Third quarter of 2021

**Euro area job vacancy rate at 2.6%**
**EU rate at 2.4%**

In the third quarter of 2021, the job vacancy rate was 2.6% in the euro area, up from 2.3% in the previous quarter and 1.7% in the third quarter of 2020, according to figures published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**. The job vacancy rate in the **EU** was 2.4% in the third quarter of 2021, up from 2.2% in the previous quarter and 1.7% in the third quarter of 2020.

Compared with the third quarter of 2019, before the COVID-19 outbreak, the job vacancy rates have increased by 0.4 p.p. in the euro area and by 0.3 p.p. in the EU.

![Job vacancy rates, whole economy](ec.europa.eu/eurostat)

In the **euro area**, the job vacancy rate in the third quarter of 2021 was 2.4% in industry and construction and 2.9% in services. In the **EU**, the rate was 2.4% in industry and construction and 2.7% in services.

**Member States**

Among the Member States for which comparable data are available (see country notes), the highest job vacancy rates in the third quarter of 2021 were recorded in **Czechia** (5.1%), **Belgium** (4.7%) and the **Netherlands** (4.2%). By contrast, the lowest rates were observed in **Greece** (0.7%) as well as in **Bulgaria** and **Spain** (both 0.8%).

Compared with the same quarter of the previous year, the job vacancy rate increased in twenty-five Member States and decreased in two. Decreases were recorded in **Czechia** (-0.2 pp) and **Bulgaria** (-0.1 pp). The largest increases were observed in the **Netherlands** (+1.7 pp), **Denmark** (+1.5 pp) and **Belgium** (+1.4 pp).
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:

\[ \text{JVR} = \frac{\text{number of job vacancies}}{\text{number of occupied posts} + \text{number of job vacancies}}. \]

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.

**Country notes:**

Denmark, France and Italy: 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 in France and Italy.

Revisions and timetable

Compared with the rates published in News Release 105/2021 of 16 September 2021, the job vacancy rate for the second quarter of 2021 remains unchanged in the euro area and 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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EU_Eurostat Instagram
ec.europa.eu/eurostat
### Job vacancy rates – whole economy (%) - not seasonally adjusted –

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<th>Country</th>
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### Job vacancy rates – restricted coverage* (%) - not seasonally adjusted –

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* see "country notes" under Methods and definitions

Source dataset: jvs_q_nace2
## Job vacancy rates by main economic activity branches (%)

- not seasonally adjusted -

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## Job vacancy rates by main economic activity branches (%)

– restricted coverage –

- not seasonally adjusted -

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