

Press Release

09 September 2021

Harmonised Labour Cost Index (HLCI). Base 2016 Second Quarter 2021. Provisional data

The quarterly variation of the cost per hour worked is -0.4%, after adjusting for seasonal and calendar effects

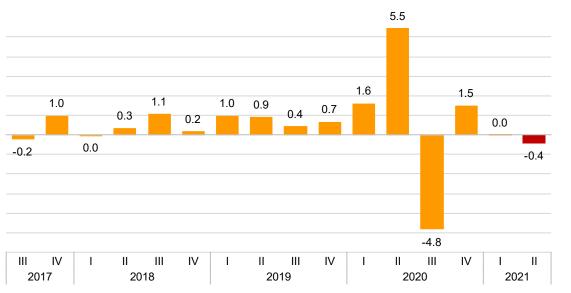
The cost per hour worked decreases 3.8% both in the annual rate in the series adjusted for calendar and seasonal effects as in the original series

Quarterly variation of the Index

The quarterly variation of the HLCI –which measures the labour cost per hour worked while keeping constant the structure by branch of activity– stood at 0.4% between the first and second quarter of 2021, after adjusting for seasonal and calendar effects.

Labour Cost Index adjusted for seasonal and calendar effects

Quaterly rate. Percentage



By cost component, in seasonally and calendar adjusted data, wage costs showed a decline of 0.5%, and other costs fell 0.1%.

Excluding seasonal and calendar adjustment, the quarterly rate of the labour cost is 6.2%, mainly due to the higher weight of extraordinary payments and delays in the second quarter of 2021 compared to the previous quarter.

index and quarterly rates by cost components						
	General l	ndex	Index adjuste and calendar	d for seasonal effects		
	Index	Rate	Index	Rate		
Total labour cost	108.4	6.2	109.2	-0.4		
Wages	108.2	8.4	108.0	-0.5		
Other costs	108.9	0.3	112.5	-0.1		
Labour costs excluding extraordinary and late payment	107.1	2.3	109.8	-0.3		

Harmonised Labour Cost Index in the second quarter 2021

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Index and quarterly rates by cost components

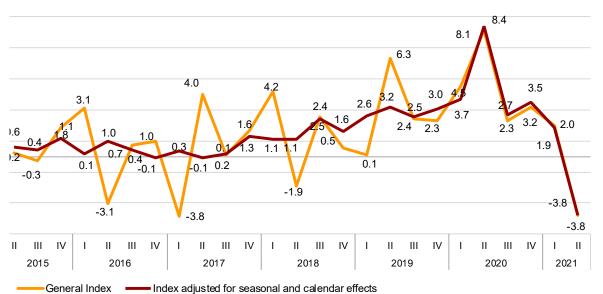
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Annual variation of the Index

The cost per hour worked decreased by 3.8% in the second quarter of 2021, as compared with the same period of the previous year. This decrease is due to an increase in hours worked that exceeds that of labour costs. The number of hours not worked decreased due to the reduction in sick leave due to incapacity for work and hours not worked for technical, economic, organizational, production and force majeure reasons –this includes the time not worked in the case of workers affected by the Temporary Workforce Reduction Scheme (ERTE)-. See more information in the section 'COVID-19's Influence on the HLCI Results' on page 5 of this press release.

The annual variation of the cost per hour was also 3.8%, after adjusting for seasonal and calendar effects.

Variation of the general index and index adjusted for seasonal and calendar effects Annual rate. Percentage



By cost component, wage costs recorded an annual variation of 2.5% in adjusted data and other costs decreased by 7.4%.

Harmonised Labour Cost Index in the second quarter 2021

Index and annual rates by cost components

Press Release

	General Index		Index adjuste and calendar	d for seasonal effects
	Index	Rate	Index	Rate
Total labour cost	108.4	-3.8	109.2	-3.8
Wages	108.2	-2.4	108.0	-2.5
Other costs	108.9	-7.7	112.5	-7.4
Labour costs excluding extraordinary and late payment	107.1	-3.1	109.8	-3.0

Results by activity sections

The sections registering annual increases in the second quarter of 2021 were *Financial* and insurance activities (6.7%) and *Information and* communications (1.6%).

On the other hand, the most negative changes were in *Hospitality* (-15.0%), *Artistic, recreational and entertainment activities* (-13.0%) and *Mining and quarrying* (-12.1%).

Harmonised Labour Cost Index in the second quarter 2021 by activity sections General index and index adjusted for seasonal and calendar effects

		General Adjust			-	for season	
						ts and calendar effects	
		Index ²	Rate ¹	Index ²	Rate ¹	Index ²	Rate ¹
TOTAL		108.4	-3.8	108.2	-3.7	109.2	-3.8
B. Minir	ng and quarrying industries	101.1	-12.1	100.2	-12.4	102.2	-12.0
C. Man	ufacturing industries	105.4	-5.7	104.8	-5.6	107.7	-5.5
D. Elec	tricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	114.1	-0.6	113.9	-0.7	108.3	-0.1
E. Wate	er supply, waste management and remediation ities	105.5	-2.5	105.1	-2.3	107.2	-2.2
F. Con	struction	105.4	-6.3	104.9	-6.4	104.3	-6.3
G	lesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and prcycles	109.2	-6.9	108.7	-6.8	110.4	-6.7
H. Tran	sport and storage	104.1	-5.0	104.1	-4.8	105.1	-4.8
I. Acco	ommodation	98.0	-15.0	98.5	-15.6	100.9	-15.4
J. Infor	mation and communications	108.9	1.6	108.8	1.8	112.1	1.5
K. Fina	ncial and insurance activities	109.0	6.7	108.9	7.1	113.3	6.3
L. Real	I state activities	119.8	-10.4	119.6	-10.2	120.7	-10.2
M. Profe	essional, scientific and technical activities	104.4	-3.2	104.3	-3.1	107.9	-3.6
N. Adm	inistrative and support services activities	108.8	-0.3	108.7	-0.3	111.3	0.3
O. Publ	lic Administration and defence, compulsory Social urity	115.2	-0.4	114.7	-0.1	111.7	-0.4
P. Educ	cation	104.6	-3.4	105.6	-2.9	106.5	-2.9
Q. Heal	Ith and social services activities	111.5	-1.7	111.0	-1.8	109.3	-1.7
R. Arts,	entertainment and recreation	119.3	-13.0	118.7	-13.2	118.4	-13.3
S. Othe	erservices	113.1	-7.1	112.9	-7.0	116.2	-6.9

¹ As compared to the same quarter of the previous year

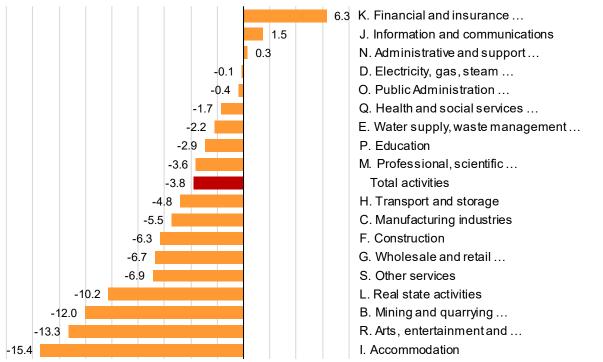
² Base year 2016

If seasonal and calendar effects are eliminated, the activities with positive annual rates were *Financial and insurance activities* (6.3%), *Information and communications* (1.5%) and *Administrative and support service activities* (0.3%).

On the other hand, *Hospitality* (-15.4%), *Artistic, recreational and entertainment activities* (– 13.3) and *Mining and quarrying* (–12.0%) registered the lowest corrected annual rates.

Index adjusted for seasonal and calendar effects. Activity sections

Second quarter 2021. Annual rate. Percentaje



Results by activity sections and cost components. Original series

The sections that registered the largest annual increases in *salary cost* in the second quarter of 2021 were *Financial and insurance activities* (4.5%), *Information and communications* (2.2%) and *Administrative and support service activities* (1.7%).

On the other hand, the greatest declines were seen in *Extractive industries* (-16.7%), *Real estate activities* (-8.9%) and *Construction* (-7.2%).

As for other costs, the sections with the highest annual increases were Financial and insurance activities (14.7%), Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (2.2%) and the Mining and quarrying (1.0%).

The most negative rates were in in *Hospitality* (-35.8%), *Artistic, recreational and entertainment activities* (-28.6%) and *Real estate activities* (-15.2%).

Harmonised Labour Cost Index in the second quarter 2021 by activity sections

Index by cost components

	Wages		Other costs			Labour costs excluding extraordinary and late payments		
	Index ²	Rate 1	Index ²	Rate 1	Index ²	Rate ¹		
TOTAL	108.2	-2.4	108.9	-7.7	107.1	-3.1		
B. Mining and quarrying industries	95.8	-16.7	115.8	1.0	104.1	-1.5		
C. Manufacturing industries	104.1	-4.2	109.2	-9.5	104.9	-4.7		
D. Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	117.2	-1.2	102.6	2.2	101.6	-0.5		
E. Water supply, waste management and remediation activities	104.9	-2.2	107.3	-3.3	105.7	-2.2		
F. Construction	106.7	-7.2	102.3	-4.2	103.1	-3.3		
G. Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	108.1	-6.4	112.5	-8.2	110.0	-5.4		
H. Transport and storage	100.6	-2.8	112.8	-9.5	104.6	-4.7		
I. Accommodation	99.2	-3.9	94.8	-35.8	100.6	-10.9		
J. Information and communications	109.7	2.2	106.2	-0.5	107.9	0.4		
K. Financial and insurance activities	109.1	4.5	108.9	14.7	105.7	5.7		
L. Real state activities	123.1	-8.9	109.8	-15.2	114.1	-9.8		
M. Professional, scientific and technical activities	105.1	-1.2	102.5	-9.5	105.6	-4.1		
N. Administrative and support services activities	109.0	1.7	108.2	-5.4	108.9	-0.5		
O. Public Administration and defence, compulsory Social Security	116.6	0.3	110.7	-2.4	113.8	-0.1		
P. Education	105.3	-3.7	102.3	-2.6	100.4	-3.6		
Q. Health and social services activities	110.6	-1.0	114.7	-4.1	105.1	-0.5		
R. Arts, entertainment and recreation	120.2	-6.9	116.5	-28.6	117.7	-10.5		
S. Other services	112.6	-5.4	114.3	-11.6	112.7	-7.0		

¹ As compared to the same quarter of the previous year

² Base year 2016

COVID-19's Influence on HLCI Results

The evolution of the various activity sections reflected the degree of impact resulting from the pandemic and from the measures put in place to contain it. During the second quarter of 2021 there has generally been a lower incidence of ERTE in all economic activities. This gave rise to an increase in salary costs and, to a lesser extent, other costs, as a consequence of the exemptions in social contributions. On the other hand, the hours actually worked increased more than costs in all of the most-affected economic activities, meaning that cost per hour worked has decreased.

Artistic, recreational and entertainment activities and Other services are the activity sections where labour costs and hours worked increased the most. The drop in other costs due to exemptions from social security contributions is of note.

The sections that for the most part include activities considered essential, such as the *Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply,* and *Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities. Information and communications, Financial and insurance activities, General Government, Education and Health* have been minimally affected by the current situation.

The rest of the sections include combinations of economic activities that give rise to different levels of impact. *Manufacturing, Construction* and *Wholesale and retail trade; motor vehicle and motorcycle repair,* etc. have also been affected, but to a lesser extent.

Revision and updating of data

Coinciding with today's publication, the HLCI provisional data for the first quarter of 2021 has been updated. The final index stands at 102.1 points.

The quarterly variation of the original series for that quarter stood at -10.1%, while that of the adjusted index did not change. On the other hand, the annual rate of the original series was 2.0% and that for the index adjusted for seasonal and calendar effects, 1.9%. The results are available at INEBase.

Methodological note

The Harmonised Labour Cost Index (HLCI) is a quarterly continuous statistical operation whose objective is to provide a common and comparable measure of labour cost per hour worked for the whole of the European Union, allowing the monitoring of the evolution of said labour costs.

Indices with base 2016 are provided for total labour costs, wages and salaries and other costs net of subsidies received for the use of labour factor (includes social contributions payable by employers and non-wage payments). The index for total labour cost is also provided excluding extraordinary payments and delayed payments.

Type of operation: Statistics presented mainly in the form of indices.

Base year: 2016.

Population scope: Employees in local units.

Sources of information: The Quarterly Labour Cost Survey which is conducted on the basis of the Social Security contribution accounts. General Scheme: Sections B to S of CNAE-09 and Special Scheme for Seafarers: Sea Transport (Division 50 of CNAE-09). In order to cover all employees of the general government, information from the DARETRI file is used.

Geographical scope: the entire national territory.

Reference period of the results: the calendar quarter.

Calculation method: Chained Laspeyres.

For more information you can access the methodology at:

https://www.ine.es/en/metodologia/t22/t2230211_en.htm

And the standardised methodological report at:

https://www.ine.es/dynt3/metadatos/en/RespuestaDatos.html?oe=30211

INE statistics are produced in accordance with the Code of Good Practice for European Statistics, which is the basis for the institution's quality policy and strategy. For more information, see the section on <u>Quality in the INE and Code of Good Practices</u> on the INE's website.

For further information see INEbase: www.ine.es/en/ Twitter: @es_ine

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Base year 2016

Total labour cost. Original series

National index

		Index 2 nd quarter(P) ¹		Index 1 st quarter(D	
		Index	Rate ²	Index	Rate ²
GENE	ERAL INDEX	108.4	-3.8	102.1	2.0
B-E.	Industry	105.7	-5.4	100.4	2.5
В.	Mining and quarrying industries	101.1	-12.1	123.9	13.3
C.	Manufacturing industries	105.4	-5.7	98.2	1.4
D.	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	114.1	-0.6	135.0	16.4
Ε.	Water supply, waste management and remediation activities	105.5	-2.5	105.1	4.6
F.	Construction	105.4	-6.3	96.5	1.6
G-J.	Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles; Transport and storage; Accommodation; Information and communications	106.7	-6.4	106.1	1.8
G.	Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	109.2	-6.9	107.2	1.4
Η.	Transport and storage	104.1	-5.0	100.3	0.0
I.	Accommodation	98.0	-15.0	107.7	2.0
J.	Information and communications	108.9	1.6	108.4	5.7
K-N.	Financial and insurance activities; Real state activities; Professional, scientific and technical activities; Administrative and support services activities	107.8	-0.1	106.9	2.3
Κ.	Financial and insurance activities	109.0	6.7	112.3	1.7
L.	Real state activities	119.8	-10.4	112.8	-6.7
Μ.	Professional, scientific and technical activities	104.4	-3.2	101.7	1.5
Ν.	Administrative and support services activities	108.8	-0.3	107.5	4.8
O-S.	Public Administration and defence, compulsory Social Security; Education; Health and social services activities; Arts, entertainment and recreation; Other Services	112.1	-2.2	98.0	2.2
0.	Public Administration and defence, compulsory Social Security	115.2	-0.4	97.0	3.2
Ρ.	Education	104.6	-3.4	93.2	0.5
Q.	Health and social services activities	111.5	-1.7	98.5	2.4
R.	Arts, entertainment and recreation	119.3	-13.0	116.2	2.6
S.	Other services	113.1	-7.1	108.7	1.7

¹ P: provisional data - D: definitive data

² As compared to the same quarter of the previous year

SECOND QUARTER 2021



Base year 2016

Wage cost. Original series

National index

		Index 2 nd quarter(P) ¹		Index 1 st quarter(D) ¹	
		Index	Rate ²	Index	Rate ²
GENE	RAL INDEX	108.2	-2.4	99.8	1.4
B-E.	Industry	104.5	-4.1	97.9	2.0
В.	Mining and quarrying industries	95.8	-16.7	133.5	17.5
C.	Manufacturing industries	104.1	-4.2	95.0	0.5
D.	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	117.2	-1.2	141.3	18.8
E.	Water supply, waste management and remediation activities	104.9	-2.2	103.5	5.1
F.	Construction	106.7	-7.2	93.9	1.4
G-J.	Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles; Transport and storage; Accommodation; Information and communications	105.6	-3.9	104.1	0.8
G.	Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	108.1	-6.4	105.5	0.6
Н.	Transport and storage	100.6	-2.8	97.6	0.3
I.	Accommodation	99.2	-3.9	102.7	-2.1
J.	Information and communications	109.7	2.2	109.0	6.0
K-N.	Financial and insurance activities; Real state activities; Professional, scientific and technical activities; Administrative and support services activities	108.2	0.9	107.4	1.7
K.	Financial and insurance activities	109.1	4.5	116.8	1.1
L.	Real state activities	123.1	-8.9	114.3	-8.1
М.	Professional, scientific and technical activities	105.1	-1.2	100.6	1.0
N.	Administrative and support services activities	109.0	1.7	106.6	4.4
0-S.	Public Administration and defence, compulsory Social Security; Education; Health and social services activities; Arts, entertainment and recreation; Other Services	112.4	-1.4	94.6	1.9
Ο.	Public Administration and defence, compulsory Social Security	116.6	0.3	93.4	2.8
Ρ.	Education	105.3	-3.7	91.0	0.4
Q.	Health and social services activities	110.6	-1.0	94.4	2.1
R.	Arts, entertainment and recreation	120.2	-6.9	113.3	2.9
S.	Other services	112.6	-5.4	107.2	1.5

¹ P: provisional data - D: definitive data

² As compared to the same quarter of the previous year

SECOND QUARTER 2021



Base year 2016

Other costs. Original series

National index

		Index 2 nd quarter(P) ¹		Index 1 st quarter(D) ¹	
		Index	Rate ²	Index	Rate ²
GENE	RAL INDEX	108.9	-7.7	108.6	3.8
B-E.	Industry	109.0	-8.7	107.6	4.0
В.	Mining and quarrying industries	115.8	1.0	97.3	-0.3
C.	Manufacturing industries	109.2	-9.5	107.5	4.1
D.	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	102.6	2.2	112.4	6.5
E.	Water supply, waste management and remediation activities	107.3	-3.3	109.3	3.2
F.	Construction	102.3	-4.2	102.7	1.9
G-J.	Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles; Transport and storage; Accommodation; Information and communications	109.7	-12.7	112.0	4.6
G.	Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	112.5	-8.2	112.3	3.8
Н.	Transport and storage	112.8	-9.5	107.2	-0.5
I.	Accommodation	94.8	-35.8	121.1	12.9
J.	Information and communications	106.2	-0.5	106.7	4.6
K-N.	Financial and insurance activities; Real state activities; Professional, scientific and technical activities; Administrative and support services activities	106.5	-3.0	105.4	4.2
K.	Financial and insurance activities	108.9	14.7	98.0	4.1
L.	Real state activities	109.8	-15.2	108.2	-1.9
М.	Professional, scientific and technical activities	102.5	-9.5	105.5	3.2
Ν.	Administrative and support services activities	108.2	-5.4	110.0	6.0
0-S.	Public Administration and defence, compulsory Social Security; Education; Health and social services activities; Arts, entertainment and recreation; Other Services	110.9	-4.8	109.1	3.1
0.	Public Administration and defence, compulsory Social Security	110.7	-2.4	108.9	4.4
Ρ.	Education	102.3	-2.6	99.6	0.7
Q.	Health and social services activities	114.7	-4.1	112.3	3.4
R.	Arts, entertainment and recreation	116.5	-28.6	125.7	1.4
S.	Other services	114.3	-11.6	113.0	2.5

¹ P: provisional data - D: definitive data

² As compared to the same quarter of the previous year



Base year 2016

Labour cost excluding extraordinary and late payments Original series

National index

x Rati 07.1	e ² -3.1 -4.4 -1.5 -4.7 -0.5 -2.2 -3.3 -5.2	Index 104.7 103.9 98.6 103.0 124.9 106.0 102.5 108.0	Rate ² 2.2 2.3 4.1 1.7 15.0 2.4 2.1
04.8 04.1 04.9 01.6 05.7 03.1	-4.4 -1.5 -4.7 -0.5 -2.2 -3.3	103.9 98.6 103.0 124.9 106.0 102.5	2.3 4.1 1.7 15.0 2.4 2.1
04.1 04.9 01.6 05.7 03.1	-1.5 -4.7 -0.5 -2.2 -3.3	98.6 103.0 124.9 106.0 102.5	4.1 1.7 15.0 2.4 2.1
04.9 01.6 05.7 03.1	-4.7 -0.5 -2.2 -3.3	103.0 124.9 106.0 102.5	1.7 15.0 2.4 2.1
01.6 05.7 03.1	-0.5 -2.2 -3.3	124.9 106.0 102.5	15.0 2.4 2.1
05.7	-2.2 -3.3	106.0 102.5	2.4 2.1
03.1	-3.3	102.5	2.1
07.3	-5.2	108.0	
			2.3
10.0	-5.4	109.3	2.3
04.6	-4.7	103.1	0.4
00.6	-10.9	111.0	3.7
07.9	0.4	107.2	4.3
07.2	-0.8	105.8	2.7
05.7	5.7	102.7	3.0
14.1	-9.8	112.3	-1.5
05.6	-4.1	105.2	1.6
08.9	-0.5	107.7	4.3
08.6	-1.6	102.3	2.2
13.8	-0.1	100.8	3.3
00.4	-3.6	98.4	0.6
05.1	-0.5	102.8	2.1
17.7	-10.5	121.3	2.0
12.7	-7.0	111.9	2.3
	04.6 00.6 07.9 07.2 05.7 14.1 05.6 08.9 08.6 13.8 00.4 05.1 17.7 12.7	$\begin{array}{c ccccc} 00.6 & -10.9 \\ 07.9 & 0.4 \\ \hline \\ 07.2 & -0.8 \\ \hline \\ 05.7 & 5.7 \\ 14.1 & -9.8 \\ 05.6 & -4.1 \\ 08.9 & -0.5 \\ \hline \\ 08.6 & -1.6 \\ \hline \\ 13.8 & -0.1 \\ 00.4 & -3.6 \\ 05.1 & -0.5 \\ 17.7 & -10.5 \\ \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$

¹ P: provisional data - D: definitive data

² As compared to the same quarter of the previous year