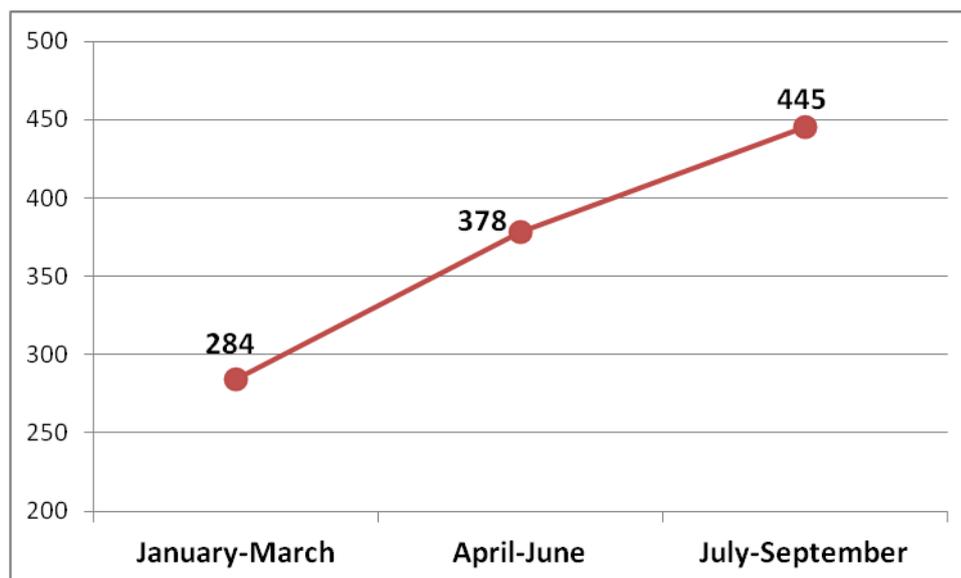


Protest activity in Russia in July-September 2017:

60% growth since the beginning of the year

The Centre for Economic and Political Reforms (CEPR) conducts a regular monitoring of protest actions and labour conflicts which take place in all regions of Russia.

During January-September 2017 a number of protests was continuously increasing. In July-September 445 protests were registered. It is more than we registered in January-March or in April-June despite the numerous anti-corruption protests that took place in these periods (on March 26th and on June 12th):



Number of protests in 2017

So a number of protests in Russia has grown up almost by 60% since the beginning of the year.

The main type of protests in January-September 2017 was a grassroots protest associated with specific social and economic problems such as delayed salaries, threats of mass layoffs, discontent with working conditions at enterprises, demands of defrauded real estate investors, eco-activists, animal rights activists etc.

We divided all the protests into three groups:

- protests that were caused by social and economic problems (entrepreneurs' protests, protests of defrauded real estate investors and co-investors, actions against tariff increases etc.);
- labour protests (related to labour conflicts, in most cases to delayed salaries);
- political protests (including protest actions of A.Navalny's supporters¹).

Among all the protests occurred in July-September 2017 nearly 70% were connected with social and economic problems:

¹ We didn't include A.Navalny's supporters protests held on 7th October 2017 in the number of political protests.

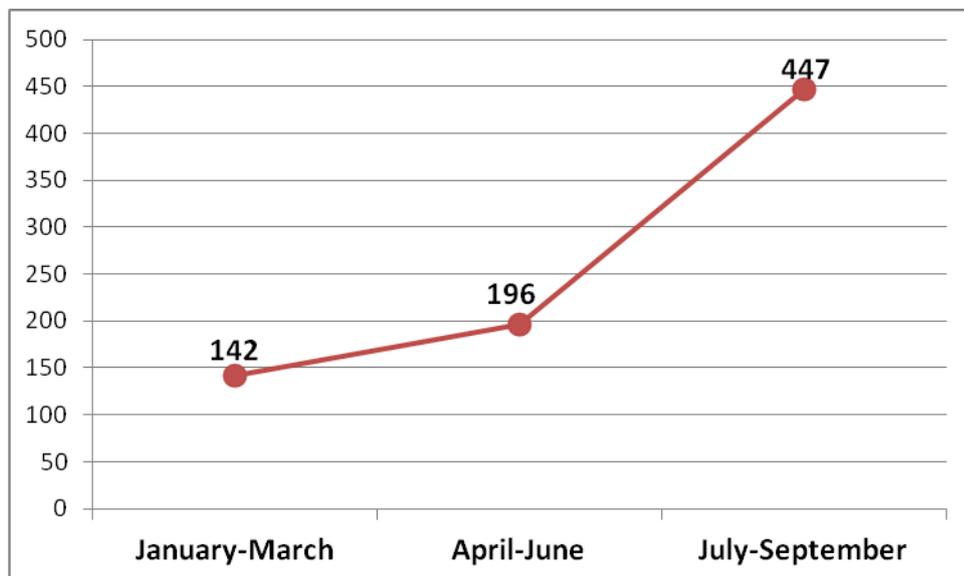


Protests in July-September 2017

Among protests that were caused by social and economic problems the protests of frauded co-investors were the most resonant in July-September 2017. In January-June the most extensive were protests of truckers who demonstrated against the tolling system called "Plato" and additional fees levied on extra-heavy trucks that use the federal roads and of farmers who actively opposed the raider seizure of land by large agro holdings.

Totally in January-September 2017 1.107 protests were registered.

A number of labour conflicts also increased in January-September 2017. For example, a number of wage arrears cases in July-September 2017 was twice as large as a number of such cases in April-June and three times as large as in January-March:



Number of wage arrears cases in 2017

Labour conflicts sometimes resulted in protest actions. In July-September 2017 CEPR registered 27 labour protests. Despite all the public declarations there is lack of an effective system to prevent and to resolve social conflicts in Russia.

That's why in many cases the only way to protect people's labour rights is to organize protest actions.

A situation when people can't get wage debts after bankruptcy of their employer is typical in modern Russia. Sometimes such situations involve biggest enterprises in towns. Local authorities usually make decisions in favour of such employers but not frauded employees. Wage arrears are not paid for years but owners and managers of such enterprises are not accountable for it. In some cases only figureheads are convicted. That's why corruption may be considered as one of the main reasons of labour conflicts and protests in Russia.

CEPR's monitoring revealed inability of authorities to resolve social conflicts systematically. Authorities usually neither resolve conflicts on an early stage nor protect violated labour and other social rights effectively. The most widespread authorities' tactics in case of protests are ignoring protesters' demands, avoiding a dialogue, suppressing protest. It leads only to growing of protest activity as the other methods to resolve people's problems are dysfunctional.