

Quarterly wage rate index – 2nd Quarter, 2011

1. Introduction

As from the first quarter of 2007, a new series of the quarterly wage rate index, based on the occupational structure of the working population in September 2006 has been introduced. An Economic and Social Indicator (ESI) entitled “Wage Rate Index” giving movements in the index for the four quarters of a year is published around the end of the first quarter of the following year. An ESI for year 2010 was released in April 2011.

To satisfy the requirements of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) towards graduation of Mauritius to the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS), the index for a particular quarter is being posted on the website of Statistics Mauritius within the following quarter.

2. Definition of Wage rate index

The wage rate index measures changes in the price of labour, i.e., changes in the average rates actually paid by employers to their employees for work during normal working hours.

3. Key points

3.1 Change from first quarter 2011 to second quarter 2011

(a) The overall wage rate index increased by 0.4 index point or 0.3%.

(b) Some industry groups have registered increases in their wage rates whilst others have registered decreases resulting in a net increase in the overall index.

(c) Main increases were registered in the following industry groups:

(i)	Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods	.....	2.5%
(ii)	Financial intermediation	.....	1.1%
(iii)	Education	.....	0.9%
(iv)	Agriculture, hunting and forestry	.....	0.9%
(v)	Public administration and defence; Compulsory social security	.....	0.4%

(d) Main decreases were registered in the following industry groups:

(i)	Hotels and restaurants	.....	-1.1%
(ii)	Real estate, renting and business activities	.....	-0.8%
(iii)	Other community, social and personal services	.....	-0.3%

3.2 Change from second quarter 2010 to second quarter 2011

(a) The overall index increased by 4.0%. Almost all industry groups have shown increases in the wage rates with percentage increases ranging from 1.3% to 10.9%.

(b) Main increases were registered in the following industry groups:

(i)	Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	.....	10.9%
(ii)	Real estate, renting and business activities	.....	9.1%
(iii)	Other community, social and personal services	.....	7.8%
(iv)	Manufacturing, mining and quarrying	.....	5.6%
(v)	Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles, personal and household goods	.....	4.7%

4. Note

In addition to changes in basic salaries and wages, the index is also affected by changes in the mix of employees of various categories or with various lengths of service, e.g. intake of new recruits and promotion of staff to higher grades.

Wage rate index by industry group, 1st to 4th quarter 2010 & 1st and 2nd quarters 2011

(Base : September 2006 = 100)

Industry group	Weights	2010				2011	
		Index Q1	Index Q2	Index Q3	Index Q4 ¹	Index Q1 ¹	Index Qr 2 ²
Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	61	134.5	133.6	170.5	155.0	146.9	148.2
Manufacturing, mining & quarrying	170	127.5	131.1	133.7	136.1	138.7	138.4
Electricity and water	20	135.6	136.9	138.7	138.4	136.8	136.7
Construction	37	129.4	137.6	138.7	139.5	139.4	139.4
Wholesale & retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles, personal & household goods	69	133.5	132.3	128.7	134.1	135.1	138.5
Hotels and restaurants	64	140.2	137.3	141.4	144.1	141.6	140.1
Transport, storage & communications	91	138.4	138.9	139.1	139.4	141.9	141.8
Financial intermediation	61	125.3	126.5	126.8	129.1	127.8	129.2
Real estate, renting and business activities	54	155.0	154.8	157.8	169.2	170.2	168.9
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	170	143.7	146.9	146.8	146.4	150.7	151.3
Education	124	143.5	143.6	147.8	143.9	146.0	147.3
Health & social work	59	138.3	140.2	139.9	141.0	144.0	144.0
Other community, social and personal services	20	134.1	133.7	137.0	140.4	144.6	144.1
All sectors	1,000	137.2	138.6	142.2	142.5	143.8	144.2
<i>of which General Government</i>	333	142.4	144.3	144.7	144.2	148.1	149.0

1/ Revised

2/ Provisional

Breakdown for 'Manufacturing, mining & quarrying'

Manufacturing, mining & quarrying	170	127.5	131.1	133.7	136.1	138.7	138.4
<i>Food (excluding sugar)</i>	39	120.6	126.3	126.1	128.6	130.3	131.2
<i>Sugar</i>	9	137.3	144.5	178.3	172.1	172.8	165.5
<i>Textiles</i>	70	129.0	132.9	134.5	137.4	141.6	141.2
<i>Other</i>	52	128.9	130.0	130.8	134.0	135.3	135.7