

Quarterly wage rate index – 3rd Quarter, 2009

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. The ESI for 2008 was released in April 2009.

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 second quarter 2009 to third quarter 2009.

The overall wage rate index increased by 6.2 index point or 4.8%.

(a) Most of the industry groups have registered increases in their wage rates while only two have registered decreases resulting in a net increase in the overall index.

(b) Increases were registered in the following main industry groups

(i)	Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing (mainly due to higher wage rates in sugar sector due to the sugar-cane harvest period)	.....	+28.9%
(ii)	Electricity and water	.....	+15.5%
(iii)	Real estate, renting and business activities	.....	+8.2%
(iv)	Health and social work	.....	+6.2%
(v)	Hotels and restaurants	.....	+6.1%

(c) Decreases were registered in the following industry groups

(i)	Wholesale & retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles, personal & household goods	.....	-3.0%
(ii)	Other community, social and personal services	.....	-0.8%

3.2 Change from third quarter 2008 to third quarter 2009.

(a) The overall wage index increased by 4.8% due to increases in most industry groups, the main ones being:

(i)	Real estate, renting and business activities	.....	+16.8%
(ii)	Electricity and water	.....	+16.4%
(iii)	Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	.....	+10.7%
(iv)	Other community, social and personal services	.....	+ 8.9%
(v)	Hotels and restaurants	.....	+ 8.4%

(b) A decrease was registered in only one industry group, namely in :

(i)	Wholesale & retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles, personal & household goods	-0.8%
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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 from Quarter 1 2008 to Quarter 3 2009
(Base : September 2006 = 100)

Industry group	Weights	2008				2009			% Change	
		Index ^{1/}	Index ^{1/}	Index ^{1/}	Index	Index	Index	Index	Index	Index
		2008	Qr 1	Qr 2	Qr 3	Qr 4	Qr 1	Qr 2	Qr 3	from Qr 2 to Qr 3 2009	from Qr 3 2008 to Qr 3 2009
Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	61	105.6	106.7	138.9	120.3	115.5	119.3	153.8	28.9	10.7
Manufacturing, mining & quarrying	170	110.9	113.7	120.6	122.2	121.5	122.5	126.1	2.9	4.6
Electricity and water	20	106.9	107.0	118.7	120.4	119.9	119.7	138.2	15.5	16.4
Construction	37	111.5	113.4	124.8	124.2	117.6	122.2	128.1	4.8	2.6
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	-3.0	-0.8
Hotels and restaurants	64	116.4	116.2	124.4	125.0	123.3	127.1	134.8	6.1	8.4
Transport, storage & communications	91	115.9	114.1	126.2	126.1	125.9	126.4	132.4	4.7	4.9
Financial intermediation	61	109.9	112.6	117.8	115.1	117.7	117.2	120.4	2.7	2.2
Real estate, renting and business activities	54	110.0	111.3	122.6	129.9	130.9	132.3	143.2	8.2	16.8
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	170	103.8	103.3	136.2	136.4	137.2	136.9	140.5	2.6	3.2
Education	124	106.2	104.6	136.4	136.6	138.1	137.7	140.4	2.0	2.9
Health & social work	59	102.7	102.9	136.3	134.8	136.6	128.8	136.8	6.2	0.4
Other community, social and personal services	20	107.3	109.0	120.0	126.8	128.2	131.8	130.7	-0.8	8.9
All sectors	1,000	109.2	109.7	128.8	128.1	128.0	128.8	135.0	4.8	4.8
<i>of which General Government ^{2/}</i>	333	103.7	103.2	137.1	137.1	137.7	136.0	140.0	2.9	2.1

Breakdown for 'Manufacturing, mining & quarrying'

Manufacturing, mining & quarrying	170	110.9	113.7	120.6	122.2	121.5	122.5	126.1	2.9	4.6
<i>Food (excluding sugar)</i>	39	107.0	108.0	115.4	117.1	116.0	114.9	118.6	3.2	2.8
<i>Sugar</i>	9	108.8	109.1	127.2	121.6	124.4	123.2	145.0	17.7	14.0
<i>Textiles</i>	70	111.9	117.3	123.5	127.1	125.4	127.1	128.7	1.3	4.2
<i>Other</i>	52	112.7	113.9	119.5	119.6	120.0	121.9	124.9	2.5	4.5

1/ Revised

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