

*Data extracted in March 2019.
Planned article update: June 2019.*

This article gives an overview of recent quarterly and annual job vacancy statistics, notably the [job vacancy rate \(JVR\)](#) , in the [European Union \(EU\)](#) , Norway, Switzerland and North Macedonia.

EU policies in the area of job vacancies aim to improve the functioning of the [labour market](#) by trying to help match supply and demand more closely. The [European jobs and mobility portal \(EURES\)](#) was set up in order to enable job seekers to consult all vacancies publicised by the employment services of each EU Member State.

Job vacancies between 2016 and 2018

The job vacancy rate (not seasonally adjusted) in the [euro area \(EA-19\)](#) was 2.3 % in the fourth quarter of 2018, up from 2.1 % in the previous quarter and from 2.0 % in the fourth quarter of 2017. In the [EU-28](#) , the job vacancy rate was 2.3 % in the fourth quarter of 2018, up from 2.2 % in the previous quarter and from 2.0 % in the fourth quarter of 2017 as shown in Table 1 and Figure 4.

Quarterly job vacancy rates not seasonally adjusted, Q4-2017 - Q4-2018

	Q4-2017	Q1-2018	Q2-2018	Q3-2018	Q4-2018	Changes between Q4-2017 and Q4-2018 (percentage points)
EU-28	2.0	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.3	0.3
EA-19 ⁽¹⁾	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.3	0.3
Belgium	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.4	0.0
Bulgaria ⁽⁵⁾	0.8	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.1
Czechia	4.4	4.8	5.4	5.9	6.0	1.6
Denmark ⁽²⁾⁽⁶⁾	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.9	0.1
Germany	2.8	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.4	0.6
Estonia	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.8	-0.1
Ireland ⁽⁶⁾	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.0	0.9	-0.1
Greece	0.1	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.3
Spain ⁽⁶⁾	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.2
France ⁽³⁾	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.4	0.2
Croatia	1.5	2.1	1.9	1.5	1.4	-0.1
Italy ⁽³⁾⁽⁶⁾	0.8	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.0	0.2
Cyprus	1.0	1.2	1.4	2.1	1.0	0.0
Latvia	1.9	2.4	2.7	2.5	2.3	0.4
Lithuania	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.3	-0.2
Luxembourg	1.4	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.7	0.3
Hungary ⁽⁶⁾	2.4	2.5	2.7	2.8	2.7	0.3
Malta ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	1.1	1.9	2.2	1.7	1.8	0.7
Netherlands ⁽⁵⁾	2.6	2.8	3.1	3.0	2.9	0.3
Austria	2.3	2.8	2.7	3.0	3.1	0.8
Poland	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.1	0.1
Portugal	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.1
Romania	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.2	0.1
Slovenia	2.0	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.2	0.2
Slovakia	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	0.1
Finland	1.8	2.7	2.1	2.1	1.8	0.0
Sweden	2.1	2.9	2.7	2.1	2.1	0.0
United Kingdom ⁽⁶⁾	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.8	0.2
Norway	2.0	2.4	2.6	2.3	2.1	0.1
Switzerland	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.2
North Macedonia	1.3	1.7	1.4	1.7	1.6	0.3

Note: unadjusted data (neither seasonally adjusted nor calendar adjusted) for NACE Rev. 2 Sections B to S.

(¹) Estimate.

(²) NACE Rev. 2 Sections B to N.

(³) Units with 10 or more employees.

(⁴) Break in series.

(⁵) Provisional.

(⁶) Q4-2018: provisional.

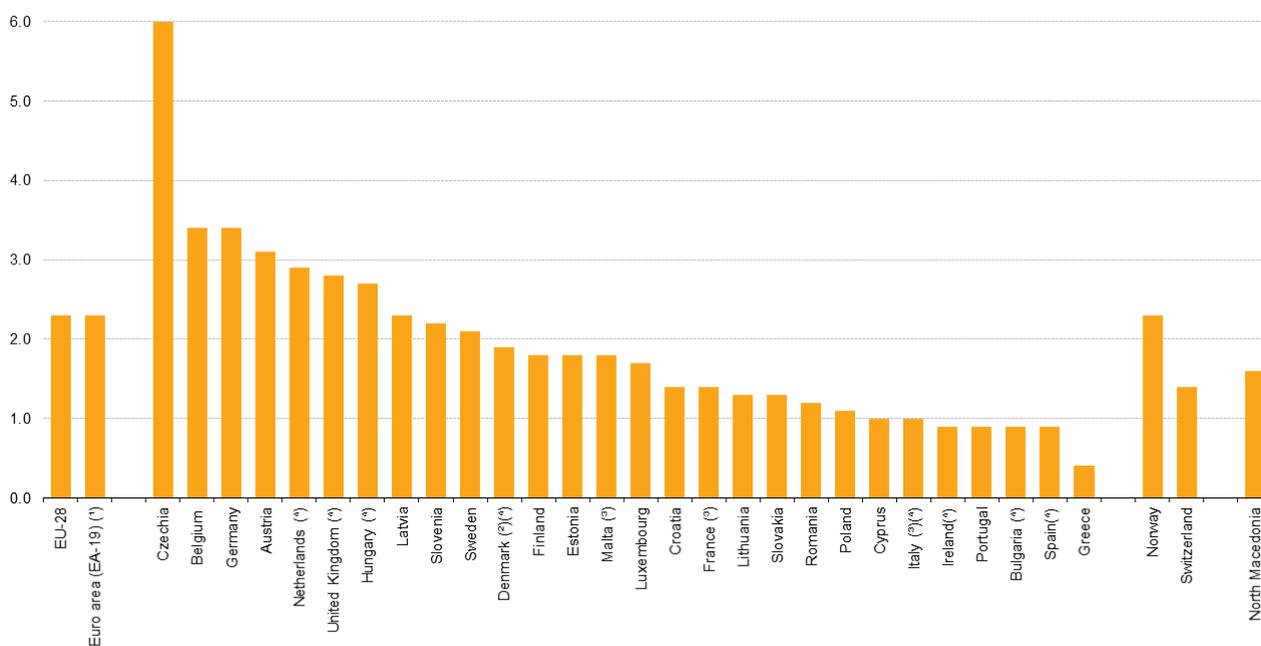
Source: Eurostat (online data code: jvs_q_nace2)

eurostat 

Table 1: Quarterly job vacancy rates not seasonally adjusted, Q4-2017 - Q4-2018 Source: Eurostat (jvs_q_nace2)

Among the EU Member States (see *Data sources* for information concerning coverage), the highest job vacancy rates in the fourth quarter of 2018 were recorded in Czechia (6.0 %), Belgium and Germany (both 3.4 %) and Austria (3.1 %) as shown in Figure 1. By contrast, the lowest job vacancy rates were observed in Greece (0.4 %), Bulgaria, Ireland, Spain and Portugal (all 0.9 %).

Job vacancy rates not seasonally adjusted, fourth quarter 2018
(%)



(*) Estimate.

(*) NACE Rev. 2 Sections B to N.

(*) Units with 10 or more employees.

(*) Provisional.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: jvs_q_nace2)

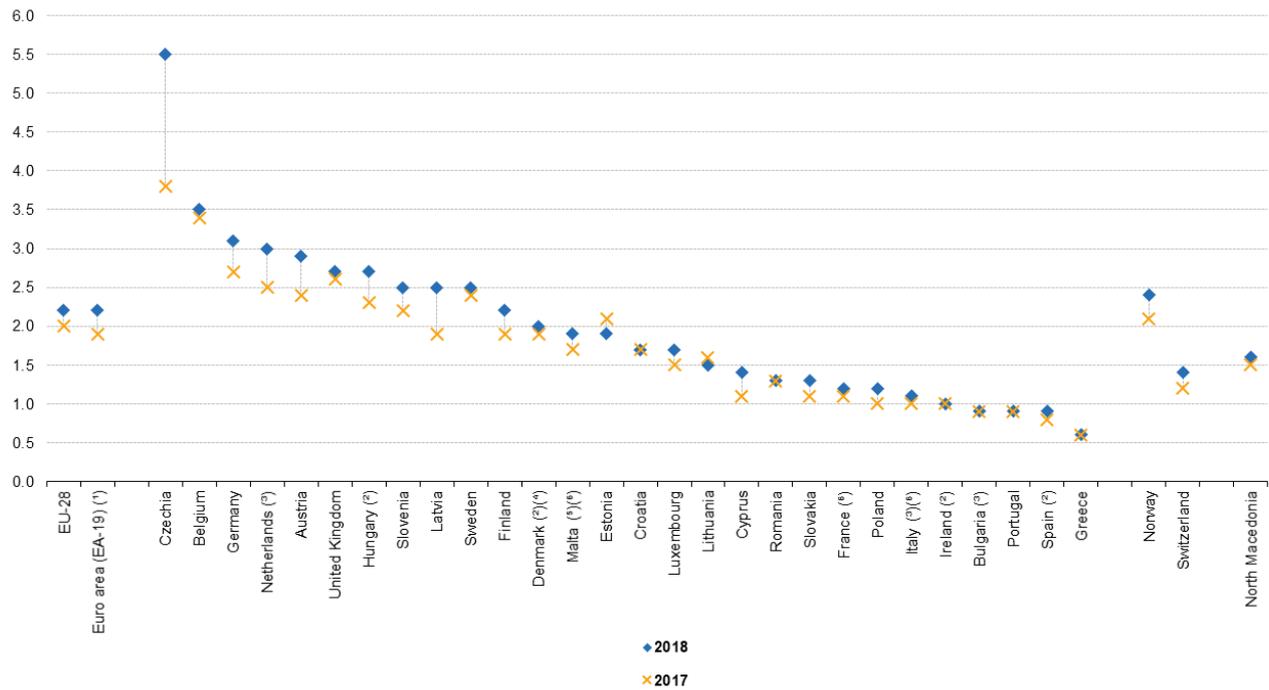


Figure 1: Job vacancy rates not seasonally adjusted, fourth quarter 2018(%)Source: Eurostat (jvs_q_nace2)

Compared with the same quarter of the previous year, the job vacancy rate in the fourth quarter of 2018 rose in twenty Member States, remained stable in Belgium, Cyprus, Finland and Sweden but fell in Estonia, Ireland, Croatia (all of them -0.1 percentage points – pp) and Lithuania (-0.2 pp). The largest increases were registered in Czechia (+1.6 pp), Austria (+0.8 pp), Malta (+0.7 pp) and Germany (+0.6 pp) (see Table 1).

Figure 2 presents information for annual job vacancy rates in 2017 and 2018 and clearly displays a pattern of rising job vacancy rates across the vast majority of EU Member States. Some of the largest increases in rates were recorded among Member States that already had relatively high job vacancy rates, suggesting that the gap in rates between Member States was becoming wider. Aside from Malta (where there is a break in series), Estonia and Lithuania were the only Member States to report a reduction in annual rates between 2017 and 2018, while there was no change in Croatia, Romania, Ireland, Bulgaria, Portugal and Greece.

Job vacancy rates, 2017 and 2018
(%)



Note: NACE Rev. 2 Sections B to S.

(*) Estimate.

(*) 2018: provisional.

(*) Provisional.

(*) NACE Rev. 2 Sections B to N.

(*) Break in series.

(*) Units with 10 or more employees.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: jvs_a_rate_r2)



Figure 2: Annual job vacancy rates, 2017 and 2018(%)Source: Eurostat (jvs_a_rate_r2)

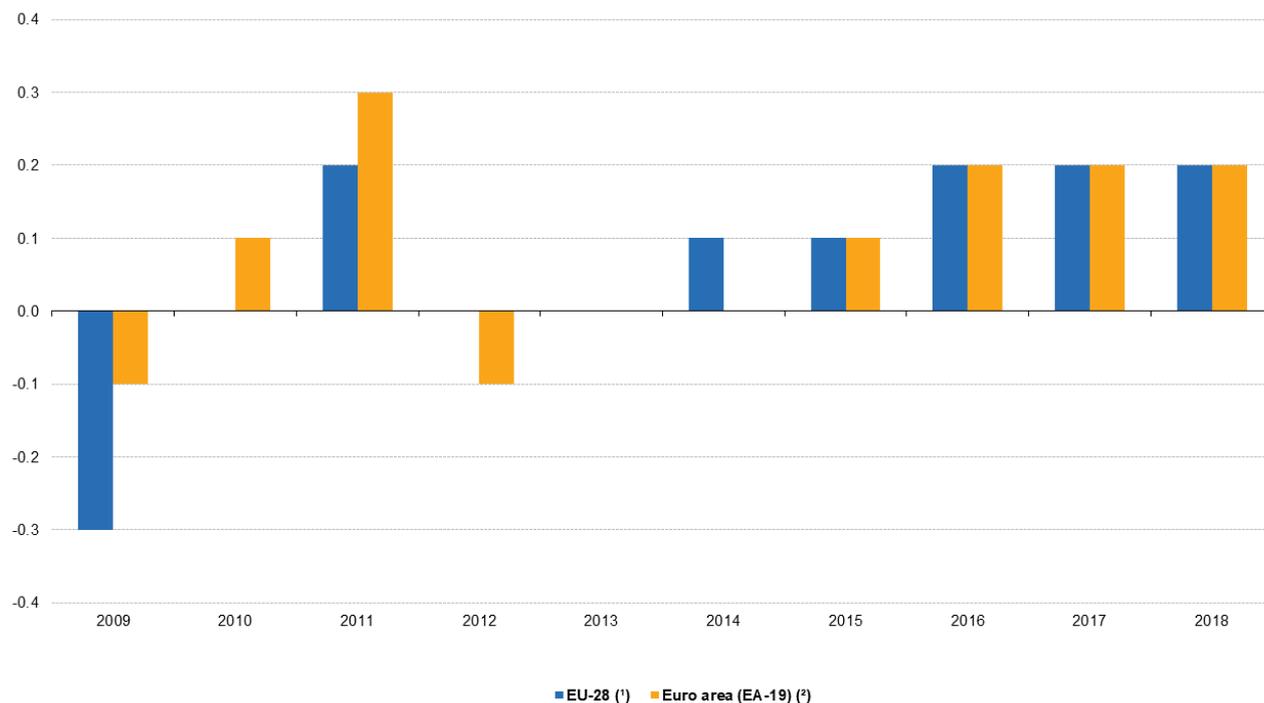
Job vacancies between 2009 and 2018

The impact of the global financial and economic crisis on the job vacancy rate is apparent in the information presented in Figures 3 and 4. At the height of the crisis in 2009, the annual EU job vacancy rate fell by 0.3 percentage points (compared with a year before) and it remained unchanged in 2010. Thereafter, the EU-28 job vacancy rate increased by 0.2 points in 2011, remained stable in both 2012 and 2013, before there were consistent signs of strengthening in the labour market, as there were modest annual increases in the job vacancy rate for the period 2014-2018 (up 0.1 or 0.2 points).

The pattern of development for the euro area was quite similar to that recorded for the EU. The job vacancy rate for the euro area fell less strongly than was observed in the EU between 2008 and 2009 (to reach a low of 1.1 %), before increasing in both 2010 and 2011, falling in 2012, remaining stable in 2013 and 2014, before posting identical annual changes to those recorded for the EU-28 during the period 2015-2018 (see Figure 3).

Annual change in job vacancy rates, 2009-2018

(percentage points)



Note: NACE Rev. 2 Sections B to S.

(*) 2008 and 2009: EU-27.

(*) Estimates.

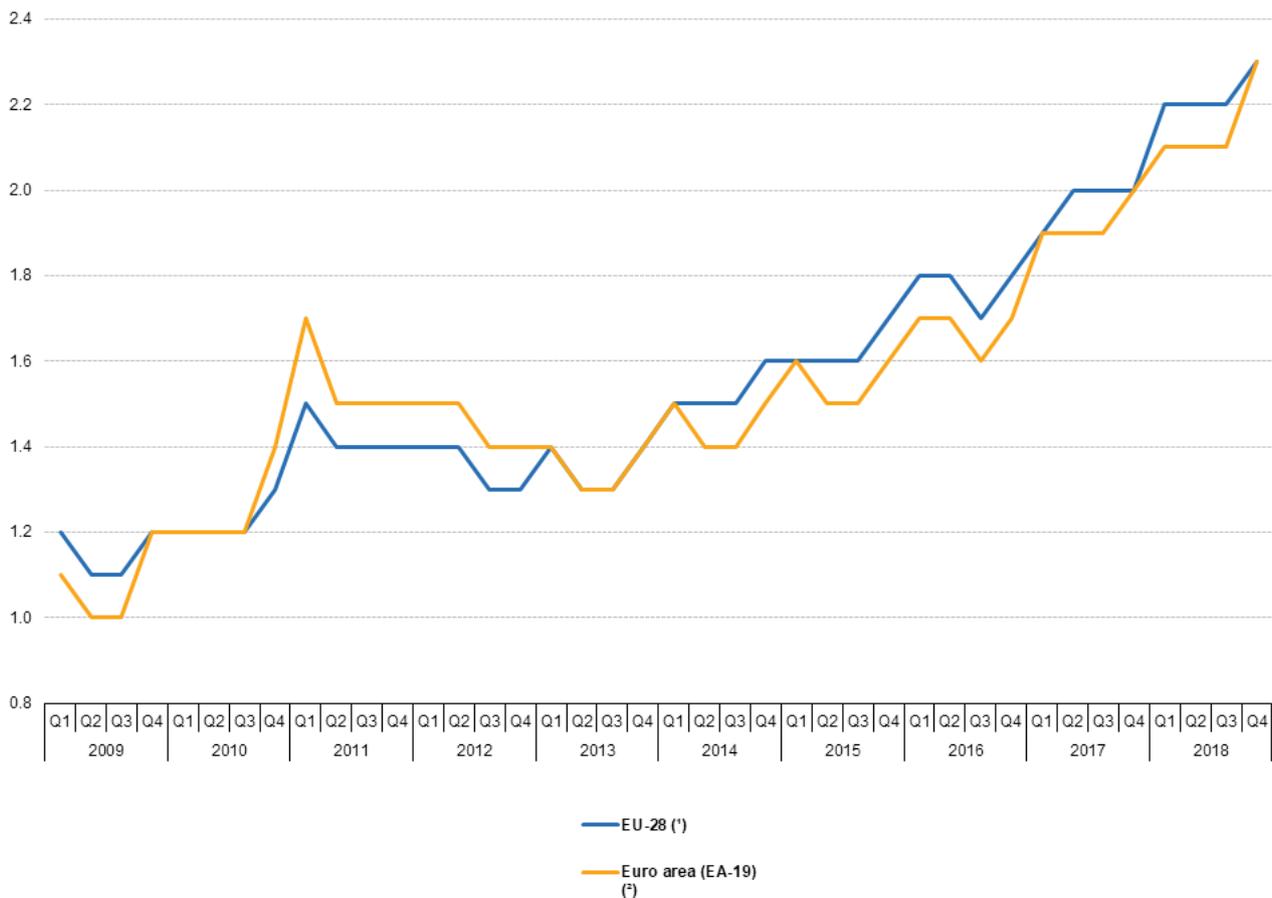
Source: Eurostat (online data code: jvs_a_rate_r2)



Figure 3: Annual change in job vacancy rates, 2009-2018 (percentage points) Source: Eurostat (jvs_a_rate_r2)

Figure 4 presents the development of the non-seasonally adjusted quarterly job vacancy rates in the EU and the euro area between 2009 and 2018, whereas Figure 5 shows the seasonally adjusted quarterly job vacancy rates between 2010 and 2018.

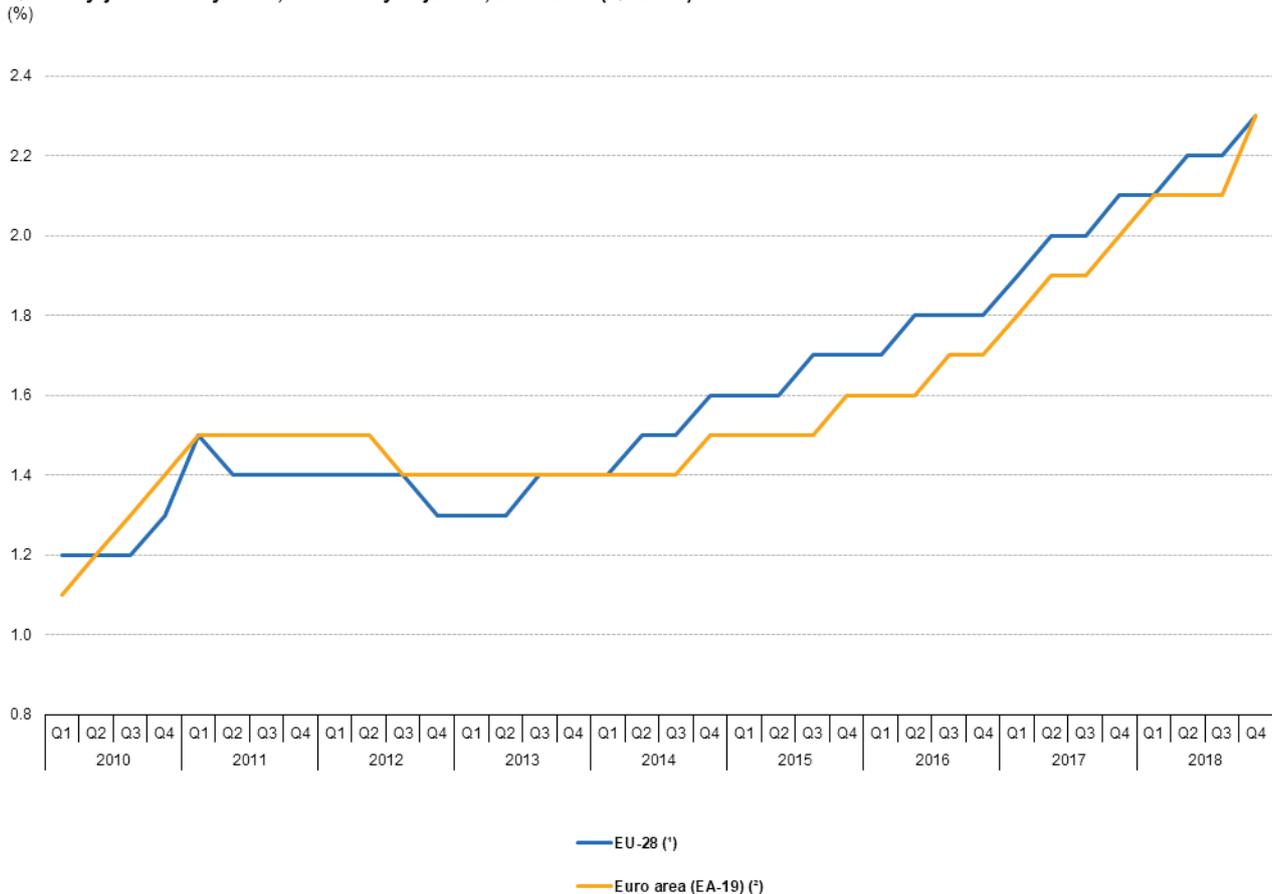
Quarterly job vacancy rates, not seasonally adjusted, 2009-2018 (Q4-2018)
(%)



Note: data for NACE Rev. 2 Sections B to S.
 (*) 2009: EU-27.
 (*) Estimate.
 Source: Eurostat (online data code: jvs_q_nace2)

Figure 4: Quarterly job vacancy rates not seasonally adjusted, 2009-2018(%)Source: Eurostat (jvs_q_nace2)

Quarterly job vacancy rates, seasonally adjusted, 2010-2018 (Q4-2018)



Note: data for NACE Rev. 2 Sections B to S.
 (*) 2009: EU-27.
 (†) Estimate.
 Source: Eurostat (online data code: jvs_q_nace2)



Figure 5: Quarterly job vacancy rates seasonally adjusted, 2010-2018(%)Source: Eurostat (jvs_q_nace2)

Source data for tables and graphs

- Job vacancy statistics: tables and figures

Data sources

Eurostat publishes quarterly and annual data on the number of [job vacancies](#) and the number of [occupied posts](#). This information is collected on a quarterly basis from the national statistical authorities under the [Regulation on quarterly statistics on Community job vacancies](#). The data may be analysed by [economic activity](#) at the [NACE](#) section level and by [size of enterprise](#), while data are collected on a voluntarily basis by [occupation](#) or by [region](#). Annual data for the job vacancy rate are unadjusted information calculated directly from the quarterly data. Some of the data provided by the EU Member States fail to match common criteria and there may be differences in the [coverage](#) between countries; as a result, there are currently no EU totals for the actual numbers of job vacancies or occupied posts; work is currently underway to remove these differences in coverage. Note that the data presented for Denmark relates to NACE Sections B to N, rather than the broader aggregate of NACE Sections B to S used for the other Member States. Data for France, Italy and Malta refer to enterprises with 10 or more employees, rather than the broader aggregate of all enterprises that is used for the other Member States. Due to a methodological change there is a break in series for Malta in 2017. The EU-28 and euro area job vacancy rates are calculated on the basis of the information that is available; no estimates are made for missing or incomplete data.

Context

Job vacancy statistics provide information on the level and structure of labour demand. The job vacancy rate may, in part, reflect the unmet demand for labour, as well as potential mismatches between the skills and availability of those who are [unemployed](#) and those sought by employers. Job vacancy statistics are used by the [European Commission](#) and the [European Central Bank \(ECB\)](#) to analyse and monitor the development of the labour market at national and European level. These statistics are also a key indicator used for an assessment of the [business cycle](#) and for a structural analysis of the economy.

Policy developments in this area have focused mainly on trying to improve the labour market by matching supply and demand more closely, through:

- modernising and strengthening labour market institutions, notably employment services;
- removing obstacles to worker mobility across Europe;
- better anticipating skill needs, labour market shortages and bottlenecks;
- managing economic [migration](#) ;
- improving the adaptability of workers and enterprises so that there is a greater capacity to anticipate, trigger and absorb economic and social change.

The European jobs and mobility portal ([EURES](#)) was set-up with the aim of providing job seekers in the EU with the opportunity to consult all job vacancies publicised in each of the Member State's employment services. The website provides access to a range of job vacancies from 32 European countries (28 EU Member States, as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland). In September 2018, there were almost [3.0 million vacant posts advertised](#) in EURES.

[European job days](#) are another EU initiative in this domain, with hundreds of events being organised across Europe. These aim to raise awareness about the opportunities and practicalities of living and working in another European country, encouraging mobility throughout the EU, and putting job candidates in touch with employers who have job vacancies. Such events typically include job fairs, seminars, lectures, workshops and cultural events, all aimed at improving labour mobility.

Other articles

- [Job vacancy and unemployment rates — Beveridge curve](#)
- [Employment statistics](#)
- [Labour market statistics at regional level](#)
- [Unemployment statistics](#)
- [Unemployment statistics at regional level](#)

Publications

- [Euro area and EU28 job vacancy rates at 2.3 %](#) News release dated 18 March 2019
- [European social statistics — 2013 edition](#)
- [Labour market statistics](#)

Main tables

- [Job vacancy statistics \(t_jvs\)](#) , see:

Job vacancies in number and % - NACE Rev. 2, B-S), quarterly data (tps00172)

Database

- [Job vacancy statistics \(jvs\)](#) , see:

Job vacancy statistics by NACE Rev. 2 activity - quarterly data (from 2001 onwards) (jvs_q_nace2)

Job vacancy statistics by NACE Rev. 2 activity, occupation and NUTS 2 regions - quarterly data (jvs_q_isco_r2)

Job vacancy rate by NACE Rev. 2 activity - annual data (from 2001 onwards) (jvs_a_rate_r2)

Job vacancy statistics - historical data (jvs_h)

Job vacancy statistics by occupation, NUTS 2 regions and NACE Rev. 2 activity - annual data (2008-2015) (jvs_a_nace2)

Job vacancy statistics by occupation, NUTS 2 regions and NACE Rev. 1.1 activity - annual data (2000-2008) (jvs_a_nace1)

Job vacancy statistics by NACE Rev. 1.1 activity - quarterly data (2001Q1-2009Q4) (jvs_q_nace1)

Dedicated section

- [Labour market \(including Labour Force Survey\)](#) , see:

Job vacancies

Methodology

- [1st and 2nd International Workshops on Methodologies for Job Vacancy Statistics — Proceedings, Nuremberg \(2008\) and Neuchâtel \(2009\)](#)
- [Job vacancy statistics](#) (ESMS metadata file — jvs_esms)
- [EU labour force survey — methodology](#)

External links

- [EURES](#) , the European jobs and mobility portal
- [European Commission — Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion — Monitoring the job market](#)
- [OECD — StatExtracts — Registered unemployed and job vacancies \(MEI\): Job vacancies](#)

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