

Quarterly wage rate index – 2nd Quarter, 2008

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 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 2nd 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. The base period is September 2006.

Table 1 - Wage rate index by industry group, 1st to 4th quarter 2007 and 1st & 2nd quarters 2008
(Base : September 2006 = 100)

Industry group	Weights	2007				2008	
		Index ^{1/} Qr 1	Index ^{1/} Qr 2	Index ^{1/} Qr 3	Index ^{1/} Qr 4	Index ^{1/} Qr 1	Index Qr 2
Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	61	95.9	98.5	106.2	107.5	105.6	106.7
Manufacturing, mining & quarrying	171	102.2	103.6	107.6	109.9	110.1	112.9
Electricity and water	20	104.5	105.0	106.0	106.4	106.9	107.0
Construction	37	101.2	102.8	108.3	109.1	111.5	113.4
Wholesale & retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles, personal & household goods	68	102.9	103.2	108.8	110.2	115.6	116.5
Hotels and restaurants	64	104.4	104.6	106.6	114.7	116.4	116.2
Transport, storage & communications	91	100.5	102.9	106.3	109.0	115.9	114.1
Financial intermediation	61	100.5	103.4	108.9	110.9	109.9	112.6
Real estate, renting and business activities	54	101.8	102.7	107.3	108.6	110.0	111.3
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	170	100.1	100.2	104.1	104.4	103.8	103.3
Education	124	101.8	101.9	103.7	103.9	106.2	104.6
Health & social work	59	98.2	99.5	103.6	103.4	102.7	102.9
Other community, social and personal services	20	102.6	101.2	102.8	106.0	107.3	109.0
All sectors	1,000	101.1	102.1	106.1	107.8	109.1	109.6
<i>of which General Government</i>	333	99.8	100.2	103.7	103.9	103.7	103.2

1/ Revised

The wage rate index for all sectors together shows an increase of 0.5 points in the second quarter of 2008 compared to the first quarter of 2008. The main contributors to the increase are “Manufacturing, mining and quarrying” (0.5 points), followed by “Financial intermediation” (0.2 points), ‘Construction’ (0.1 point) and “Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing” (0.1 point).

On the other hand, the following sectors contributed towards lowering the overall increase: “Education” (-0.2) and “Transport, storage and communications” (-0.2).

A fall in wage rate index is noted in the general government sector from 103.7 in the first quarter of 2008 to 103.2 in the second quarter of 2008.

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 the promotion of staff to higher grades.

Compared to the 2nd quarter 2007, the overall index for the 2nd quarter 2008 increased by 7.3% from 102.1 to 109.6