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# 228 300 job vacancies in Q1 2023

## Fundamental methodological changes in the Job Vacancy Survey

Vienna, 2023-06-06 – According to preliminary figures, Austria’s enterprises reported 228 300 job vacancies in the first quarter of 2023. With this publication, changes in the Job Vacancy Survey were implemented.

“The data on job vacancies in the first three months of this year now provide an even better picture of demand on the Austrian labor market thanks to the methodical further development of the survey: 228 300 jobs were unfilled in Austria in the first quarter of 2023. The job vacancy rate – i.e. the share of vacancies in all available jobs – of 5.2% also points to bottlenecks in labor supply. The highest demand for labor at the beginning of 2023 was in the service sector”, says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

According to preliminary figures of the Job Vacancy Survey by Statistics Austria, 228 300 jobs were vacant in the first quarter of 2023 (see table). One year earlier, in the first quarter of 2022, 227 700 jobs were vacant (according to the new weighting method as well as adjustments in the questionnaire, see information on methodology). The number of vacancies thus remains at a very high level.

The job vacancy rate was at 5.2% in the first quarter of 2023 (Q1 2022: 5.3%). Of the total of 228 300 vacancies, 134 700 jobs were vacant in the service sector, 61 100 in the production sector and 32 500 in the public sector.

In the same period, 118 100 vacancies were reported to the Public Employment Service (AMS). These jobs are reported to the AMS for the purpose of personnel recruitment.

### Improvements to the questionnaire of the Job Vacancy Survey

The difference between the data on job vacancies collected by the AMS and the Job Vacancy Survey was subject of an analysis project by Statistics Austria financed by the Federal Ministry of Labour and Economy, which also enabled quality improvements in the Job Vacancy Survey. The comparison of the two data sources revealed specific differences in the respective reporting behaviour: In particular, jobs with higher qualification requirements as well as vacancies in the sector information and communication and in the public sector are reported to the AMS less frequently. It also became apparent that apprenticeship and internship positions tended to be under-reported in the Job Vacancy Survey. For this reason, additional checks were added to the survey questionnaire in the first quarter of 2023. Apprenticeships and paid internships are recorded sufficiently now.

### Adjustments to the extrapolation procedure

In addition, the availability of AMS data is used to optimise the extrapolation procedure of the Job Vacancy Survey. Due to the voluntary participation of companies in the survey, not all enterprises in the sample provide the required data to Statistics Austria. This is most prevalent in the trade sector and can be compensated for better by the new extrapolation procedure. In addition to the previous procedure (see information on methodology), the weights were adjusted furthermore through a tie to the number of job vacancies reported to the AMS for selected combinations of economic sections and size classes.

### Backcasting the time series

These improvements are continued in the upcoming quarters. The time series was cast back for the first quarters up to the year 2014. Due to these changes, the number of vacancies is at a higher level than before.

With the new extrapolation procedure and an adjustment for apprenticeships and internships 227 700 vacancies were calculated for the first quarter of 2022; according to the old calculation, the value was at 202 700 vacancies (see Table 1). The other quarters can only be adjusted to the new procedure in succession (after the survey of the respective quarter has been carried out). Accordingly, preliminary figures will be published until the fourth quarter of 2023. Comparisons over time are limited.

For detailed results and further information on job vacancies please refer to our [website](#).

### Job vacancies Q1 2019 to 2023 according to the Job Vacancy Survey and the Public Employment Office (AMS) (ÖNACE 2008, B–S)

Quarters	Job vacancies old time series <sup>1</sup> in 1 000	Job vacancies new time series <sup>2</sup> in 1 000	Employees <sup>3</sup> in 1 000	Job vacancy rate <sup>4</sup> in %	Jpb vacancies according to the AMS <sup>5</sup> in 1 000
Q1 2019	127,5	145,4	3 986,9	3,5	75,3
Q1 2020	118,5	130,9	3 949,4	3,2	75,2
Q1 2021	111,9	124,4	3 841,6	3,1	66,3
Q1 2022	202,7	227,7	4 071,0	5,3	121,2
Q1 2023		228,3	4 144,2	5,2	118,1

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Job Vacancy Survey.

All sources ÖNACE 2008 without: Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, Activities of households as employers, undifferentiated goods- and service-producing activities of households for own use, Activities by extraterritorial organisations and bodies. – 1) Numbers according to the old time series (up to 2023). – 2) Backcasted time series due to the improved questionnaire with regard to apprenticeships and paid internships as well as the extrapolation method, these numbers should be considered preliminary. – 3) Main Association of Austrian Social Security Institutions/Dachverband der Sozialversicherungsträger (moving quarterly average of the end of month levels for employees). – 4) Job vacancy rate according to the backcasted time series (vacancies\*100/(vacancies+employees)). – 5) Public Employment Office (moving quarterly average of the end of month levels for immediately available job vacancies at the Public Employment Office).

**Information on methodology, definitions:** Statistics Austria has been continuously collecting data on the number of job vacancies for economic sections B to S (ÖNACE 2008) since the 1st quarter of 2009. Data on job vacancies are collected in all EU member states and serve as an indicator for the economic development.

The sample consists of around 6 000 enterprises for each quarter, stratified by ÖNACE 2008 economic sections and corresponding size classes, with larger enterprises remaining in the sample continuously.

The extrapolation of the Job Vacancy Survey is bound to the number of employed persons according to ÖNACE 2008 economic sections and size classes. Due to the linking of the AMS data with the population of the Job Vacancy Survey in 2023, the number of job vacancies reported to the AMS in selected combinations of economic sections and size classes is used additionally as supporting information in the extrapolation procedure from 2014 onwards.

In addition, the questionnaire has been adapted from the first quarter of 2023 to better cover apprenticeships and paid internships.

The changes made in 2023 - the extrapolation procedure linked to the vacancies reported to the AMS and an adjustment of the questionnaire to better capture apprenticeships and internships – were cast back up to 2014. Only preliminary figures are published up to the fourth quarter of 2023. Comparisons over time are limited.

A job vacancy is defined as a paid post that is newly created, unoccupied, or about to become vacant for which the employer is taking active steps to find a suitable applicant outside the enterprise concerned.

The job vacancy rate measures the proportion of job vacancies in all available (occupied and vacant) positions.

**If you have any questions on this topic, please contact:**

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