

LABOUR NEWS

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ARTICLE

5 WAYS TO PREVENT INDUSTRIAL FIRES AND EXPLOSIONS



Fires are a serious issue, and prevention is key in avoiding injury, death and property damage. A major part of prevention is knowing the risks within your facility and how to manage them properly. Since fires and explosions are usually preventable, the consequences that facilities face for these incidents are severe. In one case, a worker was injured while working on a dust collector that caught fire, and OSHA fined the company nearly \$150,000.

Here are the common causes of fires and explosions within facilities — and how to avoid them.

Causes of Industrial Fires and Explosions

Combustible Dust

The biggest cause of fires and explosions within industrial facilities is combustible dust. Combustible

dust can be found in many industrial facilities, from food processing plants to chemical plants. It is defined by OSHA as a solid material composed of particles that can present a fire or explosion hazard. The dust, when combined with oxygen and an ignition source, can result in a fire.

If the dust is dispersed in an enclosed area, then there is also the potential for an explosion — which is difficult to contain and can lead to secondary, larger explosions.

Hot Work

Traditionally, hot work is thought of as welding and torch cutting. However, it also includes other procedures, like brazing, burning, heating and soldering, which all create the potential for industrial fires.



The risks occur due to the sparks that hot work equipment creates, and molten materials that can reach beyond 1,000°F and travel more than 35 ft. The sparks and heat from hot work, combined with combustible dust, leads to many industrial fires and explosions.

Flammable Products

Another common way for an industrial fire to occur is because of flammable liquids and gasses. These types of fire usually happen in chemical plants, as they work with highly flammable products such as fuel, acrylic acid and crude oil.

When these products come into contact with an ignition source like electrical plugs, hot work and sparking equipment, it results in fire or combustion — and these are some of the most dangerous fires and explosions.

In 2010, an explosion at Kleen Energy Systems power plant in Middletown, CT, was caused by natural gas, resulting in 6 deaths and 50 injuries. As a result of this massive explosion, OSHA proposed \$16.6 million in penalties for an alleged 370 workplace safety violations.

Faulty Equipment and Machinery

Another threat to fire safety that industrial facilities face is from faulty equipment and machinery. Any equipment used to heat products or perform hot work can lead to an industrial fire, especially if the equipment doesn't work properly. Furnaces are an especially big culprit for causing fires and explosions.

When equipment is not installed or operated correctly, or properly maintained, it becomes a serious risk to industrial fire safety. Equipment with moving parts pose an extra risk as those parts can lead to friction and sparking, which can create a fire or explosion, especially if combined with combustible dust.

Electrical Hazards

Electrical hazards that can lead to industrial fires include things like:

- Exposed wiring
- Wiring that isn't up to code
- Overloading outlets and circuits
- The use of extension cords
- The presence of static discharge.

Any of these hazards can result in sparking, which can become an ignition source for things like combustible dust and other flammable products. Any damage you can experience from electrical hazards can compound quickly, especially if more than one hazard is present at a time.

How to Prevent Fires and Explosions

1. Conduct a Hazard Analysis

A Dust Hazard Analysis (DHA) is one requirement of NFPA 652, known as the Standard on the Fundamentals of Combustible Dust. It is a tool meant to help improve industrial plant safety by determining combustible dust hazards, so that facility owners and managers can improve their industrial fire safety.

While it is a standard specified for NFPA 652, a DHA is useful for inspecting the entire facility for hazards. It will help to pinpoint what areas of the facility pose the greatest risks in safety, and help determine how to improve and eliminate those risks which will allow you to make your facility safer and help avoid serious fines and penalties from OSHA.

2. Train Employees in Fire Safety

Training, in general, is critical for employee safety, and especially to help avoid industrial fires. Industrial fire safety training should include general and job-specific safety. Employees should be educated in:

- Causes of fires and explosions
- How they spread
- Spotting hazards
- Handling and storing flammable materials.
- How to prevent fires

Fire prevention should also cover the proper cleaning techniques to ensure that materials like combustible dust do not linger where they can pose a danger. Fire

safety training should also include what to do in case of a fire, from extinguishing to safe evacuation of all personnel.

3. Practice Good Housekeeping



The fire safety industry also states that good housekeeping is essential in preventing fires and explosions. OSHA has Good Housekeeping Guidelines that facilities are required to follow by law. These guidelines are for maintaining a clean, safe and sanitary facility. They include:

- Keeping paper and other flammable goods away from electrical and heat sources.
- Keeping flammable products safely contained.
- Reporting problems or issues with equipment as soon as possible.

The use of the correct certified cleaning equipment is also a critical part of OSHA Guidelines. While there are different types of equipment, industrial vacuums are essential to keeping facilities clean, and HafcoVac offers high-quality, certified industrial vacuums ideal for preventing fires and explosions.

Since housekeeping guidelines are mandatory, failure to comply can result in serious fines.

4. Establish a Fire Prevention Plan and Emergency Procedures

It is critical to have a fire prevention plan and emergency fire procedures in place. An industrial fire safety plan needs to cover everything fire-related, and

all employees must be educated in the prevention and emergency plans.

It should include a detailed evacuation plan that explains what employees should do and where they should go in case of an industrial fire. The plan should be accessible to everyone, and it should be practiced so that employees can better understand what they should do in such situations.

It is also vital to keep these plans and procedures up-to-date and always update employees on the procedures.

5. Inspect and Maintain Your Equipment and Facility

Poorly maintained equipment is a large factor in industrial fires and explosions. A major part of what the fire safety industry calls for is inspecting and maintaining all equipment within the facility.

Regularly scheduled checks and maintenance need to be done to ensure the equipment works properly and efficiently. Any motors or moving parts should be lubricated to ensure there is no friction that can lead to sparking and fires.

Inspections should be done at least twice a year — or more, for frequently used equipment — and it should cover all parts of the facility, including sprinklers and fire extinguishers. Any needed repairs should be done immediately.

Preventing Industrial Fires and Explosions

While industrial fires and explosions are unfortunately very common, they are usually entirely preventable. There are many potential risks, and when combined, like hot work and combustible dust, those risks become more serious. Preventing fires is critical to fire safety for industrial facilities. It helps to prevent serious incidents within the facility and also avoids fines and penalties from OSHA.

The steps above are some of the most critical preventive measures you need to take in order to meet the standards of OSHA and keep your facility safe.

Source: <https://www.hafcovac.com>

BEF EVENT



WORKSHOP ON “DEVELOPING A ROADMAP ON THE INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE MAINSTREAM LABOR MARKET OF BANGLADESH: PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVE”

Bangladesh Business and Disability Network (BBDN) in association with Bangladesh Employers' Federation (BEF) hosted a high-level consultation workshop on “Developing a Roadmap on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in the mainstream Labor Market of Bangladesh: Private Sector Initiative” under Innovation to Inclusion (i2i) project funded by Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), UK to discuss how to combat discrimination and promote employment of people with disabilities in the private sector on 12 June 2022.

Among others, Dr. Anisuzzaman, the keynote presenter. Mr. Monsur Ahmed Choudhuri (founder trustee, Impact Foundation), Member of BBDN Board of Trustee and Dr. Shohrab Hossain (Executive Director, CRP) were present at the event. Over 50 stakeholders from government, business, trade unions, NGOs, civil society groups working for the rights of people with disabilities, as well as international organizations attended the workshop.

HOME NEWS

FIRST INDUSTRIAL SAFETY FORUM TAKES PLACE IN DHAKA



The first Industrial Safety Forum (ISF) took place in Dhaka on 12 May 2022. Organized jointly by the ILO and the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), ISF brought together national safety regulators, policymakers, academics, employers, workers' representatives, civil society members and development partners to discuss the development of a national industrial safety framework for Bangladesh.

Mr Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun, MP, Minister of Industries, who attended the forum as the Chief Guest, noted that this first forum provided a knowledge sharing platform for the stakeholders to collaborate for ensuring safe working environment in industries. Mr Md. Ehsan-E-Elahi, Secretary of Labour and Employment, the Special Guest of the forum, stated that the Ministry of Labour and Employment had formed two tripartite committees to review and amend the labor law to maintain decent workplaces and industrial safety.

Mr Tuomo Poutiainen, Country Director of ILO Bangladesh said, "ISF provided a platform to discuss, engage and collaborate for improving workplace safety and health in all economic sectors across Bangladesh. We hope the recommendations and commitments shared at the forum will drive the process of developing a national industrial safety framework."

Speaking as a Guest of Honour, Mr Ardashir Kabir, President of Bangladesh Employers' Federation (BEF) commended the organizing of this forum and said that this helped to create synergy to work together for the common cause of raising industrial safety standard.

THREE MORE GARMENT FACTORIES RECOGNIZED AS GREEN

The United States Green Building Council (USGBC) has recognized three more readymade garment factories in Bangladesh as green - raising the total number of environment-friendly establishments in the apparel sector to 160. The latest, Epyllion Knitwears Ltd was rated gold while Tarasima Apparels Ltd and Remi Holdings Ltd received platinum ratings.

PUSH FOR ETHICAL PRICING OF RMG ITEMS



Leaders of the country's apparel sector urged the International Labour Organization (ILO) to place the issue of ethical pricing of garment items in different global forums to ensure a sustainable industry. They made the call when a visiting Bangladeshi delegation comprising leaders of the Bangladesh Employers' Federation (BEF), Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) met ILO Director-General Guy Ryder at the ILO headquarters in Geneva recently.

Speaking at the meeting, BGMEA President emphasized the need to ensure fair prices of garment items to make the apparel industry more sustainable, positively impacting the well-being of garment workers. Production costs in garment manufacturing have gone up due to the spiraling prices of yarn, chemicals and other raw materials and high shipping charges, but prices offered by the buyers do not reflect the reality and rationality, he said.

The delegation apprised the ILO director-general of the current situation of the ready-made garment industry in Bangladesh, challenges and opportunities. They also

highlighted how the RMG industry of Bangladesh had gone through a tangible transformation in the areas of workplace safety, labor standards, and environmental sustainability. With these achievements, Bangladesh has earned global accolades and recognition as one of the safe and ethical apparel sourcing destinations in the world, they said.

SIGNING OF 'GENEVA DECLARATION' BETWEEN THE EMPLOYERS AND ILO TO PROMOTE THE 'EMPLOYMENT INJURY SCHEME' PILOT



The employers of Bangladesh have given their consent to support the International Labour Organization (ILO) in promoting the 'Employment Injury Scheme' as a Pilot in the RMG sector in Bangladesh. The 'Geneva Declaration', supporting the EIS Pilot, was signed with the Bangladesh employers on 31 May 2022, at the International Labour Conference, in Geneva. The Presidents of Bangladesh Employers' Federation (BEF), BGMEA, the Executive President of BKMEA, other senior representatives from employer organizations, and ILO senior officials were present at the signing event.

Initially, the Pilot is for three years, with an option to extend it for another two years. There will be an established monitoring system throughout the Pilot implementation, and the progress will be measured as per the framework, with a set of indicators, and milestones. The delegates agreed to give their full support to the EIS Pilot as well as to attend the formal launching of the Pilot.

ILO and GIZ are providing technical support to the Government of Bangladesh, Employers and Workers organizations in implementing employment injury

scheme pilot through a project funded by Government of Netherlands and Germany.

322,583 WORKERS WENT TO JOB-DESTINATION COUNTRIES DURING JANUARY-MARCH OF FY22



According to the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET), a total of 322,583 workers went to different job-destination countries during January-March of FY22 against 146,895 in the corresponding period of FY21, accounting for a sharp 119.60 percent growth. The country sent 109,698 workers in January, 92,569 in February, and 120,316 in March in FY22.

The workers went mainly to 20 countries during the three months. Of them, Saudi Arabia received the highest 63.88 percent or 206,057 workers. Other main job-destination countries were: Oman 41,617 (12.90%), the United Arab Emirates 39,827 (12.35%), Singapore 13,364 (4.14%), Jordan 5,017 (1.56%) and Qatar 4,496 (1.39%).

Meanwhile, some 32,113 female workers entered the international markets with jobs in January-March of FY22 against 19,348 moved out during January-March of FY21. Female workers, mostly housemaids and garment workers, are employed mainly in Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Oman, Qatar, UAE, and Lebanon.

REFINANCING FACILITIES TO CMSES RUN BY RETURNEE MIGRANT WORKERS



Bangladesh Bank and BRAC Bank signed an agreement on 25 May 2022 to provide refinancing facilities to the cottage, micro and small enterprises (CMSEs) run by returnee migrant workers, unemployed youth, and rural entrepreneurs and women business owners. BRAC Bank signed the agreement to become participating financial institution under the 'Supporting Post Covid-19 Small Scale Employment Creation Project' funded Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Under the agreement, BRAC Bank and other participating banks and financial institutions will avail of refinancing facilities amounting to Tk 1,290 crore from Bangladesh Bank and provide subsidized interest credit to the businesses. An entrepreneur can avail of up to Tk 50 lakh loan for five years.

BANGLA APP TO DEVELOP SOFT SKILLS LAUNCHED



Uttoron, a skill development project funded by Chevron and implemented by Swisscontact, recently launched its first android-based Bangla app to develop soft skills of youths engaged in formal job market, says a press release. Soft skill is an essential factor for higher productivity and prosperity in career. From an entry-level worker in a factory to a CEO of a multinational firm, soft skill is required everywhere. The Uttoron app covers fundamental factors like communication, teamwork, time management and problem-solving skills.

President of Chevron Bangladesh Eric M Walker said, "This app will focus on building soft skills for the graduating trainees to help them cope up in their professional life. Uttoron has taken a holistic approach

by infusing digital access to resources along with technical training that will help the trainees to develop themselves entirely as we work towards increasing the human capital through technical and vocational training."

REMITTANCES DROPPED BY 13.16% IN MAY

Remittances dropped by 13.16 percent, year-on-year, to US\$1.89 billion in May 2022 from US\$2.17 billion received in May 2021. May's remittances also decreased month-on-month by 5.97 percent from US\$2.01 billion received in April 2022.

Monthly Trends in Remittances

Month	Remittances (million US\$)		Change (%)
	FY22 ^P	FY21 ^R	
July	1871	2598	- 27.98
August	1810	1964	- 7.84
September	1727	2151	- 19.71
October	1647	2102	- 21.65
November	1554	2079	- 25.25
December	1629	2051	- 20.58
January	1704	1962	- 13.12
February	1496	1781	- 16.00
March	1860	1911	- 2.67
April	2009	2068	- 2.85
May	1885	2171	- 13.16
Total of July – May	19192	22838	- 15.95

Notes: P=Provisional; R=Revised
Source: Bangladesh Bank

Meanwhile, the inflow of remittances in July-May of FY22 fell substantially by 15.95 percent to US\$19.19 billion from US\$22.84 billion in the corresponding eleven months of the previous fiscal year. The decline in remittances is mainly a widening gap in exchange rates in the formal channel and the kerb (informal) market. It is also a reflection of the second/third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic situation when many Bangladeshi migrants lost their jobs, some migrants were laid off by their companies, while many others who returned home but couldn't go back due to suspended international flights as a part of countrywide lockdown and unmet vaccination requirements.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

NEPAL: RS 724 BILLION REMITTANCES RECEIVED IN NINE MONTHS



Nepal received remittance amounting to over Rs 724 billion in the nine months of the current fiscal year, 2021/22, a 0.6 percent decline as compared to the corresponding period last year, according to the Nepal Rastra Bank. Similarly, remittance in US dollar declined by 2.2 percent to stand at over US\$ 6.05 billion. The figure had seen a rise by 13.1 percent in the previous fiscal year. Till the review date, the number of Nepali people aspiring for foreign jobs who got their final work permit (institutional and individual—new and certification) increased by 74.9 percent to hit 256,031 as compared to 74.9 percent decrease in the previous FY. Similarly, the figure of Nepali foreign job aspirants who got their renewed labor permit increased by 199.9 percent to reach 206,629 as opposed to 60.7 percent decline in the previous FY.

INDIA: NUMBER OF EMPLOYED PEOPLE INCREASED MARGINALLY BY ONE MILLION IN MAY



The number of employed people in India increased marginally by one million in May 2022, taking the total employment to 404 million (37.07% employment

rate) from 402.9 million (37.05%) in April 2022. The unemployment rate also saw a significant decline to 7.12% in May 2022 from 7.83% in April 2022, the latest data by Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) shows. May was the second consecutive month of an increase in employment in the country; the increase was much bigger at nearly 7 million in April, says CMIE. The unemployment rate, however, had risen in April but declined across both rural as well as urban areas to 8.21% and 6.62%, respectively, in May.

MALAYSIA: FIRMS FORGOING BILLIONS IN SALES AMID MIGRANT LABOR SHORTAGE



Malaysian companies, from palm oil plantations to semiconductor makers, are refusing orders and forgoing billions in sales. A shortage of more than a million workers threatens the country's economic recovery.

Despite lifting a Covid-19 freeze on recruiting foreign workers in February, Malaysia has not seen a significant return of migrant workers due to slow government approvals and protracted negotiations with Indonesia and Bangladesh over worker protections, say industry groups, companies and diplomats.

Malaysia, the export-reliant nation, a key link in the global supply chain, lacks at least 1.2 million workers across manufacturing, plantation and construction, a shortage worsening daily as demand grows with an easing of the pandemic, industry and government data show. Manufacturers, who make up nearly one-fourth of the economy, fear losing customers to other countries as growth picks up. They are short of 600,000 workers, while the construction sector needs 550,000.

The palm oil industry reports a shortage of 120,000 workers, chip makers lack 15,000 and cannot meet demand despite a global chip shortage, and medical glove makers require 12,000 workers.

THAILAND: MIGRANT WORKERS ACCOUNT FOR OVER 10% OF THE WORKFORCE



Societies around the world are increasingly becoming “aged societies”, and Thailand itself will become a “super-aged” society by 2031 when 28% of the population will be over 60 years old. These grey societies usually have to rely on more imported laborers. In the case of Thailand, migrant workers have contributed to the economic development of the country itself, just as in many similar destination countries. These young workers are sought after as they are willing to replace Thai laborers in “3D jobs” which stands for “dangerous”, “dirty” and “[in] demand” and are well-known for being unpopular sectors in which Thais are reluctant to work. Migrant workers contributed 4.3-6.6% of Thailand’s GDP and account for over 10% of the workforce, according to the Thailand Migration Report 2019.

SINGAPORE: ROBOT WORKFORCE PLUGS LABOR GAPS



After struggling to find staff during the pandemic, businesses in Singapore have increasingly turned to deploying robots to help carry out a range of tasks, from surveying construction sites to scanning library bookshelves. The city-state relies on foreign workers, but their number fell by 235,700 between December 2019 and September 2021, according to the Manpower Ministry, which notes how Covid-19 curbs have sped up “the pace of technology adoption and automation” by companies.

At a Singapore construction site, for example, a four-legged robot called “Spot” scans sections of mud and gravel to check on work progress, with data fed back to construction company Gammon’s control room. Meanwhile, Singapore’s National Library has introduced two shelf-reading robots that can scan labels on 100,000 books, or about 30% of its collection, per day. Robots are also being used for customer-facing tasks, with more than 30 metro stations set to have robots making coffee for commuters. Singapore has 605 robots installed per 10,000 employees in the manufacturing industry, the second-highest number globally, after South Korea’s 932.

PHILIPPINES: REMITTANCES JUMP 3.2% IN MARCH



Money sent home by overseas Filipinos rose by 3.2% in March 2022, reflecting improved economic conditions in many host countries as pandemic restrictions eased. Data released by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) showed cash remittances sent through banks stood at \$2.59 billion in March, up from \$2.51 billion in the same month in 2021. This is the biggest monthly inflow recorded since the \$2.66-billion remittances seen in January.

For the first three months of the year, cash remittances rose by 2.4% to \$7.77 billion, from \$7.59 billion in the comparable period last year. By country, the United States, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates, Canada, Taiwan, Qatar, and Malaysia accounted for 79.1% of total cash remittances in the first quarter.

AUSTRALIA: LOWEST JOBLESS RATE IN 48 YEARS



Australia posted its lowest jobless rate in 48 years in April. The unemployment rate dipped to 3.85 percent in the month, the Australian Bureau of Statistics said. It was the lowest unemployment level since 1974 -- when flared trousers were in fashion and US president Richard Nixon resigned over the Watergate scandal. Australia's economy created an additional 92,400 full-time jobs in April, which helped to trim April's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate just slightly below the revised 3.93 percent rate of the previous month.

SPAIN: MORE WORK VISAS TO COMBAT LABOR SHORTAGES



Spain plans to relax work permit rules for foreigners to address labor shortages that threaten its economic recovery, its social security and migration minister said.

The government intends to grant more temporary visas for sectors that need workers.

Labor shortages have been reported in the country's tourism, agriculture, construction and technology industries. The government plans to allow around 50,000 non-EU students to combine studies with work. It will also facilitate access to work permits by allowing those who can show a previous connection to Spain through family, residence or at least two years of work, even if it was informal.

USA: WORST PILOT SHORTAGE IN RECENT MEMORY



The United States is facing its worst pilot shortage in recent memory, forcing airlines to cut flights just as travelers are returning after more than two years of the Covid-19 pandemic. The crisis has the industry scrambling for solutions. At least one lawmaker is said to be considering legislation that could raise the federally-mandated retirement age for airline pilots from 65 to 67 or higher to extend aviators' time in the skies.

The Covid pandemic halted pilot hiring as training and licensing slowed. Airlines handed out early retirement packages to thousands of pilots and other employees aimed to cut labor bills when travel demand cratered during the depths of crisis. Now airlines are desperate to hire and train pilots, but the rush may take too long to avoid flight cuts. The shortage is particularly acute at regional carriers that feed major airlines' hubs from smaller cities.

ILO NEWS

110TH ILC CLOSES WITH “REMARKABLE HARVEST OF ACHIEVEMENTS”



The 110th International Labour Conference (ILC) closed with a “remarkable harvest of achievements”, according to the ILO Director-General, Guy Ryder. Describing this ILC as “important, harmonious and productive” he highlighted the decision to “lift a safe and healthy working environment to the status of a fundamental principle and right at work” as “making history”.

Speaking at the closing Plenary session, the Director-General commended the work of the Committee on the Application of Standards. He noted with concern that “during this conference I have received alarming, even harrowing testimony of the situation of people whose lives, livelihoods and liberty are in the balance, and it is [...] in the Standards Committee that our capacity to come to their assistance resides.”

He cited important progress towards a Recommendation on a framework for quality apprenticeships, as well as fruitful discussions on employment policy, the Social and Solidarity Economy and work in the Least Developed Countries.

Referring to his report on the situation of workers in the Occupied Arab Territories, the Director-General called for a renewed effort to mobilize resources to step up support, especially for the National Employment Strategy.

This was the first Conference since 2019 that delegates were able to attend in person because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Director-General suggested that its smooth running was due, at least in part, to “a sense

of our collective responsibility. A responsibility to find agreed solutions in the face of the quite dramatic challenges facing the world of work.”

The 111th Session of the ILC is scheduled to take place from 5 to 16 June 2023.

LABOR MARKET RECOVERY GOES INTO REVERSE



Multiple global crises are causing a marked deterioration in the global labor market recovery, with increasing inequalities within and between countries, according to a new report from the ILO.

The 9th edition of the *ILO Monitor on the World of Work*, finds that after significant gains during the last quarter of 2021, the number of hours worked globally dropped in the first quarter of 2022, to 3.8 percent below the pre-crisis benchmark (fourth quarter of 2019). This is equivalent to a deficit of 112 million full-time jobs. This represents a significant downgrading of figures published by the ILO in January 2022.

Multiple new and interconnected global crises, including inflation (especially in energy and food prices), financial turbulence, potential debt distress, and global supply chain disruption – exacerbated by war in Ukraine – means there is a growing risk of a further deterioration in hours worked in 2022, as well as a broader impact on global labor markets in the months to come.

The Russian aggression against Ukraine is already affecting labor markets in Ukraine and beyond, as detailed in a recent ILO brief.

The report also finds that a great and growing divergence between richer and poorer economies

continues to characterize the recovery. While high-income countries experienced a recovery in hours worked, low-and lower-middle-income economies suffered setbacks in the first quarter of the year with a 3.6 and 5.7 percent gap respectively when compared to the pre-crisis benchmark. These diverging trends are likely to worsen in the second quarter of 2022.

In some developing countries, governments are increasingly constrained by the lack of fiscal space and debt sustainability challenges, while enterprises face economic and financial uncertainties and workers continue to be left without sufficient access to social protection.

INFLATION: ANNUAL RATE ACCELERATED TO 9.2% WORLDWIDE IN MARCH



The annual rate of inflation worldwide, as measured by the consumer price index (CPI), accelerated to 9.2 percent in March 2022, up from 7.5 percent in February 2022, 6.8 percent in January 2022. The inflation rate in March 2022 was more than twice the rate of 3.7 percent recorded in March 2021. This jump in the CPI by 5.5 percentage points between March 2021 and March 2022 constitutes the highest increase in any 12 month period since the beginning of the series in January 2019.

The overall rise in inflation reflects the effects of the COVID-19-related lockdowns in 2020 and 2021. More recently, though, it has been driven by a surge in energy and food prices, especially since the start of the war in Ukraine on 24 February 2022. The conflict has inflicted a major shock on commodity markets, disrupting global patterns of trade, production and consumption in ways that are likely to keep prices at high levels in the coming years.

According to data on the global commodity market from March 2022, wheat and oil are currently both about 50 percent more expensive than they were a year ago. The prices of other cereal grains are also rising. For importing countries, these price increases present a significant obstacle to economic growth and livelihood, potentially raising social and political tensions.

ILO WELCOMES G7 CALL TO MAKE A JUST TRANSITION TO A GREEN ECONOMY HAPPEN



The ILO has welcomed the G7 Labour and Employment Ministers' commitment to take concrete action in support of a just transition and the creation of decent work for a green economy, as outlined in the Ministerial Declaration issued at the end of their meeting in Wolfsburg, Germany.

The Declaration, issued on 24 May, reflects the focus of the German G7 Presidency on operationalizing the objective of a just transition to carbon neutrality through three main channels: investing in skills for green jobs, in particular for low-skilled adults; extending social protection to protect incomes and facilitate transitions; and improved occupational safety and health (OSH) to cover new risks linked to climate change and the policies implemented to mitigate it.

The Ministers agreed on a Roadmap towards Safe and Healthy Work in a Green Economy and acknowledged the important contribution of the Vision Zero Fund in addressing the impact of climate change on workers' safety and health, including through a pilot project addressing climate change and OSH in global supply chains.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: NATIONAL

(Base: 2005-06=100)

Period	General Index	Index by expenditure group								
		1. Food & Beverage	2. Non-Food	I. Clothing & Footwear	II. Fuel & Lighting	III. Household Equipment	IV. Medical Care & Health Expenses	V. Transport & Communication	VI. Recreation, Entertainment,	VIII. Misc. Goods & Services
2013-14	195.08	209.79	176.23	194.77	163.47	206.14	164.06	167.20	164.38	193.75
2014-15	207.58	223.80	186.79	204.50	171.80	214.45	180.77	181.78	168.02	204.21
2015-16	219.86	234.77	200.66	233.38	182.74	227.39	199.94	201.34	171.01	211.61
2016-17	231.82	248.90	209.92	243.56	194.01	235.85	206.70	210.78	177.56	217.51
2017-18	245.22	266.64	217.76	255.24	200.25	249.68	209.28	218.80	183.65	223.81
2018-19	258.65	281.33	229.58	277.64	206.98	265.25	215.31	235.23	186.72	239.87
2019-20	273.26	296.86	243.00	290.00	220.70	282.67	230.07	248.48	190.13	259.27
2020-21	288.44	313.86	255.85	298.14	228.29	298.15	247.86	271.45	193.61	288.53
2021-22										
October	307.49	337.70	268.75	314.48	231.64	316.85	252.99	306.31	199.71	306.66
November	305.97	333.58	270.58	316.73	232.46	317.92	253.09	313.36	200.25	307.71
December	304.81	330.71	271.61	320.38	232.71	318.70	253.16	314.27	201.02	308.65
January	307.02	333.51	273.05	321.57	233.53	320.51	253.44	315.70	203.16	312.88
February	308.21	334.95	273.93	323.49	233.65	322.05	253.57	317.11	203.76	314.16
March	310.12	337.43	275.11	325.31	234.17	323.51	253.91	317.88	204.95	317.85
April	312.38	340.25	276.64	328.18	234.65	325.93	254.59	319.82	206.59	319.99

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: RURAL
(Base: 2005-06=100)

Period	Index by expenditure group								General Index
	1. Food & Beverage	2. Non-Food	I. Clothing & Footwear	II. Fuel & Lighting	III. Household Equipment	IV. Medical Care & Health Expenses	V. Transport & Communication	VI. Recreation, Entertainment,	
2012-13	192.14	170.79	184.54	157.40	186.40	164.63	160.98	174.07	187.05
2013-14	207.72	179.69	200.61	164.05	197.62	168.87	166.01	179.72	199.74
2014-15	221.02	190.13	214.07	171.34	209.29	187.18	174.09	183.84	212.34
2015-16	230.31	203.86	242.26	179.19	222.11	211.04	188.69	187.84	221.12
2016-17	243.08	211.83	253.51	187.45	229.57	219.35	193.71	194.81	226.47
2017-18	259.86	219.21	263.96	192.89	246.23	221.15	197.24	201.31	233.72
2018-19	273.55	230.01	282.76	198.99	261.30	225.86	207.51	205.05	253.71
2019-20	289.08	242.74	292.21	212.44	277.56	242.40	217.05	208.93	275.65
2020-21	306.40	254.51	298.86	220.23	286.65	264.04	234.11	214.52	305.80
2021-22									
October	330.77	266.85	311.93	223.17	305.04	269.32	267.33	221.97	325.94
November	326.57	268.89	314.38	224.10	306.24	269.42	275.53	222.77	326.97
December	324.00	269.95	318.14	224.27	306.91	269.47	276.30	223.49	328.00
January	327.31	271.65	319.35	225.55	308.99	269.76	277.71	226.00	332.88
February	329.30	272.67	321.45	225.65	310.54	269.85	279.66	226.65	334.27
March	332.01	273.99	323.44	225.96	311.76	270.20	280.56	228.42	339.28
April	335.13	275.59	326.74	226.43	314.30	270.98	282.94	229.43	340.50

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: URBAN

(Base: 2005-06=100)

Period	Index by expenditure group										VIII. Misc. Goods & Services
	General Index	1. Food & Beverage	2. Non- Food	I. Clothing & Footwear	II. Fuel & Lighting	III. Household Equipment	IV. Medical Care & Health Expenses	V. Transport & Communication	VI. Recreation, Entertainment,	VII.	
2013-14	199.73	214.85	171.61	183.66	162.80	221.11	155.82	168.52	147.83	186.37	
2014-15	204.76	230.56	182.32	197.93	172.33	223.53	169.80	190.26	150.95	194.16	
2015-16	219.31	245.66	196.39	216.50	186.86	236.67	180.93	215.50	152.84	199.87	
2016-17	233.29	263.09	207.38	224.66	201.60	246.87	185.05	229.59	158.93	206.45	
2017-18	247.17	283.19	215.83	238.67	208.77	255.74	188.96	242.55	164.59	211.57	
2018-19	262.17	300.30	229.00	267.92	216.22	272.20	197.25	265.77	166.95	222.78	
2019-20	277.06	315.83	243.34	285.82	230.27	291.66	208.97	283.12	169.81	239.06	
2020-21	292.27	332.08	257.64	296.78	237.63	318.36	220.17	312.59	171.05	267.20	
2021-22											
October	310.05	354.60	271.29	319.31	241.45	337.61	225.03	349.27	175.69	282.86	
November	309.05	350.69	272.83	321.21	242.13	338.46	225.15	355.04	175.94	283.93	
December	307.89	347.07	273.82	324.64	242.48	339.45	225.24	356.12	176.77	284.76	
January	309.21	348.62	274.92	325.78	242.76	340.78	225.52	357.57	178.50	288.20	
February	309.63	348.75	275.61	327.36	242.93	342.30	225.69	358.39	179.05	289.33	
March	311.06	350.65	276.61	328.86	243.68	344.18	226.04	359.00	179.62	291.40	
April	312.80	352.74	278.05	330.92	244.17	346.38	226.54	360.45	181.93	294.67	

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)

WAGE RATE INDEX BY SECTORS: BANGLADESH
(Base: 2010-11=100)

Sector	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	February'22	March'22	April'22
General	160.23	170.39	180.83	194.90	195.89	196.04
percentage change (Point to Point)	6.40	6.35	6.12	6.03	6.15	6.28
percentage change (over previous month)				0.97	0.51	0.08
1. Agriculture	159.92	170.28	181.16	195.55	196.35	196.46
percentage change (over previous month)	6.42	6.48	6.39	6.02	6.13	6.22
percentage change (over previous month)				1.00	0.41	0.06
i) Agriculture	159.91	170.32	181.23	195.77	196.57	196.68
percentage change (Point to Point)	6.44	6.51	6.41	6.10	6.21	6.29
percentage change (over previous month)				1.00	0.41	0.05
ii) Fish	160.59	168.58	177.84	184.31	184.84	185.30
percentage change (Point to Point)	5.22	4.97	5.49	2.01	1.97	2.80
percentage change (over previous month)				0.66	0.29	0.05
2. Industry	158.74	168.24	177.52	190.41	190.88	192.12
percentage change (Point to Point)	6.22	5.99	5.51	5.88	6.07	6.28
percentage change (over previous month)				0.89	0.77	0.12
i) Construction	152.86	160.17	167.24	176.12	177.49	177.67
percentage change (Point to Point)	5.19	4.77	4.42	4.44	4.59	4.75
percentage change (over previous month)				0.62	0.73	0.10
ii) Production	170.66	184.65	198.37	219.21	221.07	221.42
percentage change (Point to Point)	8.14	8.21	7.43	8.32	8.55	8.86
percentage change (over previous month)				1.32	0.85	0.16
3. Service	164.78	175.33	185.99	200.90	221.84	202.04
percentage change (Point to Point)	6.69	6.41	6.07	6.36	6.41	6.59
percentage change (over previous month)				0.97	0.47	0.10

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)

PRODUCTION OF SELECTED INDUSTRIAL ITEMS (BASE YEAR 2005-06=100)

Description of items of industry	Unit	No .of reporting industries (selected)	2019-20	2020-21	Jan-21	Dec 21 (R)	Jan 22(P)
Manufacture of Food Products							
Fish & sea food	M.Ton	180 & *	42724	40512	1886	4624	3270
Processing & Preserving of fruits and vegetables	"000" Litre	3	123517	109120	9095	12411	13059
Hyd. Vegetable oil	M.Ton	2	1005502	998073	88538	80134	80512
Grain milling	M.Ton	8	614006	332939	28438	36157	35932
Rice milling	M.Ton	6	42689	47888	4050	3384	3171
Sugar	M.Ton	16	81768	48082	19747	6600	12735
Black & Blending Tea	M.Ton	116	89930	90008	286	6932	507
Edible salt	M.Ton	8	88272	101262	8100	8769	9039
Animal feeds	M.Ton	3	704880	859315	67088	65305	65290
Manufacture of beverages							
Spirits & Alcohol	"000" Litre	1	5159	4272	265	365	657
Soft Drinks	"000" Doz Bottle	4	59222	104902	5711	8207	10085
Mineral Water	"000" Litre	4	156784	273894	21106	32982	35625
Manufacture of tobacco products							
Cigarettes	Mill. No	1	16186	15403	1280	1305	1310
Biddies	Mill. No	5	96246	89893	6498	6931	7359
Manufacture of textile							
Preparation & Spinning of Textile fibers	M.Ton	20	223314	257198	21018	23230	23495
Weaving of Textiles	"000" Metre	15	42283	36858	3260	4132	4154
Dyeing, bleaching & finishing	"000" Metre	19	129650	130133	11938	12864	13717
Jute Textile	M.Ton	95	379585	310057	18712	15993	26311
Mfg. of wearing apparel							
Wearing Apparel	Million Tk.	*	1188830	1229409	117297	137101	144972
Knitwear	Million Tk.	*	1177323	1398236	116671	159673	156016
Manufacture of leather and related products							
1511 Tanning & Finishing Leather:	"000" Sq Metre	175 & *	13075	16595	1236	1887	2100
Leather Footwear	"000" Pair	4	28538	32079	2767	1145	1912
Manufacture of wood and products of wood and cork							
Particle board/ plywood	"000" Sq Metre	2	12258	13710	1148	1215	1220
Manufacture of Paper and paper products							
Pulp, Paper & newsprint	M.Ton	3	241050	328647	30213	67964	53786
Articles made of paper	M.Ton	2	41000	40766	5169	3345	4082
Printing and reproduction of recorded media							
Printing of Books and periodicals	"000" No.	10	142464	157634	13279	12908	12835
Manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products							
Petroleum refining	M.Ton	1	1078570	1530820	118540	40530	135920
Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products							
Compressed liquidities gas	Cylinder (12.5 Kg.)	2	1160550	1057162	103565	44032	43830
Fertilizer	M.Ton	7	976157	1296008	95401	105807	59945
Perfumes and cosmetics	"000" Tk.	3	10942940	12012471	666340	1589887	1597919
Soaps & detergents	M.Ton	3	176084	190893	17235	10954	12236

Description of items of industry	Unit	No .of reporting industries (selected)	2019-20	2020-21	Jan-21	Dec 21 (R)	Jan 22(P)
Matches	"000" Gross	2	36644	45323	3655	3275	3285
Manufacture of Pharmaceuticals and medicinal chemical							
Pharmaceuticals/Allopathic drugs and medicine	"000" Tk.	20	251533893.4	281575024	26301793	25646638	29593548
Unani and Ayur Bedic Medicine	"000" Tk.	3	712467	1502532	112273	149396	147628
Manufacture of rubber and plastic products							
Rubber footwear/ other rubber products	Dozen Pair	8	536631	310938	22148	28550	28594
P.V.C products/plastic products	M.ton	3	54410	52008	4300	4100	5697
Non-Metallic mineral Prod							
Glass Sheet	"000" Sq ft.	3	20364	22587	1929	1952	2011
Tiles	"000" Sq ft	5	279741	199944	14486	20278	21311
Ceramic	"000" Dz	2	36480	37361	3150	3175	3841
Cement	M.Ton	8	17951285	21030828	2023518	1683537	1945628
Bricks	"000" No.	4	218294	325598	22526	23179	23198
Manufacture of basic metals							
Re-rolling mills	M.Ton	31	335640	379761	31881	37672	38663
Manufacture of fabricated metal products except machinery							
Structural metal products	"000" M.ton	5	14161	13519	1253	1448	1593
Other Fabricated metal products	Dozen	8	970756	991088	83386	68736	60085
Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products							
communication equipment's (TV, Telephone) Television	No.	3	665938	700595	56162	45902	54850
Manufacture of electrical equipment							
Electric Motors, Generators, transformers/	No.	2	614681	335541	22820	32189	32210
Electrical apparatus 2732 Wires & Cables (ELEC.)	M.ton	3	52426	53210	4454	6179	6171
Electrical appliances / Domestic appliances	No.	9	532528	521593	43341	44058	43978
Manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c							
Agriculture & Forestry machinery	No.	2	105041	95682	6989	8086	8980
Machinery for Textile , apparel and leather production	No.	9	20236	21067	1778	1870	1875
Machinery equipment NEC	No.	10	1154859	1165988	99899	90580	105069
Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers							
Assemble of Motor vehicles	No.	2	1214	844	72	228	208
Manufacture of other transport equipment							
Ship and boat building	M.Ton	3	578562	370882	30812	33862	33142
Motor cycle	No.	3	86393	91094	6898	7122	
Manufacture of furniture							
Metal furniture	No.	2	4497	4149	376	458	461
Wooden furniture	No.	5	92457	122211	13963	10215	10241
Plastic furniture	No.	2	1527531	1202074	99062	97338	97673
Natural Gas	MMCM	8	24998	25172	2179	2017	2015
Electricity	MKWH	1	69634	78654	5262	5310	5641

Note: n.a.=not available. p= provisional, r= revised, M.cu.m.= million cubic meter. Mt = metric ton. MkwH = million kilowatt per hour, Tk.= Taka, * = EPB; F = Final

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SELECTED COMMODITIES IN DHAKA CITY

SL. No.	Unit	2020-21	January '22	February '22	March '22
I. Cereals:					
1. Rice: Najershail/Minikat	Kg.	68.15	68.67	68.65	69.11
2. Rice: Pajam/Equiv.	Kg.	65.63	58.40	58.22	58.05
3. Rice: Irri/Boro	Kg.	52.02	52.27	51.10	51.00
4. Wheat (atta), white.	Kg.	40.60	42.36	44.77	44.96
II. Pulses:					
5. Moongdal (husked)	Kg.	129.76	130.41	130.78	130.91
6. Lentil (husked)	Kg.	120.56	118.15	126.37	126.44
III. Sugar & Molasses:					
7. Sugar (white)	Kg.	67.48	86.08	86.59	86.72
8. Molasses (sugarcane)	Kg.	111.75	120.82	121.34	122.17
IV. Protein Items:					
9. Fish-Rohu-cut piece	Kg.	398.66	330.55	330.00	330.30
10. Fish-Hilsa, medium size	Kg.	1187.36	1192.00	1195.00	1210.00
11. Prawn/Shrimp, about 3" long	Kg.	686.08	619.10	610.00	605.00
12. Barbel (Shing), about 50-gram weight each	Kg.	682.99	485.00	480.00	490.00
13. Beef, best quality	Kg.	545.80	578.35	610.00	620.00
14. Mutton, best quality	Kg.	750.33	785.00	800.00	810.00
15. Fowl, alive	Kg.	432.28	411.00	420.00	424.00
16. Egg (Hen), Farm	4 pcs	34.38	39.00	39.61	39.50
17. Egg (Duck)	4 pcs	56.85	54.68	54.75	54.52
V. Edible oil :					
18. Mustard oil, best quality	Liter	201.37	234.50	240.10	240.34
19. Soyabean oil, best quality	Liter	118.74	169.65	170.12	170.42
VI. Spices:					
20. Chilli (dry), best quality	Kg.	371.19	349.82	349.97	349.91
21. Onion (local)	Kg.	61.14	58.92	56.33	45.20
22. Garlic (Local)	Kg.	114.45	117.67	110.00	90.00
23. Turmeric (Local)	Kg.	170.25	190.45	192.37	184.37
24. Ginger (Local)	Kg.	151.55	115.17	114.22	96.17
25. Salt (fine)	Kg.	35.00	32.05	32.00	32.00
VII. Vegetable:					
26. Potato, best quality	Kg.	35.87	25.81	25.40	22.15
27. Brinjal, best quality	Kg.	66.57	48.70	48.10	67.36
28. Lady's finger, best quality	Kg.	59.47	67.15	70.00	72.00
29. Papaya (green)	Kg.	36.10	30.43	30.00	30.00
VIII. Milk:					
30. Milk (Milk vita packet)	Liter	75.38	73.61	74.37	80.24
31. Lactozen (full cream) (400gm)	Each	605.15	607.97	605.55	608.72

SL. No.	Unit	2020-21	January '22	February '22	March '22
IX. Fuel & lighting :					
32. Firewood (gazari)	Quintal	489.46	499.95	503.42	510.61
33. Kerosene	Liter	81.46	83.58	83.72	83.77
34. Matches (40 sticks)	Box	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
X. Clothing:					
35. Long cloth (fine)	Meter	80.53	91.34	92.38	94.79
36. Long cloth (medium)	Meter	76.82	89.22	90.45	94.79
37. Saree (medium), white Tangail handloom: A451 80x80 count 5.5 yds.	Each	726.58	754.21	757.64	759.87
38. Lungi (medium.) 48" handloom 60X60	Each	799.50	812.33	814.15	817.21
39. Undershirt (genjee 100 c.m sleeveless)	Each	101.31	110.77	110.90	112.54
XI. Housing & Household Requisites:					
40. Cement (local)	Bag of 50 Kg.	447.62	460.77	472.90	483.11
41. Aluminum (Degchi)	Gram	0.43	0.45	0.45	0.45
42. Bamboo (mul) about 30 feet long	Each	191.49	192.50	192.62	194.37
43. Enamel plate	Each	70.79	73.97	74.28	75.21
XII. Miscellaneous:					
44. Coconut oil (unscented, imported)	Kg.	280.20	285.48	285.57	285.81
45. Cigarettes (Star)	10 Sticks	80.23	80.83	80.87	80.92
46. White paper	Quire	27.36	28.99	29.37	29.86
47. Blade-Sword (stainless steel)	Each	3.01	3.09	3.05	3.12

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)



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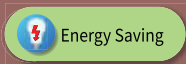
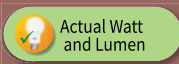
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A BRIEF PROFILE OF BEF

Bangladesh Employers' Federation (BEF) is the national organization of employers. It represents all associations representing major industries in the country as well as established individual enterprises.

The objectives of the Federation are to promote, encourage and protect the interests of employers in industrial relations and, through such efforts, to establish good relations among employers and workers, which play a vital supporting role in the country's economic development.

BEF is well known as a progressive body, having a proactive approach on social issues. It is the only body of the employers recognized by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, and accordingly enjoys the sole representative capacity in the Tripartite Consultative Council, Labour Courts, Minimum Wages

Board, National Wages and Productivity Commission, etc. It closely interacts with the Ministry of Labour and Employment on all policy issues. Similarly, it maintains close touch with other relevant Ministries of the Government on issues concerning industrial relations, enterprise efficiency, competitiveness, etc.

BEF's activities cover a wide range of issues besides industrial relations. Training and skill development is a major activity along with enterprise level programs for productivity improvement, safety and health, good management practices, etc.

BEF has taken major initiatives to foster close relationship with the trade unions and it enjoys their goodwill and confidence on many issues.



Bangladesh Employers' Federation