

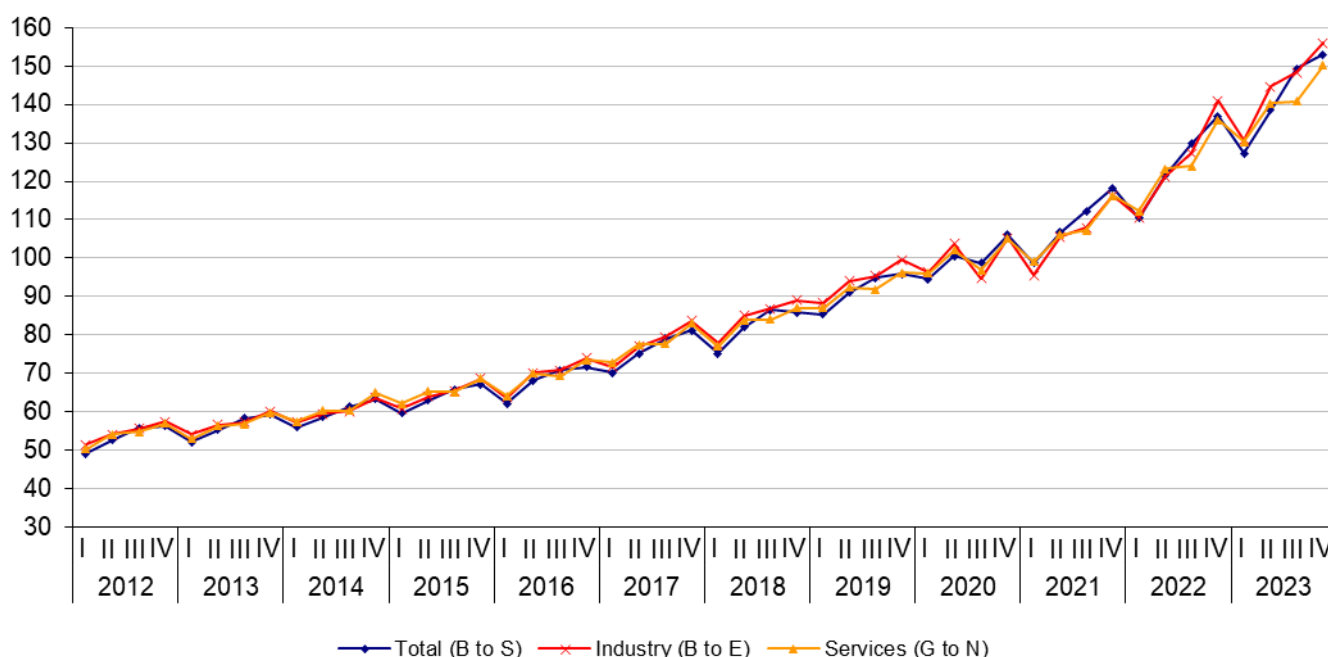
QUARTERLY LABOUR COST INDEX FOURTH QUARTER OF 2023

In the fourth quarter of 2023, compared to the fourth quarter of 2022, the total hourly labour cost rose by 11.7% (preliminary data). The total hourly labour cost increased by 10.6% in industry, by 10.4% in services and by 19.5% in construction.

The highest annual growth in total labour costs was recorded in ‘Public administration and defence; compulsory social security’ - by 19.8%, ‘Construction’ - by 19.5%, and ‘Education’ - by 17.0%.

In the structure of the total labour costs, the wages and salaries costs per hour worked grew by 11.9% in comparison with a year earlier, while the other (non-wage) costs rose by 10.2%. Among the economic activities in the fourth quarter of 2023, compared to the fourth quarter of 2022, the growth rate of wages and salaries component ranged from 20.6% in ‘Construction’ to -2.7% in ‘Mining and quarrying’.

**Figure 1. Total labour cost index - %
(Calendar adjusted, 2020 = 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 workforce. 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 2023, it has been calculated as a breakdown by economic activities at a section level according to the new NACE Rev. 2 classification and with the reference year 2020 = 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>.



Table 1

Hourly labour cost index for the period fourth quarter of 2021 - fourth quarter of 2023
(Calendar adjusted)

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

Code NCEA - 2008 ¹	Economic activities	Q4 2021			Q1 2022*			Q2 2022*			Q3 2022*			Q4 2022*			Q1 2023*			Q2 2023*			Q3 2023*			Q4 2023*		
		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	11.5	12.1	8.5	11.7	11.7	11.6	13.9	14.1	13.3	15.6	15.6	15.3	15.7	16.1	13.8	15.2	15.7	12.4	13.8	14.2	11.9	15.0	15.7	11.5	11.7	11.9	10.2
B to E	Industry (except construction)	10.5	11.0	8.0	15.8	15.4	17.4	14.9	15.0	14.3	17.9	18.1	17.1	21.2	21.7	18.9	18.2	19.3	13.4	19.3	20.0	16.1	16.5	17.0	14.2	10.6	10.9	8.8
G to N	Services (excluding public administration)	10.6	11.3	6.9	13.4	13.6	12.2	16.2	16.4	15.0	15.5	15.6	15.2	17.0	17.4	14.8	16.0	16.4	13.8	13.8	14.0	12.6	13.6	14.3	9.6	10.4	10.8	8.3
B	Mining and quarrying	5.9	7.0	1.6	11.2	11.0	11.7	17.0	17.4	15.9	19.0	17.5	24.8	22.2	24.0	14.6	15.1	15.5	13.6	14.1	14.8	11.6	16.4	18.1	10.4	-0.8	-2.7	7.7
C	Manufacturing	12.6	12.8	11.8	17.6	17.3	19.1	15.1	15.3	14.4	18.6	19.0	16.9	19.5	20.1	16.5	18.9	19.9	14.2	20.1	20.7	17.1	16.6	17.0	14.8	12.8	13.0	11.6
D	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	5.2	7.8	-3.9	11.5	10.8	14.4	15.5	15.1	17.2	15.6	15.4	16.5	34.1	33.7	35.7	13.8	15.1	8.2	18.3	19.7	12.7	15.6	16.8	11.3	3.9	6.7	-7.0
E	Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	-1.0	-1.1	-0.8	4.8	3.9	9.2	8.5	9.0	6.3	11.6	11.8	10.8	18.4	18.5	18.2	19.6	21.5	11.1	15.9	15.7	16.5	16.0	15.7	17.7	8.3	7.2	13.5
F	Construction	11.7	12.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	9.9	10.6	10.2	12.7	14.5	14.4	15.3	10.6	10.4	11.4	14.0	14.0	13.7	16.1	16.4	14.5	17.2	17.7	14.5	19.5	20.6	14.2
G	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	9.9	10.0	9.1	13.5	13.6	13.1	17.3	17.9	14.2	17.8	18.2	15.6	18.0	18.7	14.2	16.2	17.0	11.6	14.1	14.1	13.8	13.0	13.6	9.5	10.7	11.1	8.2
H	Transportation and storage	8.5	9.0	6.3	8.8	8.0	12.1	16.1	16.7	13.8	17.9	18.7	14.3	18.2	19.2	13.8	23.7	26.0	14.1	18.1	18.9	14.5	17.2	18.0	13.9	13.9	14.6	10.7
I	Accommodation and food service activities	17.8	19.9	8.7	16.0	16.9	11.7	15.2	15.4	14.4	17.1	17.0	17.1	27.2	28.3	22.0	24.3	25.3	19.7	23.9	24.9	19.3	17.9	19.3	11.0	11.5	12.8	5.1
J	Information and communication	13.1	14.4	3.8	14.6	15.2	9.8	15.1	15.1	14.7	13.8	13.7	14.1	13.5	13.5	13.6	12.4	12.2	13.7	13.2	13.1	13.9	11.6	12.2	7.0	8.5	8.9	6.1
K	Financial and insurance activities	2.1	2.3	0.8	15.7	15.8	15.6	15.5	14.9	19.4	11.6	10.9	15.9	20.4	20.9	17.4	15.3	15.8	12.5	5.6	6.0	3.0	14.5	15.8	6.2	10.3	10.5	9.1
L	Real estate activities	3.2	2.6	6.7	-6.0	-7.9	6.2	6.0	5.7	8.2	8.3	8.0	9.8	10.9	11.7	6.2	15.7	16.1	13.5	12.4	13.6	6.1	9.8	10.6	5.1	11.4	11.3	11.7
M	Professional, scientific and technical activities	8.6	9.9	1.2	11.9	12.2	9.9	14.1	14.1	13.8	15.1	14.8	16.7	14.9	14.7	16.8	12.3	11.8	15.6	12.7	13.0	11.4	14.0	14.6	10.6	9.7	9.9	8.4
N	Administrative and support service activities	16.8	16.9	16.1	19.6	20.3	15.9	21.8	22.1	20.6	13.9	13.7	15.3	17.4	18.0	14.3	16.0	16.0	16.1	12.5	13.1	9.4	13.9	14.6	10.0	10.4	10.3	10.9
O	Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	12.1	11.5	13.7	3.4	1.8	8.8	13.6	14.1	12.0	18.7	19.0	17.5	9.2	10.8	4.1	15.0	16.4	10.7	5.8	5.4	7.0	13.0	13.8	10.1	19.8	19.3	21.1
P	Education	10.2	10.8	7.8	3.6	3.4	4.8	12.1	12.1	12.0	15.3	14.9	16.4	14.7	14.5	15.5	13.3	14.0	10.5	6.4	6.9	4.6	21.6	23.5	15.2	17.0	17.6	14.7
Q	Human health and social work activities	18.4	20.2	9.4	6.5	6.7	5.5	1.0	0.6	2.7	6.4	6.9	4.1	1.1	0.4	4.6	3.3	3.3	3.7	11.5	12.1	8.3	11.7	12.6	6.8	7.9	8.6	4.1
R	Arts, entertainment and recreation	20.5	20.9	18.2	7.9	8.0	7.4	17.3	16.9	19.5	16.1	15.3	20.6	22.6	22.2	24.7	18.3	19.0	14.7	14.2	14.2	14.4	13.3	13.7	11.0	6.0	6.3	4.9
S	Other service activities	15.2	15.0	16.0	9.6	12.1	-2.0	16.5	16.7	15.6	16.8	17.5	13.3	17.9	19.4	10.5	11.9	10.8	17.8	7.3	6.8	9.9	7.8	7.4	9.9	3.1	2.1	8.2

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 2019 - 2023
(Calendar adjusted, 2020 = 100)

Code NCEA - 2008 ¹	Economic activities	(Per cent)																			
		2019				2020				2021				2022*				2023*			
		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	85.3	91.0	94.9	95.9	94.5	100.6	98.7	106.1	98.8	106.8	112.3	118.3	110.4	121.6	129.8	136.9	127.2	138.5	149.3	152.9
B to E	Industry (except construction)	88.3	94.0	95.3	99.6	96.3	103.8	94.7	105.3	95.5	105.5	107.9	116.3	110.6	121.2	127.3	140.9	130.8	144.6	148.3	155.9
G to N	Services (excluding public administration)	87.1	92.4	91.8	96.2	96.0	102.1	96.8	105.1	99.1	106.0	107.2	116.2	112.3	123.2	123.9	136.0	130.3	140.2	140.7	150.2
B	Mining and quarrying	87.1	89.0	85.7	100.4	91.4	102.8	89.5	116.4	96.9	104.3	101.1	123.3	107.7	122.0	120.4	150.6	123.9	139.3	140.1	149.5
C	Manufacturing	89.6	94.1	97.0	99.5	97.8	103.8	95.0	103.5	96.0	105.8	109.9	116.6	113.0	121.8	130.4	139.3	134.3	146.3	152.0	157.1
D	Electricity,gas,steam and air conditioning supply	81.6	100.0	91.8	100.8	90.3	107.2	95.9	106.7	90.3	105.4	100.7	112.2	100.7	121.8	116.4	150.5	114.6	144.1	134.6	156.4
E	Water supply,sewerage,waste management and remediation activities	84.3	87.2	87.2	98.5	92.6	98.5	94.1	114.8	97.5	103.4	102.7	113.6	102.2	112.2	114.6	134.6	122.2	130.0	133.0	145.7
F	Construction	89.0	94.0	92.1	101.9	96.4	99.6	95.9	108.0	102.9	110.0	107.8	120.7	113.2	121.6	123.5	133.4	129.0	141.2	144.7	159.5
G	Wholesale and retail trade;repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	86.5	91.8	91.2	94.9	96.4	101.2	96.4	106.0	99.5	105.0	106.4	116.4	112.9	123.2	125.3	137.4	131.2	140.5	141.6	152.1
H	Transportation and storage	89.9	96.0	96.7	97.8	99.2	104.8	95.0	101.1	95.7	102.4	102.9	109.6	104.1	118.9	121.3	129.6	128.8	140.3	142.2	147.6
I	Accommodation and food service activities	90.2	94.1	93.5	97.4	103.1	104.8	91.7	100.4	95.3	103.1	110.2	118.3	110.5	118.8	129.0	150.5	137.4	147.3	152.1	167.9
J	Information and communication	85.4	90.1	91.0	96.2	94.4	99.7	99.2	106.8	101.0	108.6	110.5	120.7	115.8	124.9	125.7	137.0	130.1	141.4	140.3	148.7
K	Financial and insurance activities	84.0	93.7	87.0	94.0	93.3	107.5	95.5	103.7	92.2	104.0	99.9	105.9	106.7	120.1	111.5	127.5	123.0	126.8	127.6	140.6
L	Real estate activities	82.6	88.0	87.6	95.0	93.2	99.3	98.7	108.7	105.9	102.9	102.1	112.1	99.6	109.1	110.5	124.3	115.3	122.6	121.4	138.5
M	Professional,scientific and technical activities	86.9	91.4	92.0	100.6	93.6	101.2	97.6	107.7	99.3	104.3	107.1	117.0	111.1	119.0	123.3	134.5	124.8	134.1	140.6	147.5
N	Administrative and support service activities	91.2	94.4	92.5	94.9	94.1	101.9	99.2	104.7	104.0	114.2	114.7	122.3	124.4	139.2	130.6	143.6	144.4	156.6	148.8	158.5
O	Public administration and defence;compulsory social security	82.7	86.5	91.5	94.7	89.1	90.2	106.4	114.4	104.7	111.0	116.0	128.2	108.3	126.1	137.7	139.9	124.5	133.4	155.5	167.6
P	Education	68.3	77.4	117.4	83.0	87.0	92.1	118.9	102.0	88.0	99.5	149.3	112.3	91.2	111.5	172.0	128.9	103.3	118.7	209.3	150.8
Q	Human health and social work activities	81.2	87.9	91.3	91.4	88.9	97.4	99.3	114.4	111.5	119.1	116.1	135.4	118.8	120.3	123.6	136.9	122.7	134.1	138.0	147.7
R	Arts,entertainment and recreation	87.9	95.7	107.6	105.3	98.5	106.7	93.0	101.9	106.7	105.9	120.0	122.7	115.1	124.3	139.4	150.4	136.2	141.9	157.9	159.5
S	Other service activities	88.1	91.6	94.2	96.1	95.4	104.1	97.6	103.0	103.8	108.9	111.8	118.6	113.7	127.0	130.6	139.8	127.2	136.2	140.8	144.1

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

* Preliminary data.