

Average Daily Wage Rates in Rural India: Methodology and coverage (From November 2013)

The Reserve Bank has collated and is releasing monthly time series data on rural wage rates based on the data published by the Labour Bureau, Government of India. Starting from November 2013 Labour Bureau is collecting rural wage data in respect of 12 agricultural and 13 non-agricultural occupations across 20 major states, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The occupations for which daily wage rates are collected every month are: **(a) Agricultural Occupations** - (1) Ploughing/Tilling workers, (2) Sowing (including Planting/Transplanting/Weeding) workers, (3) Harvesting/Winnowing/Threshing workers, (4) Picking workers (including Tea, Cotton, Tobacco and other commercial crops), (5) Horticulture workers (including nursery growers), (6) Fishermen-inland, (7) Fishermen-coastal/deep-sea, (8) Loggers and wood cutters, (9) Animal husbandry workers (including poultry workers, dairy workers and herdsman), (10) Packaging labourers, agriculture, (11) General agricultural labourers (including watering/ irrigation workers, etc.), (12) Plant protection workers (applying pesticides, treating seeds, etc.); **(b) Non-agricultural Occupations** – (13) Carpenter, (14) Blacksmith, (15) Mason, (16) Weavers, (17) Beedi makers, (18) Bamboo, cane basket weavers, (19) Handicraft workers, (20) Plumbers, (21) Electrician, (22) Construction workers (for roads, dams, industrial & project construction work and Well diggers), (23) LMV & Tractor drivers, (24) Non-agricultural labourers (including porters, loaders), and (25) Sweeping/cleaning workers.

The average wage rates at all-India level are derived by dividing the sum total of wages of all the 20 states by the number of quotations. These averages are restricted only to those occupations where the numbers of quotations are five or more. The missing values against various occupations indicate that no wage rate was reported during the reference month for various reasons, such as: (i) either the activity connected with the occupation was not undertaken in the State; or (ii) the activity was out of season in the State; or (iii) the particular category of workers were not engaged in that operation; or (iv) the number of quotations received is less than five.