HIGHER HOURLY LABOUR COST IN QUARTER IV 2018\(^1\)

- In Quarter IV 2018\(^2\) the adjusted hourly labour cost (working days adjusted) registered an increase rate of 0.61\% by comparison with the previous quarter and of 13.09\% by comparison with the same quarter of the previous year.

Quarter IV 2018 compared to Quarter III 2018

Compared to Quarter III 2018, the hourly labour cost (working days adjusted) increased in the majority of economic activities.

The most significant increases were recorded in the activities related to transportation and storage (9.12\%), in those of real estate activities (8.36\%), respectively in construction (8.19\%).

The quarterly labour cost index\(^3\) - percentage change, Quarter IV 2018 compared to Quarter III 2018 - (working days adjusted)

As against the previous quarter, the increase of the direct costs\(^3\) component (wages and salaries) was 0.62\%, respectively of 0.18\% regarding the other costs\(^3\) (non-wages costs) component.

Quarter IV 2018 compared to Quarter IV 2017

As against the same quarter of the previous year, the hourly labour cost increased in almost all economic activities.

The highest increases of the hourly labour cost (working days adjusted) were found in human health and social work activities (31.76\%), respectively education (19.85\%), as an effect of the application of legal basis\(^4\) on the remuneration of the personnel paid from public funds. These activities were followed by those of information and communication (17.01\%), respectively construction (16.67\%).

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\(^1\) According to the national legislation provisions in force (GEO No. 79/2017, as subsequently amended and supplemented), the social security contribution and the social health insurance contribution paid by the employer were transferred to the employee; thus, starting with January 2018, these contributions are borne entirely by the employee, and reflected in the gross amount of the nominal earnings (direct labour cost).

Consequently, the data series for the two components of the quarterly labour cost index: “direct costs (wages and salaries)” and “other costs (non-wages costs)”, are no longer comparable starting with the 1st quarter 2018 to the data series prior to 2018.

These legal provisions do not affect the data series comparability for the “Total labour cost index”.

\(^2\) Quarterly labour cost indices were recalculated for the year 2017 and first two quarters of the year 2018

\(^3\) for the working days adjusted index

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\(^p\) provisional data

The meaning of the NACE sections is presented in “Methodological notes”. [Graph data (xls)]

The most significant decrease of the hourly labour cost (working days adjusted) was in education (-28.13\%), determined by the time actually worked increase (a phenomenon characteristic for the current quarter determined by the starting of the new school year).
The economic sectors with the lowest increases were those or financial and insurance activities (6.03%), followed by arts, entertainment and recreation (6.49%), respectively administrative and support service activities (7.36%).

The quarterly labour cost index\(^{p)}\)
- percentage change, Quarter IV 2018 compared to Quarter IV 2017 - (working days adjusted)

\(^{p)}\) provisional data
The meaning of the NACE sections is presented in “Methodological notes”.

Graph data (xls)

In mining and quarrying was registered the only decrease (-9.17%) of the hourly labour cost (working days adjusted).

### Additional information

The **quarterly labour cost index** is a short-term indicator that allows the evaluation of the tendencies of the hourly costs incurred by employers with labour force.

For an accurate interpretation of the indicators, please see the [Methodological notes](#) attached to the press release on the homepage.

The quarterly labour cost index are presented in the [Annex](#).

Additional information can be obtained from the publication [Monthly Statistical Bulletin](#) no.1/2019 or on-line accessing [TEMPO database](http://statistici.insse.ro/shop/index.jsp?page=tempo2&lang=en&context=15)

The next press release on labour cost index (Quarter I 2019) will be issued on June 4\(^{th}\), 2019.

Press release archive:


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\(^{4)}\) Law no.152/2017 approving the G.E.O. no.99/2016 on certain measures concerning the personnel paid from public funds, extension of some time limits and other fiscal measures; Framework law no.153/2017 on remuneration of personnel paid from public funds.