



TRADE UNIONS

EVENTS

J o u r n a l



Confederation of Trade Unions of Armenia



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Welcome speech

The “Trade Unions Events” journal has been continuing its activities for the second year, covering and publicizing the work carried out by the Confederation of Trade Unions of Armenia (CTUA). This magazine has become a platform where important events, programs and activities of trade union life are presented, which contribute to the awareness of workers and the protection of their labor, social, economic and professional rights.

Today, more than ever, being informed is important, and we continue our work, strengthening the trade union movement in Armenia and disseminating information.



According to the RA Statistical Committee, in June 2025, compared to June 2024, inflation in the Republic of Armenia was recorded at 3.9%. Prices for food and non-alcoholic beverages increased by 6.2%.

In particular, the prices of bread rose by 3.9%, butter by 14%, pasta by 5.3%, meat products by 1.6%, fruits by 3.7%, vegetables by 25%, and potatoes by 67.3%.

At the same time, the prices of some goods have decreased, while the prices of cheese and cottage cheese increased by 1.5%, and eggs by 6.2%.

Such inflationary trends, especially in relation to essential goods, further worsen the situation of socially vulnerable groups.

According to the report “Armenia’s Social Picture and Poverty, 2024” published by the RA Statistical Committee, in 2023, 42.9% of average monthly household spending per capita was directed to food, and 32.8% to services.

The share of non-food products was 19.4%, cigarettes 4.5%, and alcoholic beverages 0.4%. These figures indicate that most of the population’s income is spent on basic necessities, while the amounts allocated to education, entertainment, or savings remain limited.

When almost half of the population’s income is spent on food, even minor inflation has a direct impact on their quality of life.

In January–June 2025, the average monthly nominal salary in the Republic of Armenia amounted to 294,621 drams, which is 5.6% higher than in the same period of the previous year. In June 2025, it reached 297,624 drams.

The salary level in some sectors is significantly lower than the national average. In particular, the average salary amounted to 148,014 drams in accommodation and catering, 150,351 drams in other services, 159,520 drams in culture and art, and 166,118 drams in education.

The lowest average monthly nominal salary was registered in the Gegharkunik region at 146,355 drams, while the highest was in the Syunik region at 306,283 drams. In Yerevan, it amounted to 298,879 drams.

Although an increase in the average monthly nominal salary was recorded in Armenia during January–June 2025, rising prices for goods and services continue to keep the real incomes of workers at a low level.

In 2023, the poverty rate in the Republic of Armenia was estimated at 23.7%, which is 1.1 percentage points lower than in 2022. The extreme poverty rate stood at 1.1%, a decrease of 0.1 percentage points. The poverty rate among employees was 19.4%.

The prevalence of poverty varies by locality: it was 21.5% in urban areas and 27.0% in rural areas. In Yerevan, the poverty rate stood at 17.9%.

The highest poverty rate was recorded in the Shirak region at 43.1%, while the lowest was in the Syunik region at 7.0%.

In the second quarter of 2025, the cost of the minimum consumer basket, calculated according to the methodology of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Armenia, amounted to 81,680.9 drams, which is higher than the minimum wage.

According to the World Bank methodology, the cost of the minimum consumer basket was 64,713.9 drams.

The values of minimum consumer baskets have not been officially established in the Republic of Armenia by any law or other legal act.

To reduce poverty, improve the standard of living of workers and their families, and ensure decent work in the country, it is necessary to officially establish the cost of the minimum consumer basket. Additionally, a wage indexation procedure should be adopted, as defined by Article 182 of the RA Labor Code, which was adopted in 2004.

Regional Workshop in Armenia



Confederation of Trade Unions of Armenia organized two days Regional workshop on 5-6 August, 2025 in Yerevan, Armenia, with the financial support of ILO ACTRAV.

Trade Union leaders and activists were participating from Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan.

The workshop was on the theme on "Trade Unions and transition: shaping the future of workers".

The opening remarks were made by Sergeyus Glovackas -Desk officer for Europe and Central Asia ILO/ACTRAV, Elen Manaseryan -CTUA president, Ruben Sargsyan- Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, Igor Zubcu-PERC President.

In their opening speech all speakers emphasized that digitalization, platform work and AI became part of everyday life and no one can escape of it as the workers cannot live in other reality than now. So the trade unions should be modernized and use the opportunities of AI and digitalization.

The Deputy Minister introduced the reforms made in the Armenian legislation concerning the digitalization especially the electronic labor contracts which will come into force in 2026.

The participants of all countries introduced Trade Union experience and the situation in their countries.

Unlike other countries where the Unions are trying to work in the digitalized work, the Ukraine Trade Unions have to survive in the situation of war and everyday battles.

Micheal Watt-ILO ACTRAV economist and workers' specialist had presentations on New technologies and business models: platform workers, where the participants also showed their experience on work with platform workers. During the session the participants were informed also the ILO approach on platform workers and the opportunity of having new standard on it. PERC president Igor Zubcu and ITUC representative Anna Salnikova presented the approach of International Trade Union Confederation and the steps ahead. On the second day the participants were introduced the AI influence on the labor market. The session was moderated by Gocha Aleksandria, who shared international experience. Later the session was continued by Micheal Watt who presented the workers' rights on data collecting and data protection. Each delegation shared their own experience. After every session active discussions were held. In the last session the participants worked in the groups where developed their own plans of activities and had relevant and useful proposals.



The Presidents of the Trade Unions of Armenia and Kyrgyzstan signed a Memorandum of Cooperation



On August 6, 2025, the Confederation of Trade Unions of Armenia and the Federation of Trade Unions of Kyrgyzstan signed a memorandum of cooperation. This document marks a new chapter in the relationship between the trade union organizations of the two countries, promoting the exchange of experience and the implementation of joint initiatives.

Under the memorandum, the parties agreed to closely cooperate in several key areas, particularly in the protection of workers' social and economic rights and interests. The main areas of cooperation between the trade union organizations include: developing forms and methods of social partnership; regulating social and labor relations through collective bargaining; exchanging experience in the fields of occupational health, safety, and environmental protection; advancing trade union education; and implementing joint educational initiatives such as training courses, seminars, forums, and conferences.

This initiative highlights the parties' commitment to defending workers' rights and strengthening the trade union movement. The memorandum will serve as a foundation for long-term and effective cooperation.



Offsite Meeting of the Confederation of Trade Unions of Armenia: On Current Challenges and International Experience



On August 7–8, 2025, the Confederation of Trade Unions of Armenia organized an offsite meeting, attended by the Chairpersons and representatives of branch republican unions affiliated with the Confederation. The meeting also included the chairpersons of the Confederation's Standing Committees on Equality in Labour Relations and Youth, as well as representatives of the Confederation's staff.

The special guest of the offsite meeting was Sergeyus GLOVACKAS, Desk Officer for Central and Eastern Europe of the Bureau for Workers' Activities at the International Labour Organization (ILO). His participation provided a valuable opportunity for Armenian trade unions to directly familiarize themselves with international experience and the ILO's new initiatives.

The agenda of the meeting included current challenges facing trade unions, as well as emerging trends observed at the international level. The presentations were followed by active discussions, during which participants exchanged views on the protection of workers' rights, the development of social dialogue, and the potential application of global best practices.

Seminar on Drivers of Youth Engagement in the Civil Society Platform

From August 22–24, 2025, the Confederation of Trade Unions of Armenia, in collaboration with the Armenian office of the Solidarity Center, organized a seminar for young trade unionists at the Tufenkian Avan Dzoraget Hotel on the topic “Drivers of Youth Engagement in the Civil Society Platform.”

During the three-day seminar, participants discussed the challenges present in the civil society sector and explored various forms of youth engagement. Special attention was given to the current challenges facing trade union activities.



An event with the theme “Work and Rest”



On August 23, 2025, the Republican Union of Trade Union Organizations of Light Industry Workers organized a recreational and educational excursion. The event was attended by 15 veteran members with 40–50 years or more of experience in production activities and trade union membership, as well as members of the Republican Union presidency.

The excursion followed the route Yerevan–Dilijan–Haghartsin–Goshavank–Parz Lake–Dilijan–Yerevan. Participants showed great interest in exploring the historical and cultural heritage of the Armenian people, attending presentations on historical and cultural values, and experiencing firsthand the beauty of Armenian architecture and nature.

An offsite meeting of the Republican Union presidency was held amidst the natural surroundings. Participants expressed their gratitude to the Confederation of Trade Unions of Armenia and the Armenian Tourism Development Foundation for supporting the implementation of the program.



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