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Portugal

Labour Cost Index – 1st quarter 2007

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Total hourly labour cost (LCI) in Portugal (NACE sectors, C to O), excluding the public administration and working days adjusted (WDA), grew by 5.7% in the first quarter of 2007 compared to the same quarter of the previous year (+3.7%).

Differences were registered by **economic activity**. The highest increases were observed in **mining and quarrying** (+15.0%), **wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods** (+11.2%), **construction** (+8.0%), **hotels and restaurants** (+6.1%) and **real estate, renting and business activities** (+6.0%).

Smallest increases in the hourly labour costs were registered in **electricity, gas and water supply** (+3.2%), **transport, storage and communication** (+2.8%), **manufacturing** (+2.3%) and **education** (+1.6%).

At the **regional level**, the LCI excluding public administration and WDA, **Norte** (6.1%), **Alentejo** (+4.9%), **Lisboa** (+4.1%), **Madeira** (+3.9%), **Algarve** (+3.2) and **Centro** (+2.8%) observed increases in the hourly labour cost. **Açores** (+0.5%) recorded the smallest increase in the hourly labour costs.

Concerning the **occupational groups**, excluding public administration and WDA, **technicians and associate professionals** (+11.0%), **clerks** (+7.0%), **craft and related workers** (+6.2%) and **elementary occupations** (+4.5%) observed the largest increases in the hourly labour costs while **professionals** (+1.6%) and **skilled agricultural and fishery workers** (+0.3%) presented the smallest increase. **Legislators, senior officials and managers** (-6.1%) registered negative variations when compared to the same period of the previous year.

From the data available by Eurostat (Statistical Office of the European Communities, in Luxembourg), **Labour Cost Index** in sections of NACE Rev.1 (C to K) of the **European Union (27)** grew by 2.8% in the fourth quarter of 2006^(a) compared to the same period of the previous year. In **Portugal** hourly labour costs grew by 3.5%. **Romania** (+29.9%), **Latvia** (+26.9%) and **Lithuania** (+19.7%) recorded the largest increases in the hourly labour costs. The smallest increases were reached in **United Kingdom** (+2.6%), **Denmark** (+2.6%), **Sweden** (+2.0%), **Malta** (+1.7%) and Germany (+1.2%).

(a) Provisional data for Portugal

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