

Sweden – Manufacturing unions sign best possible agreements.

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IF Metall and other unions within Swedish industry have agreed a two-year deal with the employers which gives a pay rise of 4.1% from 1 April 2023 and a further 3.3% from 1 April 2024. With this agreement, they have good prospects of returning to real wage increases already next year.

The new agreements apply to workers in the mining, pharmaceutical, plastic, chemical and recycling sectors. These agreements serve as a mark for all national agreements in the rest of the Swedish labour market.

IF Metall highlights that the greatest challenge this time is the situation that many members are facing due to high inflation. Therefore, it feels extra good to have reached an agreement of such a high value. The situation for wage earners will continue to be difficult in 2023. After that, things are likely to be looking up for workers and their families.

The agreement includes an extra effort for those with the lowest wages. In the tough economic situation that many are experiencing, consideration for the lowest paid has been a particular concern for the unions. The members with the lowest wages who are having the hardest time right now, must be put first. The agreements contain a special increase in the lowest wages in the agreements by SEK 1,350 (EUR 119.60) from 1 April 2023.

From 1 April 2024, the agreement contains a low-wage initiative where workplaces or industries with employees earning less than SEK 28,211 (EUR 2,499) per month will receive a higher wage pot.

In addition to pay, there are qualitative changes in the new agreements. For example, better dismissal protection for workers who receive pregnancy allowances and improved preferential rights for fixed-term employees. A continued investment in part-time retirement is also included and varies between 0.2 and 0.4% depending on the collective agreement concerned.

Edited by industriAll Europe.