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# Employment rose in service sector in the first half of the year, fell in trade

## Hours worked decreased; gross wages and salaries increased

Vienna, 2024-10-07 – According to calculations by Statistics Austria, the number of persons employed in the service sector increased slightly in the first half of 2024, while in trade it decreased compared to the first half of the previous year. In the same period, hours worked declined in both sectors while gross wages and salaries increased.

In the first half of 2024, the number of **persons employed** in the service sector rose by 0.2% year-on-year. Employment in trade fell by 0.7%. **Hours worked** fell in the first half of 2024 compared to the first half of 2023 in both trade and services, although the decline was more pronounced in trade (–4.8%) than in services (–1.7%). **Gross wages and salaries** increased in both sectors in the same period, by 5.8% in trade and 6.8% in the service sector.

### Trade and services: labour input indicators, first half of 2024

Selected sectors	Index of persons employed	Index of hours worked	Index of gross wages and salaries
	Change compared to the period last year, in %		
Trade	–0.7	–4.8	5.8
Services	0.2	–1.7	6.8

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, short-term statistics trade and services.

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

**Information on methodology, definitions:** Since the first quarter of 2024, the short-term statistics trade and services provide the index of gross wages and salaries, representing gross earnings per reporting quarter and activity, and the index of hours worked, representing hours worked per reporting quarter and activity, for the base year 2021. The indices are published quarterly around 90 days after the end of the reporting period. The index of persons employed and its rate of change are measured on the basis of employment relationships. A presentation in or a comparison with full-time equivalents are not possible. The data is available starting with the reporting year 2021.

The index of gross wages and salaries and the index of hours worked both refer to the total volume of gross wages and salaries or hours worked, which is why a change in employment relationships influences these indices accordingly.

#### Further enquiries:

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