

# Standard-documentation Meta information

(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

## Job Vacancy Statistics

This documentation is valid from the reference period:

**2009**

Status: **10.03.2020**



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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, Family and Youth. The primary purpose of these statistics is to derive a nearly complete picture of the job vacancies offered by enterprises with at least one employee and classified under 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). Apart from its national relevance, the job vacancy rate is one of Europe's key economic indicators (Principal European Economic Indicators).

Statistics Austria conducted a pilot survey to measure job vacancies in 2004/05. The questionnaire used for the pilot survey was adapted for use by the 2009 survey. From 2010, the delivery of data on job vacancies as well as on occupied posts, broken down by section according to the NACE Rev. 2 classification of economic activities, has been mandatory for the countries of the European Union.

The population comprises approximately 250,000 enterprises. Statistics Austria's business register represents the sampling frame. The survey's underlying sample of approx. 6,500 enterprises each quarter is stratified by NACE Rev. 2 section and further by enterprise size class, with major enterprises continuing in the sample for reasons of representativity. Enterprises employing few people are interviewed four times in a row. For the most part, the job vacancy survey is conducted by phone. The survey has been ongoing since the first quarter of 2009 and survey participation by the sampled enterprises is voluntary.

The survey focuses on two major variables: 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 Austrian Social Security Institutions (Hauptverband der österreichischen Sozialversicherungsträger; secondary statistics). Since the first quarter 2010, the aggregates relating to these two variables, broken down by economic activity, must be reported to Eurostat. Moreover, to meet national requirements and 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 demand for labour during the year, annual averages are also computed and published in addition to the quarterly data.

The results are made available on Statistics Austria's website and have been presented in the quarterly job market publications since 2010. A comparison with the figures compiled by the Employment Service (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 error in the aggregate 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, even analyses with further regional classification seem problematic.

### Job Vacancy Statistics – Main Features

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