

New collective agreement: More money and justice for workers in textile services

- 300 euros higher wages and salaries and 1300 euros inflation compensation premium
- East-West alignment achieved
- Chief-Negotiator Miriam Bürger: "Noticeable relief for low-paid workers".

Workers in laundries covered by collective agreements will receive more money. This was agreed between IG Metall and the employers in Leipzig on Tuesday June 13 in early morning after 24 hours of negotiations in the fourth collective bargaining round. This was preceded by the first warning strikes in the sector for over 30 years, in which around 4000 workers took part. The textile services sector employs 22,000 people in total in Germany.

The new agreement contains the following elements:

Inflation Compensation Bonus

The tax-free Inflation Compensation Bonus of 1300 Euros is paid out in two steps. The first payment of 1000 Euros will be made by July 2023. The second payment of 300 Euros will be made by January 2024.

Wage increase in two steps

The increase of the wages in the remuneration system is not a percentage increase, but a fixed base amount increase.

- A wage increase of 150 Euros from 1st of March 2024 for all blue and white collar workers and apprentices.
- Moreover, a further wage increase of 150 Euros from 1st of March 2025 for all blue and white collar workers and apprentices.

IG Metall's chief-negotiator for the textile services Miriam Bürger states: "Especially workers in the lower wage groups feel the inflation in their wallets. This collective agreement is a particular relief for them." According to IG Metall, the collective agreement means an increase in pay for low-paid workers of almost 15 per cent in the West and almost 19 per cent in the East.

East-West Convergence

IG Metall considers the agreed gradual alignment of wages and salaries in the East with the level in the West to be historic. From May 2025, employees everywhere will receive the same wages and special payments. Finally, the employers understood that more than three decades after unification the same work with same costs has to be paid with the same money.

Part-time retirement and short-time work

Furthermore, IG Metall and the employers agreed on the continuation of the collective agreement on part-time retirement for older workers and a higher supplementary payment, as well as the indefinite continuation of the collective agreement on short-time work (Kurzarbeit).

Term

The collective bargaining result makes the stressful work in the sector more attractive again and makes the companies more future-proof. The new collective agreement has a duration of two years until May 31 2025.