7 March 2022

Average wage decreased by 2.0% in real terms

Average wages – Q4 2021

**In the Q4 2021, the average gross monthly nominal wage per full-time equivalent (FTE) employee in the national economy increased by 4.0% compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. In real terms, it decreased by 2.0%. The median wage was CZK 34 360.**

*“In the Q4 2021, the average gross monthly nominal wage per full-time equivalent (FTE) employee was CZK 40 135, which is by 4% more compared to the corresponding period of 2020. However, consumer prices increased by 6.1% in that period. Therefore, the wage decreased by 2% in real terms. In the whole year 2021, the inflation reached 3.8% and the nominal wage growth was 6.1%. In real terms, the wage thus increased by 2.2%,”* Jitka Erhartová, Head of the Labour Statistics Unit, comments.

**In the Q4 2021**, the average gross monthly nominal wage[[1]](#footnote-1)\*) (hereinafter only referred to as ‘the average wage’) per FTE employee in the national economy in total was CZK 40 135, which is by CZK 1 551 (4.0%) more than in the corresponding period of 2020. In the aforementioned period, consumer prices increased by 6.1% and the wage thus decreased by 2.0% in real terms. The volume of wages increased by 4.8%; the number of employees increased by 0.8%.

**Compared to the previous quarter**, the seasonally adjusted average wage increased by 0.9% in the Q4 2021.

According to the breakdown of economic activities (industries) by CZ-NACE section, the highest increase of the average wage **compared to the corresponding period of 2020** was in the following economic activities (CZ-NACE sections): ‘real estate activities’ (14.2%) and ‘accommodation and food service activities’ (9.7%). A year-on-year decrease of wages in ‘human health and social work activities’ by 8.1% is caused by a high comparison basis of last year when bonuses for the first covid wave were paid. A very small growth by 1.4% occurred in ‘public administration and defence; compulsory social security’.

The median wage (CZK 34 360) increased by 4.9% compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. The male median wage reached CZK 36 792 and the female one was CZK 31 720. Eighty per cent of employees earned wages within the interval from CZK 17 221 to CZK 65 753.

**In 2021**, the average wage reached CZK 37 839; in the year-on-year comparison, the increment was CZK 2 177 (6.1%). Consumer prices increased for the aforementioned period by 3.8%; the wage increased by 2.2% in real terms.

*Notes:*

The data are preliminary. Refined data will be available in June 2022.

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 [/current-product/41269](https://www.czso.cz/current-product/41269)

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Annexes:

Table 1 Employees, average gross monthly wages by economic activity in Q4 2021 (absolute numbers, changes year-on-year)

Table 2 Employees, average gross monthly wages by economic activity in Q1 through Q4 2021 (absolute numbers, changes year-on-year)

Table 3 Employees, average gross monthly wages by territory of CZ-NUTS in Q4 2021 (absolute numbers, changes year-on-year)

Table 4 Employees, average gross monthly wages by territory of CZ-NUTS in Q1 through Q4 2021 (absolute numbers, changes year-on-year)

Table 5 Median wages of average gross monthly wages by sex

Chart 1 Average gross monthly wages, quarterly data (absolute numbers, changes year-on-year)

1. *\*)* *The average gross monthly wage is a share of wage funds (including extra pay for overtime work, bonuses, compensation of wages, etc.) per one employee per month. Therefore, it does not indicate what wage one specific employee has. The earnings structure statistics, in which data on earnings of individual employees are available, show that about two thirds of employees have a wage below the national average.*

*The median wage represents a value of an employee wage in the middle of the wage distribution. It means that one half of the wages is lower and the second half of the wages is higher than the median wage. Unlike the average wage, which is calculated based on background data from enterprise reports, the median must be derived from a statistical-mathematical model based on a sample survey, because enterprise questionnaires (reports) only contain aggregated data for a whole enterprise or an organisation.*

*It has to be kept in mind that from the gross wages the employers pay appropriate amounts for premiums for health insurance and social security and income tax advances of natural persons for their employees. The employees are paid net wages.*  [↑](#footnote-ref-1)