the National Union of Mineworkers is defying the strike.

Many coalfields, particularly in the Midlands, have remained stable throughout the dispute with numbers attending work varying only slightly. The vast majority of the 30,600 in the Nottinghamshire coalfield have worked normally, with the highest number on strike reaching only 3,500 in May, according to the board.

Regional officials of the board dispute claims by Mr Arthur Scargill, the union president, that about a third of all Nottinghamshire miners are on strike. The miners' leader's figures of 80 per cent of the coalfields not producing coal are also challenged, with the management claiming 122 out of 176 are on strike or picketed out.

Only a handful of miners in the Leicestershire and south Derbyshire coalfields are said to

Continued on back page, col 6

---

# One in 3 defiant says NCB

Continued from page 1

be not reporting for work. With the exception of Coventry colliery, where 400 of the 1,200 workforce are on strike, the Warwickshire coalfield is reporting almost normal working.

The largest fluctuations have been in the Lancashire coalfield, where all six pits have been affected at one time or another depending on the various pronouncements from the area NUM leadership. An attempt to start a return to work move at Bickershaw colliery earlier this week and was met by mass picketing. Board officials express satisfaction that numbers attending for work at the colliery have gone up by 10 per cent to about 340.

There appears little evidence of a substantial move back to work although in the board's western area, covering Lancashire, Cumbria, north Wales and Staffordshire, the numbers reporting for work has increased from 6,175 at the beginning of April to 8,205 now. That is estimated to represent more than half the NUM members

**One in 3 defiant says NCB.**

By David Felton Labour Correspondent.

*The Times* (London, England), Friday, Jun 15, 1984; pg. 1; Issue 61858. (426 words)

**Category:** News

© Times Newspapers Limited

**Gale Document Number:**CS17796815