

J.L.C. Wage Rates

The Joint Labour Committee responsible for the Retail Grocery and Allied Trades met on Friday 23 November.

A proposal to implement the increases as accepted by the Social Partners in the National Wage Section of Towards 2016 Agreement was approved by the Employer and employee representatives.

The previous agreement, implementing the final phases of Towards Prosperity expired in August 2007. The new rates, due to be implemented in February, following approval by the Labour Court and contingent upon the consultation process have included the full extent of the 27 month pay agreement. It will expire in February 2010. The employer's side agreed to foreshorten the 27 month period to 24 months to ensure the continuity of the wage contract, enabling employers to budget for known wage costs for the next two years.

The situation that has obtained since August 2007, whereby the current but expired rates have been paid by employers does, we believe, temper the costs incurred by this voluntary foreshortening.

We are very aware that wage costs are a very real part of our businesses, however the approved rates are in accord with the National Agreement, and are not unduly out of line with projected inflation for the next two years.

When the Labour Court perfects the order, we will place the rates on the website, however, in the interim, we have given the rates as approved