

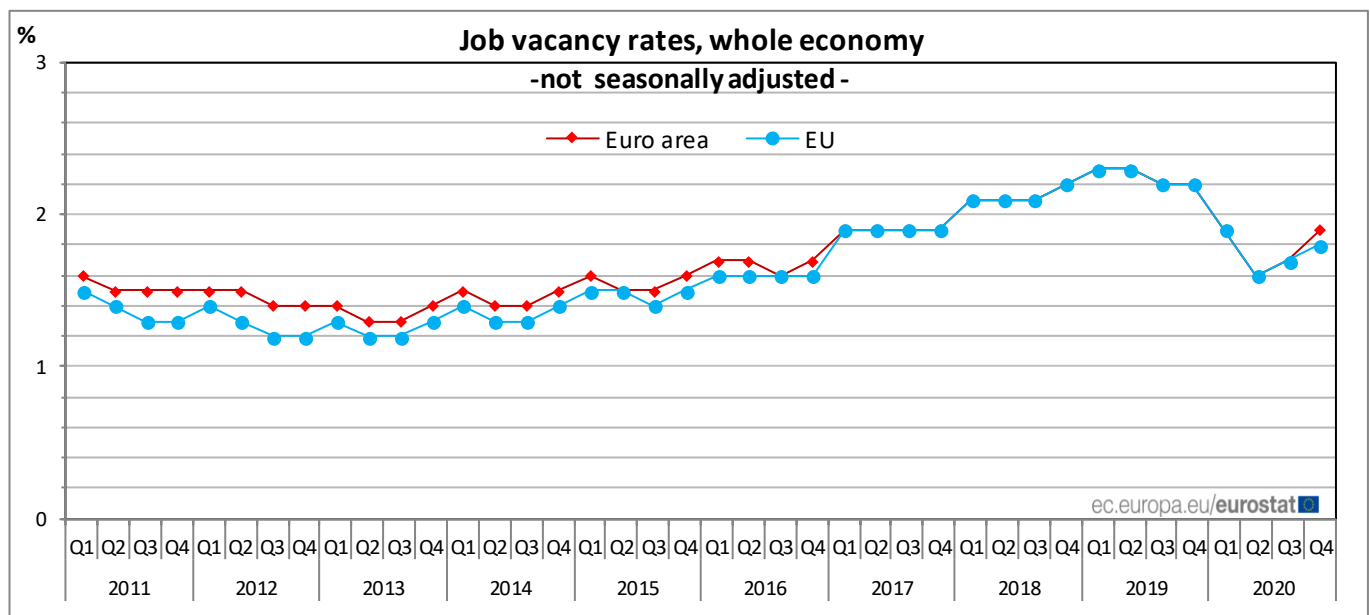
36/2021 - 19 March 2021

Fourth quarter of 2020

Euro area job vacancy rate at 1.9%

EU rate at 1.8%

In the fourth quarter of 2020, the job vacancy rate was 1.9% in the **euro area**, up from 1.7% in the previous quarter and down from 2.2% in the fourth quarter of 2019, according to figures published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**. The job vacancy rate in the **EU** was 1.8% in the fourth quarter of 2020, also up from 1.7% in the previous quarter and down from 2.2% in the fourth quarter of 2019.



In the **euro area**, the job vacancy rate in the fourth quarter of 2020 was 1.7% in industry and construction, and 2.0% in services. In the **EU**, the rate was 1.7% in industry and construction, and 1.9% in services.

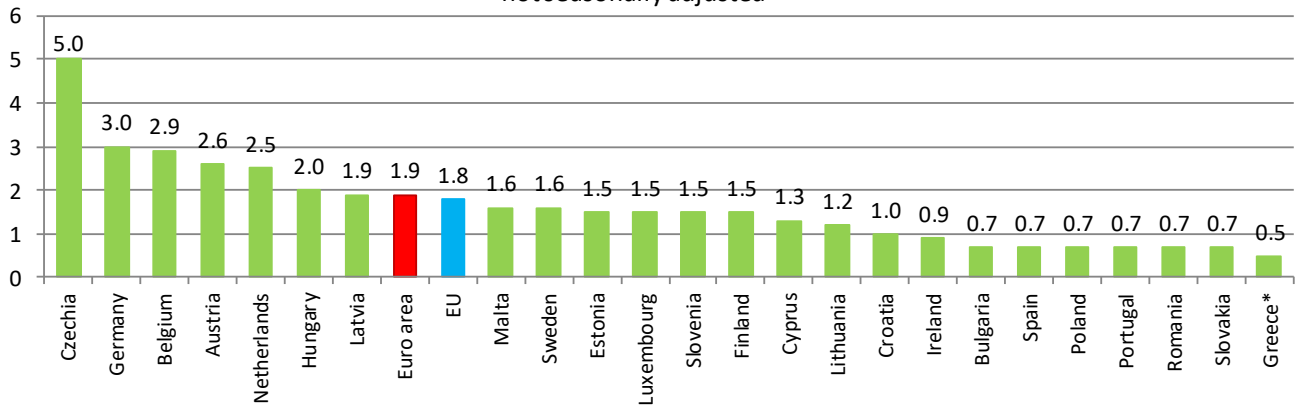
Member States

Among the Member States for which comparable data are available (see country notes), the highest job vacancy rates in the fourth quarter of 2020 were recorded in **Czechia** (5.0%), **Germany** (3.0%) and **Belgium** (2.9%). In contrast, the lowest rates were observed in **Greece** (0.5% in the third quarter of 2020), as well as in **Bulgaria**, **Spain**, **Poland**, **Portugal**, **Romania** and **Slovakia** (all 0.7%).

Compared with the same quarter of the previous year, the job vacancy rate fell in twenty-three Member States and remained stable in **Denmark**, **Ireland**, **Cyprus** and **Luxembourg**. The largest decreases were recorded in **Latvia** (-1.1 pp), **Czechia** (-0.9 pp) and the **Netherlands** (-0.7 pp).

Job vacancy rates, whole economy, fourth quarter of 2020

- not seasonally adjusted -



Denmark, France and Italy: not shown, as data are not strictly comparable.

*Greece: Data from 2020Q3.

ec.europa.eu/eurostat

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:

$$\text{JVR} = (\text{number of job vacancies}) / (\text{number of occupied posts} + \text{number of job vacancies}).$$

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 [180/2020](#) of 15 December 2020, the job vacancy rate for the third quarter of 2020 remains unchanged both in the euro area and 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](#)

Eurostat Press Office

Romina BRONDINO

Tel: +352-4301-33 408

eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu

Production of data:

Javier ALCANTARA ORTEGA

Tel: +352-4301-35 183

javier.alcantara@ec.europa.eu

Beate CZECH

Tel: +352-4301-35 407

beate.czech@ec.europa.eu



Media requests: eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu / Tel: +352-4301-33 408



[@EU Eurostat](#)



[EurostatStatistics](#)



[EU Eurostat](#)



ec.europa.eu/eurostat/

Job vacancy rates – whole economy (%)

- not seasonally adjusted -

	2019Q4	2020Q1	2020Q2	2020Q3	2020Q4
Euro area	2.2	1.9	1.6	1.7	1.9
EU	2.2	1.9	1.6	1.7	1.8
Belgium	3.4	3.2	3.0	3.3	2.9
Bulgaria	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.7
Czechia	5.9	5.7	5.4	5.3	5.0
Germany	3.3	2.6	2.1	2.2	3.0
Estonia	1.8	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.5
Ireland	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9
Greece	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.5	:
Spain	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.7
Croatia	1.2	1.5	0.8	1.2	1.0
Cyprus	1.3	2.0	1.2	1.7	1.3
Latvia	3.0	2.1	2.4	2.3	1.9
Lithuania	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.2
Luxembourg	1.5	1.7	1.4	1.5	1.5
Hungary	2.4	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.0
Malta	2.2	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.6
Netherlands	3.2	2.6	2.4	2.5	2.5
Austria	3.0	2.9	2.2	2.5	2.6
Poland	1.0	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7
Portugal	0.9	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7
Romania	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.7
Slovenia	2.0	2.2	1.4	1.8	1.5
Slovakia	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.7
Finland	1.6	2.8	1.5	2.0	1.5
Sweden	1.9	2.7	1.8	1.4	1.6
Norway	2.2	2.5	2.2	2.1	2.1
Switzerland	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.3
North Macedonia	1.8	1.8	1.4	1.7	1.6

: data not available

Job vacancy rates – restricted coverage¹ (%)

- not seasonally adjusted -

	2019Q4	2020Q1	2020Q2	2020Q3	2020Q4
Denmark	1.9	1.9	1.5	1.8	1.9
France	1.5	:	1.5	1.3	1.3
Italy	1.1	0.7	0.9	1.0	0.8

* see "country notes" under Methods and definitions

: data not available

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)				
	2019Q4	2020Q1	2020Q2	2020Q3	2020Q4	2019Q4	2020Q1	2020Q2	2020Q3	2020Q4
Euro area	1.9	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.7	2.5	2.0	1.7	1.7	2.0
EU	1.9	1.7	1.4	1.6	1.7	2.4	2.0	1.7	1.7	1.9
Belgium	3.1	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.5	4.7	4.1	3.9	4.1	3.9
Bulgaria	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.5
Czechia	6.4	6.3	5.7	5.6	5.5	8.8	8.5	8.3	7.9	7.4
Denmark	1.7	1.9	1.4	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.5	1.8	1.8
Germany	2.6	2.2	1.8	2.0	2.7	4.0	3.0	2.3	2.4	3.4
Estonia	1.4	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	2.0	1.3	1.0	1.2	1.4
Ireland	0.8	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.5	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.9
Greece	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.4	:	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.5	:
Spain	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.3
Croatia	1.0	1.3	1.0	1.2	0.8	1.0	1.7	0.7	0.8	0.6
Italy	1.1	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.8	1.1	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.7
Cyprus	1.0	3.1	0.9	1.5	1.5	1.7	2.0	1.1	1.8	1.2
Latvia	3.6	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.5	2.6	1.4	1.9	1.9	1.3
Lithuania	1.6	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.5	1.5	1.2
Luxembourg	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.9	2.1	2.4	1.9	2.1	2.0
Hungary	2.4	1.6	1.8	2.2	2.1	2.2	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.6
Malta	2.3	1.4	1.6	1.4	1.5	2.3	1.4	1.2	1.5	1.7
Netherlands	3.4	2.9	2.6	2.8	3.0	3.5	2.7	2.5	2.6	2.6
Austria	3.2	3.2	2.3	2.5	2.8	3.9	3.5	2.8	3.2	3.5
Poland	1.2	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7
Portugal	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	1.4	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0
Romania	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.6
Slovenia	2.1	2.6	1.6	2.0	2.0	2.5	2.7	1.7	2.0	1.5
Slovakia	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.5
Finland	1.3	2.3	0.9	1.0	1.1	2.2	3.5	1.9	2.4	1.6
Sweden	1.6	2.1	1.3	1.1	1.2	2.3	2.6	1.6	1.7	1.8
Norway	1.7	1.9	1.4	1.4	1.5	2.4	2.6	2.0	2.2	2.1
Switzerland	1.6	1.4	1.2	1.5	1.3	1.7	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.4
North Macedonia	1.6	2.2	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.2	2.1	1.6	2.2	1.6

: data not available

Job vacancy rates by main economic activity branches (%)

- restricted coverage¹ -

- not seasonally adjusted -

	Industry and construction (NACE Rev. 2 section B to F)					Services (NACE Rev. 2 section G to N)				
	2019Q4	2020Q1	2020Q2	2020Q3	2020Q4	2019Q4	2020Q1	2020Q2	2020Q3	2020Q4
France	1.2	:	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.5	:	1.4	1.1	1.1

* see "country notes" under Methods and definitions

: data not available

Source dataset: [jvs_g_nace2](#)