

Germany: IG Metall demands 5% pay rise

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IG Metall has called for a 5% wage increase over 12 months ahead of collective bargaining in the metal and electrical sector, which begins on 7 October and covers around 3.7 million workers. The union also seeks profit-sharing for employees in highly profitable companies and wants discussions on job security, the safeguarding of industrial sites, and future investments.

IG Metall argues that rising living costs are putting pressure on workers and says a pay rise is needed to protect purchasing power. Union leaders stress that employees deserve secure jobs, compensation for higher prices, and a fair share of company profits. They also point out that while parts of the automotive sector are struggling, industries such as aerospace, medical technology, and defence are performing strongly.

Employers have strongly criticised these demands, arguing that German industry faces a structural crisis and needs lower costs to remain competitive. They warn that higher wages could weaken companies further and say negotiations should focus on improving competitiveness and securing production sites. Some employers have also raised the possibility of greater working-time flexibility or even a return to 40-hour weeks.

With such different approaches, the upcoming bargaining round is likely to be very challenging.

Edited by industriAll Europe.