

Standard-documentation Meta information

(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

Job Vacancy Statistics

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Executive Summary

The Austrian job vacancy statistics are based on a sample survey which Statistics Austria has conducted on a quarterly basis from the beginning of 2009 upon commissioning by the Austrian Ministry of Labour. The primary purpose of these statistics is to derive a complete picture of the job vacancies offered by enterprises with at least one employee and classified under the economic activities B to S according to NACE Rev. 2. Before conducting the survey, the information available in Austria had only covered the vacancies reported to Austria's Public Employment Service (AMS). This gap could be closed through the implementation of the job vacancy survey, which offers a more comprehensive view of the labour demand in Austria. Apart from its national relevance, the job vacancy rate is one of Europe's key economic indicators (*Principal European Economic Indicators*).

The population comprises approximately 250,000 enterprises. The survey's underlying sample of approx. 6,000 enterprises each quarter is stratified by NACE Rev. 2 section and further by enterprise size class. Major enterprises remain in the sample continuously in order to minimise the sampling error. Enterprises with fewer employees are interviewed four times in a row. The job vacancy survey is conducted by phone or via a self-administered web survey and has been ongoing since the first quarter of 2009. Survey participation by the sampled enterprises is voluntary. Statistics Austria's business register represents the sampling frame.

Two variables are of interest for the quarterly publications: The number of job vacancies as directly measured in the enterprises (primary statistics) and the number of occupied posts, which are extracted from data provided by the Main Association of Social Security Institutions (Dachverband der Sozialversicherungsträger; secondary statistics). Since the first quarter of 2010, the aggregates relating to these two variables broken down by economic activity must be reported to Eurostat on a quarterly basis. To meet national requirements and to permit a more detailed analysis of available data material, structural characteristics are identified for each job vacancy (occupational category, minimum qualification, apprenticeship, number of working hours, search time, seasonal job, and anticipated gross income). To obtain a full picture of Austria's labour demand during the year, annual averages are computed and published.

The results are published on Statistics Austria's website as well as in the quarterly job market publications since 2010 and can be considered as an addition to the data published by the Public Employment Service (AMS). A comparison with the figures compiled by the AMS shows that the number of job vacancies significantly exceeds those reported to the AMS. As a result, the job vacancy survey closes a rather important gap in the Austrian labour market statistics.

Concerning data quality, it is worth noting that analyses by economic activity in particular reveal very high sampling errors in the aggregated sums of job vacancies. This is due to the unequal distribution of the 'number of job vacancies' variable (approximately 50% of the enterprises have no vacancies). For this reason, analyses with further regional classification are particularly problematic.

Job Vacancy Statistics – Main Features

Subject Matter	Vacancies and jobs filled
Population	Approx. 250,000 enterprises in Austria with at least one employee and classified under the economic activities B to S according to NACE Rev. 2
Type of statistics	Primary statistical survey of job vacancies, secondary statistics on occupied posts according to the Main Association of Social Security Institutions
Data sources/Survey techniques	Continuous primary statistical survey of job vacancies among enterprises conducted by phone and via a self-administered web survey, secondary statistics on occupied posts according to the Main Association of Social Security Institutions
Reference period or due day	Quarters and years
Periodicity	Quarterly
Survey participation (in case of a survey)	Voluntary
Main legal acts	Based on Regulation (EC) No. 453/2008, obligatory for Austria since 2010 in connection with commissioning by the Federal Ministry of Labour
Most detailed regional breakdown	Austria
Availability of results	Final data: end of quarter + 45 days (EU requirement: t + 70)
Other	-