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Most employees earned between €10 and €15 per hour; strong wage differences by economic sectors

Vienna, 2020-09-15 – The median gross hourly earnings in the private sector (ÖNACE B–N and P–S) amounted to €15.09, according to the Structure of Earnings Survey (SES) 2018 of Statistics Austria. 14.2% of the employees earned less than €10; more than one third (35.2%) earned between €10 and €15 per hour. Around a quarter (25.2%) received wages between €15 and €20. Another 11.5% earned between €20 and €30.

By individual economic sectors (ÖNACE), the highest earnings were found in section (D) electricity (€24.75), (K) financial and insurance activities (€22.29) as well as in (J) information and communication (€21.10). The lowest gross hourly earnings were observed in (I) accommodation and food service activities (€9.67).

Broken down by occupation, managers (€30.72) ranked among the highest paid employees. The earnings of professionals were €21.62 in 2018, followed by technicians and associate professionals with €18.42. Office clerks earned less (€15.06) than craft and related trades workers (€15.65). Service and sales workers (€11.59) and employees in elementary occupations (€10.77) had the lowest earnings.

The results also indicate a positive impact of education on gross hourly earnings. Employees whose highest completed level of education was compulsory schooling earned €11.42 per hour. Employees with an apprenticeship certificate earned €14.70. The median gross hourly earnings of persons employed with secondary higher technical and vocational college degrees amounted to €17.66. Employees with university degree earned €21.60 per hour which is nearly twice as much as persons with compulsory schooling only.

Between 2014 und 2018, real gross hourly earnings (adjusted for inflation) increased by 2.6% or 0.7% per year. In industries and construction (ÖNACE B–F), the increase in wages between 2014 und 2018 was 3.5% (0.9% per year) and therefore stronger than in trade and services (ÖNACE G–N, P–S) with 2.0% (0.5% per year).

For more detailed information please refer to the [German version](#).