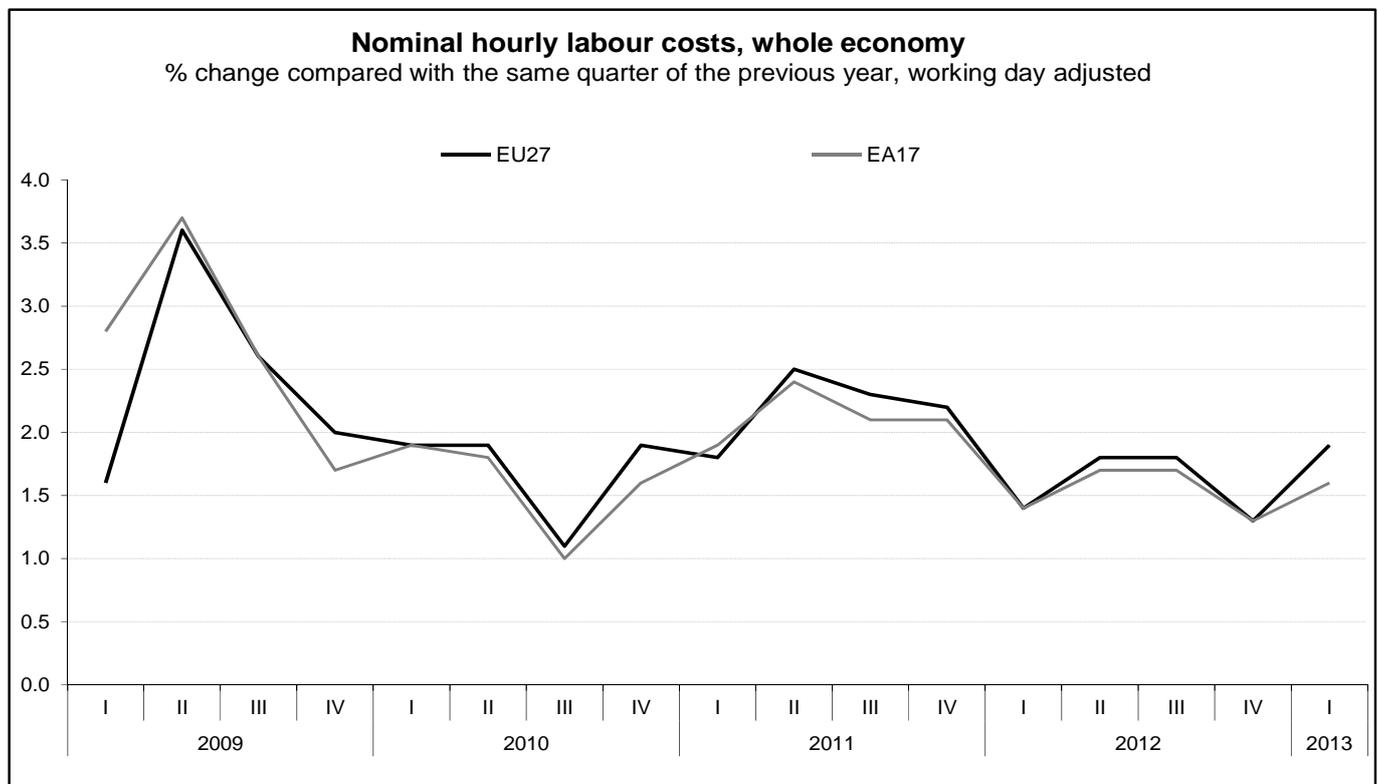


First quarter of 2013

## Annual growth in hourly labour costs rose to 1.6% in euro area and to 1.9% in EU27

Hourly labour costs<sup>1</sup> in the **euro area**<sup>2</sup> (EA17) rose by 1.6% in the year up to the first quarter of 2013, compared with 1.3% for the fourth quarter of 2012<sup>3</sup>. In the **EU27**<sup>2</sup>, the annual rise was 1.9% up to the first quarter of 2013, compared with 1.3% in the previous quarter<sup>3</sup>. These figures are published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**.

The two main components of labour costs are wages & salaries and non-wage costs. In the **euro area**, wages & salaries per hour worked grew by 1.7% and the non-wage component by 1.4% in the year up to the first quarter of 2013, compared with 1.4% and 0.9% respectively for the previous quarter. In the **EU27**, hourly wages & salaries rose by 2.0% and the non-wage component by 1.9% in the year up to the first quarter of 2013, compared with 1.2% and 1.3% respectively for the fourth quarter of 2012.

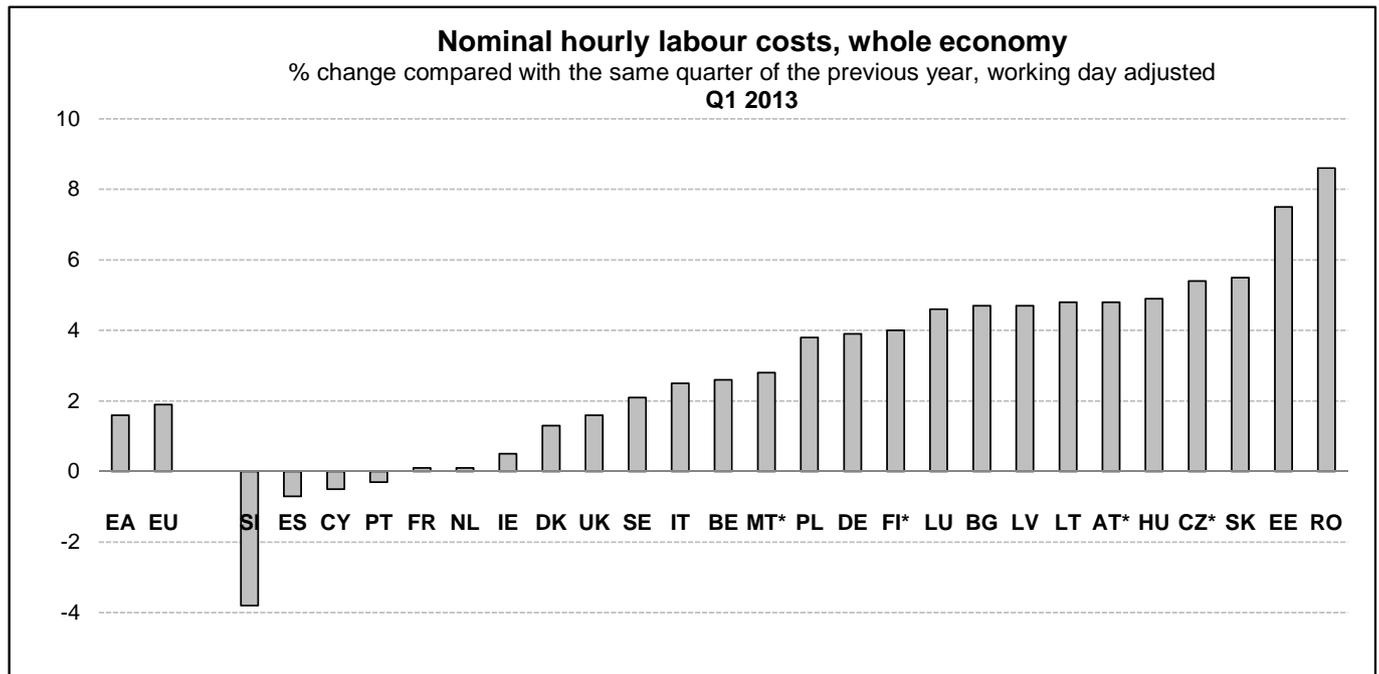


### Breakdown by economic activity

In the **euro area**, hourly labour costs rose by 3.3% in industry, 1.8% in construction, 1.3% in services and 0.9% in the mainly non-business economy in the year up to the first quarter of 2013. In the **EU27**, labour costs per hour grew by 3.4% in industry, 1.7% in both construction and services and by 1.4% in the mainly non-business economy.

## Member States

Among the Member States for which data are available for the first quarter of 2013, the highest annual increases in hourly labour costs for the whole economy were registered in **Romania** (+8.6%) and **Estonia** (+7.5%). Decreases were recorded in **Slovenia** (-3.8%), **Spain** (-0.7%), **Cyprus** (-0.5%) and **Portugal** (-0.3%).



\* Not working day adjusted

1. The Labour Cost Index is a short-term indicator showing the development of hourly labour costs incurred by employers. It is calculated dividing the labour cost by the number of hours worked. Therefore, the development of both variables, labour costs and hours worked, affects the evolution of the index.  
The quarterly changes in hourly employers' costs are measured for the total labour costs and the main components, namely wages and salaries on one hand, and labour costs other than wages and salaries (non-wage costs) on the other hand. Total labour costs (TOT) cover wage and non-wage costs less subsidies. They do not include vocational training costs or other expenditures such as recruitment costs, spending on working clothes, etc.  
Wage and salary costs (WAG) include direct remuneration, bonuses, and allowances paid by an employer in cash or in kind to an employee in return for work done, payments to employees saving schemes, payments for days not worked and remuneration in kind such as food, drink, fuel, company cars, etc.  
Labour costs other than wages and salaries (OTH - non-wage costs) include the employers' social contributions plus employment taxes regarded as labour costs less subsidies intended to refund part or all of the employer's cost of direct remuneration.  
Eurostat publishes Labour Cost Index data for NACE Rev. 2 sections B to S. The aggregate is referred to as "Whole economy" for the sake of simplification, even if agriculture, activities of households as employers and activities of extraterritorial organisations are excluded. For more breakdowns and further definitions please refer to:  
[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics\\_explained/index.php/Labour\\_cost\\_index\\_-\\_recent\\_trends](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Labour_cost_index_-_recent_trends)
2. The euro area (EA17) consists of Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland.  
The EU27 includes Belgium (BE), Bulgaria (BG), the Czech Republic (CZ), Denmark (DK), Germany (DE), Estonia (EE), Ireland (IE), Greece (EL), Spain (ES), France (FR), Italy (IT), Cyprus (CY), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT), Luxembourg (LU), Hungary (HU), Malta (MT), the Netherlands (NL), Austria (AT), Poland (PL), Portugal (PT), Romania (RO), Slovenia (SI), Slovakia (SK), Finland (FI), Sweden (SE) and the United Kingdom (UK).  
Tables also include data for Croatia (HR).
3. Compared with News Release 42/2013 of 15 March 2013, annual growth rates for the total economy for the fourth quarter of 2012 remain unchanged at 1.3% for both the EA17 and the EU27. The data should be considered as provisional, as indices transmitted by Member States may be revised at a later date.

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For further information on data:

**Louise CORSELLI**  
Tel: +352-4301-33 444  
[eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu](mailto:eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu)

**Sammy LAURITSEN**  
Tel: +352-4301-35 742  
**Hubertus VREESWIJK**  
Tel: +352-4301-34 323

Eurostat news releases on the internet:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>

[estat-labour-cost-indices@ec.europa.eu](mailto:estat-labour-cost-indices@ec.europa.eu)

Selected Principal European Economic Indicators: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/euroindicators>

## Nominal hourly labour costs

% change compared with same quarter of previous year – working day adjusted

	Whole economy (NACE Rev. 2 sections B to S)														
	Q1 2012			Q2 2012			Q3 2012			Q4 2012			Q1 2013		
	TOTAL	WAGES	OTHER	TOTAL	WAGES	OTHER	TOTAL	WAGES	OTHER	TOTAL	WAGES	OTHER	TOTAL	WAGES	OTHER
EA17	1.4	1.5	1.2	1.7	1.9	1.3	1.7	1.9	1.2	1.3	1.4	0.9	1.6	1.7	1.4
EU27	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.8	1.9	1.6	1.8	1.9	1.6	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.9	2.0	1.9
BE	3.0	3.1	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.5
BG	7.1	8.2	1.7	7.3	8.3	2.7	7.9	8.7	3.9	7.5	8.4	3.1	4.7	4.5	5.3
CZ*	2.6	2.6	2.6	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.5	4.5	4.5	1.3	1.3	1.2	5.4	5.4	5.4
DK	1.8	1.8	2.3	1.8	1.7	1.9	1.6	1.6	1.9	1.5	1.4	1.9	1.3	1.3	1.7
DE	1.9	2.2	0.7	2.7	3.3	0.8	2.9	3.2	2.0	3.1	3.5	1.4	3.9	3.5	5.3
EE	5.9	5.9	5.6	4.5	4.2	4.5	6.0	6.5	6.2	6.7	6.6	7.7	7.5	8.0	7.4
IE	0.9	1.0	2.8	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.6	1.4	4.9	1.3	1.0	4.9	0.5	0.4	1.6
EL	-11.5	-10.9	-12.5	-8.7	-8.3	-9.4	-13.3	-10.9	-16.6	:	:	:	:	:	:
ES	1.9	1.7	2.7	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.6	0.7	0.3	-3.4	-4.4	-0.7	-0.7	-1.2	0.6
FR	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.3	2.5	1.9	1.9	2.1	1.5	0.1	1.6	-3.0
IT	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.4	1.3	1.8	1.9	2.0	1.6	1.2	1.4	0.9	2.5	2.3	3.1
CY	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.8	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.7	0.8	0.5	-0.5	-0.4	-0.6
LV	3.5	3.5	2.1	4.7	4.6	4.8	3.4	3.6	2.8	3.7	4.0	3.1	4.7	4.9	6.0
LT	4.5	4.1	5.6	3.2	2.6	4.6	5.3	5.0	6.3	4.7	4.0	6.5	4.8	4.4	5.9
LU	1.9	1.6	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.6	2.8	2.8	3.1	2.5	2.5	3.2	4.6	4.8	4.8
HU	2.6	2.3	3.6	4.1	c	c	5.4	5.3	6.9	4.8	4.5	6.3	4.9	5.0	5.0
MT*	4.2	4.3	3.4	5.1	5.0	6.0	2.0	2.2	-0.2	3.7	3.9	1.2	2.8	3.1	1.1
NL	1.7	1.3	3.2	1.4	1.0	2.8	1.5	1.1	2.8	1.2	0.6	3.2	0.1	-1.0	4.2
AT*	5.5	5.6	5.0	7.5	7.6	7.4	5.5	5.6	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.4	4.8	4.6	5.5
PL	2.2	2.2	2.3	3.8	3.8	3.7	4.4	4.4	4.5	1.8	1.8	1.9	3.8	3.8	3.9
PT	-7.3	-6.2	-10.8	-9.6	-10.1	-8.0	-9.6	-7.6	-16.0	-8.1	-6.9	-11.8	-0.3	-1.3	3.3
RO	4.6	4.6	4.5	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.6	7.6	7.6	8.6	8.6	8.6
SI	-1.3	-0.5	-6.2	3.0	3.9	-2.0	-0.9	-0.7	-2.1	-1.9	-1.6	-4.0	-3.8	-3.8	-3.8
SK	3.6	2.9	4.5	3.6	3.4	4.1	1.6	1.3	3.1	3.7	3.8	3.6	5.5	5.2	7.1
FI*	3.7	3.6	3.9	5.3	5.2	5.4	4.2	4.1	4.4	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.0	3.3	6.7
SE	3.5	3.0	4.6	4.0	3.5	5.0	3.8	3.3	4.8	3.6	3.2	4.6	2.1	2.4	1.5
UK	0.3	c	c	1.1	0.6	1.3	0.8	0.8	1.9	0.1	-0.4	1.6	1.6	1.4	3.8
HR*	1.0	1.1	1.0	3.6	3.6	3.6	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	4.1	4.1	4.1

Labour cost data are subject to revision, in particular for the latest quarters, when new source data become available.

: Data not available

\* Not working day adjusted

c Confidential

TOTAL = total labour costs

WAGES = wage and salary costs

OTHER = non-wage costs

## Nominal hourly labour costs for the business and mainly non-business economy

% change compared with same quarter of previous year – working day adjusted

	Business economy (NACE Rev. 2 section B to N)							Mainly non-business economy (NACE Rev. 2 section O to S)						
	Q1/12	Q2/12	Q3/12	Q4/12	Q1 2013			Q1/12	Q2/12	Q3/12	Q4/12	Q1 2013		
	TOT	TOT	TOT	TOT	TOT	WAG	OTH	TOT	TOT	TOT	TOT	TOT	WAG	OTH
<b>EA17</b>	1.6	2.5	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.1	1.5	1.2	0.4	0.7	-0.2	0.9	0.8	1.3
<b>EU27</b>	1.5	2.6	2.3	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.0	1.1	0.4	0.7	-0.4	1.4	1.3	1.9
<b>BE</b>	3.1	3.3	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.8	1.2	0.8	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.7
<b>BG</b>	7.8	8.7	9.7	8.2	4.2	4.1	4.8	4.4	2.4	2.6	5.0	6.8	6.6	7.5
<b>CZ*</b>	2.8	4.9	3.8	1.8	5.1	5.1	5.1	2.0	4.3	6.5	-0.4	6.4	6.5	6.4
<b>DK</b>	1.9	1.6	1.4	1.3	c	c	c	1.8	2.0	2.1	1.8	c	c	c
<b>DE</b>	1.7	3.1	3.3	3.2	4.3	3.9	5.7	2.3	1.7	2.0	2.9	2.9	2.4	4.4
<b>EE</b>	7.3	4.9	6.4	7.1	7.6	8.1	7.7	1.6	3.8	4.8	5.1	7.1	7.4	6.2
<b>IE</b>	0.8	1.3	2.8	2.5	1.1	0.9	1.7	1.0	-0.1	-0.8	-1.4	-0.8	-0.7	1.3
<b>EL</b>	-8.9	-3.4	-8.2	:	:	:	:	-15.7	-16.9	-20.9	:	:	:	:
<b>ES</b>	2.2	0.9	1.0	0.3	0.1	-0.4	1.3	1.3	-0.5	-0.3	-11.7	-2.3	-2.9	-0.9
<b>FR</b>	2.0	2.1	2.2	1.7	-0.2	1.6	-3.9	2.2	1.8	2.5	2.3	0.7	1.5	-0.9
<b>IT</b>	0.6	2.0	2.9	2.3	3.0	2.8	3.7	-0.8	0.4	-0.1	-0.5	1.7	1.6	2.0
<b>CY</b>	1.2	1.6	1.1	0.9	-0.2	-0.2	-0.5	2.1	1.4	-0.2	0.5	-0.9	-1.0	-0.9
<b>LV</b>	3.7	4.8	3.8	3.7	5.0	5.0	5.7	2.4	4.6	3.3	3.3	4.0	c	c
<b>LT</b>	4.7	3.8	5.1	6.0	5.9	5.6	6.7	3.8	2.0	6.2	1.8	2.2	1.8	3.4
<b>LU</b>	1.9	2.2	2.9	2.7	5.1	c	c	1.7	2.4	2.5	2.0	2.9	2.9	2.9
<b>HU</b>	3.8	6.1	6.8	6.5	3.3	3.4	1.9	-0.7	-0.9	1.9	0.2	9.2	c	c
<b>MT*</b>	2.9	3.5	2.9	3.1	2.8	2.7	3.6	6.6	8.0	0.7	4.8	2.8	3.9	-1.1
<b>NL</b>	1.7	1.3	1.4	0.9	0.0	-1.5	5.6	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.7	0.4	0.0	1.4
<b>AT*</b>	3.8	6.8	4.1	3.8	4.2	4.0	5.1	10.7	10.0	8.8	10.5	6.2	6.2	6.5
<b>PL</b>	2.5	3.8	4.4	1.9	3.8	3.8	3.9	2.0	3.4	4.7	1.4	3.9	3.9	4.0
<b>PT</b>	-7.2	-0.1	-11.5	-0.5	-0.6	-0.4	-1.4	-7.3	-21.0	-6.9	-18.7	0.3	-2.6	8.8
<b>RO</b>	5.3	7.3	6.5	5.7	5.5	5.5	5.5	2.1	6.1	9.6	14.1	19.4	19.3	19.4
<b>SI</b>	-1.1	4.3	0.3	-0.7	-1.8	-2.0	-0.5	-1.8	0.1	-3.4	-4.7	-8.4	-8.0	-11.0
<b>SK</b>	3.3	3.0	1.2	3.2	5.2	4.7	7.3	4.2	5.0	2.8	5.0	6.3	c	c
<b>FI*</b>	2.4	5.5	4.6	4.4	4.0	4.1	3.5	5.5	4.8	3.6	3.5	3.9	2.1	10.9
<b>SE</b>	4.2	4.0	4.0	3.8	1.7	2.1	0.7	2.2	3.8	3.4	3.2	3.0	2.9	3.2
<b>UK</b>	0.3	2.1	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.4	3.7	0.0	-1.4	-0.9	-3.1	1.6	1.5	4.0
<b>HR*</b>	1.7	3.4	1.0	2.2	5.4	5.4	5.3	-0.2	4.1	0.5	1.3	1.9	1.9	1.9

Labour cost data are subject to revision, in particular for the latest quarters, when new source data become available.

: Data not available

\* Not working day adjusted

c Confidential

TOT = total labour costs

WAG = wage and salary costs

OTH = non-wage costs

## Nominal hourly labour costs by main economic activity branches for the business economy

% change compared with same quarter of previous year – working day adjusted

	Industry (NACE Rev. 2 sections B to E)							Construction (NACE Rev. 2 section F)						Services (NACE Rev. 2 section G to N)							
	Q1/12	Q2/12	Q3/12	Q4/12	Q1 2013			Q1/12	Q2/12	Q3/12	Q4/12	Q1 2013			Q1/12	Q2/12	Q3/12	Q4/12	Q1 2013		
	TOT	TOT	TOT	TOT	TOT	WAG	OTH	TOT	TOT	TOT	TOT	TOT	WAG	OTH	TOT	TOT	TOT	TOT	TOT	WAG	OTH
EA17	1.3	2.8	2.8	2.7	3.3	3.5	3.1	1.8	2.8	2.4	2.1	1.8	2.1	0.9	1.7	2.2	1.9	1.7	1.3	1.4	0.8
EU27	1.8	2.9	2.9	2.8	3.4	3.4	3.5	1.3	2.9	2.5	1.2	1.7	1.9	0.7	1.4	2.3	2.0	1.9	1.7	1.8	1.4
BE	3.4	3.9	2.6	2.6	2.4	c	c	3.5	3.8	2.8	2.9	2.7	3.0	2.4	2.8	3.0	2.4	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.3
BG	6.6	3.4	4.1	4.5	4.2	3.8	5.1	2.4	2.2	1.7	-0.5	-0.4	-0.6	0.8	9.3	12.6	14.0	11.5	4.8	4.8	5.1
CZ*	3.2	5.9	4.2	0.7	5.4	5.4	5.4	2.7	1.5	0.4	0.0	5.1	5.1	5.1	2.4	4.5	4.0	3.0	4.8	4.8	4.8
DK	2.1	1.5	0.8	0.4	c	c	c	2.6	2.2	0.0	0.2	c	c	c	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.8	c	c	c
DE	0.1	2.9	3.3	3.4	5.8	5.4	7.2	1.3	2.8	3.6	2.8	5.4	5.0	6.6	2.9	3.2	3.3	3.0	3.1	2.8	4.5
EE	8.4	6.7	6.7	7.7	8.2	c	c	8.5	9.0	10.6	12.9	10.6	11.1	9.3	6.5	3.2	5.5	5.8	6.7	7.3	6.8
IE	0.5	3.2	5.8	1.4	-0.9	c	c	-3.1	-5.6	6.4	5.5	0.2	-0.5	10.3	1.7	2.0	1.1	2.3	1.9	c	c
EL	-11.1	-7.3	-9.3	:	:	:	:	-18.4	-9.8	-13.7	:	:	:	:	-7.4	-1.9	-7.4	:	:	:	:
ES	2.8	3.1	2.3	1.6	2.2	1.8	2.5	3.3	4.1	2.2	0.8	0.1	0.5	-0.8	1.7	-0.4	0.2	-0.2	-0.8	-1.5	1.2
FR	2.7	2.5	2.2	2.1	0.2	1.9	-3.4	1.4	1.7	2.4	1.7	-0.8	1.2	-5.8	1.8	2.1	2.2	1.6	-0.2	1.5	-3.9
IT	2.5	2.6	3.3	3.0	2.5	2.3	3.2	1.8	3.9	3.5	4.7	4.7	4.4	5.5	-0.8	1.3	2.5	1.3	3.1	2.9	3.8
CY	1.7	1.2	0.7	0.9	-0.1	0.0	-0.6	1.3	1.8	1.0	3.1	-2.5	-2.5	-2.2	1.1	1.7	1.3	0.5	-0.1	0.0	-0.4
LV	2.8	4.0	4.4	4.8	5.6	5.0	6.9	2.6	1.7	3.3	2.8	5.4	5.3	6.3	4.4	5.4	3.5	3.4	4.7	4.9	5.2
LT	4.3	4.7	5.1	5.7	4.3	4.1	4.9	5.6	5.9	5.6	3.6	16.5	14.0	22.2	4.7	3.0	5.1	6.5	4.9	5.0	4.8
LU	1.2	2.0	0.7	3.0	2.9	2.8	5.1	2.9	2.8	3.0	3.7	5.3	4.9	8.4	1.9	2.1	3.3	2.5	5.5	6.0	5.0
HU	5.5	8.5	7.7	7.7	4.1	4.5	1.0	5.6	2.8	2.4	1.9	6.2	6.3	6.7	2.4	4.6	6.5	5.9	2.4	2.3	2.2
MT*	2.7	7.6	-4.3	0.3	1.7	1.6	2.9	0.7	-0.6	3.5	3.8	0.3	0.4	-1.1	3.2	2.4	5.6	3.9	3.4	3.3	4.4
NL	0.8	1.9	1.9	2.0	c	c	c	4.9	3.8	0.8	0.1	c	c	c	1.6	0.8	1.4	0.6	c	c	c
AT*	1.2	5.7	5.9	3.1	5.0	4.5	6.5	4.0	5.4	2.5	2.4	4.2	4.0	5.0	5.1	7.7	3.5	4.4	3.9	3.7	4.3
PL	4.2	3.8	5.7	4.1	4.6	4.6	4.6	3.5	1.4	0.5	-3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	4.2	3.9	0.8	3.8	3.7	4.0
PT	-2.7	-7.1	-1.9	-2.9	-1.3	-0.9	-3.2	0.6	1.9	-12.3	0.8	3.6	3.0	5.8	-11.3	4.3	-17.0	0.7	-1.1	-0.9	-1.8
RO	6.3	8.3	6.7	6.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	5.0	4.5	4.9	1.0	2.2	2.2	2.2	4.6	6.9	6.6	6.1	5.0	5.0	5.0
SI	-1.4	8.5	2.4	0.9	3.6	3.5	4.5	-4.2	-3.5	-6.3	-1.9	-4.1	-4.8	0.5	-0.3	2.6	-0.3	-1.8	-5.2	-5.4	-3.9
SK	5.6	5.8	2.3	5.8	8.7	c	c	7.3	5.2	2.6	-8.2	1.3	c	c	1.3	0.6	0.2	2.6	3.1	1.8	5.9
FI*	2.9	5.0	4.9	4.2	4.6	4.8	3.8	1.1	6.7	3.9	5.9	8.4	8.6	7.9	2.2	5.7	4.5	4.3	3.0	3.1	2.6
SE	4.8	4.4	4.6	4.9	1.1	1.6	0.0	2.5	4.3	3.5	3.7	2.7	3.3	1.0	4.2	3.9	3.8	3.4	1.8	2.2	0.9
UK	3.6	2.1	1.3	2.5	2.5	1.4	8.6	-1.9	3.4	3.7	-3.2	0.0	0.5	-3.8	-0.3	2.0	1.7	1.9	1.5	1.4	3.1
HR*	2.7	4.9	1.7	2.9	6.4	6.4	6.4	3.9	2.0	1.2	5.0	6.5	6.5	6.5	0.9	2.6	0.5	1.3	4.7	4.7	4.7

Labour cost data are subject to revision, in particular for the latest quarters, when new source data become available.

: Data not available

\* Not working day adjusted

c Confidential

TOT = total labour costs

WAG = wage and salary costs

OTH = non-wage costs