

Quality Report

Provisional index of agreed earnings

Status: March 09

For subject-related information on this publication please contact the Federal Statistical Office:

Division V D tel: +49 (0) 611 / 75 2407, fax: +49 (0) 611 / 75 4000 or e-mail:  
[verdienste@destatis.de](mailto:verdienste@destatis.de)

© Statistisches Bundesamt, Wiesbaden 2009

Reproduction and free distribution, also of parts, for non-commercial purposes are permitted provided that the source is mentioned. Any distribution, also of parts, via electronic systems/data media requires prior permission. All other rights reserved.

## Abstract

### General information on the statistics

• Provisional index of agreed earnings • Law on Statistics for Federal Purposes (BStatG) as amended • Earnings statistics law as amended • *Survey units*: About 600 collective and enterprise agreements. The agreements cover at least 75% of the persons employed under such agreements in any economic branch to be covered. The relevant agreements and the number of employees to whom those agreements apply are taken from the structure of earnings survey. • *Reference period*: months • *Periodicity*: monthly

### Purpose and goals of the statistics

• *Contents*: The index provides first information on the trend of agreed hourly and monthly earnings of employees. • *Purpose of the statistics*: Leading indicator of the trend of agreed earnings • *Major users*: Federal ministries, economic associations, trade unions, enterprises, politics, scientific community and private users

### Methodology

• *Type of data collection*: Secondary survey • *Reporting channel*: The collective agreements are sent by the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs to the Federal Statistical Office and are evaluated there. In exceptional cases, the agreements are requested from the relevant trade unions.

### Accuracy

• The collective agreements cover at least 75% of the persons employed under such agreements in any economic branch to be covered, both for the old and the new Länder.

### Timeliness and punctuality

• *Publication of first results*: The results are published monthly with a time lag of three months.

### Comparability over time and space

• *Comparability over time and space*: Comparable time series have been available for Germany, the former territory of the Federal Republic and the new Länder since January 2009.

### Connection with other surveys

• *Official statistics*: The provisional index of agreed earnings is an intermediate calculation of the quarterly index of agreed earnings. Therefore, the data in the publication months of the quarterly index are identical.

### Other information sources

• *Detailed results* <http://www.destatis.de/genesis> (free of charge)

Quality characteristics of the statistics:  
Index of agreed earnings

Table of contents

1	General information on the statistics.....	3
2	Purpose and goals of the statistics.....	3
3	Methodology.....	4
4	Accuracy.....	4
5	Timeliness and punctuality.....	4
6	Comparability over time and space.....	4
7	Connection with other surveys.....	5
8	Other information sources.....	5

**1 General information on the statistics**

- 1.1 **Name of the statistics:** provisional index of agreed earnings (EVAS no. 62231)
- 1.2 **Reference period:** reference months
- 1.3 **Dates of publication:** The results are published monthly with a time lag of three months (reference month January is published in April; reference month February in May, etc.).
- 1.4 **Periodicity:** monthly
- 1.5 **Regional coverage:** Germany, former territory of the Federal Republic, new Länder
- 1.6 **Survey population:** Results are available for 28 selected economic sectors of industry and services.
- 1.7 **Classifications:** The collective agreements are coded according to the national Classification of Economic Activities, edition 2008 (WZ 2008). Allocation is based on two-digit items.
- 1.8 **Legal bases:**
  - Law on Statistics for Federal Purposes (BStatG) as amended
  - Work commissioned by the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
- 1.9 **Confidentiality and data protection:** The information from collective agreements included in the index of agreed earnings is used only for the purpose of index calculation. Individual data on agreed earnings are not published.

**2 Purpose and goals of the statistics**

**2.1 Contents:**

The provisional index of agreed earnings is an intermediate calculation of the index of agreed earnings (EVAS no. 62221). The results are always provisional and are not revised.

What is included in the calculation is about 600 selected collective agreements of the former territory of the Federal Republic and of the new Länder. The collective agreements cover at least 75% of the persons employed under such agreements in any economic branch to be covered, both for the old and the new Länder. What is covered is data on the agreed earnings of employees and data on when the collective agreements were concluded and terminated and on the amount of employment benefits to encourage capital formation. Not included are individual bonuses and premiums, one-off payments, flat rate payments and remuneration in excess of agreed earnings.

The remuneration, wage or salary changes in the various collective agreements are included in

the index of agreed earnings according to the share that the employees in a specific economic branch have in the total number of employees in all economic branches covered (weighting pattern). The number of employees by economic branches is obtained from the structure of earnings survey (SES; currently SES 2006), which is conducted at intervals of four years among about 34,000 local units for some 3 million employees. The central, regional and local authorities are not covered by the SES, but they are derived from the annual statistics on public service personnel.

The provisional index of agreed earnings is computed as a Laspeyres price index with fixed base year, i.e. the index numbers refer to the employee structures of the base year applicable. For the current base year, the weights of the structure of earnings survey 2006 were taken as a basis.

- 2.2 **Purpose of the statistics:** The provisional index of agreed earnings is a leading indicator of the trend of the quarterly index of agreed earnings.
- 2.3 **Major users of the statistics:** Major users include federal ministries, economic associations, trade unions, enterprises, politics, the scientific community and private users.

### 3 Methodology

- 3.1 **Type of data calculation:** Secondary statistics: The collective agreements are collected by the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and transmitted to the Federal Statistical Office and are evaluated there. In exceptional cases, the collective agreements are requested from the relevant trade unions.
- 3.2 **Burden on the respondents:** As this is a secondary statistics, no additional burden is placed on the respondents.

### 4 Accuracy:

The collective agreements used to calculate the provisional index of agreed earnings cover at least 75% of the employees in any economic branch to be represented. For the remaining collective agreements that are not included, it is assumed that their development is similar to that of the agreements included. Changing over to a new weighting pattern will have some effect only if the structure of employees in the economic branches covered has changed considerably.

### 5 Timeliness and punctuality:

*Publication of first results:* The results are released early, with a time lag of three months (reference month January is published in April; reference month February published in May, etc.).

### 6 Comparability over time and space:

*Comparability over time and space:* Comparable time series for Germany as a whole, the former territory of the Federal Republic, and the new Länder have been available since January 2009. The relevant collective agreements and the number of employees who are paid according to the relevant collective agreements are taken from the structure of earnings survey (up to reference year 2008: from the survey of salary and wage structure). Therefore, exact allocation in terms of space is possible.

## **7 Connection with other surveys:**

The provisional index of agreed earnings is an intermediate result of the quarterly index of agreed earnings. Consequently, the values for the reference months for which the quarterly index is published (January, April, July and October) are identical.

## **8 Other information sources**

Results of the provisional index of agreed earnings are published only in Genesis (<http://www.destatis.de/genesis>).

For questions or comments on the statistics of agreed earnings please contact the

Federal Statistical Office  
Division VD – Earnings, Labour Costs  
D-65180 Wiesbaden  
Contact: Mr. Markus Biermanski  
tel: +49 (0) 611 / 75 - 2407  
fax: +49 (0) 611 / 75 - 4000  
e-mail: [verdienste@destatis.de](mailto:verdienste@destatis.de)