



## New agreement ready for “Tvätten” (the laundry industry)

The new agreement signed by IF Metall and counterparty IKEM for “Tvätten” contains a contract value of 7.4 percent and is valid from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2025. In addition to provisions for part-time pensions and low-wage investments, there is also a pay block. “Our negotiating delegation has worked hard to reach an agreement that gives our members opportunities for wage development,” says IF Metall’s agreement negotiator Veli-Pekka Säikkälä.

The new pay block in the agreement applies to everyone who has had a total period of employment of four years. In practice, this means their wage must exceed the agreement’s minimum salary by at least SEK 3,480.

“If you stay in a tough sector like the laundry industry, it must pay off,” Veli-Pekka Säikkälä emphasises.

The contract value is 4.1 percent, about SEK 1,050, for the first contract year and 3.35 percent, about SEK 893, for the second year. The provision for part-time pensions is 0.2 percent for the second contract year. The parties have also agreed that summer workers who are employed for maximum three months are not included in the wage review.

### Important step for wage development

Negotiations have focused on the wage development and wage distribution of the employees in this agreement area. In addition to the fact that these wages are among the lowest in IF Metall’s agreement areas, wage development is poor, even for workers who have been employed for many years. This problem has been

highlighted by IF Metall’s calculations and testified by the members of the negotiating delegation.

“That’s why it feels really good to have this pay block included in the new agreement. Every step forward to improve wages and conditions is so important,” says Anna Gustafsson, head negotiating ombudsman.

### Employment and wage systems to be investigated

More steps will be taken during the contract period to review both employment and wage systems.

“A working group with members from both parties and from local and central sources is going to investigate forms of employment at some ten workplaces in different parts of Sweden,” says Anna Gustafsson.

“We are also going to continue discussions on how more workplaces in the agreement area can develop wage systems.

Hopefully, our efforts will lead to more secure forms of employment with opportunities for wage development in the form of more wage systems for employees working in jobs covered by the laundry industry agreement. Incidentally, this laundry agreement is a celebratory one since it is the 50th agreement signed since the first one back in 1942.

Stay tuned for updates on the national bargaining agreement!

