

Quarterly wage rate index - 1st Quarter, 2008

As from the first quarter of 2007, a new series of the wage rate index, based on the occupational structure of the working population in September 2006 has been introduced. An indicator giving movements in the index for the four quarters of a year is published during the first quarter of the following year. The indicator 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 will be posted on the website of the Central Statistics Office within the following quarter. The following gives the index for the 1st quarter 2008. It is to be noted that 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 and that the base period is September 2006.

Wage rate index by industry group, 1st to 4th quarter of 2007 and 1st quarter of 2008

(Base : September 2006 = 100)

		Base	2007				2008
			Qr 1	Qr 2	Qr 3	Qr 4	Qr 1
Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	61	100.0	95.9	98.5	106.2	107.5	105.6
Manufacturing, mining & quarrying	171	100.0	102.2	103.6	107.6	109.6	110.1
Electricity and water	20	100.0	104.5	105.0	106.0	106.4	106.9
Construction	37	100.0	101.2	102.8	108.3	109.1	111.5
Wholesale & retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles, personal & household goods	68	100.0	102.9	103.2	108.9	110.3	115.6
Hotels and restaurants	64	100.0	104.4	104.6	106.6	114.7	116.4
Transport, storage & communications	91	100.0	100.5	102.9	107.0	109.4	115.9
Financial intermediation	61	100.0	100.6	104.3	109.2	114.3	109.9
Real estate, renting and business activities	54	100.0	101.8	102.7	107.0	108.6	110.0
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	170	100.0	100.1	100.2	104.1	104.4	103.8
Education	124	100.0	101.8	101.9	103.6	103.9	106.2
Health & social work	59	100.0	98.2	99.5	103.6	103.4	102.7
Other community, social and personal services	20	100.0	102.6	101.2	102.8	106.0	107.3
All sectors	1,000	100.0	101.1	102.2	106.1	108.0	109.1
<i>of which General Government</i>	<i>333</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>99.8</i>	<i>100.2</i>	<i>103.7</i>	<i>103.9</i>	103.7

The wage rate index for all sectors together shows an increase of 1.1 points in the first quarter of 2008 compared to the fourth quarter of 2007. The main contributors to the increase are “Transport, storage and communications” (0.6 points), followed by “Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motor cycles, personal and household goods” (0.4 points) and “Education” (0.3 points). On the other hand, the following sectors contributed towards lowering the overall increase: “Financial intermediation” (-0.3), “Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing” (-0.1) and “Public administration and defence; compulsory social security” (-0.1).

A fall in wage rate index is noted in the general government sector from 103.9 in the fourth quarter of 2007 to 103.7 in the first quarter of 2008.

Compared to the 1st quarter 2007, the overall index for the 1st quarter 2008 increased by 7.9% from 101.1 to 109.1