

Wages Rate Data

Average Daily Wage Rates for Agricultural and Non-agricultural Occupations - In pursuance of the recommendations of the Technical Working Group on rural retail prices set up by the NSSO in 1974, Labour Bureau has been compiling and maintaining average daily wage rate data in respect of agricultural and non-agricultural occupations based on the data collected by the Field Operation Division of National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) from a fixed set of 600 sample villages spread over 66 NSS regions in 20 states. Though these wage rate data have been collected since 1986-87, their regular compilation and dissemination started w.e.f December, 1998.

The average daily wage rate data was collected for eleven agricultural and seven non-agricultural occupations till December, 2013. However, following the recommendations of the Working Group constituted by the CSO on advice of the National Statistical Commission (NSC), wage rate data is now being collected for 25 occupations (12 agricultural and 13 non-agricultural).

The daily wage rate data received from the field are first normalized for eight working hours a day. The simple arithmetic average of these normalized daily wage rates is worked out for each of the 20 states. The average wage rates at all-India level are derived by dividing the sum total of wages of all the 20 states by the number of quotations. These averages are restricted only to those occupations where the number of quotations is five or more in order to avoid the apparent inconsistency in wages paid to different categories of workers on account of differences in number of quotations. The month-wise average daily wage rates are thus worked out at State level and also at all-India level are released regularly to the users through various sources.

During the month of April, 2020 due to the imposition of lockdown for containing Covid-19 epidemic, the regular collection of wage rate data was impacted mainly due to the suspension of field visit by the National Statistical Office with effect from 19th March 2020. Following the containment measures taken during lockdown, all the economic activities were prohibited which also impacted the flow of data. Though the efforts were made to collect wage rate data by using electronic means of communication, the data reported were either not adequate or consistent to ensure its robustness. Hence it was decided not to compile/release wage rate data for the month of April, 2020.