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Fewer job vacancies in 2023

Number of vacancies remains high at an average of 206 400

Vienna, 2024-02-27 – According to Statistics Austria, Austrian companies reported an average of 206 400 job vacancies in 2023. This is 10.4% fewer than in 2022, but significantly more than in previous years.

“In 2023, an average of 206 400 jobs were unfilled. Although this is 24 000 fewer than in 2022, when there were more vacancies than at any time since records began, it is still significantly more than in previous years. Workers in the service sector and sales staff were particularly in demand, accounting for more than a fifth of all unfilled jobs. We can also see from the job vacancy rate that there is a shortage of labour: of all available jobs, the proportion of vacancies fell from 5.3% to 4.7% in 2023, but remains at a high level,” says Tobias Thomas, Director General of Statistics Austria.

On average for 2023, the total number of vacancies fell by 10.4% compared to 2022. The decline was particularly significant in the service sector (–10.9%) and in the manufacturing sector (–18.7%), while more jobs were advertised in the public sector than in 2022 (+7.9%). Most job vacancies were in the service sector at 122 700, followed by 49 600 in the manufacturing sector and 34 200 in the public sector. Service occupations and salespeople accounted for 23.9% of all vacancies.

Number of vacancies fell continuously over the course of 2023

Over the course of the year 2023, the number of vacancies peaked in the first quarter at 228 300. Since then, there has been a steady decline in the number of registered vacancies with 214 000 in the second quarter, 202 300 in the third quarter and most recently 181 000 in the fourth quarter. In the fourth quarter, the number of vacancies fell by 10.5 % compared to the third quarter. By economic sector, 107 900 vacancies were reported in the service sector, 42 100 vacancies in the manufacturing sector and 31 000 vacancies in the public sector in the fourth quarter (see table 1).

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

Table 1: Job vacancies 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 ¹ in 1 000	Job vacancies, new time series ² in 1 000	Employees ³ in 1 000	Job vacancy rate ⁴ in %	Job vacancies according to the AMS ⁵ in 1 000
Q1 2019	127.5	144.3	3 986.9	3.5	75.3
Q2 2019	128.7	141.8	4 027.0	3.4	86.0
Q3 2019	127.4	142.1	4 078.2	3.4	88.8
Q4 2019	126.3	134.8	4 048.5	3.2	79.9
Q1 2020	118.5	130.1	3 949.4	3.2	75.2
Q2 2020	84.6	93.6	3 791.4	2.4	61.7
Q3 2020	99.4	109.1	3 965.6	2.7	71.5
Q4 2020	106.7	113.7	3 933.0	2.8	66.5
Q1 2021	111.9	123.6	3 831.2	3.1	66.3
Q2 2021	138.6	150.0	3 987.9	3.6	95.1
Q3 2021	162.4	179.5	4 091.2	4.2	120.1
Q4 2021	171.4	191.7	4 075.0	4.5	115.0
Q1 2022	202.7	226.1	4 072.1	5.3	121.2
Q2 2022	206.3	231.7	4 130.8	5.3	141.5
Q3 2022	218.1	240.9	4 173.4	5.5	144.7
Q4 2022	198.8	222.9	4 156.7	5.1	127.5
Q1 2023		228.3	4 144.4	5.2	118.1
Q2 2023		214.0	4 183.6	4.9	123.8
Q3 2023		202.3	4 221.7	4.6	120.5
Q4 2023		181.0	4 188.4	4.1	107.3

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. – 2) Backcasted time series due to the improved questionnaire with regard to apprenticeships and paid internships as well as the extrapolation method. – 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).

Table 2: Annual average of job vacancies 2019 to 2023 according to the Job Vacancy Survey and the Public Employment Office (AMS); ÖNACE 2008, B–S

Year	Job vacancies old time series ¹ in 1 000	Job vacancies new time series ² in 1 000	Employees ³ in 1 000	Job vacancy rate ⁴ in %	Job vacancies according to the AMS ⁵ in 1 000
2019	127.5	140.8	4 035.1	3.4	82.5
2020	102.3	111.6	3 909.9	2.8	68.7
2021	146.1	161.2	3 996.3	3.9	99.1
2022	206.5	230.4	4 133.2	5.3	133.7
2023		206.4	4 184.5	4.7	117.4

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. – 2) Backcasted time series due to the improved questionnaire with regard to apprenticeships and paid internships as well as the extrapolation method. – 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 ($\text{vacancies} \cdot 100 / (\text{vacancies} + \text{employees})$). – 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 first 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. 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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