

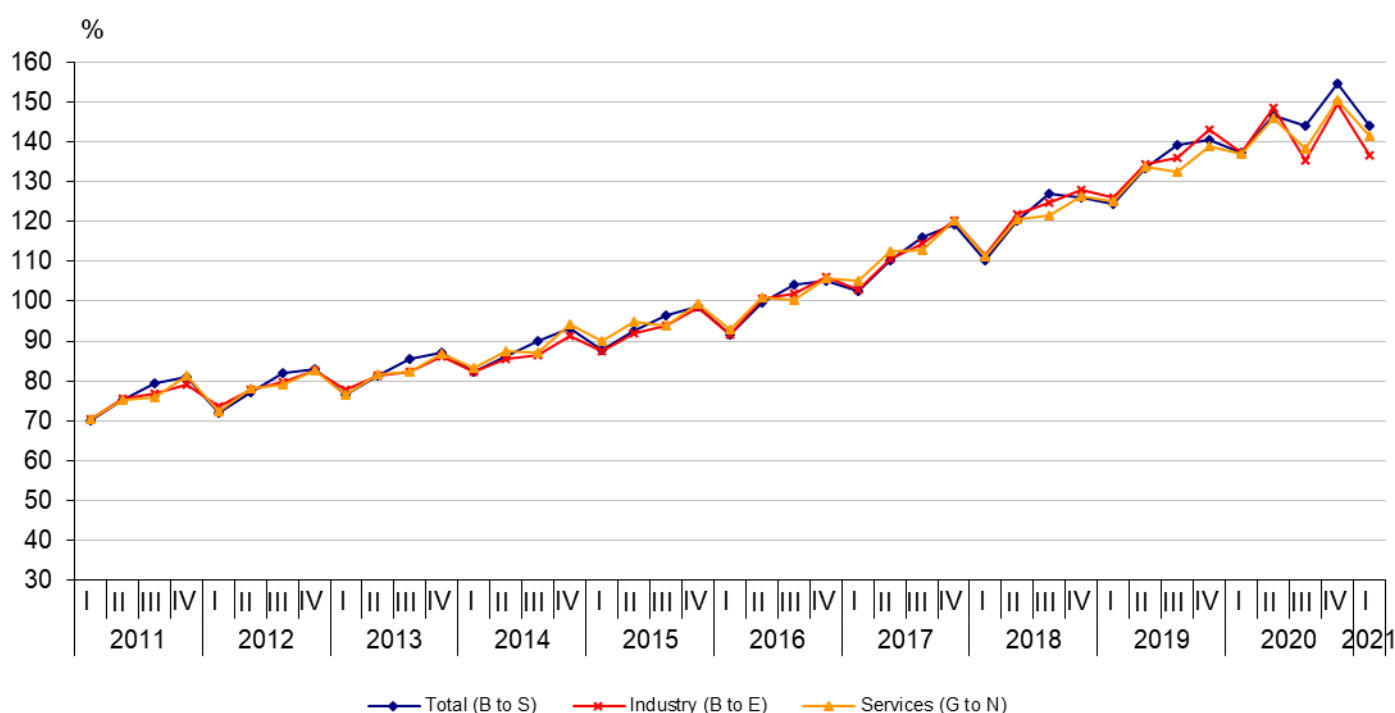
QUARTERLY LABOUR COST INDEX **FIRST QUARTER OF 2021**

Preliminary data of the NSI for the first quarter of 2021 indicate that the total hourly labour cost rose by 4.9% compared to the first quarter of 2020. The total hourly labour cost decreased by 0.4% in industry, while in services and construction there was an increase by 3.5 and 9.4% respectively.

The breakdown by economic activities showed that the highest annual growths in total labour costs were recorded in 'Human health and social work activities' - 25.4%, 'Public administration and defence; compulsory social security' - 17.8% and 'Administrative and support service activities' by 10.4%. The highest decrease in total labour costs was recorded in 'Accommodation and food service activities' by 9.8%, 'Real estate activities' by 4.0% and 'Transportation and storage' by 2.4%.

In the structure of the total labour costs, the wages and salaries costs per hour worked grew by 5.4% in comparison with a year earlier, while the other (non-wage) costs rose by 2.1%. Among the economic activities in the first quarter of 2021 compared to the first quarter of 2020 the growth rate of wages and salaries component ranged from 26.1% in 'Human health and social work activities' to -9.2% in 'Accommodation and food service activities'.

Figure 1. Total labour cost index
(Working day adjusted, 2016 = 100)



Methodological notes

Labour Cost Index is a short-term indicator measuring the quarterly development of hourly labour costs incurred by the employers as a result of engaging the labour work force. The Quarterly Survey on employees, hours worked, wages and salaries and other expenditures paid by the employer is the main source used for the labour cost index data calculation.

Labour cost index (LCI) is defined as a Laspeyres index of labour costs per hour worked. Since the first quarter of 2019 it has been calculated broken down by economic activities at section level according to the new NACE Rev. 2 classification and with the reference year 2016 = 100. Indices are based on Regulation (EC) No. 450/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council according to which requirements Labour costs indices shall be provided separately for the following three labour costs categories:

Total labour costs (TOT), which includes wages and salaries paid by the employer in cash or in kind, employers' actual and imputed social contribution plus taxes regarded as labour costs;

Wage and salary costs (WAG) covers wages and salaries paid in cash or in kind;

Labour costs other than wages and salaries (OTH - non-wage costs) include the employers' actual and imputed social contribution plus taxes regarded as labour costs.

Since the second quarter of 2020, the amounts received under government measures to support the employers' labour costs are excluded.

Economic activity coverage (NACE Rev. 2):

- **Total (sections B to S)** - Mining and quarrying (B), Manufacturing (C), Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (D), Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (E), Construction (F), Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (G), Transportation and storage (H), Accommodation and food service activities (I), Information and communication (J), Financial and insurance activities (K), Real estate activities (L), Professional, scientific and technical activities (M), Administrative and support service activities (N), Public administration and defence; compulsory social security (O), Education (P), Human health and social work activities (Q), Arts, entertainment and recreation (R), Other service activities (S);
- **Industry (section B to E)** - Mining and quarrying (B), Manufacturing (C), Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (D), Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (E);
- **Services (sections G to N)** - Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (G), Transportation and storage (H), Accommodation and food service activities (I), Information and communication (J), Financial and insurance activities (K), Real estate activities (L), Professional, scientific and technical activities (M), Administrative and support service activities (N).

More methodological information on the labour cost index and data could be found on the NSI official website - <http://www.nsi.bg/en> .

Hourly labour cost index for the period first quarter of 2019 - first quarter of 2021
(Working day adjusted)

(Percentage change compared to corresponding period of the previous year)

| Code NCEA - 2008 ¹ | Economic activities | q1 2019* | | | q2 2019* | | | q3 2019* | | | q4 2019* | | | q1 2020* | | | q2 2020* | | | q3 2020* | | | q4 2020* | | | q1 2021* | | |
|----------------------------------|--|----------|------|------|----------|------|------|----------|------|------|----------|------|------|----------|------|------|----------|------|------|----------|-------|------|----------|------|------|----------|------|-------|
| | | TOT | WAG | OTH | TOT | WAG | OTH | TOT | WAG | OTH | TOT | WAG | OTH | TOT | WAG | OTH | TOT | WAG | OTH | TOT | WAG | OTH | TOT | WAG | OTH | TOT | WAG | OTH |
| B to S | All NACE branches except agriculture, fishing, private households with employed persons | 12.9 | 12.7 | 14.0 | 11.2 | 11.1 | 11.6 | 9.5 | 9.2 | 10.7 | 11.5 | 11.3 | 12.6 | 10.3 | 10.2 | 10.3 | 9.8 | 9.6 | 10.7 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 4.0 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 10.1 | 4.9 | 5.4 | 2.1 |
| B to E | Industry (except construction) | 13.0 | 12.5 | 15.2 | 10.3 | 9.9 | 12.1 | 9.2 | 8.9 | 10.6 | 11.8 | 12.0 | 10.9 | 9.0 | 9.0 | 8.6 | 10.7 | 10.7 | 11.1 | -0.6 | -0.7 | -0.1 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.6 | -0.4 | 0.1 | -2.8 |
| G to N | Services (excluding public administration) | 12.3 | 12.3 | 12.3 | 11.0 | 11.0 | 10.7 | 9.1 | 8.9 | 10.1 | 10.0 | 9.7 | 12.0 | 9.5 | 9.5 | 9.6 | 9.0 | 8.8 | 9.9 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 3.6 | 8.3 | 8.6 | 7.0 | 3.5 | 4.2 | -0.5 |
| B | Mining and quarrying | 8.2 | 7.9 | 9.5 | 4.8 | 4.5 | 5.8 | 3.5 | 1.8 | 9.6 | 3.5 | 3.2 | 4.8 | 3.7 | 3.4 | 4.7 | 13.8 | 13.5 | 14.6 | 1.8 | 3.0 | -2.2 | 11.6 | 12.7 | 7.4 | 7.8 | 8.9 | 3.8 |
| C | Manufacturing | 13.6 | 13.3 | 15.0 | 10.6 | 10.4 | 11.6 | 9.6 | 9.6 | 9.6 | 12.8 | 13.0 | 11.7 | 9.1 | 9.3 | 8.2 | 10.7 | 10.8 | 10.4 | -1.8 | -1.9 | -1.4 | 3.2 | 3.3 | 3.1 | -1.7 | -1.4 | -3.0 |
| D | Electricity,gas,steam and air conditioning supply | 12.9 | 10.0 | 24.9 | 12.3 | 9.9 | 21.9 | 9.9 | 7.4 | 19.8 | 9.6 | 9.7 | 9.2 | 11.1 | 11.2 | 10.6 | 7.4 | 6.9 | 9.4 | 4.5 | 4.2 | 5.6 | 5.4 | 4.8 | 7.7 | 1.5 | 4.1 | -7.9 |
| E | Water supply,sewerage,waste management and remediation activities | 9.4 | 9.8 | 7.2 | 7.4 | 7.5 | 7.3 | 7.7 | 7.8 | 7.1 | 12.2 | 12.0 | 13.0 | 9.9 | 8.6 | 16.1 | 13.7 | 12.6 | 19.1 | 6.0 | 5.7 | 7.6 | 11.1 | 11.0 | 11.5 | 5.3 | 5.8 | 2.9 |
| F | Construction | 8.8 | 8.8 | 9.2 | 9.6 | 9.3 | 11.4 | 8.7 | 8.7 | 8.9 | 12.8 | 12.8 | 12.8 | 8.2 | 8.1 | 8.5 | 6.0 | 6.3 | 4.7 | 3.2 | 3.8 | 0.6 | 5.8 | 6.2 | 3.3 | 9.4 | 10.2 | 5.7 |
| G | Wholesale and retail trade;repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles | 11.7 | 12.1 | 9.9 | 9.4 | 9.6 | 8.1 | 8.4 | 8.3 | 8.8 | 9.8 | 10.1 | 8.3 | 11.5 | 11.6 | 11.1 | 10.6 | 10.7 | 10.0 | 6.2 | 6.4 | 5.2 | 11.7 | 12.1 | 9.4 | 3.1 | 3.7 | 0.3 |
| H | Transportation and storage | 14.3 | 13.9 | 16.1 | 16.4 | 16.5 | 15.7 | 16.4 | 16.4 | 16.1 | 17.3 | 16.8 | 19.5 | 7.7 | 7.2 | 10.2 | 6.6 | 5.8 | 10.0 | -3.3 | -4.1 | 0.4 | 0.4 | -0.4 | 4.1 | -2.4 | -2.2 | -3.0 |
| I | Accommodation and food service activities | 13.9 | 13.9 | 13.5 | 11.8 | 12.4 | 9.0 | 9.9 | 9.9 | 9.5 | 11.4 | 11.2 | 12.2 | 13.6 | 11.6 | 23.2 | 6.9 | 3.1 | 26.1 | -4.1 | -5.0 | 0.1 | -0.7 | -2.5 | 7.6 | -9.8 | -9.2 | -12.7 |
| J | Information and communication | 12.0 | 11.9 | 12.4 | 12.2 | 12.2 | 12.3 | 9.8 | 9.3 | 13.1 | 9.9 | 9.3 | 14.5 | 9.7 | 10.4 | 5.6 | 7.3 | 7.9 | 3.2 | 5.3 | 5.9 | 1.3 | 9.7 | 10.3 | 5.8 | 8.7 | 9.8 | 1.2 |
| K | Financial and insurance activities | 11.2 | 11.2 | 11.3 | 13.6 | 13.9 | 11.8 | 8.2 | 8.9 | 4.0 | 6.6 | 6.1 | 9.0 | 5.8 | 6.1 | 4.0 | 10.2 | 10.2 | 10.3 | 5.8 | 6.1 | 4.2 | 7.9 | 8.6 | 3.9 | 0.7 | 1.7 | -5.0 |
| L | Real estate activities | 9.3 | 9.9 | 6.2 | 8.4 | 7.9 | 11.2 | 2.3 | 0.8 | 11.1 | 9.9 | 9.1 | 14.1 | 22.7 | 23.7 | 17.0 | 24.2 | 25.0 | 19.8 | 23.7 | 25.2 | 15.9 | 26.0 | 28.1 | 15.0 | -4.0 | -4.5 | -0.9 |
| M | Professional,scientific and technical activities | 12.3 | 11.8 | 14.9 | 6.8 | 6.2 | 10.0 | 2.8 | 2.3 | 5.6 | 6.0 | 4.9 | 12.6 | 6.7 | 6.3 | 8.5 | 9.6 | 9.8 | 8.4 | 5.8 | 5.8 | 5.2 | 8.1 | 8.2 | 7.3 | 6.4 | 7.2 | 1.9 |
| N | Administrative and support service activities | 12.7 | 12.8 | 12.3 | 8.0 | 7.8 | 9.1 | 8.5 | 8.5 | 8.9 | 7.3 | 7.0 | 8.7 | 5.3 | 5.4 | 4.8 | 7.2 | 6.9 | 8.7 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.7 | 8.5 | 8.8 | 7.0 | 10.4 | 10.8 | 8.3 |
| O | Public administration and defence;compulsory social security | 15.0 | 13.8 | 19.0 | 9.5 | 9.7 | 8.9 | 8.2 | 7.8 | 9.6 | 16.4 | 15.6 | 19.2 | 7.7 | 8.6 | 5.1 | 4.2 | 3.8 | 5.6 | 16.2 | 16.5 | 15.2 | 20.7 | 21.5 | 18.4 | 17.8 | 18.7 | 14.8 |
| P | Education | 17.8 | 17.7 | 18.3 | 18.4 | 17.8 | 20.5 | 13.2 | 12.7 | 15.4 | 16.9 | 16.8 | 17.4 | 25.9 | 25.6 | 27.3 | 18.4 | 18.5 | 17.9 | 1.7 | 0.5 | 6.5 | 25.5 | 24.6 | 29.0 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 1.0 |
| Q | Human health and social work activities | 11.9 | 12.0 | 11.5 | 11.1 | 11.5 | 8.9 | 9.5 | 9.4 | 9.9 | 10.6 | 10.7 | 10.4 | 9.8 | 9.7 | 10.5 | 10.2 | 9.6 | 13.5 | 7.4 | 7.5 | 6.9 | 24.6 | 24.2 | 26.6 | 25.4 | 26.1 | 22.0 |
| R | Arts,entertainment and recreation | 10.8 | 10.4 | 12.7 | 7.6 | 7.1 | 10.1 | 7.9 | 7.5 | 10.0 | 9.0 | 8.4 | 12.1 | 13.0 | 12.0 | 18.4 | 12.2 | 9.9 | 24.7 | -11.3 | -12.0 | -7.3 | -2.0 | -2.7 | 1.5 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.9 |
| S | Other service activities | 18.8 | 19.3 | 16.5 | 16.5 | 17.3 | 12.5 | 15.3 | 16.2 | 10.8 | 11.6 | 13.0 | 4.9 | 3.7 | 3.5 | 4.8 | 10.0 | 9.2 | 14.1 | 1.0 | 0.8 | 2.0 | 1.6 | 0.8 | 5.9 | 6.1 | 5.6 | 8.7 |

¹ NCEA - 2008 - National Classification of economic activities comparable with NACE Rev.2.

² Preliminary data.

TOT - Total labour costs

WAG - Wages and salaries costs

OTH - Other (non-wage) costs

Table 2

Labour Cost Index - Total labour costs for the period 2017 - 2021
(Working day adjusted, 2016=100)

| Code NCEA - 2008 ¹ | Economic activities | 2017 | | | | 2018 | | | | 2019* | | | | 2020* | | | | 2021* |
|----------------------------------|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 |
| B to S | All NACE branches except agriculture, fishing, private households with employed persons | 102.7 | 110.3 | 116.1 | 119.2 | 110.2 | 120.1 | 127.0 | 126.1 | 124.4 | 133.5 | 139.1 | 140.6 | 137.2 | 146.5 | 144.0 | 154.7 | 143.9 |
| B to E | Industry (except construction) | 102.8 | 110.7 | 114.3 | 120.2 | 111.6 | 121.8 | 124.7 | 127.9 | 126.1 | 134.3 | 136.1 | 143.1 | 137.3 | 148.7 | 135.3 | 149.5 | 136.8 |
| G to N | Services (excluding public administration) | 105.2 | 112.4 | 112.7 | 120.3 | 111.3 | 120.7 | 121.5 | 126.2 | 125.0 | 133.9 | 132.6 | 138.8 | 136.9 | 145.9 | 138.3 | 150.4 | 141.6 |
| B | Mining and quarrying | 102.3 | 111.1 | 113.2 | 132.5 | 114.9 | 121.5 | 119.4 | 140.7 | 124.4 | 127.4 | 123.6 | 145.6 | 129.0 | 144.9 | 125.8 | 162.5 | 139.0 |
| C | Manufacturing | 103.9 | 110.7 | 115.7 | 120.2 | 113.3 | 122.1 | 127.1 | 127.3 | 128.7 | 135.1 | 139.3 | 143.6 | 140.4 | 149.5 | 136.8 | 148.3 | 138.1 |
| D | Electricity,gas,steam and air conditioning supply | 96.2 | 111.0 | 106.2 | 113.0 | 98.6 | 122.0 | 113.9 | 126.0 | 111.2 | 137.0 | 125.2 | 138.1 | 123.6 | 147.1 | 130.9 | 145.6 | 125.5 |
| E | Water supply,sewerage,waste management and remediation activities | 100.8 | 111.2 | 110.3 | 119.8 | 108.8 | 117.2 | 116.4 | 126.4 | 118.9 | 125.9 | 125.3 | 141.9 | 130.7 | 143.2 | 132.9 | 157.6 | 137.6 |
| F | Construction | 105.6 | 105.2 | 106.5 | 120.8 | 112.3 | 117.0 | 116.6 | 124.9 | 122.2 | 128.2 | 126.8 | 140.8 | 132.2 | 135.9 | 130.9 | 148.9 | 144.6 |
| G | Wholesale and retail trade;repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles | 105.8 | 112.7 | 113.2 | 122.9 | 109.8 | 119.1 | 119.9 | 123.7 | 122.6 | 130.3 | 130.0 | 135.9 | 136.7 | 144.0 | 138.1 | 151.7 | 141.0 |
| H | Transportation and storage | 104.1 | 111.3 | 112.7 | 115.1 | 113.4 | 121.2 | 120.9 | 122.9 | 129.6 | 141.1 | 140.7 | 144.1 | 139.6 | 150.3 | 136.1 | 144.7 | 136.3 |
| I | Accommodation and food service activities | 104.9 | 109.5 | 107.2 | 118.8 | 112.5 | 122.1 | 121.0 | 124.9 | 128.1 | 136.5 | 132.9 | 139.1 | 145.5 | 145.9 | 127.4 | 138.1 | 131.2 |
| J | Information and communication | 106.1 | 110.4 | 114.7 | 120.6 | 113.6 | 122.7 | 125.6 | 130.7 | 127.2 | 137.7 | 137.9 | 143.6 | 139.6 | 147.8 | 145.2 | 157.6 | 151.8 |
| K | Financial and insurance activities | 99.4 | 112.8 | 106.1 | 112.9 | 104.2 | 113.8 | 112.3 | 122.0 | 115.8 | 129.2 | 121.4 | 130.0 | 122.6 | 142.4 | 128.5 | 140.3 | 123.5 |
| L | Real estate activities | 101.7 | 111.4 | 108.3 | 119.1 | 101.3 | 107.5 | 114.1 | 113.5 | 110.7 | 116.6 | 116.7 | 124.7 | 135.8 | 144.8 | 144.4 | 157.1 | 130.4 |
| M | Professional,scientific and technical activities | 104.0 | 111.9 | 114.1 | 122.2 | 109.5 | 121.0 | 125.6 | 131.6 | 122.9 | 129.2 | 129.0 | 139.4 | 131.1 | 141.6 | 136.5 | 150.7 | 139.5 |
| N | Administrative and support service activities | 111.2 | 119.9 | 117.0 | 125.5 | 120.4 | 130.8 | 127.2 | 133.3 | 135.7 | 141.2 | 138.0 | 143.0 | 142.9 | 151.4 | 145.6 | 155.2 | 157.8 |
| O | Public administration and defence;compulsory social security | 101.2 | 109.4 | 115.7 | 115.6 | 109.3 | 120.3 | 128.7 | 123.9 | 125.7 | 131.7 | 139.3 | 144.3 | 135.4 | 137.3 | 161.8 | 174.2 | 159.6 |
| P | Education | 89.5 | 100.8 | 154.5 | 115.6 | 99.2 | 112.1 | 177.8 | 120.1 | 116.9 | 132.7 | 201.4 | 140.3 | 147.2 | 157.1 | 204.9 | 176.1 | 148.2 |
| Q | Human health and social work activities | 98.1 | 109.8 | 113.9 | 113.2 | 106.9 | 117.9 | 124.2 | 123.1 | 119.6 | 131.0 | 136.0 | 136.2 | 131.3 | 144.3 | 146.1 | 169.7 | 164.7 |
| R | Arts,entertainment and recreation | 101.9 | 104.5 | 112.5 | 120.4 | 113.9 | 124.2 | 139.3 | 135.6 | 126.2 | 133.7 | 150.3 | 147.8 | 142.6 | 150.0 | 133.3 | 144.8 | 146.1 |
| S | Other service activities | 104.9 | 108.9 | 116.1 | 121.7 | 113.7 | 121.3 | 126.7 | 136.1 | 135.0 | 141.4 | 146.1 | 151.8 | 140.1 | 155.5 | 147.6 | 154.3 | 148.6 |

¹ NCEA - 2008 - National Classification of economic activities comparable with NACE Rev.2.

* Preliminary data.