

## **General information.**

### **Revisions**

The developments of the current quarter are provisional and may be revised with the publication of the next quarter. In addition, each third quarter, the index values are revised up to the first quarter of the previous year due to the availability of final data from the previous year. Since its beginning in March 2020, the corona virus pandemic has led to developments on the labour market, such as company closures, short-time work, the recommendation for employees to use their overtime and annual leave, quarantine and others. These developments and the state support for short-time work do lead to some extent to significant movements in labour costs per hour worked. The short-time work support (to reduce labour costs) can sometimes only be processed and paid out from the Austrian Public Employment Service (AMS) with a delay. The AMS provides this data on a monthly basis and some of it also includes short-time work support from several months ago, therefore the revision of the previous quarter may be higher than usual in some sections.

### **Method of calculation**

The calculation of the labour cost index is based on administrative data and statistical surveys; therefore, index values are subject to some random fluctuation. In the services sector this is mainly caused by fluctuations in the hours actually worked as collected by the micro census labour force survey.

### **Index excluding bonuses**

Bonuses are defined as payments which are not paid in every remuneration period (e.g. the 13th and 14th salary, exceptional length-of-service awards) and voluntary severance pays (e.g. golden handshakes).

### **Further publication**

The results of the labour cost index in the EU member states and other participating countries (currently Iceland, Norway and Serbia) are published by Eurostat in a publicly available [database](#) ('Labour costs' > 'Labour cost index' > 'Labour cost index by NACE Rev. 2 activity - nominal value, quarterly data (lc\_lci\_r2\_q)').