

Austria - PRO-GE and GPA achieve 7.5% in electrical and electronics industry.

April 2024

On 22 April 2024, the negotiations for approximately 60,000 employees in the electrical and electronics industry (EEI) were resumed. The negotiating team of PRO-GE and GPA unions were able to reach an agreement with the employers in the late evening hours. Collectively agreed wages and salaries rise by 7.5%. Actual wages and salaries will be increased by 6.8%.

Apprentice incomes increase by 7.5%. Allowances and travel expense allowances also increase by 7.5%. The allowance for the second shift will be increased by 78% to one euro per hour. The achieved pay increase will secure purchasing power, as the inflation rate for the negotiations stood at 6.8% on a 12-months' average.

“The sustainable wage and salary increases are a joint success of the workers and their company representatives in the sector. When we put pressure on the employers by convening staff meetings in the companies and conferences to decide on eventual industrial action, they made a move. The pay offer increased thus from zero to 7.5%,” emphasise the two chief negotiators on the unions' side, Reinhold Binder (PRO-GE) and Karl Dürtscher (GPA). They point out that the employers did not come up with any offer until the last bargaining session.

The collective bargaining partners also agreed on a re- and upskilling drive in the sector. In the next few years, some 6,500 unskilled workers who so far didn't have access to vocational training, will be qualified as skilled workers.

The increases will apply from 1 May 2024. The collective agreement for the EEI sector is the first in this year's spring wage bargaining round. The negotiations for the chemical industry will enter their third round on 23 April. The paper industry will have the first bargaining session on 25 April.

The results in detail:

- Increase in collectively agreed minimum wage/salary: + 7.5%
- New minimum wage: 2,406.56 €
- Increase in actually paid out wages/salaries: + 6.8%
- Increase in apprentices' remuneration: + 7.5%
- Increase in allowances: + 7.5%
 - o The allowance for the second shift will be increased to one euro.
 - o Increase in travel expense allowance: + 7.5 %
 - o Option to have actual pay increase turned into extra time off.

Edited by industriAll Europe.