



QUARTERLY LABOUR COST INDEX

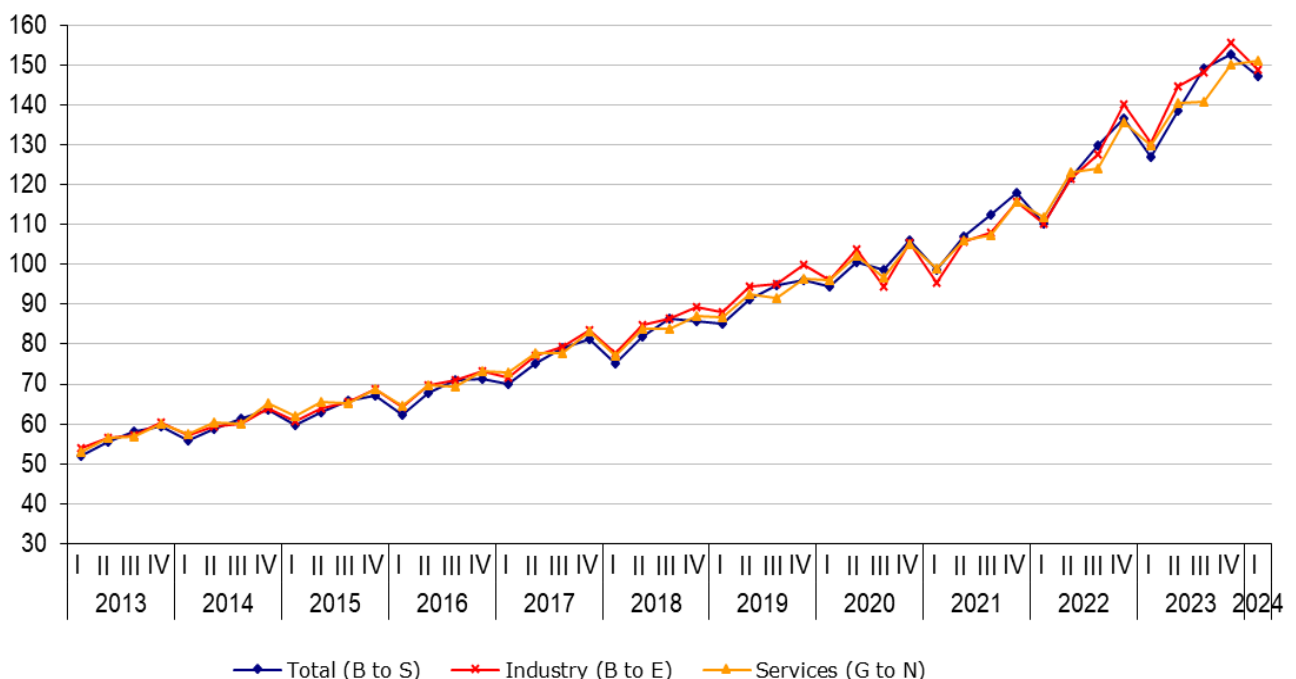
FIRST QUARTER OF 2024

In the first quarter of 2024, compared to the first quarter of 2023, the total hourly labour cost rose by 15.8% (preliminary data). The total hourly labour cost increased by 13.9% in industry, by 16.3% in services and by 19.3% in construction.

The highest annual growth in total labour costs was recorded in 'Other service activities' - by 20.8%, 'Accommodation and food service activities' - by 20.6%, and 'Construction' - by 19.3%.

In the structure of the total labour costs, the wages and salaries costs per hour worked grew by 15.8% in comparison with a year earlier, while the other (non-wage) costs rose by 15.9%. Among the economic activities in the first quarter of 2024, compared to the first quarter of 2023, the growth rate of wages and salaries component ranged from 22.1% in 'Other service activities' to 10.9% in 'Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply'.

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);

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- **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>.

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Annex

Table 1

Hourly labour cost index for the period first quarter of 2022 - first quarter of 2024
(Calendar-adjusted)

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

Code NACE.BG - 2008 ¹	Economic activities	Q1 2022*			Q2 2022*			Q3 2022*			Q4 2022*			Q1 2023*			Q2 2023*			Q3 2023*			Q4 2023*			Q1 2024*		
		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	11.5	11.4	13.9	14.1	13.3	15.6	15.7	15.4	15.7	16.1	13.8	15.3	15.8	12.5	13.8	14.2	11.9	14.9	15.6	11.4	11.9	12.2	10.4	15.8	15.8	15.9
B to E	Industry (except construction)	15.4	15.1	17.0	14.9	15.0	14.3	17.9	18.1	17.1	21.0	21.5	18.7	18.6	19.6	13.7	19.3	20.0	16.1	16.2	16.6	13.9	10.9	11.3	9.1	13.9	14.0	13.6
G to N	Services (excluding public administration)	13.1	13.3	11.9	16.2	16.4	15.0	15.6	15.6	15.3	17.1	17.5	14.8	16.0	16.4	13.8	13.9	14.1	12.7	13.5	14.2	9.5	10.7	11.1	8.6	16.3	16.1	17.8
B	Mining and quarrying	11.2	11.0	11.7	17.0	17.4	15.9	19.0	17.5	24.8	22.2	24.1	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	16.2	17.1	12.8
C	Manufacturing	17.1	16.8	18.6	15.1	15.3	14.4	18.6	19.0	16.9	19.3	19.9	16.3	19.3	20.3	14.6	20.1	20.7	17.1	16.2	16.6	14.4	13.2	13.5	12.1	14.0	14.2	12.8
D	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	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	11.9	10.9	16.2
E	Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	4.8	3.9	9.2	8.5	9.0	6.4	11.6	11.8	10.8	18.4	18.5	18.2	19.6	21.5	11.1	15.8	15.7	16.5	16.0	15.7	17.7	8.3	7.2	13.5	14.8	13.5	20.9
F	Construction	10.2	10.2	10.0	10.6	10.2	12.7	14.5	14.4	15.3	10.3	10.1	11.2	14.2	14.2	13.9	16.1	16.4	14.5	17.0	17.5	14.3	19.4	20.4	14.1	19.3	20.6	12.7
G	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	13.5	13.6	13.1	17.3	17.9	14.2	17.8	18.2	15.6	18.0	18.7	14.1	16.2	17.1	11.7	14.1	14.1	13.8	12.9	13.6	9.5	10.7	11.1	8.1	16.5	16.6	15.6
H	Transportation and storage	8.7	7.9	12.0	16.1	16.7	13.8	17.9	18.7	14.3	18.3	19.4	13.9	23.6	25.9	14.0	18.1	18.9	14.5	17.4	18.1	14.0	14.0	14.7	10.8	18.3	18.4	17.8
I	Accommodation and food service activities	16.1	17.0	11.8	15.3	15.4	14.4	17.1	17.1	17.1	27.6	28.7	22.3	24.0	24.9	19.4	24.0	24.9	19.3	18.4	19.9	11.5	11.7	13.0	5.2	20.6	21.8	14.5
J	Information and communication	13.7	14.3	9.0	15.1	15.1	14.7	13.8	13.7	14.1	13.5	13.5	13.5	12.7	12.6	14.0	13.2	13.1	13.9	11.2	11.8	6.7	9.4	9.7	6.9	15.6	13.9	29.2
K	Financial and insurance activities	15.1	15.1	14.9	14.8	14.2	18.6	12.1	11.4	16.4	20.7	21.2	17.7	15.0	15.4	12.1	6.6	7.0	4.0	13.7	15.1	5.5	11.4	11.6	10.2	13.0	13.3	11.3
L	Real estate activities	-8.1	-9.9	3.8	7.2	6.8	9.4	9.4	9.2	11.1	12.1	12.9	7.4	15.9	16.3	13.6	11.1	12.2	4.8	11.2	12.1	6.5	10.3	10.3	10.6	18.3	18.1	19.8
M	Professional, scientific and technical activities	11.9	12.2	9.9	14.1	14.1	13.8	15.1	14.8	16.7	14.9	14.6	16.8	12.3	11.8	15.7	12.7	13.0	11.4	14.0	14.5	10.5	9.7	9.9	8.4	14.6	15.5	9.5
N	Administrative and support service activities	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	14.7	10.0	10.4	10.3	10.9	17.1	17.4	15.7
O	Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	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	19.7	19.3	21.1	16.3	16.9	14.3
P	Education	3.8	3.5	4.9	12.1	12.1	12.0	15.6	15.3	16.8	14.7	14.5	15.5	13.1	13.8	10.3	6.1	6.5	4.2	21.5	23.4	15.1	17.1	17.6	14.7	18.3	18.0	19.5
Q	Human health and social work activities	6.5	6.7	5.5	1.0	0.6	2.7	6.4	6.9	4.1	1.1	0.5	4.7	3.3	3.2	3.7	11.5	12.1	8.3	11.7	12.7	6.8	7.9	8.6	4.1	13.6	13.9	12.2
R	Arts, entertainment and recreation	7.9	8.0	7.5	17.3	16.9	19.5	16.1	15.3	20.7	22.6	22.1	24.7	18.3	19.0	14.7	14.2	14.2	14.3	13.3	13.7	10.9	6.0	6.3	4.9	14.0	13.9	15.0
S	Other service activities	9.6	12.1	-2.0	16.5	16.7	15.6	16.8	17.5	13.3	17.9	19.5	10.6	11.9	10.7	17.8	7.3	6.8	9.9	7.9	7.5	10.0	3.1	2.2	8.3	20.8	22.1	14.5

¹ NACE.BG - 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

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Table 2

Labour Cost Index - Total labour costs for the period 2020 - 2024
(Calendar-adjusted, 2020 = 100)

(Per cent)

Code NACE.BG - 2008 ¹	Economic activities	2020				2021				2022*				2023*				2024*
		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	94.5	100.7	98.7	106.1	98.8	106.9	112.4	118.0	110.1	121.8	130.0	136.6	126.9	138.6	149.3	152.8	147.1
B to E	Industry (except construction)	96.2	103.9	94.6	105.3	95.4	105.7	108.1	115.8	110.1	121.4	127.5	140.2	130.5	144.8	148.2	155.5	148.7
G to N	Services (excluding public administration)	96.0	102.2	96.7	105.0	99.1	106.1	107.4	115.8	112.0	123.2	124.1	135.6	130.0	140.4	140.9	150.2	151.2
B	Mining and quarrying	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	144.0
C	Manufacturing	97.7	104.0	94.8	103.5	95.8	106.0	110.2	115.9	112.2	122.0	130.7	138.3	133.9	146.6	151.9	156.6	152.7
D	Electricity,gas,steam and air conditioning supply	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	128.2
E	Water supply,sewerage,waste management and remediation activities	92.5	98.6	94.1	114.8	97.4	103.4	102.7	113.6	102.2	112.2	114.6	134.6	122.2	130.0	133.0	145.7	140.3
F	Construction	96.4	99.5	96.0	108.1	102.8	109.9	107.7	121.0	113.3	121.5	123.4	133.4	129.3	141.1	144.3	159.3	154.3
G	Wholesale and retail trade;repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	96.4	101.2	96.4	106.0	99.5	105.0	106.4	116.5	112.9	123.1	125.3	137.4	131.3	140.5	141.5	152.0	152.9
H	Transportation and storage	99.3	104.8	94.9	101.0	95.6	102.4	102.9	109.5	103.9	118.9	121.3	129.5	128.5	140.3	142.3	147.6	152.0
I	Accommodation and food service activities	103.2	104.7	91.6	100.5	95.3	103.3	110.5	118.1	110.6	119.1	129.3	150.6	137.1	147.7	153.1	168.3	165.4
J	Information and communication	94.2	100.2	98.8	106.8	100.8	109.1	111.1	119.4	114.6	125.5	126.4	135.5	129.1	142.1	140.5	148.2	149.3
K	Financial and insurance activities	93.5	107.9	95.2	103.5	92.5	104.1	100.5	105.3	106.5	119.5	112.6	127.1	122.4	127.4	128.1	141.6	138.4
L	Real estate activities	94.2	100.1	98.4	107.3	108.5	101.2	101.8	111.9	99.7	108.6	111.4	125.4	115.6	120.6	123.9	138.4	136.8
M	Professional,scientific and technical activities	93.6	101.1	97.6	107.7	99.3	104.2	107.1	117.0	111.1	118.9	123.3	134.5	124.8	134.1	140.5	147.5	143.1
N	Administrative and support service activities	94.1	101.9	99.3	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	169.1
O	Public administration and defence;compulsory social security	89.0	90.2	106.4	114.4	104.7	111.0	116.0	128.2	108.3	126.1	137.6	139.9	124.5	133.4	155.5	167.6	144.8
P	Education	86.8	92.0	119.2	102.0	87.9	99.7	148.9	112.2	91.2	111.7	172.1	128.7	103.2	118.5	209.2	150.7	122.0
Q	Human health and social work activities	88.9	97.4	99.3	114.3	111.5	119.1	116.1	135.4	118.8	120.3	123.6	136.9	122.7	134.1	138.0	147.7	139.3
R	Arts,entertainment and recreation	98.4	106.7	93.0	101.9	106.7	105.9	120.0	122.7	115.1	124.3	139.3	150.4	136.2	141.9	157.8	159.5	155.3
S	Other service activities	95.4	104.1	97.5	102.9	103.8	109.0	111.8	118.5	113.7	127.0	130.6	139.8	127.2	136.3	140.9	144.2	153.6

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

* Preliminary data.