

collective bargaining

Issue 12/2019 | December

This newsletter presents up-to-date information on collective bargaining developments across Europe since February 2008. It aims to facilitate information exchange between trade unions and to support the work of the ETUC's collective bargaining committee.

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The rise of the working poor

December 19, 2019

Despite rising employment in many western economies, poverty is not declining. A key finding of the 2019 report *Social Justice in the EU and OECD*, recently published by the Bertelsmann Stiftung, is that being in work is no longer a guarantee of comfortable living standards. Social safety nets, eroded by the crisis, have not kept pace with changing employment structures.

Read on: [in English ...](#) The report: [in English ...](#)

A more equal Europe

December 10, 2019

The European Pillar of Social Rights is designed to act as a compass for a renewed process of upward convergence among member states towards better working and living conditions. It is accompanied by a Social Scoreboard to monitor the progress made by member states. This policy brief of Eurofound presents the results of an investigation into the upward convergence patterns of the headline indicators of the Social Scoreboard and the relationship between convergence and the business cycle from 2008 to 2018.

Read on: [in English ...](#) The report: [in English ...](#)

Improving health and safety at work

December 10, 2019

The Council of the European Union adopted conclusions inviting the Commission to present a new EU strategic framework on occupational safety and health (OSH) at work for 2021-2027 and offering the Council's input into that strategic framework. The conclusions recognise that some positive results have been achieved, as many member states have adopted national action plans based on the existing framework. The Commission, the member states and social partners are invited to intensify their efforts in the area of the changing world of work, including on psychological risks, work-related accidents and diseases and the inclusion of disabled and older workers.

Read on: [in English ...](#) The conclusions: [in English](#)

Austria

Strike called off, collective agreement at Telekom Austria

December 18, 2019

After eight rounds of negotiations there is a new collective agreement at Telekom Austria. The result: 2.2% wage increase with a maximum of €110 for 11,000 employees. The wage increase affects not only the employees, as Telekom Austria offered, but also contract workers and civil servants. Another improvement reached is an increase in apprentices' compensation.

Read on: [in German ...](#)

Negotiations in private health and social sector with one requirement: 35-hour week

December 6, 2019

The GPA-djp trade union started negotiations for 125,000 employees in the private health and social sector with only one demand, the 35-hour week without wage loss. The introduction of such a working week would benefit all employees but also make the profession more attractive which is important in the struggle against labour shortage in the sector.

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Belgium

Trade union calls for nationwide demonstration

December 20, 2019

The socialist trade union FGTV/ABVV has issued a call to take part in a nationwide demonstration on 28 January, 2020. The union fears that the social security budget will see a shortfall of €6.4 billion by 2024. The result will probably be a cut in pensions, health care and social benefits. Hence the necessity to protest and call for a policy change, the union declared. FGTV/ABVV also presented a ten-point plan to strengthen the social security safety net. The ten points will be the core of the announced demonstration

Read on: [in English ...](#)

Minimum pension petition gets 100,000 signatures

December 15, 2019

The radical Workers' Party (PvdA/PTB) started a petition for a minimum pension of €1,500 a month. The petition gathered 100,000 signatures in just three months. The goal of the petition is to launch a citizens' initiative law, which has to be voted on in parliament, and which requires 25,000 signatures to a petition. That threshold has already been reached and more. The party intends to go on to gather 250,000 signatures.

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Trade union fights for minimum wage

December 14, 2019

Currently, minimum wage is € 9.65 per hour or €1,340 euros net per month. According to the socialist trade union FGTV/ABVV this is not enough to meet every day's expenses. Therefore, the trade union started a campaign, the "Fight for €14", aiming at an increase of minimum wage to €14 per hour (€2.300 per month).

This plan was debated in federal parliament. While waiting for the decision on the proposed bills, the union asks for at least a 3.5% increase of the minimum wage.

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Bulgaria

Hourly labour costs increase

December 20, 2019

In the third quarter of 2019, total hourly labour costs paid by employers in Bulgaria increased by 10% compared with the third quarter of 2018, according to early estimates published by the National Statistical Institute. A breakdown by economic activity shows that the highest rise in total hourly labour costs in the third quarter of 2019 compared with the third quarter of 2018 was recorded in the real estate sector (15%) and education (12.8%). In industry, total hourly labour costs grew by 8.3%, in services by 10.5%, and in construction by 10.1%.

Read on: [in English ...](#)

Lack of skilled labour

December 16, 2019

Nearly 70% of surveyed entrepreneurs consider the lack of skilled labour as the biggest obstacle in their work, said the chairman of the Bulgarian Industrial Association (BIA). He presented the annual survey among BIA members on the business climate over the past year and expectations for 2020. The survey was conducted among 792 company managers.

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Croatia

Government and Public Servants Unions agree on pay rise

December 6, 2019

The government signed an annex to the Basic Collective Agreement for public servants and a wage supplement agreement for education sector employees. The annex to the Basic Collective Agreement for public servants was signed by the Labour and Pension System Minister and representatives of nine trade unions. The wage supplement agreement for education sector employees was signed by the Science and Education Minister and education union representatives. As a consequence of the agreement, during this government's term salaries in state administration and public services will have gone up 18.3% by October 2020.

Read on: [in English ...](#)

Teachers still on strike

December 1, 2019

Croatian teachers are still on strike. Their demands have so far either gone unheard or have been met with unsatisfactory 'solutions' from the side of the Croatian Government. The views of the Croatian teachers and their unions and the Croatian Government and their offer on the table have not shifted at all. The unions insist on a 6.11% increase in the coefficient.

Read on: [in English ...](#)

Cyprus

Pay deals signed in banking sector

December 22, 2019

Social partners have welcomed the renewal of collective agreements between two of Cyprus largest banks and staff unions. Working relations in the banking sector may be in for a bumpy ride as Hellenic Bank appears adamant on changing the way their employers are awarded for their achievements. Deals between bank employees' main union ETYK with Bank of Cyprus and Astrobank have been perceived as positive following recent strikes at Hellenic Bank over the renewal of collective agreements.

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Hourly labour costs increase by 6.1%

December 17, 2019

Hourly labour costs increase year-on-year in Cyprus (6.1%) in Q3 were nearly three times the eurozone average (2.6%) and double that of the EU28 (3.1%). In the second quarter of 2019, hourly labour costs increased by 2.8% (euro area), 3.2% (EU28) and 6.1% (Cyprus), according to data published by Eurostat. In Cyprus, the costs of hourly wages and salaries rose by 4.0% and the non-wage component rose by 16.7% in Q3 2019. In Q2 2019, annual changes were +4.1% and +17.1%, respectively.

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Czechia

Less part-time working mothers than EU average

December 9, 2019

Approximately 10% of females work part-time, which is much less than in other EU-countries (24.5% on average). To promote more jobs the Minister of Labour will promote jobs which can be split between employees. A tax subsidiary may also help the mothers find employment.

Read on: [in English ...](#)

More companies than ever pay “13th salary” bonus

December 9, 2019

The Czech Chamber of Commerce (HKČR) published a survey that made it clear that 59% of companies intend to pay their workers a 13th salary bonus this year. Two years ago less than one in three big companies and one in five small ones paid such a 'bonus'.

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Denmark

European minimum wage threat to the Danish model

December 10, 2019

A minimum wage in the EU, which can threaten the Danish model, is on the way. Powerful forces in the EU work for a minimum wage, and for the European Commission it is a top priority. A model which the European Commission is considering is to develop the plan through a framework directive. According to the Minister for Employment, it could be a direct threat to the Danish labour market model, where employers and trade unions make agreements.

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Estonia

Data on risk of poverty

December 18, 2019

According to Statistics Estonia, 21.7% of the Estonian population (284,000 residents) lived at risk of poverty and 2.4% lived in absolute poverty in 2018. Compared to 2017, the share of people at risk of poverty decreased by 0.2 percentage points and the share of those living in absolute poverty by 0.3 percentage points. In 2018, a person was considered to be at risk of poverty, if his or her equivalised monthly disposable income was less than €569, and in absolute poverty, if it was less than €215.

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Finland

Union struggle prevents pay cuts

December 18, 2019

The long struggle concerning terms of employment in the City of Turku owned food and janitorial services company Arkea was finally resolved. The company decided to return to their earlier collective agreement after a failed attempt to move 1.000 employees to other agreements with major cuts in salaries and holidays.

Read on: [in English ...](#)

Pay rise remains unresolved

December 4, 2019

The Industrial Union has announced a strike that will cover 35,000 employees from the technology, chemical, wood product and special branches sectors. Negotiations for a new collective agreement for the technology industry faltered on the question of pay rises. Other issues in the agreement are more or less agreed upon.

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France

Longest transport stoppage in three decades

December 27, 2019

A transport stoppage that has caused daily travel problems for millions of people in France surpassed the duration of a 1995 strike whose success unions are hoping to repeat. With no end in sight, train and metro transport was severely disrupted in Paris and on regional lines, as railway workers stayed off the job too. Talks between unions and the government failed to find common ground, and a new day of mass protest has been called for January 9 – two days after negotiations are set to resume.

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Unions meet government as pension strikes continue

December 18, 2019

The government and unions are to face-off over controversial pension reforms, 14 days into a crippling transport strike that has damaged businesses, frustrated commuters and cast a shadow over holiday plans. After hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets, both sides stood firm prior to a series of meetings. Union leaders have vowed to continue their action into the new year as the government defended its plan to forge the country's 42 pension schemes into a single, points-based system.

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Pensions compared to the rest of Europe

December 11, 2019

Proposals to change the pension system have provoked mass strikes across France, bringing some parts of the country to a virtual standstill. But just how good do the French have it when it comes to pensions? In terms of retirement age French workers do pretty well - the legal age of 62 is one of the lowest in Europe, according to data from economic forum the OECD. Currently, in terms of how much they receive, French workers also do well with the average pension equivalent to 74% of the person's salary at the time they retired - one of the most generous in Europe and well above the OECD average of 58%.

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Germany

Trade union calls for pre-Christmas Amazon strike

December 15, 2019

Trade union Verdi called for workers at a key Amazon (AMZN.O) logistics center in Germany to go on strike over the crucial final shopping days before Christmas, demanding better pay and conditions for workers there. Since 2013 workers at Amazon have repeatedly gone on strike for better pay and working conditions. This year 2,000 workers were called by the union to strike at six logistics centres during one of the most important shopping days of the year, Black Friday, just before Christmas. Amazon refuses to recognize the conditions under which other retail employees work and that are agreed upon in collective agreements.

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Collective bargaining agreement achieved for temporary agency workers

December 12, 2019

In the fourth round of negotiations, the DGB unions reached a collective agreement for around 750,000 temporary agency workers. The DGB board member and negotiator said the negotiations were tough, but significant improvements for employees in the temporary work agency sector were implemented. In addition to the wage increase, there will be more vacation days and higher holiday and Christmas pay for all employees. This is another important step towards harmonizing working conditions for employees in this industry.

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Salary increase for insurance sector employees

December 4, 2019

On 30 November and following tough negotiations, a collective agreement has been signed in Germany's insurance sector covering the 170,000 employees in the sector's various services segments. The agreement secures the sector's employees a two-staged 4.8% salary increase, as well as a one-off bonus of €225 for December.

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Thyssenkrupp metal workers protest

December 4, 2019

Thyssenkrupp is in serious problems with 160,000 jobs all over the world at risk. In addition, Thyssenkrupp Elevator, the source of huge profits, will be sold or taken to the stock market. 2,500 workers of Thyssenkrupp Elevator protested in Essen demanding job guarantees. They succeeded in concluding a no-redundancy agreement for the steel business.

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Greece

Demonstrations against 'anti-workers' state budget

December 19, 2019

PAME Trade Union Front held militant demonstrations in Athens and many big cities of Greece against the Parliament vote of "the new 'anti-workers' state budget for 2020". In the demonstrations the need to prepare for a new general strike and to strengthen solidarity with refugees and migrants was also stressed.

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Bank employees on 24-hour strike

December 10, 2019

The Federation of unions of Greek banks employees launched a 24-hour strike across the country. The mobilization is the response of the Federation OTOE to the recent lay-off at the Piraeus Bank. On the same day, OTOE launched a protest outside the Labour Ministry in Athens. Strikers call on Piraeus Bank to immediately withdraw the lay-offs and to comply with the agreement they have proposed.

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Hungary

Raise of minimum wage by 8%

December 30, 2019

The minimum wages for both skilled and unskilled workers will rise by 8% in 2020 in line with an agreement reached a year earlier between unions, employers and the government, the Finance Minister announced. The gross monthly minimum wage for skilled labourers will be set at 210,600 forints (€636) and the wage for unskilled labourers at 161,000 forints (€486).

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Medical labour shortage

December 17, 2019

Due to the disproportionately low allowances, six surgeons out of the total of seven submitted their resignation in a South-Pest hospital. According to the Director General, the situation does not affect the institution's high level of health care services. He revealed that negotiations are still going on – the doctors have not yet accepted the increased allowances and the improvement of working conditions.

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Iceland

Journalists strike for fourth time

December 4, 2019

The Union of Icelandic Journalists (BÍ) strike for the fourth time. The strike included print journalists at Morgunblaðið and Fréttablaðið, as well as photographers and videographers. The Union members voted down a proposed agreement with the Confederation of Icelandic Enterprise (SA). The Confederation met with the Union of Icelandic journalists but they adjourned without a contract. The two parties have not scheduled another meeting.

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Ireland

Public sector workers get above-inflation pay rise in 2020

December 29, 2019

The Government has adopted a series of 'one-size-fits-all' deals with public service unions covering pay, conditions and reforms across the entire public sector over the past decade. That may change as nurses secured additional pay on top of the current public service pay agreement following strike action and reforms being undertaken.

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Industrial action called off at Virgin Media

December 20, 2019

Unions and management at Virgin Media Ireland have agreed to appoint an independent mediator in an attempt to resolve a dispute arising out of recent redundancies. Unite and Siptu have called off industrial action that was to go ahead in January over disagreements about the terms of a redundancy deal and union recognition.

Read on: [in English ...](#)

Union calls for pay rises of up to 4.5%

December 3, 2019

The Congress of trade unions has advised unions in the private sector to seek baseline pay increases of between 3.5 and 4.5 per cent in 2020, on the basis that Ireland remains a low-pay economy. In response, the chief executive of employers' group Ibec, said the increases being sought by Congress 'look too high'.

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Italy

Worries about jobs

December 30, 2019

A new study reveals that Italians are more pessimistic than ever about life's issues, especially when it comes to their jobs and the economy. According to a survey by global research group Ipsos, they're pessimistic about quite a lot in fact. They're most worried about work and the economy, as 77% of those surveyed said that was their main concern for 2020.

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Hundreds of flights cancelled in Italian airline strike

December 13, 2019

More than 300 flights to and from Italy were cancelled due to a planned one-day strike by workers from Alitalia and Air Italy. The 24-hour strike, which involved pilots, flight attendants and ground personnel, was called by three unions to draw attention to what they called 'the ongoing crisis at Alitalia and Air Italy'. Money-losing Alitalia has been under special administration since 2017 when employees rejected a restructuring plan that would have laid off 1,700 workers out of an approximately 11,000.

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Latvia

Wage growth

December 31, 2019

In the third quarter of 2019, the average monthly gross wage of employees in Latvia increased by 8.3% year-on-year. The pace of remuneration growth remains high and, in the long run, could affect the competitiveness of Latvia's goods and services, an economist from the Bank of Latvia warned. The data released show that the average monthly gross wage of employees reached €1,091 in the third quarter.

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Liechtenstein

Results of wage negotiations for 2020

December 12, 2019

Wage negotiations by the LANV trade union in 2019 have been successful. LANV demanded up to 2% and the results were somewhere between 0.5 and 1.8%. Apart from wage rises, other improvements were realised such as a 4% surcharge on public holidays. A better agreement for paternity leave was not yet reached.

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Lithuania

Government implements collective agreement after 2-hour strike

December 3, 2019

A 2-hour warning strike by teachers and other education personnel in Lithuania has brought a swift resolution to their dispute. The government has now promised to implement the €117 mln budget increase for education which they agreed upon in 2017.

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Luxembourg

2.5% pay rise expected in 2020

December 24, 2019

The country's statistics office expects wages and pensions to rise by 2.5% in 2020 because of the existing indexation that compensates workers for consumer price inflation. The increase is set for the first month of next year as the annual inflation rate for December was 1.7%, the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies revealed.

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Malta

Foreign workers in construction sector

December 10, 2019

The majority of workers employed on building sites are non-Maltese. Construction is one of the main industries where migrants and refugees – treated as a source of cheap labour and handsome profit by contractors and developers – find employment. Shifting responsibility for the dire situation in the construction sector onto foreign workers could be an easy trick for developers.

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Netherlands

Strike at Etos distribution centre

December 29, 2019

After negotiations for a 5% wage rise failed, trade union FNV called a strike as of December 19, 2019 at the distribution centre of Etos Pharmacy in Beverwijk. According to the trade union, wages are now too low to live a decent life. This strike is the first strike in the century old history of the pharmacy chain which is a daughter firm of Ahold Delhaize.

Read on: [in English ...](#) Read on: [in Dutch ...](#)

Despite collective agreement, strike will continue in primary education

December 12, 2019

After a year of strikes, demonstrations and negotiations, a collective agreement was reached between trade unions and employers in primary education. They agreed on a 4.5% wage increase for all teaching staff and other benefits. However, because the demanded extra money to relieve the work stress has not been attained yet, the planned two-day strike in 2020 will continue, the trade union AOb announced.

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CNV trade union calls for a 30-hour working week

December 12, 2019

CNV, the National Federation of Christian Trade Unions, the country's second largest trade union with over 350,000 members, has opened a debate on the potential for reducing weekly working hours down to 30. The goal of the 30-hour working week is less absenteeism and burn-outs, a better work/private balance, more time for caring tasks and promoting equal opportunities for men and women.

Read on: [in English ...](#) Read on: [in Dutch ...](#)

Norway

Salaries rise in oil industry

December 17, 2019

After two years that saw heavy investments offshore salaries in oil industry rise. For the 225,000 Norwegians who work in oil and gas, this is good news. Wage inflation has pushed the average oil industry salary for academic- and science-based jobs to NOK 1 million a year (€100,000), the engineer-heavy union, Tekna, says in a statement.

Read on: [in English ...](#)

Poland

Pope meets with Polish Solidarity Trade Union

December 4, 2019

Pope Francis met leaders of Poland's Solidarity movement on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of its foundation. The movement was founded by Lech Walesa and others in 1980 at the former Lenin Shipyards in Gdańsk, becoming the first independent labour union in a Soviet bloc country. The Pope recalled that through the 1980's it had been the protagonist of political and social changes in Poland and has also played an inspiring role beyond the country's borders.

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Castorama dismisses union activists

December 3, 2019

Castorama, owning 80 stores, sacked 10 activists after they got unionized by 'Solidarnosc'. The company justified the dismissals on the ground of 'carrying out activities to the detriment of the company' and 'damaging the employer's image.' The trade union responded by taking legal action and picketing and

distributing leaflets right outside the stores. If necessary international trade unions will campaign against both Castorama and the British owner Kingfisher.

Read on: [in English ...](#)

Portugal

Airport strike

December 29, 2019

A three-day strike by workers at Lisbon airport led to the cancellation of several flights. Talks between SINTAC and Vinci Group-owned Portway, which employs workers at Lisbon, Porto, Faro and Funchal airports, broke down in December when the company said it would not unfreeze salaries. Portway said that it was ready to return to the negotiating table.

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Call center workers intensify strike

December 23, 2019

Call center workers in Portugal have intensified their strike, demanding an increase in wages and better working conditions. A strike notice was issued by the National Union of Telecommunications and Audiovisual Workers (SINTTAV), which is affiliated to the General Confederation of Portuguese Workers (Cgtp-in), for a business call center sector strike. The workers also demanded their total integration into the companies to which they provide services – including MEO, Vodafone, EDP, etc.

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Romania

Pension system needs a complete overhaul

December 18, 2019

Romania's state pension system needs a complete overhaul focused on contributions and private funds to become sustainable, the Finance Minister said. Since 2008, it is mandatory for all working Romanians under 35 to contribute to private pension schemes as well as their state pension, but still this is not enough to fill the coffers.

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Parents get days off when schools are closed

December 12, 2019

Romania's Chamber of Deputies adopted, on December 11, a bill that allows one of the parents of a child under 12 years old to get several days off when public authorities decide to temporarily close education units. Typically, schools may close during harsh winter days across whole country or during outstanding events taking place in large Romanian cities.

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Serbia

Collective agreement for higher education

December 10, 2019

After five years of tough negotiations, trade union leaders in Serbia have signed a collective agreement for the higher education sector with the Minister of Education. Employees in higher education will now be covered by the same benefits and protection as other education staff.

Read on: [in English ...](#)

Massive strike organised in Serbian Post

December 10, 2019

The longest and most massive strike ever organised in Serbian Post goes on. Employees stopped delivering letters and parcels to clients, and there are still no signs of a possible agreement. According to the relevant sources around 8,000 out of 15,000 workers are on strike, which was provoked mostly by the management's refusal to increase wages and amend numerous irregularities criticized not only within company's walls.

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Slovakia

Nominal wage 10 times higher than 30 years ago

December 23, 2019

Analysis shows that the nominal wage is 10 times higher than 30 years ago under communism. Not only wages but also most prices rose significantly since 1989. The improvement in the standard of living can be measured by comparing the money spent on Christmas shopping. In 1989 this was four times an average wage, in 2019 only slightly over half the average wage. However, many people also become indebted around Christmas which poses a real problem across society.

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Samsung will lay off up to 900 workers in 2020

December 16, 2019

After already having laid off 2,000 employees since 2018, new reorganization plans add an extra 900 people redundant. In 2018, Samsung closed down another plant, in Voderady, and moved a part of the production to Hungary. The trade union will try to negotiate good terms for the people involved.

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Slovenia

Current economic trends labour market, wages

December 24, 2019

The Institute for Macroeconomic Analysis and Development published a report about economic trends in Slovenia including wages. According to this analysis, wage growth is higher in 2019 due to wage rises in the government sector. In the first ten months, year on year wage growth was 4,3% compared to 3,4% in the same period of the last year.

Read on: [in English ...](#) The report: [in English ...](#)

Spain

Rail strike

December 12, 2019

Renfe workers have called a strike for December 20 on the day that tens of thousands of travelers head home for the holidays. The strike is just the latest in a year of strike action by Renfe workers supported by the CGT union in protest against new working contracts and understaffing.

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Dads entitled to ‘dependent child bonus’ in disability pension, not just mums

December 12, 2019

Men with children will now be entitled to receive an ‘upgrade’ in permanent disability pensions as well as women following a European Court of Justice ruling. Spain's authorities said the 5% ‘bonus’ applying only to mums was part of its drive to reduce the ongoing gender pay gap which practically all countries, even in the western world, suffer from. They pointed out that women's careers tended to be shorter and more fragmented, due to maternity leave and then typically becoming the primary carers of children in heterosexual couples.

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Sweden

Age discrimination begins at 40 for job-seekers

December 9, 2019

According to a new study also job applicants in their early 40s start feeling the effects of age discrimination in the Swedish labour market. It is a challenge, both for society and for the individual, according to economist Magnus Carlsson, co-author of a new report for the government-appointed Delegation for Senior Labour. The results are based on more than 6,000 fake job applications to around 2,000 companies, applying for work in seven areas.

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Switzerland

Job cuts impend at Philip Morris

December 24, 2019

Philip Morris' strategy to increase activities leading to more smokeless tobacco products will probably materialize in cutting 350 jobs in Neuchâtel and Lausanne. This prospect was published by a regional office of the Unia trade union after reading an internal email of Philip Morris. The job cuts will mainly affect the research and development unit.

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Pension for women in the second pillar often less than half the average

December 16, 2019

The Schweizerischer Gewerkschaftsbund (SGB, Swiss Trade Union Confederation) examined the average pensions in sectors with a high proportion of women and part-time employees. In many of these sectors, second pillar pensions are extremely low. There is an urgent need for improvement in the pension situation for women in part-time jobs.

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Turkey

Minimum wage increases 15%

December 26, 2019

Turkey will raise the minimum wage by 15% in 2020, for a monthly net minimum wage of TL 2,325 (€350), the country's Labour, Social Services and Family Minister announced. The announcement was made after the fourth meeting of the Minimum Wage Commission in Ankara that was broadcast live on television and said the raise was 3 percentage points higher than year-end inflation expectation for 2019.

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United Kingdom

UK minimum wage to rise by four times rate of inflation

December 31, 2019

Almost 3 million workers in Britain are to receive a pay rise of more than four times the rate of inflation from April, after the government said it would increase the official minimum wage. In an announcement designed to woo low-paid workers in the immediate aftermath of the Prime Minister election victory earlier this month, the government said the 'national living wage' for over-25s would increase from £8.21 (€9.69) an hour to £8.72 (€10.29) from the start of April.

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Nurses' strike

December 18, 2019

In total, more than 20,000 people who work in the health service in Northern Ireland were involved in this action. Nine thousand Royal College of Nursing nurses held a 12-hour strike. The problem of pay and funding for nurses and healthcare staff dates back to about 2010. Until January 2017, it was the responsibility of a health minister in the devolved Stormont executive to decide on pay for healthcare staff in Northern Ireland.

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