

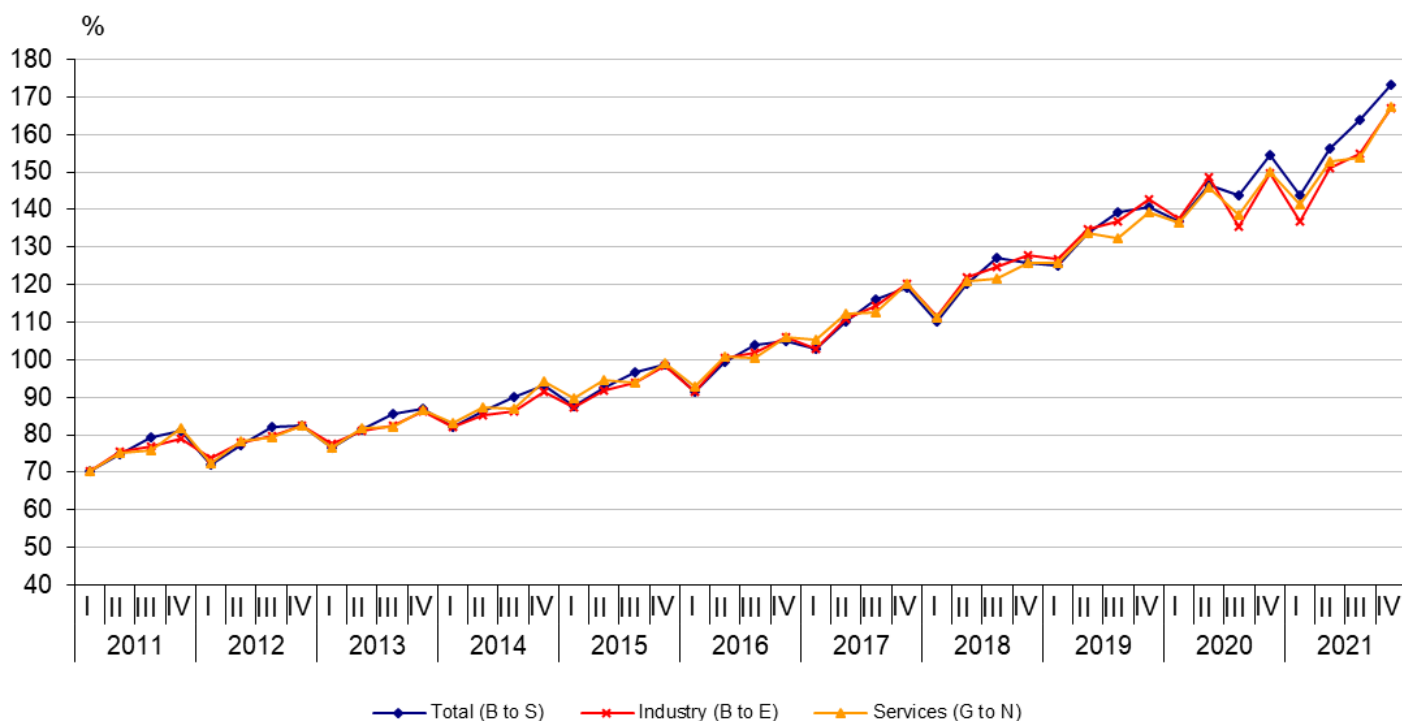
QUARTERLY LABOUR COST INDEX **FOURTH QUARTER OF 2021**

Preliminary data of the NSI for the fourth quarter of 2021 indicate that the total hourly labour cost rose by 12.1% compared to the fourth quarter of 2020. The total hourly labour cost increased by 11.8% in industry, 11.4% in services and 14.4% in construction.

The breakdown by economic activities showed that the highest annual growth in total labour costs was recorded in ‘Administrative and support service activities’ - 17.9%, ‘Arts, entertainment and recreation’ - 17.8% and ‘Human health and social work activities’ by 17.6%. A decrease in total labour costs was recorded in ‘Real estate activities’ by 2.3%.

In the structure of the total labour costs, the wages and salaries costs per hour worked grew by 12.7% in comparison with a year earlier, while the other (non-wage) costs rose by 9.4%. Among the economic activities in the fourth quarter of 2021 compared to the fourth quarter of 2020, the growth rate of wages and salaries component ranged from 19.3% in ‘Human health and social work activities’ to -3.6% in ‘Real estate activities’.

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



Methodological notes

The Labour Cost Index is a short-term indicator measuring the quarterly development of hourly labour costs incurred by 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.

The 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 include wages and salaries paid by the employer in cash or in kind, employers' actual and imputed social contributions plus taxes, regarded as labour costs;

Wage and salary costs (WAG) cover 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 contributions plus taxes, regarded as labour costs.

Since the second quarter of 2020, the amounts received under government measures to support 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>.

Annex

Table 1

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

Code NCEA - 2008 ¹	Economic activities	(Percentage change compared to corresponding period of the previous year)																										
		Q4 2019			Q1 2020*			Q2 2020*			Q3 2020*			Q4 2020*			Q1 2021*			Q2 2021*			Q3 2021*			Q4 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	11.9	11.7	12.9	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.3	10.6	3.4	3.3	3.9	9.7	9.7	9.9	4.9	5.5	2.1	6.7	7.2	4.3	13.8	14.1	12.3	12.1	12.7	9.4
B to E	Industry (except construction)	11.7	11.8	11.1	8.4	8.6	7.7	10.1	10.0	10.4	-1.0	-1.0	-0.5	4.6	4.7	4.3	-0.5	0.0	-2.9	1.7	2.2	-0.8	14.2	14.8	11.6	11.8	12.3	9.4
G to N	Services (excluding public administration)	10.8	10.5	12.8	8.5	8.5	8.6	8.9	8.6	10.1	4.4	4.6	3.6	7.8	8.0	6.6	3.7	4.4	-0.2	4.7	5.3	1.3	11.1	11.6	8.3	11.4	12.0	7.9
B	Mining and quarrying	2.8	2.5	4.1	3.5	3.3	4.0	12.5	12.4	12.7	1.9	3.3	-2.4	11.8	12.9	7.5	7.7	8.8	3.7	3.2	4.0	0.5	16.0	18.3	8.4	7.9	9.0	3.8
C	Manufacturing	12.6	12.8	12.0	8.6	8.8	7.7	10.1	10.2	9.8	-2.2	-2.3	-1.8	3.5	3.6	2.9	-1.7	-1.4	-3.0	1.8	2.1	0.2	15.6	15.8	14.5	13.6	13.7	13.1
D	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	10.1	10.3	9.6	10.2	10.3	9.6	6.8	6.2	9.2	3.8	3.5	5.0	5.0	4.3	7.4	1.5	4.0	-8.0	-0.1	1.8	-7.3	6.6	8.9	-1.6	6.6	9.5	-3.5
E	Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	12.2	12.1	12.7	8.3	8.0	9.7	13.6	12.4	19.2	5.9	5.5	7.9	11.3	11.1	12.0	5.2	5.7	2.8	2.1	2.6	0.1	10.2	10.0	10.8	2.3	2.3	1.9
F	Construction	15.3	15.7	12.8	4.9	4.8	5.8	2.6	2.5	2.9	0.5	0.8	-0.7	3.7	3.7	3.5	9.3	10.1	5.6	13.4	14.1	9.6	14.6	14.8	13.6	14.4	14.5	13.8
G	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	10.5	10.8	8.8	9.9	10.0	9.4	8.9	8.8	9.5	5.4	5.4	4.9	11.1	11.6	8.9	3.1	3.6	0.2	4.1	4.4	2.5	10.3	10.7	8.4	10.5	10.7	9.3
H	Transportation and storage	13.0	12.3	16.4	9.8	9.5	11.1	10.3	9.7	12.9	-0.1	-0.7	2.6	4.6	4.0	7.3	-2.2	-2.0	-2.9	-2.2	-2.3	-1.6	7.9	8.0	7.9	8.9	9.1	7.9
I	Accommodation and food service activities	11.3	11.1	12.1	14.0	12.1	23.2	7.6	3.7	27.5	-3.5	-4.4	1.2	-0.5	-2.2	7.9	-9.9	-9.3	-12.8	-1.1	2.0	-14.2	16.7	17.2	14.2	16.4	18.5	7.5
J	Information and communication	11.4	10.8	15.8	8.6	9.3	4.2	8.8	9.6	3.4	7.0	7.7	2.8	8.3	8.8	4.7	9.2	10.3	1.7	11.2	11.9	6.5	13.3	14.3	6.4	14.5	15.7	6.3
K	Financial and insurance activities	6.0	5.3	9.7	6.1	6.3	4.9	10.7	10.7	10.6	7.8	8.3	4.8	8.7	9.7	3.4	0.9	1.9	-4.8	-1.2	-0.5	-5.1	5.6	6.5	0.7	2.6	2.8	1.3
L	Real estate activities	19.8	17.5	33.1	13.9	14.9	8.5	15.8	17.2	8.9	16.4	18.8	4.4	17.0	20.5	-0.2	-2.3	-2.8	0.8	-4.9	-5.6	-1.4	-7.9	-8.6	-3.8	-2.3	-3.6	5.5
M	Professional, scientific and technical activities	10.6	9.8	15.8	4.4	3.8	7.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	2.7	2.7	2.8	3.6	3.4	4.4	6.4	7.2	1.8	5.8	6.2	2.9	12.0	12.7	8.5	11.0	12.2	3.9
N	Administrative and support service activities	9.8	9.7	10.8	3.1	3.3	2.1	6.9	6.5	9.1	4.0	3.9	4.4	8.1	8.3	7.2	12.1	12.5	10.0	11.5	12.1	8.2	16.6	16.9	14.8	17.9	18.3	15.8
O	Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	16.4	15.6	19.2	7.7	8.6	5.1	4.2	3.8	5.6	16.2	16.5	15.3	20.7	21.5	18.4	17.8	18.7	14.8	23.2	23.4	22.7	8.7	8.9	8.0	12.0	11.5	13.7
P	Education	16.6	16.5	17.2	25.9	25.6	27.2	18.7	18.8	18.2	2.1	0.8	6.8	25.9	25.1	29.3	0.7	0.6	1.0	9.2	8.8	10.6	23.5	23.7	22.6	9.3	9.9	6.9
Q	Human health and social work activities	11.2	11.3	10.3	9.0	8.8	9.9	10.4	9.7	14.4	7.9	7.9	8.0	24.1	23.6	26.8	25.9	26.6	22.5	21.3	22.7	14.3	16.4	15.9	19.2	17.6	19.3	9.4
R	Arts, entertainment and recreation	9.5	9.3	11.0	12.8	11.7	18.6	10.9	8.5	23.8	-12.0	-12.9	-6.7	-2.7	-3.6	2.3	2.5	2.5	2.9	0.2	2.1	-8.4	26.6	27.5	21.5	17.8	17.8	17.8
S	Other service activities	3.7	4.5	0.2	8.4	8.6	7.3	15.3	15.1	16.4	6.8	6.8	6.8	9.3	9.0	10.9	6.1	5.5	8.7	0.5	0.5	0.6	10.1	10.3	9.5	11.8	11.4	13.7

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	Q2	Q3	Q4
B to S	All NACE branches except agriculture, fishing, private households with employed persons	102.8	110.2	116.0	119.1	110.2	120.3	127.0	125.8	125.1	133.7	139.2	140.7	137.0	146.4	143.9	154.4	143.7	156.1	163.8	173.1
B to E	Industry (except construction)	102.9	110.7	114.2	120.2	111.6	121.8	124.6	128.0	126.7	134.9	136.7	142.9	137.4	148.6	135.4	149.5	136.7	151.1	154.7	167.1
G to N	Services (excluding public administration)	105.2	112.2	112.5	120.1	111.3	121.0	121.6	125.6	125.7	133.8	132.5	139.2	136.4	145.7	138.4	150.1	141.5	152.6	153.7	167.2
B	Mining and quarrying	102.1	111.8	113.6	132.5	115.5	121.4	119.2	141.8	124.8	129.6	123.5	145.8	129.2	145.8	125.9	162.9	139.1	150.4	146.1	175.8
C	Manufacturing	104.0	110.6	115.6	120.1	113.3	122.1	127.0	127.3	129.2	135.6	139.9	143.3	140.4	149.3	136.8	148.3	138.0	152.0	158.2	168.4
D	Electricity,gas,steam and air conditioning supply	96.3	110.9	106.1	113.0	98.6	122.0	113.9	125.9	112.2	137.6	126.1	138.6	123.6	147.0	130.9	145.6	125.4	146.8	139.5	155.2
E	Water supply,sewerage,waste management and remediation activities	100.9	111.2	110.1	119.8	108.8	117.5	116.5	126.3	120.6	125.9	125.7	141.6	130.6	143.0	133.2	157.6	137.4	146.0	146.7	161.1
F	Construction	106.1	105.0	106.1	120.5	112.4	117.1	116.4	124.7	125.9	132.3	130.4	143.7	132.2	135.7	131.1	149.0	144.5	153.9	150.3	170.5
G	Wholesale and retail trade;repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	106.0	112.6	113.1	122.8	109.8	119.2	119.8	123.6	124.3	132.2	131.1	136.5	136.7	143.9	138.2	151.7	140.9	149.9	152.4	167.6
H	Transportation and storage	103.8	110.7	112.7	115.4	112.4	121.3	121.5	121.8	127.0	135.5	135.9	137.7	139.4	149.4	135.8	144.1	136.3	146.2	146.6	156.9
I	Accommodation and food service activities	105.2	109.4	107.1	118.6	112.6	122.2	120.9	124.8	127.6	135.2	132.1	138.8	145.5	145.6	127.5	138.2	131.1	143.9	148.8	160.9
J	Information and communication	105.6	110.3	114.4	120.4	113.5	123.9	125.8	129.8	127.8	135.5	136.0	144.7	138.8	147.5	145.6	156.7	151.5	164.0	165.0	179.5
K	Financial and insurance activities	99.4	112.8	105.9	112.7	104.3	114.1	112.3	121.7	115.3	128.6	119.5	129.0	122.3	142.3	128.8	140.2	123.3	140.7	136.0	143.9
L	Real estate activities	101.2	110.3	108.4	117.7	101.2	107.9	113.9	111.6	117.0	125.1	124.6	133.8	133.3	144.9	145.1	156.5	130.3	137.8	133.7	152.9
M	Professional,scientific and technical activities	104.1	111.8	114.0	122.1	109.5	121.0	125.5	131.5	125.5	132.4	132.9	145.5	131.1	141.5	136.5	150.7	139.5	149.6	153.0	167.3
N	Administrative and support service activities	112.2	120.3	117.0	124.3	121.7	130.9	127.4	131.5	136.6	142.8	140.5	144.4	140.8	152.7	146.1	156.2	157.9	170.2	170.3	184.1
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	161.9	174.2	159.6	169.1	175.9	195.1
P	Education	89.8	100.7	154.2	115.4	99.3	112.2	177.7	120.0	116.9	132.2	200.9	139.9	147.2	156.9	205.1	176.2	148.2	171.3	253.2	192.5
Q	Human health and social work activities	98.0	109.5	113.8	112.9	106.7	118.5	124.1	122.5	120.1	130.6	135.5	136.2	130.8	144.2	146.2	169.0	164.7	174.9	170.3	198.8
R	Arts,entertainment and recreation	101.6	104.6	112.8	120.6	113.8	124.2	139.5	135.8	126.5	135.4	151.3	148.7	142.6	150.2	133.2	144.8	146.2	150.5	168.6	170.5
S	Other service activities	104.9	108.9	116.0	121.6	113.7	121.3	126.7	136.1	129.2	134.8	138.2	141.1	140.1	155.4	147.6	154.3	148.6	156.2	162.5	172.5

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

* Preliminary data.