

**Labour : Labour statistics. Wage rates: civil engineering industries  
P0282**

November 1996

Embargo: 09:30

Date: 26 February 1997

Read the following [notice](#) with regard to the eleven official languages

© Copyright, 1997

Users may apply or process this data, provided Statistics South Africa is acknowledged as the original source of the data; that it is specified that the application and/or analysis is the result of the user's independent processing of the data; and that neither the basic data nor any reprocessed version or application thereof may be sold or offered for sale in any form whatsoever.

**P Lehohla**

**Statistician-General: Statistics South Africa**

A complete set of Stats SA publications is available in the Stats SA Library,  
and in the following public libraries:

State Library, Pretoria	Library of Parliament, Cape Town
South African Library, Cape Town	Bloemfontein Public Library
Natal Society Library, Pietermaritzburg	Johannesburg Public Library
Central Reference Library, Mmabatho	Central Regional Library, Pietersburg
Central Reference Library, Nelspruit	Central Reference Collection, Kimberley
Eastern Cape Library Services, King William's Town	

**BIG ANNUAL INCREASES IN AVERAGE WAGES PER HOUR FOR  
SOME WORKERS IN THE CIVIL ENGINEERING INDUSTRY**

*Between November 1995 and November 1996 annual increases of more than 20%  
in average wages per hour occurred for artisans in the rural and urban areas of*

*Natal (71% and 20,5% respectively), for construction hands in the urban areas of the Eastern Cape (32,3%) and for plant operators in the urban areas of Natal (27,2%).*

The highest average wage per hour for November 1996 for artisans were reported by the rural areas of Transvaal, Free State and the Northern Cape (R19,72) and for construction hands by in the urban areas of the Eastern Cape (R10,15).

The highest wage rate indices (1990=100) for November 1996 for artisans and other workers were recorded for the urban areas of the Western Cape with indices of 247,5 and 241,8 respectively.

**NOTE:** As stated in the November 1995 and subsequent issues of this release (P0282) the quarterly survey on wage rates in the civil engineering industry is to be terminated following the November 1996 survey (see also note 9 on page 2). This issue of statistical release P0282 will therefore be the last publication in this series.

#### **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

1. Data in respect of average wages in the civil engineering industry are based on a sample survey. The survey covers private contractors in general civil engineering, road building, marine works, tunnelling and special concrete works.

2. The category "other workers" for the wage rate indices is compiled by combining the average wages of motor vehicle drivers, plant operators, construction hands and labourers. The category "all workers" combines the average wages of all five (5) occupational groups.

#### 3. Areas

The areas shown in the tables are as specified by SAFCEC for contract purposes.

4. On request of SAFCEC, the method used to calculate the indices was investigated and it was decided to implement a new method of calculation as from August 1994. The method with which the best results were achieved is an adaption of the Laspeyres chain index. This implies the calculation of the percentage change in comparable units (respondent, occupation, area) in both periods. The geometric

average of these changes is then used in the calculation of the indices. From this follows that the completion of existing contracts or the beginning of new contracts in a specific area will not exert as great an influence on the indices for that area as it did in the past. The method for the calculation of the average wage per hour of the occupational groups according to area, however, remained the same. The information of all the respondents in the survey for that area is used in the calculation of the relevant average wage per hour. The change in the average wages per hour will thus not necessarily be the same as that of the indices.

5. Where the number of respondents for a specific occupation and area is not sufficient, information in respect of wages and indices is shown as "not available". This information is however still used in the calculation of the weighted average wage rate index of the areas.

6. (I) Plant operators

- include operators of power-driven cranes, hoists, piling rigs, shovels, excavators, mixers, graders, loaders, pavers, rollers, scrapers, dozers, dumpers, tractors, crushers and other similar plant machinery.

(ii) Construction hands (semi-skilled workers)

- include shuttering workers, concretors, drilling workers, grouting workers, indunas, steel fixing workers, scaffolding workers and other similar workers.

7. Wages and indices refer to remuneration of production workers for ordinary hours worked and exclude all allowances and bonuses.

8. Symbols used:

\* = Revised

.. = Information not available

9. Important

SAFCEC requested that contractors use the CPI as measure of wage fluctuations and that the use of the wage rate indices be discontinued. The wage rate indices should therefore not be utilised for contract price adjustment purposes in the case of "new" contracts, since the calculation of these indices is to be terminated following the November 1996 indices.

Table 1 - Average wage per hour

-----  
|  
Area

Year and month	Western Cape urban area	Western Cape rural area	Eastern Cape urban area	Eastern Cape rural area	Natal urban area	Natal rural area	Tvl, Free State and Northern Cape urban area	Tvl, Free State and Northern Cape rural area	Former Self-governing territories
	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
<b>1. Artisans</b>									
1995 - Nov.	12,20	..	8,92	8,20 1/	8,92	9,57	14,74	18,51	..
1996 - Feb.	13,40	..	9,52	8,20 1/	9,21	9,95	15,11	17,61	..
Mei/May	14,31	..	9,71	8,20 1/	9,54	11,92	15,58	17,93	..
Aug.	13,92	..	9,56	8,20 1/	9,62	14,98	16,49	18,97	..
Nov.	13,82	..	10,50	8,20 1/	10,75	16,36	15,96	19,72	..
<b>2. Motor vehicle drivers</b>									
1995 - Nov.	8,13	..	6,84	6,18	7,22	6,30	7,15	7,07	..
1996 - Feb.	8,30	..	6,98	6,27	7,10	6,71	7,12	6,90	..
Mei/May	8,70	..	6,93	6,01	7,16	6,61	7,91	7,34	..
Aug.	8,59	..	6,75	5,67	7,89	6,82	8,28	7,72	..
Nov.	8,81	..	6,95	6,08	7,81	6,83	8,19	8,21	..
<b>3. Plant operators</b>									
1995 - Nov.	8,33	..	6,94	6,65	5,22	6,50	7,22	7,26	..
1996 - Feb.	8,56	..	6,93	6,92	6,15	6,49	7,52	7,25	..
Mei/May	8,58	..	6,99	7,09	6,99	6,62	8,00	7,69	..
Aug.	9,16	..	6,79	7,64	7,05	6,64	6,09	6,93	..
Nov.	9,54	..	7,00	7,53	6,64	6,67	6,51	6,83	..
<b>4. Construction hands</b>									
1995 - Nov.	8,05	..	7,67	6,08	6,64	6,19	6,81	5,40	..
1996 - Feb.	7,79	..	7,55	6,33	6,58	6,11	6,78	5,89	..
Mei/May	7,81	..	8,34	7,10	6,52	5,97	7,14	5,85	..
Aug.	8,77	..	10,22	7,10	6,80	6,03	7,14	5,90	..
Nov.	8,93	..	10,15	7,18	7,19	5,75	7,18	6,14	..
<b>5. Labourers</b>									
1995 - Nov.	5,62	..	5,64	3,78	4,88	3,45	4,26	3,71	..
1996 - Feb.	5,62	..	5,80	3,61	4,85	3,67	4,48	3,76	..
Mei/May	5,79	..	5,72	3,48	4,92	3,88	4,61	4,02	..
Aug.	5,80	..	5,95	3,34	4,71	4,02	4,61	3,90	..
Nov.	5,73	..	5,95	4,04	5,20	3,96	5,06	3,96	..

1/ On request of SAFCEC the average wage per hour is repeated

**Table 2 - Wage rate indices**

Base  
1990 = 100

Year and month	Area									
	Western Cape urban area	Western Cape rural area	Eastern Cape urban area	Eastern Cape rural area	Natal urban area	Natal rural area	Tvl, Free State and North-urban area	Tvl, Free State and North-rural area	Former Self-governing territories	Weighted average
<b>1. Artisans</b>										<b>1. Artisans</b>
1995 - Nov.	221,0	..	100,6	147,3	133,3	151,3	163,6	121,9	..	148,5
1996 - Feb.	230,8	..	106,0	148,2	133,8	153,2	167,1	123,3	..	152,0
Mei/May	241,8	..	110,5	112,7	129,3	176,5	191,2	129,6	..	166,8
Aug.	243,0	..	109,9	112,0	128,4	186,0	187,9	143,5	..	168,2
Nov.	247,5	..	117,6	113,7	134,3	193,6	190,6	142,7	..	171,6
<b>2. Other workers</b>										<b>2. Other workers</b>
1995 - Nov.	222,6	..	191,0	167,1	174,0	186,1	173,9	138,7	..	167,0
1996 - Feb.	224,7	..	191,2	170,8	177,5	191,9	177,7	144,5	..	170,6
Mei/May	232,4	..	194,3	161,8	181,8	193,3	197,5	151,4	..	183,4
Aug.	237,6	..	199,3	164,5	183,7	195,6	197,2	165,1	..	186,2
Nov.	241,8	..	199,6	189,0	198,9	197,6	205,8	170,5	..	193,7
<b>3. All workers</b>										<b>3. All workers</b>
1995 - Nov.	222,4	..	175,9	163,8	193,6	151,0	175,0	135,2	..	165,0
1996 - Feb.	225,4	..	177,0	167,0	197,0	155,4	178,8	140,5	..	168,5
Mei/May	233,5	..	180,3	153,6	199,8	158,4	199,4	147,3	..	181,6
Aug.	238,3	..	184,3	155,7	201,3	161,0	198,7	160,8	..	184,2
Nov.	242,5	..	185,9	176,4	216,7	163,0	206,8	165,5	..	191,3

The wage rate indices should not be utilised for contract price adjustment purposes in the case of "new" contracts, since the calculation of these indices is to be terminated by November 1996.