

Quarterly wage rate index – 4th 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 around the end of 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 is being posted on the website of the Central Statistics Office within the following quarter. The following gives the index for the 4th 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.

Wage rate index by industry group, 4th quarter of 2007 & 1st to 4th quarter 2008
(Base : September 2006 = 100)

Industry group	Weights	2007	2008			
		Index Qr 4	Index ^{1/} Qr 1	Index ^{1/} Qr 2	Index ^{1/} Qr 3	Index Qr 4
Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	61	107.5	105.6	106.7	129.8	120.3
Manufacturing, mining & quarrying	170	109.9	110.9	113.7	120.1	122.2
Electricity and water	20	106.4	106.9	107.0	118.7	120.4
Construction	37	109.1	111.5	113.4	124.8	124.2
Wholesale & retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles, personal & household goods	69	110.2	115.6	116.5	131.6	128.8
Hotels and restaurants	64	114.7	116.4	116.2	124.4	125.0
Transport, storage & communications	91	109.0	115.9	114.1	126.2	126.1
Financial intermediation	61	110.9	109.9	112.6	117.8	115.1
Real estate, renting and business activities	54	108.6	110.0	111.3	122.6	129.9
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	170	104.4	103.8	103.3	136.2	136.4
Education	124	103.9	106.2	104.6	136.4	136.6
Health & social work	59	103.4	102.7	102.9	136.3	134.8
Other community, social and personal services	20	106.0	107.3	109.0	120.0	126.8
All sectors	1,000	107.8	109.2	109.7	128.2	128.1
<i>of which General Government</i>	333	103.9	103.7	103.2	137.1	137.1

1/ Revised

The overall wage rate index shows a decrease of 0.1 point in the fourth quarter of 2008 compared to the third quarter of 2008. Some industry groups have registered decreases in their wage rates while others have registered increases during that period. The main increases were registered in “Real estate, renting and business activities” (6.0%), “Other community, social and personal services” (5.7%) and “Manufacturing, mining & quarrying” (1.7%). On the other hand, the main decreases were registered in “Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing” (-7.3%), “Financial intermediation” (-2.3%), and “Wholesale & retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles, personal & household goods” (-2.1%).

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 4th quarter of 2007, the overall index for the 4th quarter 2008 increased by 18.8% from 107.8 to 128.1.