



## PRESS RELEASE

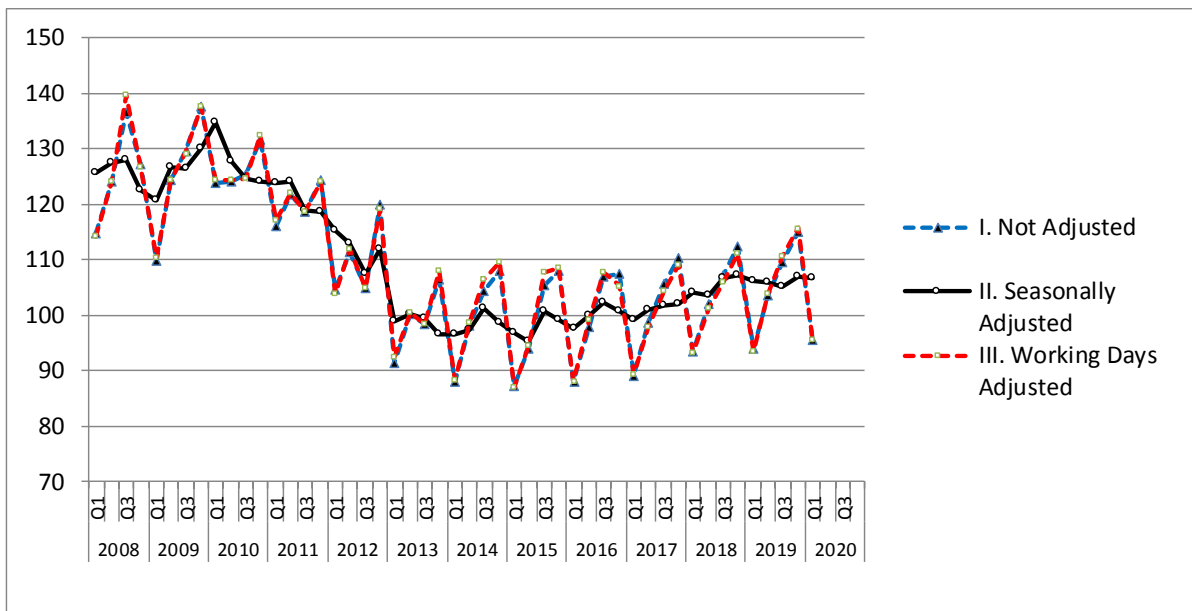
### INDEX OF WAGES COST: 1st quarter 2020

The Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) announces the quarterly Index of Wages Cost for the whole Economy<sup>1</sup> excluding Primary Sector and Activities of Households, for the 1st quarter 2020. More specifically:

- The unadjusted Index of Wages Cost (not seasonally adjusted and not adjusted for the number of working days) for the 1st quarter 2020, compared with the corresponding index of the 1st quarter 2019, recorded an increase of 1.6%, while an increase of 0.5% was recorded when comparing the corresponding index of 2019 with that of 2018 (Table 1, Index I).
- The Index of Wages Cost for the 1st quarter 2020, seasonally adjusted but not adjusted for the number of working days, recorded an increase of 0.8%, compared with the corresponding index of the 1st quarter of 2019, while an increase of 1.8% was recorded when comparing the corresponding index of 2019 with that of 2018 (Table 1, Index II).
- The Index of Wages Cost for the 1st quarter 2020, adjusted for the number of working days but not seasonally adjusted recorded an increase of 2.4% compared with the corresponding index of the 1st quarter of 2019, while an increase of 0.3% was recorded when comparing the corresponding index of 2019 with that of 2018 (Table 1, Index III).

Graph 1 below presents the evolution of the Index of Wages Cost for the period from the 1st quarter 2008 to the 1st quarter 2020 (Not Adjusted, Seasonally Adjusted and Working Days Adjusted), while Graphs 2-4 depict the Index and the annual rates of change for the 1st quarter of 2008-2020.

**Graph 1: Evolution of the Index of Wages Cost: Q1 2008 – Q1 2020**



**Information on methodological issues**

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<sup>1</sup> Sections B-S of the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities, NACE Rev. 2

**Table 1: Evolution of the Index of Wages Cost for Sections B-S of NACE Rev. 2**

- I. Not seasonally adjusted data and not adjusted for the number of the working days<sup>2</sup>
- II. Seasonally adjusted data but not adjusted for the number of the working days
- III. Not seasonally adjusted data but adjusted for the number of the working days

**q-o-q: Quarterly rate of change (%)**

**y-o-y: Annual rate of change (%)**

**Base Year: 2016 = 100.0**

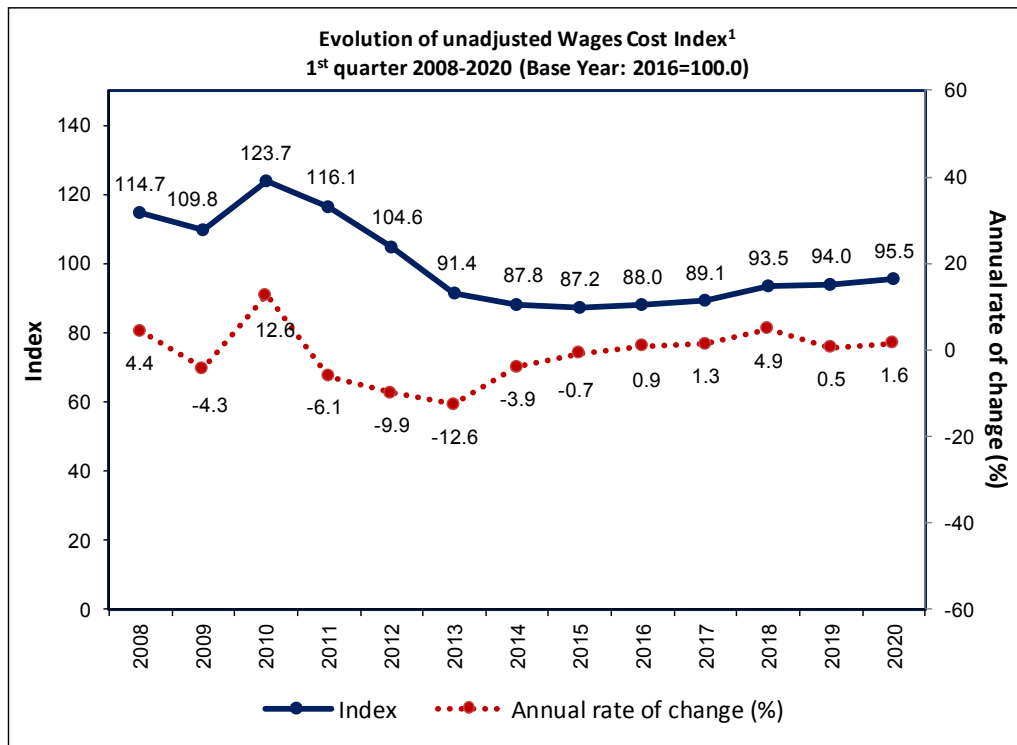
Year	Quarter	Index I	q-o-q Change (%)	y-o-y Change (%)	Index II	q-o-q Change (%)	y-o-y Change (%)	Index III	q-o-q Change (%)	y-o-y Change (%)
2008	Q1	114.7	-5.4	4.4	125.7	6.2	4.6	114.1	-3.8	3.8
	Q2	124.2	8.3	4.6	127.5	1.4	4.4	124.1	8.8	4.6
	Q3	136.4	9.9	4.8	128.1	0.4	4.5	139.6	12.4	6.8
	Q4	127.0	-6.9	4.8	122.5	-4.4	3.4	126.6	-9.3	6.8
2009	Q1	109.8	-13.6	-4.3	120.7	-1.4	-4.0	110.4	-12.8	-3.2
	Q2	124.4	13.3	0.2	126.7	4.9	-0.7	124.4	12.7	0.2
	Q3	129.4	4.0	-5.2	126.4	-0.2	-1.3	129.1	3.8	-7.5
	Q4	137.6	6.3	8.3	129.9	2.8	6.1	137.5	6.5	8.6
2010	Q1	123.7	-10.1	12.6	134.7	3.6	11.6	124.2	-9.7	12.5
	Q2	124.0	0.3	-0.3	127.8	-5.1	0.9	124.4	0.2	0.0
	Q3	125.3	1.1	-3.1	124.5	-2.5	-1.5	124.6	0.1	-3.5
	Q4	131.5	4.9	-4.4	124.1	-0.4	-4.5	132.3	6.2	-3.7
2011	Q1	116.1	-11.7	-6.1	123.8	-0.2	-8.0	117.1	-11.5	-5.7
	Q2	121.6	4.7	-1.9	124.0	0.1	-3.0	122.0	4.2	-2.0
	Q3	118.5	-2.5	-5.4	118.8	-4.2	-4.6	118.6	-2.8	-4.8
	Q4	124.3	4.9	-5.5	118.6	-0.1	-4.4	124.1	4.6	-6.2
2012	Q1	104.6	-15.8	-9.9	115.1	-3.0	-7.1	103.9	-16.3	-11.3
	Q2	111.2	6.3	-8.5	113.0	-1.8	-8.9	111.8	7.7	-8.3
	Q3	104.9	-5.7	-11.5	107.5	-4.9	-9.5	104.9	-6.2	-11.5
	Q4	119.8	14.2	-3.6	111.8	4.0	-5.8	119.1	13.5	-4.0
2013	Q1	91.4	-23.7	-12.6	98.7	-11.6	-14.2	92.2	-22.6	-11.2
	Q2	100.1	9.5	-10.0	100.1	1.4	-11.4	100.5	9.0	-10.1
	Q3	98.3	-1.8	-6.3	99.3	-0.8	-7.6	98.4	-2.1	-6.2
	Q4	106.3	8.2	-11.2	96.4	-2.9	-13.7	107.9	9.6	-9.5
2014	Q1	87.8	-17.4	-3.9	96.5	0.1	-2.3	88.2	-18.2	-4.4
	Q2	98.1	11.6	-2.0	97.4	0.9	-2.7	98.5	11.7	-2.0
	Q3	104.2	6.3	6.0	101.1	3.9	1.8	106.4	8.1	8.2
	Q4	108.0	3.6	1.5	98.6	-2.5	2.2	109.4	2.8	1.4
2015	Q1	87.2	-19.2	-0.7	96.8	-1.8	0.3	86.8	-20.6	-1.6
	Q2	93.9	7.7	-4.2	95.3	-1.5	-2.1	94.3	8.7	-4.2
	Q3	105.4	12.2	1.1	100.7	5.6	-0.5	107.6	14.0	1.1
	Q4	108.0	2.5	0.0	99.0	-1.7	0.4	108.6	0.9	-0.7
2016	Q1	88.0	-18.5	0.9	97.4	-1.6	0.7	87.9	-19.0	1.2
	Q2	97.7	11.1	4.1	99.8	2.4	4.7	99.2	12.8	5.1
	Q3	106.8	9.3	1.4	102.2	2.4	1.5	107.7	8.6	0.2
	Q4	107.4	0.6	-0.5	100.6	-1.6	1.6	105.2	-2.3	-3.1
2017	Q1	89.1	-17.1	1.3	99.1	-1.5	1.7	89.2	-15.2	1.5
	Q2	98.6	10.7	0.9	100.9	1.8	1.1	97.8	9.6	-1.4
	Q3	105.6	7.1	-1.2	101.8	0.9	-0.4	104.3	6.7	-3.2
	Q4	110.3	4.5	2.7	101.9	0.2	1.4	109.0	4.4	3.6
2018	Q1	93.5	-15.3	4.9	104.1	2.1	5.0	93.0	-14.6	4.2
	Q2	102.0	9.2	3.5	103.6	-0.5	2.7	101.2	8.8	3.5
	Q3	107.2	5.1	1.5	106.5	2.8	4.7	106.0	4.7	1.6
	Q4	112.3	4.7	1.7	107.1	0.5	5.0	111.1	4.9	2.0

<sup>2</sup> The variation of the index is due to seasonality and to the payment of bonuses. During the 4th quarter (Q4) the 14th salary is paid alongside bonuses, thus resulting in an increase in the index.

(Table 1 – Continued)

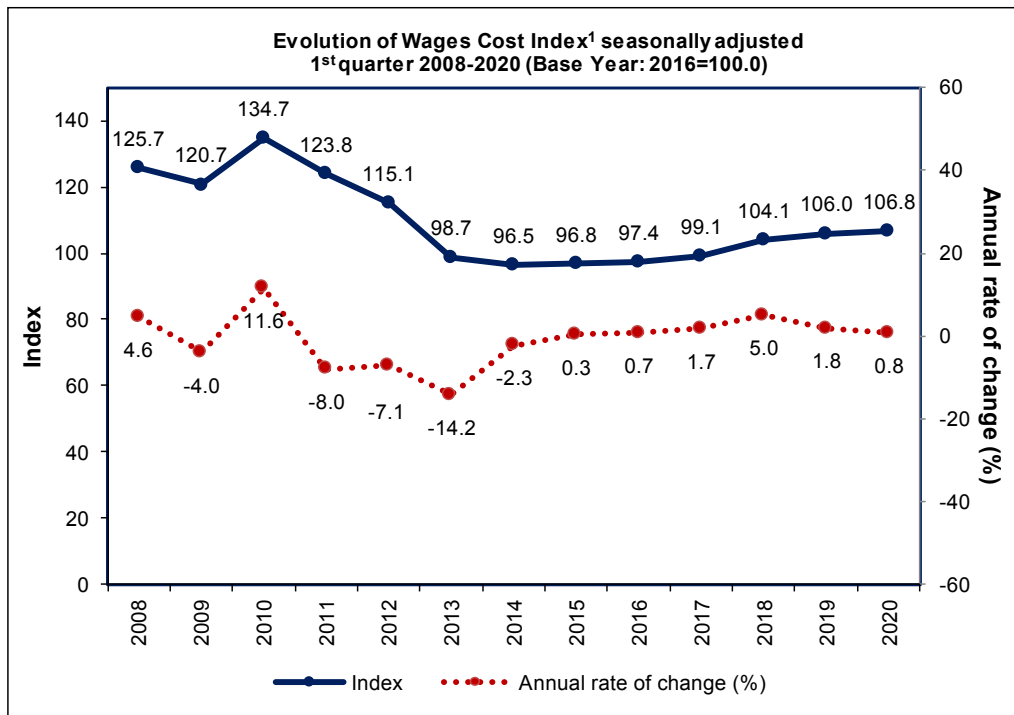
Year	Quarter	Index I	q-o-q Change (%)	y-o-y Change (%)	Index II	q-o-q Change (%)	y-o-y Change (%)	Index III	q-o-q Change (%)	y-o-y Change (%)
2019	Q1	94.0	-16.3	0.5	106.0	-1.0	1.8	93.3	-16.0	0.3
	Q2	103.6	10.3	1.5	105.9	-0.1	2.2	103.7	11.2	2.5
	Q3	109.5	5.7	2.2	105.2	-0.6	-1.2	110.6	6.6	4.4
	Q4	115.0	5.0	2.4	107.0	1.7	-0.1	115.6	4.5	4.0
2020	Q1	95.5	-17.0	1.6	106.8	-0.2	0.8	95.5	-17.4	2.4

Graph 2

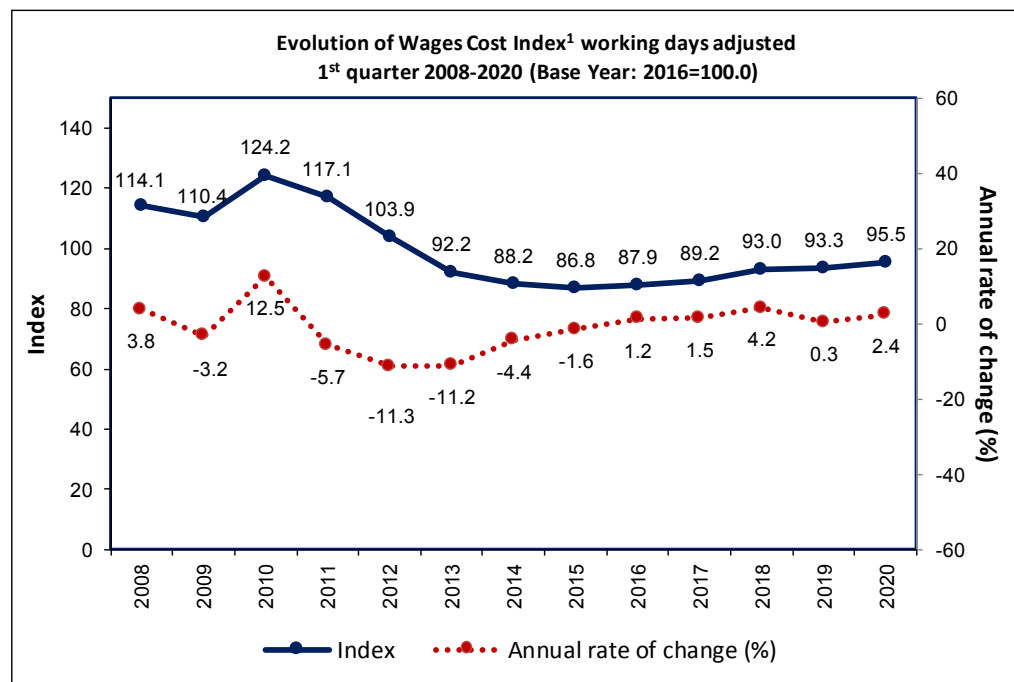


<sup>1</sup> Sections B-S of the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities, NACE Rev. 2

**Graph 3**



**Graph 4**



<sup>1</sup> Sections B-S of the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities, NACE Rev. 2

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

<b>General</b>	The Index of Wages Cost for Sections B-S of NACE Rev. 2 is a Laspeyres quarterly index with base year the year 2016 (2016=100.00).
<b>Purpose of the index</b>	The purpose of this index is to record the evolution of the hourly labour costs by branch of economic activity (Sections B-S of the European classification of economic activities, NACE Rev. 2).
<b>Definitions</b>	<p>Data for the calculation of the Index are collected with the Labour Cost and Job Vacancies survey which is conducted on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>The statistical population is the total number of enterprises employing at least five (5) employees and belong to sections B-S of Nace Rev.2. The survey covers the entire Country.</p> <p>The one-stage stratified sampling method was applied, using the enterprise as a surveyed unit. The strata are derived from the combinations of the 2-digit code of economic activity (NACE Rev.2) and the enterprise size class.</p> <p>The sampling frame is the current Business Register of ELSTAT.</p> <p>The survey is conducted by visits on enterprise premises by means of printed questionnaires (PAPI).</p> <p>The Index of Wages Cost for each Section of NACE Rev. 2 is calculated as the ratio of the hourly wage of each reference quarter to the annual average hourly wage of the base year 2016.</p> <p>The hourly wage is defined as the ratio of the gross earnings to the hours worked.</p> <p>Gross earnings include salaries and wages (regular payments and overtime payments), bonuses and extraordinary bonuses (Christmas and Easter bonuses, annual leave and other kind of bonuses not paid on a regular basis), as well as payments for days not worked (e.g. holidays, national holidays, maternity leave, child benefits, severance payments until the 4th quarter of 2012, etc).</p> <p>From the 1st quarter of 2013 and thereafter the severance payments are not included in the gross earnings.</p> <p>For the calculation of the quarterly aggregate Labour Cost Index (LCI) of a group of Sections, the LCI of each Section is weighted on the basis of the contribution of the annual labour cost of employees of this section in the previous year to the total labour cost of employees of all sections of the group in the above year.</p>
<b>Legal Framework</b>	<p>The Index of Wages Cost for the sections B-S is one of the main components of the LCI and it is compiled by virtue of the Regulation (EC) 450/2003 and the Implementing Regulation (EC) 1216/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council.</p> <p>The Index of Wages Cost is also made available to and released by international organizations (EUROSTAT, IMF).</p>
<b>Data collection during the pandemic period of COVID-19</b>	From mid-March 2020, for reasons of public health protection, visits on enterprise premises were suspended and data collection was carried out exclusively by electronic means. It should be noted that due to the special conditions the response rate was lower in comparison with previous quarters.
<b>Statistical Classification</b>	NACE Rev. 2 classification of economic activities is used. The Sections covered by the index are B to S.

<b>Sections of Economic Activity</b>	<b>Sections of Economic Activity NACE Rev. 2</b>	<b>Description</b>
	B	Mining and quarrying
	C	Manufacturing
	D	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply
	E	Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities
	F	Construction
	G	Wholesale and Retail Trade, Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles
	H	Transportation and Storage
	I	Accommodation and Food Services Activities
	J	Information and Communication
	K	Financial and insurance activities
	L	Real Estate Activities
	M	Professional, scientific and technical activities
	N	Administrative and support service activities
	O	Public Administration and Defense; Compulsory Social Security
	P	Education
	Q	Human Health and Social Work Activities
	R	Arts, Entertainment and Recreation
	S	Other Service Activities