

increasing wage rates for school teachers and nurses, remain at the top of the government agenda since care for health and education of the population will always be the top priority.

At present, there are favourable conditions for people seeking to change their jobs, demanding higher wages. Despite pressures from the unions to negotiate fair wages, however, the Czech Republic remains among low-wage countries in the EU. The general problem of the labour market is excessive taxation of labour, which drains the net earnings of workers and lowers employers' motivation to raise wages. The solution is not to increase the minimum wage, a general prerequisite for pay rises being higher labour productivity. A reduction in labour taxation may thus be the starting point to be dealt with by national political actors.

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