

Global wage report reveals first impact of pandemic on pay

Europe

The latest global wage report from the International Labour Organisation reveals the main trends in pay and minimum wages, highlighting the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the first half of this year. It notes a downward pressure on the level or growth rate of average wages in two thirds of the countries for which recent data are available. In other countries, including France and Italy, average wages increased, largely artificially as a reflection of the substantial job losses among lower-paid workers. The report also shows that women workers and low-paid workers generally have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic. The ILO underlines the importance of the role of minimum wages in protecting workers and the importance of ensuring wider coverage and better enforcement. It also argues that sector collective bargaining is the best way “to re-evaluate the adequacy of wages in some mostly female-dominated low-paid sectors which have proved to be essential and of high social value during the current crisis.”

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