

MGNREGS WAGES

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is a flagship scheme of the Government of India (GoI) which aims to provide at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year (FY) to every rural household that demands work.

All workers under the scheme are entitled to the wage rate notified by the GoI under Section 6(1) of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. While different wage rates may be specified, there is a provision **that wages are never less than ₹60 per day in any state or Union Territory**. These wage rates are based on the Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL). While these notified wage rates specify the minimum amount, states may provide a higher wage rate out of their own funds.

However, average wage rates, calculated as the mean wages paid, usually differ from the notified wage rates. They have remained less than the notified wage rate for the majority of states in the last financial year.

ANALYSIS

- In 15 states and 5 Union Territories, the average wages paid to beneficiaries in FY 2021-22 were less than the notified wage rates for the year.
- In FY 2021-22, Lakshadweep Islands and Telangana offered the lowest average wages, while Haryana and Kerala paid the highest average wages in the country.
- Jharkhand and Kerala were the only states to pay average wages higher than the notified wage rates for the FY 2021-22.
- At ₹66, the gap between notified wage rates and average wages was highest in Telangana in FY 2021-22, followed closely by Tamil Nadu (₹60).
- Between FY 2022-23 and FY 2021-22, the notified wage rates increased by only 4.2 per cent. The increase has been highest in Goa (7.1 per cent), followed closely by Karnataka and Kerala (6.9 per cent), and Lakshadweep Islands (6.8 per cent). Kerala, though, had not increased its notified wage rates between FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22.
- On the other hand, Manipur, Mizoram, and Tripura saw no rise in their notified wage rates between FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23.

NOTIFIED WAGE RATES AND AVERAGE WAGE RATE PER PERSON DAY FOR STATES (IN ₹)

State Name	Notified Wage Rate			Avg. Wage Paid
	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21	2021-22
Andhra Pradesh	257	245	237	213
Arunachal Pradesh	216	212	205	212
Assam	229	224	213	224
Bihar	210	198	194	198
Chhattisgarh	204	193	190	182
Goa	315	294	280	294
Gujarat	239	229	224	210
Haryana	331	315	309	313
Himachal Pradesh	214	205	200	202
J&K	227	214	204	214
Jharkhand	210	198	194	225
Karnataka	309	289	275	285
Kerala	311	291	291	295
Ladakh	227	214	204	213
Madhya Pradesh	204	193	190	186
Maharashtra	256	248	238	239
Manipur	251	251	238	251
Meghalaya	230	226	203	226
Mizoram	233	233	225	233
Nagaland	216	212	205	212
Odisha	222	215	207	209
Punjab	282	269	263	263
Rajasthan	231	221	220	184
Sikkim	224	214	207	213
Tamil Nadu	281	273	256	213
Telangana	257	245	237	179
Tripura	212	212	205	191
Uttar Pradesh	213	204	201	204
Uttarakhand	213	204	201	204
West Bengal	223	213	204	203
Andaman and Nicobar	292	281	269	280
Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	278	269	266	0
Lakshadweep	284	266	256	177
Puducherry	281	273	258	228

Source: MIS MGNREGS