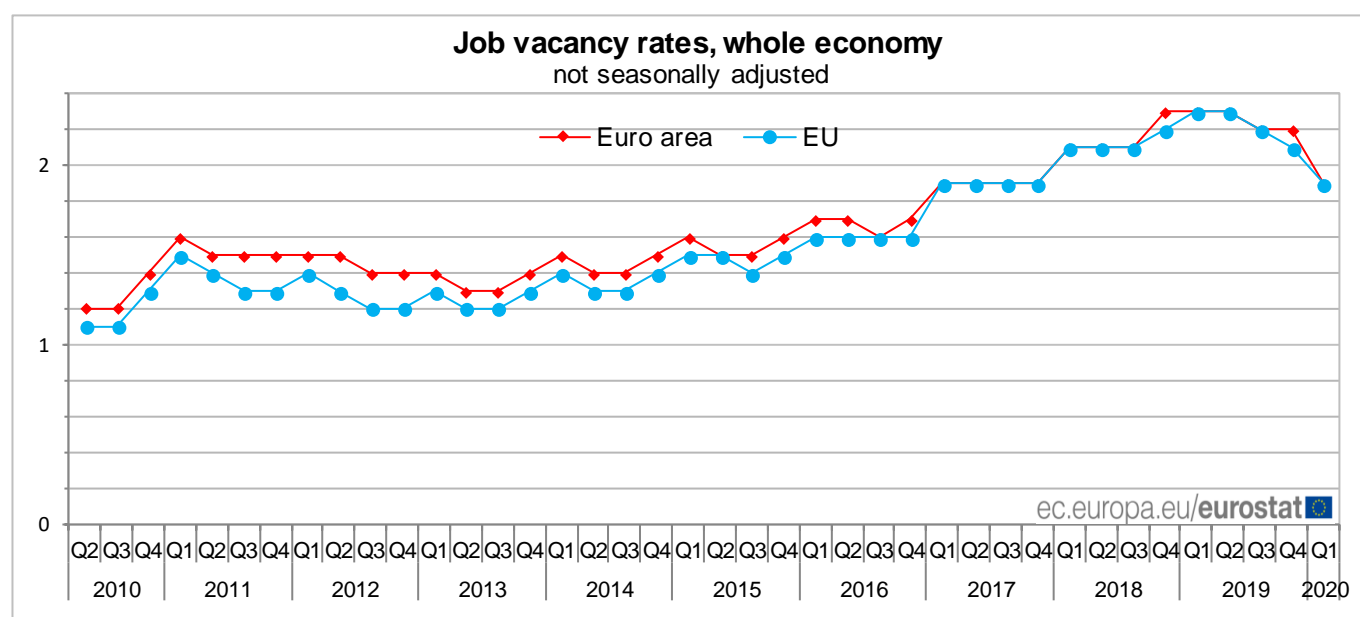First quarter of 2020

Euro area and EU job vacancy rate both at 1.9%

In the first quarter of 2020, the quarter when COVID-19 containment measures began to be widely introduced by Member States, the job vacancy rate in the **euro area** was 1.9%, down from 2.2% in the previous quarter and from 2.3% in the first quarter of 2019, according to figures published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**. In the **EU**, the job vacancy rate was also 1.9% in the first quarter of 2020, down from 2.1% in the previous quarter and from 2.3% in the first quarter of 2019.

Job vacancy rates, whole economy
not seasonally adjusted

In the **euro area**, the job vacancy rate in the first quarter of 2020 was 1.6% in industry and construction, and 2.0% in services. In the **EU**, the rate was 1.7% in industry and construction, and 2.0% in services.
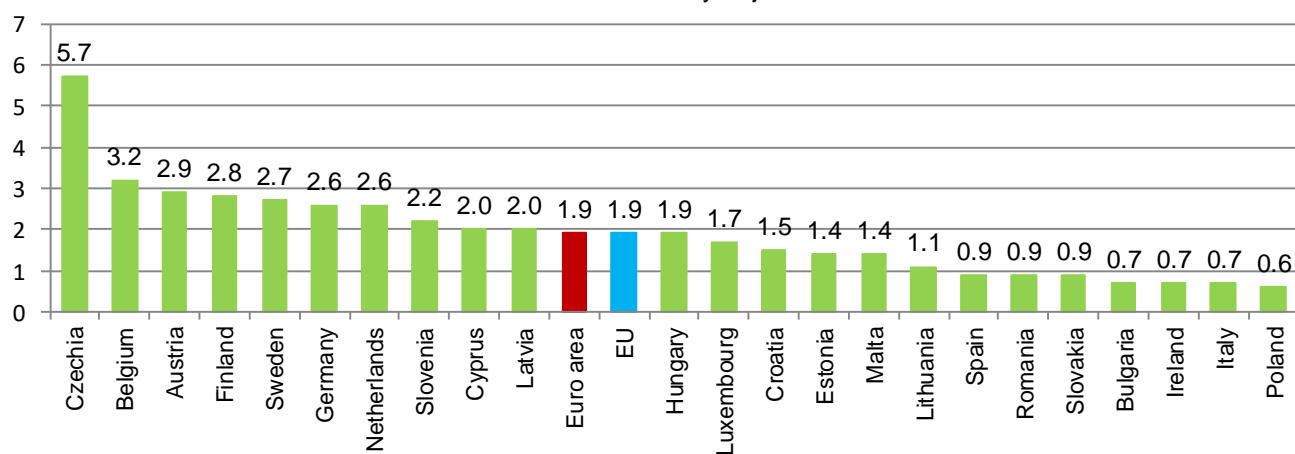
Member States

Among the Member States for which comparable data are available (see country notes), the highest job vacancy rates in the first quarter of 2020 were recorded in **Czechia** (5.7%), **Belgium** (3.2%), and **Austria** (2.9%). In contrast, the lowest rates were observed in **Poland** (0.6%), **Italy**, **Ireland** and **Bulgaria** (all 0.7%).

Compared with the same quarter of the previous year, the job vacancy rate, among countries for which data is available in the first quarter of 2020, fell in twenty Member States and remained stable in **Spain**, **Cyprus**, **Luxembourg** and **Finland**. The largest decreases were registered in **Italy**, **Latvia** and **Malta** (-1.1 pp in all of them).

Job vacancy rates, whole economy, first quarter of 2020
not seasonally adjusted

Country	Rate
Czechia	5.7
Belgium	3.2
Austria	2.9
Finland	2.8
Sweden	2.7
Germany	2.6
Netherlands	2.6
Slovenia	2.2
Cyprus	2.0
Latvia	2.0
Euro area	1.9
EU	1.9
Hungary	1.9
Luxembourg	1.7
Croatia	1.5
Estonia	1.4
Malta	1.4
Lithuania	1.1
Spain	0.9
Romania	0.9
Slovakia	0.9
Bulgaria	0.7
Ireland	0.7
Italy	0.7
Poland	0.6

Denmark and France: not shown, as data are not strictly comparable.
Greece and Portugal: data not available.

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Geographical information
The **euro area** (EA19) includes Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland.

The **European Union** (EU27) includes Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland and Sweden.

Methods and definitions
The **job vacancy rate** (JVR) measures the proportion of total posts that are vacant, expressed as a percentage:

JVR = (number of job vacancies) / (number of occupied posts + number of job vacancies).

A **job vacancy** is defined as a paid post (newly created, unoccupied or about to become vacant) for which the employer is taking active steps to find a suitable candidate from outside the enterprise concerned and is prepared to take more steps and which the employer intends to fill either immediately or in the near future. Under this definition, a job vacancy should be open to candidates from outside an enterprise. However, this does not exclude the possibility of the employer recruiting an internal candidate for the post. A vacant post that is open only to internal candidates should not be treated as a job vacancy. An occupied post is a paid post within an organisation to which an employee has been assigned.

Job vacancy rates cover NACE Rev. 2 sections B to S. This aggregate is referred to as "**Whole economy**" for the sake of simplification, even if agriculture, activities of households as employers and activities of extraterritorial organisations are excluded. NACE Rev. 2 sections B to S include the industry (B to E), construction (F) and services (G to N) sectors together with (mainly) non-market services (O to S).

The job vacancy rates for the EU and euro area aggregates are based on Member States data, including estimates for recent periods when values are not yet available. If national data are only available for a sub-population, for example excluding smaller units or some activities, this sub-population is used in the computation of the job vacancy rate for the aggregates.

Depending on the recording date(s) of job vacancies, the impact of the COVID-19 crisis may not be recorded in full in all countries.

Country notes:
Denmark and France: data are not strictly comparable. In Denmark, only units within the business economy (NACE Rev 2 sections B to N) are surveyed. In France, only business units with 10 employees or more are surveyed. Moreover, in the case of public administration, education and human health (NACE Rev. 2 sections O, P and Q), public institutions are not covered.

Revisions and timetable
Compared with the rates published in News Release 43/2020 of 16 March 2020, the job vacancy rate for the fourth quarter of 2019 remains unchanged in the euro area and has been revised from 2.2% down to 2.1% in the EU.

For more information
Eurostat website section on job vacancy statistics
Eurostat database section on job vacancy statistics
Eurostat Statistics Explained article on job vacancy statistics
Eurostat €-indicators release calendar
European Statistics Code of Practice

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Job vacancy rates – whole economy (%)
- not seasonally adjusted -

	2019Q1	2019Q2	2019Q3	2019Q4	2020Q1
Euro area	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2	**1.9**
EU	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.1	**1.9**
Belgium	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.4	**3.2**
Bulgaria	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8	**0.7**
Czechia	6.4	6.2	6.2	5.9	**5.7**
Germany	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.3	**2.6**
Estonia	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.8	**1.4**
Ireland	1.0	1.1	0.9	0.9	**0.7**
Greece	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.5	**:**
Spain	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	**0.9**
Croatia	1.9	1.5	1.3	1.2	**1.5**
Italy	1.8	1.4	1.3	1.1	**0.7**
Cyprus	2.0	1.7	2.0	1.3	**2.0**
Latvia	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.0	**2.0**
Lithuania	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.3	**1.1**
Luxembourg	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.5	**1.7**
Hungary	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.4	**1.9**
Malta	2.5	3.0	2.3	2.2	**1.4**
Netherlands	3.2	3.4	3.2	3.2	**2.6**
Austria	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.0	**2.9**
Poland	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	**0.6**
Portugal	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	**:**
Romania	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.0	**0.9**
Slovenia	2.7	2.3	2.2	2.0	**2.2**
Slovakia	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.0	**0.9**
Finland	2.8	2.1	2.2	1.6	**2.8**
Sweden	2.9	2.7	2.0	1.9	**2.7**
United Kingdom	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.5	**2.4**
Norway	2.6	2.9	2.2	2.2	**2.5**
Switzerland	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.5	**1.3**
North Macedonia	1.8	1.4	1.5	1.8	**1.8**

: data not available

Job vacancy rates – restricted coverage[*] (%)
- not seasonally adjusted -

	2019Q1	2019Q2	2019Q3	2019Q4	2020Q1
Denmark	2.0	2.1	2.0	1.9	**1.9**
France	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.4	**:**

: data not available

* see "country notes" under Methods and definitions

Source dataset: jvs_q_nace2

Job vacancy rates by main economic activity branches (%)
- not seasonally adjusted -

	Industry and construction (NACE Rev. 2 section B to F)					Services (NACE Rev. 2 section G to N)				
	2019Q1	2019Q2	2019Q3	2019Q4	2020Q1	2019Q1	2019Q2	2019Q3	2019Q4	2020Q1
Euro area	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9	**1.6**	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.5	**2.0**
EU	2.2	2.1	2.0	1.9	**1.7**	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.4	**2.0**
Belgium	3.1	3.3	3.2	3.1	**2.8**	4.8	4.6	4.5	4.7	**4.1**
Bulgaria	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	**0.5**	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.6	**0.5**
Czechia	7.0	6.8	6.7	6.4	**6.3**	9.0	9.0	9.1	8.8	**8.5**
Denmark	1.8	2.0	2.0	1.7	**1.9**	2.0	2.1	2.0	1.9	**1.9**
Germany	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.6	**2.2**	4.0	4.1	4.0	4.0	**3.0**
Estonia	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.4	**0.9**	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.0	**1.3**
Ireland	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.8	**0.4**	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.0	**0.8**
Greece	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.3	**:**	0.9	0.8	0.5	0.6	**:**
Spain	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	**0.4**	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	**0.5**
Croatia	1.6	1.3	1.2	1.0	**1.3**	2.3	1.6	1.2	1.0	**1.7**
Italy	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.1	**0.6**	2.0	1.4	1.3	1.1	**0.8**
Cyprus	2.0	1.2	2.1	1.0	**3.1**	2.3	2.1	2.1	1.7	**2.0**
Latvia	4.2	4.1	3.8	3.6	**2.7**	2.8	2.9	3.0	2.6	**1.3**
Lithuania	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6	**1.0**	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.2	**1.1**
Luxembourg	0.9	1.1	0.9	0.8	**0.9**	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.1	**2.4**
Hungary	2.7	2.5	2.6	2.4	**1.6**	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.2	**1.6**
Malta	3.1	3.7	2.6	2.4	**1.4**	2.7	3.6	2.7	2.3	**1.4**
Netherlands	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.4	**2.9**	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.5	**2.7**
Austria	3.5	3.1	3.0	3.2	**3.2**	4.0	4.1	3.9	3.9	**3.5**
Poland	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.2	**0.7**	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.0	**0.6**
Portugal	0.9	0.9	1.1	0.9	**:**	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.4	**:**
Romania	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.8	**0.7**	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	**0.7**
Slovenia	3.5	2.6	2.5	2.1	**2.6**	3.1	2.8	2.7	2.5	**2.7**
Slovakia	1.3	1.1	0.9	1.0	**0.7**	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.8	**0.9**
Finland	2.5	1.8	1.5	1.3	**2.3**	3.4	2.7	3.1	2.2	**3.5**
Sweden	2.2	2.3	1.8	1.6	**2.1**	3.0	2.9	2.5	2.3	**2.6**
United Kingdom	2.1	2.1	1.9	1.9	**1.9**	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.7	**2.5**
Norway	2.2	2.3	2.0	1.7	**1.9**	3.0	3.3	2.5	2.4	**2.6**
Switzerland	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.6	**1.4**	1.6	1.8	1.8	1.7	**1.4**
North Macedonia	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.6	**2.2**	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.2	**2.1**

: data not available

Job vacancy rates by main economic activity branches (%)
– restricted coverage* –
- not seasonally adjusted -

	Industry and construction (NACE Rev. 2 section B to F)					Services (NACE Rev. 2 section G to N)				
	2019Q1	2019Q2	2019Q3	2019Q4	2020Q1	2019Q1	2019Q2	2019Q3	2019Q4	2020Q1
France	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.2	**:**	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.4	**:**

: data not available

* see "country notes" under Methods and definitions

Source dataset: jvs_q_nace2