

# Quarterly wage rate index – 1st 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 2007 was released in April 2008.

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 2008 to first quarter 2009.

- (a) The overall wage rate index decreased by 0.1 index point or 0.1%.
- (b) Some industry groups have registered decreases in their wage rates while others have registered increases resulting in a net decrease in the overall index.

#### (c) Increases were registered in the following industry groups

|       |   |       |      |
|-------|---|-------|------|
| (i)   | Financial Intermediation                      | ..... | 2.3% |
| (ii)  | Health & Social work                          | ..... | 1.3% |
| (iii) | Other community, social and personal services | ..... | 1.1% |
| (iv)  | Education                                     | ..... | 1.1% |

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

|       |  |       |       |
|-------|--|-------|-------|
| (i)   | Construction                               | ..... | 5.3%  |
| (ii)  | Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing | ..... | -4.0% |
| (iii) | Hotels and restaurants                     | ..... | -1.4% |
| (iv)  | Manufacturing, mining & quarrying          | ..... | 0.6%  |

### **3.2 Change from first quarter 2008 to first quarter 2009.**

The overall index increased by 17.2%. This was due mainly to an upward revision in salary following the implementation of the Pay Research Bureau report (PRB) - June 2009 for the public sector and the payment of salary/wage compensation for the private sector.

### **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, 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2008 & 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2009**  
**(Base : September 2006 = 100)**

| Industry group  | Weights      | 2008                        |                             |                             |               | 2009          |
|---|--------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|   |              | Index <sup>1/</sup><br>Qr 1 | Index <sup>1/</sup><br>Qr 2 | Index <sup>1/</sup><br>Qr 3 | Index<br>Qr 4 | Index<br>Qr 1 |
| Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing  | 61           | 105.6                       | 106.7                       | 129.8                       | 120.3         | 115.5         |
| Manufacturing, mining & quarrying   | 170          | 110.9                       | 113.7                       | 120.1                       | 122.2         | 121.5         |
| Electricity and water   | 20           | 106.9                       | 107.0                       | 118.7                       | 120.4         | 119.9         |
| Construction  | 37           | 111.5                       | 113.4                       | 124.8                       | 124.2         | 117.6         |
| Wholesale & retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles, personal & household goods | 69           | 115.6                       | 116.5                       | 131.6                       | 128.8         | 128.5         |
| Hotels and restaurants  | 64           | 116.4                       | 116.2                       | 124.4                       | 125.0         | 123.3         |
| Transport, storage & communications   | 91           | 115.9                       | 114.1                       | 126.2                       | 126.1         | 125.9         |
| Financial intermediation  | 61           | 109.9                       | 112.6                       | 117.8                       | 115.1         | 117.7         |
| Real estate, renting and business activities  | 54           | 110.0                       | 111.3                       | 122.6                       | 129.9         | 130.9         |
| Public administration and defence; compulsory social security                               | 170          | 103.8                       | 103.3                       | 136.2                       | 136.4         | 137.2         |
| Education   | 124          | 106.2                       | 104.6                       | 136.4                       | 136.6         | 138.1         |
| Health & social work  | 59           | 102.7                       | 102.9                       | 136.3                       | 134.8         | 136.6         |
| Other community, social and personal services   | 20           | 107.3                       | 109.0                       | 120.0                       | 126.8         | 128.2         |
| <b>All sectors</b>  | <b>1,000</b> | <b>109.2</b>                | <b>109.7</b>                | <b>128.2</b>                | <b>128.1</b>  | <b>128.0</b>  |
| <i>of which General Government <sup>2/</sup></i>  | <i>333</i>   | <i>103.7</i>                | <i>103.2</i>                | <i>137.1</i>                | <i>137.1</i>  | <i>137.7</i>  |

1/ Revised

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