

Quarterly wage rate index – 1st Quarter, 2010

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 Indicators (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. The ESI for 2009 was released in April 2010.

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 the Central Statistics Office 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 fourth quarter 2009 to first quarter 2010.

- (a) The overall wage rate index increased by 1.2 index points or 0.9%.
- (b) Some industry groups have registered increases in their wage rates while others have registered decreases resulting in a net increase in the overall index.
- (c) Increases were registered in the following industry groups

(i)	Real estate, renting and business activities	.....	+4.9%
(ii)	Transport, storage & communication	.....	+2.5%
(iii)	Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	.....	+2.1%
(iv)	Health & Social Work	.....	+1.5%
(v)	Manufacturing, mining and quarrying	.....	+1.4%

- (d) Decreases were registered in the following industry groups

(i)	Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	.....	-7.7%
(ii)	Construction	.....	-1.2%

3.2 Change from first quarter 2009 to first quarter 2010.

(a) The overall wage index increased by 7.2%. All the industry groups have registered increases in the wage rates.

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

(i)	Real estate, renting and business activities	.....	+18.4%
(ii)	Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	.....	+16.5%
(iii)	Hotels and restaurants	.....	+13.7%
(iv)	Electricity and water	.....	+13.1%
(v)	Construction	.....	+10.0%

4. Note

It is to be noted that 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 2008, 1st to 4th quarter 2009 & 1st quarter 2010.
(Base : September 2006 = 100)

Industry group	Weights	2008				2009				2010	% change	
		Index Qr 1	Index Qr 2	Index Qr 3	Index Qr 4	Index Qr 1	Index Qr 2	Index Qr 3	Index Qr 4	Index Qr 1	from Qr 4 2009 to Qr 1 2010	from Qr 1 2009 to Qr 1 2010
Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	61	105.6	106.7	138.9	120.3	115.5	119.3	153.8	145.70	134.50	-7.7	16.5
Manufacturing, mining & quarrying	170	110.9	113.7	120.6	122.2	121.5	122.5	126.1	125.70	127.50	1.4	4.9
Electricity and water	20	106.9	107.0	118.7	120.4	119.9	119.7	138.2	135.30	135.60	0.2	13.1
Construction	37	111.5	113.4	124.8	124.2	117.6	122.2	128.1	131.00	129.40	-1.2	10.0
Wholesale & retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles, personal & household goods	69	115.6	116.5	131.6	128.8	128.5	134.7	130.6	132.10	133.50	1.1	3.9
Hotels and restaurants	64	116.4	116.2	124.4	125.0	123.3	127.1	134.8	139.40	140.20	0.6	13.7
Transport, storage & communications	91	115.9	114.1	126.2	126.1	125.9	126.4	132.4	135.00	138.40	2.5	9.9
Financial intermediation	61	109.9	112.6	117.8	115.1	117.7	117.2	120.4	123.70	125.30	1.3	6.5
Real estate, renting and business activities	54	110.0	111.3	122.6	129.9	130.9	132.3	143.2	147.80	155.00	4.9	18.4
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	170	103.8	103.3	136.2	136.4	137.2	136.9	140.5	140.80	143.70	2.1	4.7
Education	124	106.2	104.6	136.4	136.6	138.1	137.7	140.4	142.30	143.50	0.8	3.9
Health & social work	59	102.7	102.9	136.3	134.8	136.6	128.8	136.8	136.20	138.30	1.5	1.2
Other community, social and personal services	20	107.3	109.0	120.0	126.8	128.2	131.8	130.7	133.10	134.10	0.8	4.6
All sectors	1,000	109.2	109.7	128.8	128.1	128.0	128.8	135.0	136.00	137.20	0.9	7.2
<i>of which General Government ^{1/}</i>	333	103.7	103.2	137.1	137.1	137.7	136.0	140.0	140.10	142.40	1.6	3.4

Breakdown for 'Manufacturing, mining & quarrying'

Manufacturing, mining & quarrying	170	110.9	113.7	120.6	122.2	121.5	122.5	126.1	125.7	127.50	1.4	4.9
<i>Food (excluding sugar)</i>	39	107.0	108.0	115.4	117.1	116.0	114.9	118.6	122.3	120.60	-1.4	4.0
<i>Sugar</i>	9	108.8	109.1	127.2	121.6	124.4	123.2	145.0	145.8	137.30	-5.8	10.4
<i>Textiles</i>	70	111.9	117.3	123.5	127.1	125.4	127.1	128.7	125.6	129.00	2.7	2.9
<i>Other</i>	52	112.7	113.9	119.5	119.6	120.0	121.9	124.9	125.0	128.90	3.1	7.4

1/ Ministries, government departments and agencies operating under them; municipalities; district councils and Rodrigues Regional Assembly