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European sources

**Workers' right to disconnect**  
*January 21, 2021*

The European Parliament is calling for an EU law that grants workers the right to digitally disconnect from work without facing negative repercussions. MEPs call on the Commission to propose a law that enables those who work digitally to disconnect outside their working hours. It should also establish minimum requirements for remote working and clarify working conditions, hours and rest periods.

Read on: in English...

**Gender pay gap**  
*January 18, 2021*

Women doing jobs requiring the same levels of skills, education and physical effort as jobs done by men are still being paid less despite over 45 years of EU equal pay legislation. A comparison of wages in the manufacturing sector found that women producing white goods are paid significantly less than men making cars even though both jobs require the same levels of competence. The examples provided by ETUC affiliate industriAll Europe highlight how deep-seated bias about the value of jobs predominantly done by women continues to be the root cause of low pay for millions of workers, including the cleaners and carers on the COVID-19 frontline.

Read on: in English...

**Rise in homeworking**  
*January 13, 2021*

With the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, many in the world’s workforce have shifted to homeworking. The sudden rise in homeworking brings renewed urgency to the need to appreciate the implications of home working for both workers and employers. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has published a report to improve understanding of homeworking as well as to offer policy guidance that can ensure decent work for homeworkers.

Read on: in English... Read on the report: in English...

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**Austria**

**New rules and incentives for teleworking**  
*January 28, 2021*

The government decided that each employee will be able to deduct up to a maximum of €300 per year for teleworking-related purchases of equipment and services, and that each employer’s contribution to cover these costs will also be tax deductible (up to €300). The purchase of office furniture will also be eligible for tax relief, but this will be calculated in proportion to the days actually spent teleworking. These measures will be reviewed in 2023.

Read on: in English...

**Increasing the budget for short-time work**  
*January, 26 2021*

The government is increasing the budget for short-time work from €5 billion to €7 billion. 458,993 people are currently on short-time work. In addition, a total of 534,256 people are registered with the Public Employment Service (AMS) as unemployed or are in training. That means there are 113,000 more people unemployed than last year.
Belgium

Inter-professional collective agreement on telework
January 26, 2021

A new nationwide collective bargaining agreement was concluded setting forth specific rules covering teleworking during the current COVID-19 crisis. It will be in effect until the end of 2021. It applies to all companies which did not, by 1 January 2021, introduce any arrangements covering teleworking, under prevailing regulations on structural or occasional teleworking. It applies in a supplementary way for teleworking not covered by a collective agreement at company or industry level, by individual arrangements or by policies which were introduced ‘in accordance with the rules on social concertation’.

Gross salary increased by 1.8% in 2020
January 28, 2021

The gross salary of workers increased by an average of 1.8% in 2020, indexations and scale increases included, according to calculations published by SD Worx on the basis of salary data of more than 450,000 full-time employees.

Bulgaria

Scheme to support enterprises and employment
January 21, 2021

The European Commission has approved a €79 million scheme to support micro, small, and medium enterprises affected by the coronavirus outbreak. The scheme was approved under the state aid temporary framework. The scheme will be accessible to enterprises active in certain sectors and meeting certain requirements which have had their activities suspended.

Jobless rate rises
January 15, 2021

At the end of 2020 the registered unemployment rate was 6.7%, 0.8 percentage points higher than at the end of 2019, the country’s employment agency announced. The unemployment rate at the end of December 2020 remained unchanged compared to the end of November. A total of 12,253 unemployed people found a job in December, while 32,607 unemployed people registered with labour offices in the country.

Croatia

Labour market stable
January 22, 2021

According to the Employers’ Association, ten months after the beginning of the crisis, it can be concluded that not much has changed yet, despite announcements of a complete change in the functioning of the labour market. According to the Croatian Pension Insurance Institute (HZMO), at the end of December, the total number of insured persons who pay pension contributions was 1,536,300, which is only 0.6% (8,892
persons) less than in December 2019. The average number of insured persons during the year, on the other hand, was 1.2% or 17,940 persons less than the year before.

Read on: in English...

**Higher minimum wage**  
*January 1, 2021*

The government is set to introduce the national compensation for the elderly at 800 kuna (€106), increase the minimum wage to 3400 kuna (€450) net, and reduce income tax rates down to 20% and 30% – down to 10% for enterprises with an income of up to 7.5 million kuna (€992,000) – and abolish quotas for foreign (third country) workers, and regulate the temporary stay of digital nomads.

Read on: in English...

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**Cyprus**

**Trade union calls for sexual harassment work code**  
*January 25, 2021*

The passing of a law obliging employers to adopt a code dealing with sexual harassment at work has been recommended by the Democratic Labour Federation (Deok). Their announcement followed public outcry over a series of sexual harassment and abuse reports.

Read on: in English...

**Union requests support for health professionals**  
*January 22, 2021*

Civil servants' trade union PASYDY requested psychological support for health professionals due to the impact of COVID-19 on their wellbeing. The trade union noted that health professionals are on the frontline facing the virus on a daily basis and are being psychologically affected.

Read on: in English...

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**Czechia**

**Proposal to stop real wage growth in public sector**  
*January 17, 2021*

According to the finance minister, the government should stop the real growth of salaries in the public sector as one of the ways to stabilise the country’s finances in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. The comments come as the state budget is set to repeat or even exceed last year’s record deficit because of an expanded fiscal stimulus. Rapid growth in salaries since 2015, led by increases in the public sector, has boosted consumption and kept inflation above the central bank’s 2% target for the past two years.

Read on: in English...

**Changes for employees and employers in 2021**  
*January 8, 2021*

The year 2021 brings a number of important legislative changes that will have an impact on employees and employers. Several amendments to the Labour Code have already come into force in the course of 2020. A new shared workplace law allows the employer the option of employing two or more employees part-time to fulfil the role of one full-time job. In practice, this constitutes more flexible working conditions for the employees who can schedule their working hours themselves according to their needs.
Denmark

Generous parental leave leads to staff shortages
January 28, 2021

A new paper in the Review of Economic Studies finds that a generous parental leave policy in nursing caused labour shortages, which resulted in a decline in the quality of hospital and nursing home care. Beginning in 1994 a parental leave programme offered any parent the opportunity to take up to a full year off work, paid, for every child under the age of nine. The researchers found that many nurses took advantage of this programme. However, it was not always possible to replace them, despite the government’s efforts to cover the gap.

Read on: in English... Read on the article: in English...

Union empowers migrant construction workers
January 11, 2021

Eastern European construction workers have been plagued by unequal pay and subpar working conditions, but several Danish trade unions initiatives are trying to make them feel welcome. For example, the BJMF union of construction workers has created posters in around seven languages, providing information on how to get in touch with the right people and on other union initiatives directed at migrant construction workers.

Read on: in English...

Estonia

Outgoing ministers receive benefit equalling six months’ pay
January 25, 2021

Outgoing government ministers are to receive a benefit equalling six months’ pay, a total of €33,975, upon leaving office. The benefit will only be paid to ministers who will neither take up a seat in the parliament nor start working for the incoming government.

Read on: in English...

Finland

Household tax credit did not improve employment
January 26, 2021

A study into a household tax credit deduction carried out by the Tax Administration has found that the initiative is not achieving either of its stated objectives and is instead disproportionately benefitting high-income earners. The purpose of the credit is to improve employment in the sectors covered by the deduction – such as childcare and cleaning– and also to hamper the ‘grey economy’, which is defined as the part of the economy that is neither taxed nor monitored by either national or regional government.

Read on: in English...

Gradually increasing presence of women in union executive positions
January 19, 2021

A survey by Yle found that women were much more likely to sit on the executive committees of trade unions than on the board of employers’ federations. In both cases, the number of women is gradually increasing, but the pace of change is slow, according to the results of the survey. For example, women currently make up an
average of about one fifth of the board members of employer federations. However, almost half of the trade unions’ board members were women.

Read on: in English...

France

Teachers strike over pay and working conditions
January 25, 2021

Several teaching unions are staging a one-day strike demanding better working conditions and higher salaries. Six unions have declared that they will join the national protest action: FSU, FO, SNCL, Sud Solidaires, CGT Education and Snalc, which together represent around three quarters of the country’s teachers. They will be demanding better working conditions and higher salaries, and protesting over the government’s education budget for 2021.

Read on: in English...

Union calls strike at Total Refineries
January 21, 2021

The CGT trade union is calling for a 48-hour strike at all of Total’s domestic refineries next month to protest against expected job losses. The union claims as many as 700 jobs could be lost as a result of Total’s decision to close the Grandpuits refinery and turn it into a biorefinery. It also says that Total is looking to lay off around 50 workers at the Donges refinery. The CGT estimates that the number of direct job losses at Grandpuits will be 200 and that indirect job losses will add up to 500.

Read on: in English... Read on: in English (2) ...

Germany

Union resists thousands of planned job cuts
January 29, 2021

The Commerzbank board is having to reckon with strong resistance to its planned job cuts. Trade union Verdi wants to rule out redundancies. In Germany alone, the union fears the loss of 7,000 full-time jobs at the bank. Operational dismissals would have to be excluded according to the union. In some areas, such as IT, the bank could increase staff at the same time, so that the overall reduction could be less. So far, the board has not provided any further information.

Read on: in German...

MAN to cut jobs
January 26, 2021

MAN Truck & Bus will cut about 3,500 jobs as part of a reorganisation of the company. The company said the layoffs were agreed on with the General Works Council and with the IG Metall trade union. The job cuts will include permanent and temporary employees, as well as loaned workers. They will be implemented through partial-retirement arrangements and the offer of voluntary severance packages, or by offering employees the chance to move to other companies in the Volkswagen Group.

Read on: in English... Read on: in German...

Women’s rights to equal pay
January 25, 2021

Almost four years after the adoption of the pay transparency law, the Federal Labour Court (Bundesarbeitsgericht) issued a landmark ruling on 21 January on the equal treatment of men and women.
If a woman earns less than her male colleagues in a comparable role, it is presumed that she is being discriminated against on the basis of her sex. It is then up to the employer to prove the contrary and to provide objective reasons for the pay gap observed.

Telework becomes mandatory until 15 March
January 20, 2021

On 19 January 2021 and in response to fears of the spread of new, more contagious COVID-19 variants, the German Chancellor and the leaders of the Länder agreed to extend and tighten the current lockdown measures until 14 February 2021. Employers will have to allow their employees to work from home, ‘wherever possible.’ Employees who have to travel to their place of work will benefit from new protective measures. However, the president of IG Metall is not in favour of forcing companies to work from home.

Greece

Number of temporary jobs drops
January 15, 2021

The number of temporary jobs in the third quarter fell by 26.7% when compared to the same quarter of the previous year, according to data from the Statistical Authority. When compared to the previous quarter, the number of temporary jobs in Greece increased by 8.4%. Overall, the number of temporary jobs in the third quarter stood at approximately 281,600, compared to 2.41 million permanent jobs during the same quarter of the previous year.

Hungary

Union rejects 4% minimum wage hike
January 23, 2021

Union MASZSZ will reject a 4% minimum wage hike offered by employers and government representatives. Another two unions have said they would sign the agreement when it will be debated. Calculated for the whole year, the offer would constitute a 3.69% increase, but MASZSZ pointed out that surveys show that food prices go up by an average of 9.1% annually. For low-income workers, who spend most of their earnings on food, this would mean their wages wouldn’t even preserve their current value.

Wages up 8.8%
January 6, 2021

Gross wages grew by an annual 8.8% in October, level with the increase in the previous month, the Central Statistical Office (KSH) reported. The average gross monthly wage for full-time employees was 397,400 forints (€1,111), while the average net wage was 262,900 forints (€735).

Iceland

Closing the gender wage gap
In most countries, men and women doing the same work earn different amounts. Despite efforts to close the gender wage gap, it persists, particularly in advanced industrial countries. In 2018, Iceland introduced the first policy in the country to require companies and institutions with more than 25 employees to prove that they pay men and women equally for a job of equal value. The policy is implemented through a job evaluation tool called the Equal Wage Management Standard, or simply ‘the system’. Beginning in 2020, certification became a requirement and companies without certification incurred a daily fine.

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**Ireland**

**Deliveroo riders strike over working conditions**

*January 22, 2021*

Deliveroo riders across Dublin withdrew their services temporarily in protest over their terms and conditions. The company’s hundreds of riders across the capital are deemed to be self-employed individual contractors rather than employees, which means they do not have rights such as annual leave and sick pay. The organisers of the protest said their rates of pay had been “drastically reduced” the month before.

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**Strategy to develop remote work**

*January 19, 2021*

The government published its National Remote Work strategy, the goal of which is to ensure home and remote work becomes the norm after the pandemic ends. This strategy includes adopting legislation to provide employees the right to request remote work along with the introduction of a code of practice.

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**Italy**

**Growth of temporary work**

*November 26, 2021*

The average number of temporary agency workers in November 2020 increased by 3.3% on an annual basis, according to figures from Ebitemp, the bilateral organisation for temporary employment representing employers’ associations and unions. Ebitemp’s figures for the previous month showed a 5.8% decrease in October 2020 for the number of temporary agency workers. Data also showed that the number of hours worked contracted by 6% on an annual basis in October 2020.

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**Credit institution hires more young people**

*January 19, 2021*

Credit institution Intesa Sanpaolo, which is currently integrating its recent takeover target, UBI Banca, announced it will hire 3,500 young people by the first half of 2024, i.e. 1,000 more than stipulated in the union agreement signed in the autumn of 2020. The FABI, First-Cisl, Fisac-Cgil, Uilca and Unisin trade unions called for and secured the principle of one new hire for every two departures.
Latvia

**Increase of city council deputies’ wages**
*January 22, 2021*

The Riga City Council Finance and Administrative Affairs Committee supported increasing wages for the city council chairman, vice-chairmen, heads of committees and deputies instead of freezing their wages as other municipalities and state institutions have done. The legislative draft also provides for setting wages for heads of city council committees that were not previously hired in their posts.

Read on: in English...

Liechtenstein

**Unemployment increases slightly**
*January 8, 2021*

Compared to the previous month, the unemployment rate rose by 0.4 percentage points to 1.8%. According to the surveys of the Liechtenstein Labour Market Service (AMS FL), the number of registered unemployed was 370 at the end of December last year. In a year-on-year comparison, 94 more people were counted.

Read on: in German...

Lithuania

**Unemployment despite job subsidies**
*January 20, 2021*

Although businesses have been receiving state wage subsidies to keep them from laying off workers during a nationwide lockdown, in January the unemployment rate reached a record high. Official figures from the Employment Service indicated that there were some 277,000 people out of a job on 1 January, or 16% of the workforce.

Read on: in English...

Luxembourg

**Study on wage determinants**
*January 28, 2021*

Statec has published a study on the main determinants of wages in Luxembourg. Broadly speaking, the finding is as follows: the effect of a higher education degree on the salary level is on average a 24% increase, 30% for a supervisory position, and 23% on a permanent contract. Wages increase on average by 50% with age – if the entire career is spent with the same employer, they even increase by 80%.

Read on: in French... Read the report: in French...

Malta

**Food couriers**
*January 25, 2021*
A number of recruitment companies supplying migrant workers to food delivery platforms are in breach of employment laws. Recruitment agencies are taking 50% of food courier earnings in illegal employment practices. The government is looking into the extent of these practices to reveal how they have been profiting from unorthodox platform work. Migrant workers doing this job are over-worked, underpaid, lacking ordinary workers' rights, denied overtime, and treated like self-employed contractors.

Read on: in English... Read on: in English (2) ...

**Teachers end strike after concession**  
*January 11, 2021*

Teachers returned to their classrooms and ended a two-day strike after the government agreed to give them priority in the COVID-19 vaccination campaign. Schools have been open since September, but unions called a strike following a spike in coronavirus infections, with a record 245 cases reported. The Union of Teachers said that after talks with the government, it was agreed that teachers would be vaccinated sooner than planned, immediately after medical staff and vulnerable elderly persons.

Read on: in English...

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**Netherlands**

**Temporary work decreases**  
*January 26, 2021*

According to the Federation of Private Employment Agencies (ABU), the total amount of hours worked by temporary workers decreased by 4% in the thirteenth period (30 November to 31 December) of 2020, compared to the same period last year. During this period, turnover increased by 2% compared to the same period last year.

Read on: in English...

**Introduction of pilot web module for assessment of independent workers**  
*January 14, 2021*

The Dutch government introduced a pilot web module that should provide parties more certainty on the question of whether services can be provided without entering into an employment agreement. The pilot aims to enable companies to obtain a declaration that services can be performed outside of an employment relationship, depending on their answers to the questionnaire. This declaration will provide certainty upfront that no withholding obligation for wage tax and social security contributions exists.

Read on: in English... Read on: in Dutch...

**Biggest increase of collectively bargained wages in 12 years**  
*January 7, 2021*

Collectively bargained wages increased by 3% on average in 2020, Statistics Netherlands reported – the biggest increase in 12 years. Employees in industry, construction and catering saw the biggest increases, at over 3.5%. These increases are the result of agreements largely made before the coronavirus pandemic.

Read on: in English ...

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**Norway**

**Union threatens strike action at onshore oil facilities**  
*January 15, 2021*

Trade union Safe threatened strike action at Equinor's Mongstad refinery and other oil and gas facilities if an upcoming round of wage talks fails to result in agreement. A dozen workers at the Mongstad refinery could
go on strike, in a first step towards broader labour action, the union said. In case of a protracted conflict, a strike could spread to other onshore facilities, with as many as 800 oil and gas workers potentially involved.

Read on: in English...

Poland

Minimum salary levels announced for employment-based permits
January 4, 2021

Poland has new minimum salary levels for EU ICT permit holders, non-EU posted workers, and foreign nationals who are employed through local contracts in 2021. The new minimum salary levels for foreign nationals who are working through a local contract will increase to 2,800 PLN (€619) gross per month nationwide on 1 January 2021. The minimum salary levels for non-EU posted workers and EU ICT permit holders will vary based on the municipality.

Read on: in English...

Portugal

Remote work imposed
January 25, 2021

Following a meeting of the government a new lockdown came into force. Authorities opted to impose remote working and to govern this with stricter controls. The remote work regime must be adopted regardless of the employment relationship, whenever the employee’s duties allow. No agreement between the employer and employee is required.

Read on: in English... Read on: in English (2)...  

Number of unemployed increases
January 21, 2021

The number of unemployed registered in job centres increased by 29.6% in December in year-on-year terms and by 1.0% compared to November, according to data released by the Institute for Employment and Professional Training (IEFP). According to the IEFP, at the end of December, 402,254 unemployed were registered with employment services.

Read on: in English...

Romania

Revision of pension and public sector wage laws
January 26, 2021

The hikes in pensions and child allowances adopted in the past will increase budget expenses by some 1.1% of GDP this year. The government will thoroughly review two laws with a major impact on budget expenditures: the pension law and the law aimed at correlating wages in the entire budgetary sector.

Read on: in English...

Unemployment drops
January 11, 2021

The ILO unemployment rate for Romania remains among the lowest in Europe: 5.1% in November for the 15-74 age bracket, down from 5.2% one month before. The rate is slightly higher compared to the 4.0% in
November 2019. The number of working-age people actively seeking jobs increased by 30% year-on-year to 461,689 in November. The rise was steeper (+44%) for the 25-74 age bracket, for which the unemployment rate is lower: 4.1% in November, up from 2.9% one year earlier.

Read on: in English...

Serbia

Average net wage up
January 27, 2021

Figures from the Statistical Office (SORS) showed that the average net monthly wage rose to €518 in November 2020, 8.2% higher in nominal terms and 6.4% in real terms compared to the same month in 2019. In the period from January to November 2020, annual gross wages rose 9.4% in nominal terms and 7.7% in real terms, while net wages grew 9.3% in nominal terms and 7.6% in real terms.

Read on: in English...

Union announces strike
January 12, 2021

The independent union of Magneti Marelli, Kragujevac, has announced a strike as the company allegedly changed its rules of operation during the Christmas holiday without informing the union. The union said that Fiat Plastic, owned by Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA), had already tried to force the trade union representatives to sign a collective agreement which contains, among other things, a waiver of strike action. The company has been a beneficiary of all possible subsidies and state relief, both before and during the epidemic.

Read on: in English...

Slovakia

Job cuts planned at AT&T
January 18, 2021

AT&T plans to cut its workforce in Slovakia as the COVID-19 pandemic hits customer demand, the company said on Monday, with unions saying that 10% of jobs may be affected. AT&T Global Network Services Slovakia employs around 2,800 people in the country.

Read on: in English... Read on: in English (2) ...

Slovenia

Minimum wage raise
January 20, 2021

The Labour Minister announced after a meeting with the social partners that he will set the minimum wage for 2021 at €1,024 gross. This is 120% of the minimum cost of living and the lowest possible rise under minimum wage legislation. Last year, the minimum wage stood at €941 gross. The minister said the government intended to partly help employers cover the raise until the end of June, with the option of a six-month extension.

Read on: in English... Read on: in English (2) ...

Police officers on strike
January 11, 2021

About 5,000 police officers from one of the two police unions went on strike. The union that organised the strike, the PSS, notes in a statement that police officers demand protection of their right to climb two pay grades, promotion in 2021, and the possibility of regulating their specific rights in a collective agreement.

Read on: in English...

Spain

Job market hit by crisis
January 28, 2021

The coronavirus crisis delivered a serious blow to the job market in 2020. By the end of the year, 622,600 jobs had been destroyed and there were 527,900 more people out of work, making a total of 3.71 million unemployed, according to the EPA workforce survey. The jobless rate also reached 16.1%.

Read on: in English...

Short-time working mechanisms extended
January 27, 2021

The decree-law on the ‘reinforcement and consolidation of social measures to defend employment’ was published on 27 January. Resulting from negotiations between the Ministry of Labour and the social partners to renew and adapt the extraordinary measures that have been taking since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the decree-law enacts the ‘fourth social agreement to defend employment’ that was secured between the Ministry of Labour, the CEOE and Cepyme employers’ organisations, and the CCOO and UGT trade unions, as well as extending the temporary employment regulation procedures until 31 May 2021.

Read on: in English... Read on: in Spanish...

Sweden

Agreement for laundry industry workers
January 28, 2021

IF Metall has reached an agreement for the laundry industry. Nearly 80% of those who work in the laundry industry are at a salary level that is below the low-wage level of SEK 26,100 (€2,572). The contract follows in the footsteps of other IF Metall agreements, with a wage increase of 5.4% over the agreement period, from 1 February 2021 until 30 June 2023. The Laundry Agreement also includes an agreement on an extended part-time pension. The parties have also agreed to appoint a joint working group on wage development for laundry industry workers.

Read on: in English/Swedish ...

Mentorship helps foreign job seekers
January 8, 2021

Thousands of migrants have moved to Sweden in recent years, but questions have been raised about their integration into the job market and society. A mentorship scheme with a focus on work could be a way to bridge the gap between locals and newly arrived foreigners. Creating a network is important to finding work opportunities: Stockholm’s municipality is therefore running a mentorship project to help new arrivals connect with locals, with the goal of helping them integrate into the job market.

Read on: in English...

Train staff strike
January 2, 2021

Trains were disrupted across Skåne after the SEKO transport union threatened a wildcat strike over an attempt to remove a ‘troublesome’ union official. The union set up a strike committee after Arriva, the Deutsche Bahn subsidiary which runs the Pågatågen regional trains, offered the union’s health and safety official two years of salary if he took voluntary redundancy.

Read on: in English...

Switzerland

Study on foreign jobseekers
January 21, 2021

Swiss recruiters discriminate against foreign nationals on employment websites, a new large-scale study shows. An analysis by the National Science Foundation showed that, on average, foreigners were 6.5% less likely than Swiss nationals to be contacted by recruiters for an interview.

Read on: in English... Read on: in German...

Unemployment rising steeply
January 8, 2021

At the end of December 2020, there were 163,545 people registered as unemployed, 39.5% more than at the end of 2019. On 31 December 2020, the number of job seekers was 260,318, 34.9% higher than the figure at the end of 2019. The last time the number of job seekers was anyway near this high in Switzerland was at the end of February 1997, when it reached 251,377.

Read on: in English... Read on: in English (2) ...

Turkey

Request for higher minimum wage
January 28, 2021

The Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions (DİSK) made a formal request for the minimum wage to be exempted from taxes and cuts made by the Social Security Institution (SGK). The fourth and final meeting of the Minimum Wage Determination Commission was held on 28 December 2020. The commission determined the net and gross minimum wages for 2021. The gross minimum wage now stands at 3,577.50 Turkish lira (€403) and the net wage stands at 2,825.90 lira (€318).

Read on: in English...

United Kingdom

Incentive payments for hiring a new apprentice
January 28, 2021

The government announced it would provide a bonus of £1,000 (€1,130) to companies for every trainee they hire, up to a maximum of ten trainees per establishment. This offer is in place until 31 July and will also operate retroactively to include trainees hired since September 2020. The government is also hoping that the bonus will help in training young people to equip them with the skills needed for the areas in high demand.

Read on: in English... Read on: in English (2) ...

Jobless rate at its highest since 2016
January 26, 2021

The unemployment rate hit its highest in nearly five years in the three months to November, when coronavirus cases began to rise for a second time and most of the country returned to a partial lockdown. Redundancies touched a record high, taking the unemployment rate to 5.0%, its highest since mid-2016, according to official data, although the increase was slightly weaker than economists’ forecasts.

Read on: in English...

Temporary jobs for workers surge
January 8, 2021

Demand for staff picked up in December for the first time in three months, new research by recruiters suggests. According to the Recruitment and Employment Confederation (REC), the spike was mostly due to temporary vacancies., with firms looking to take on more temporary staff due to uncertainty over the COVID-19 crisis and Brexit.

Read on: in English...

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