

Job Vacancy Survey: Q1/2024

NR 109/2024

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In the first quarter of 2024, the number of job vacancies stood at 8,694, an increase of 27.9 per cent over the same period in 2023.



This news release presents the findings of the Job Vacancy Survey (JVS), a quarterly enterprise-based enquiry that provides insights into the demand for labour by gauging the number of vacancies and occupied posts.

Job Vacancies

In the first quarter of 2024, there were a total of 8,694 vacancies within enterprises employing one or more persons, registering a 27.9 per cent increase over the same period in the preceding year (Chart 1, Table 1).

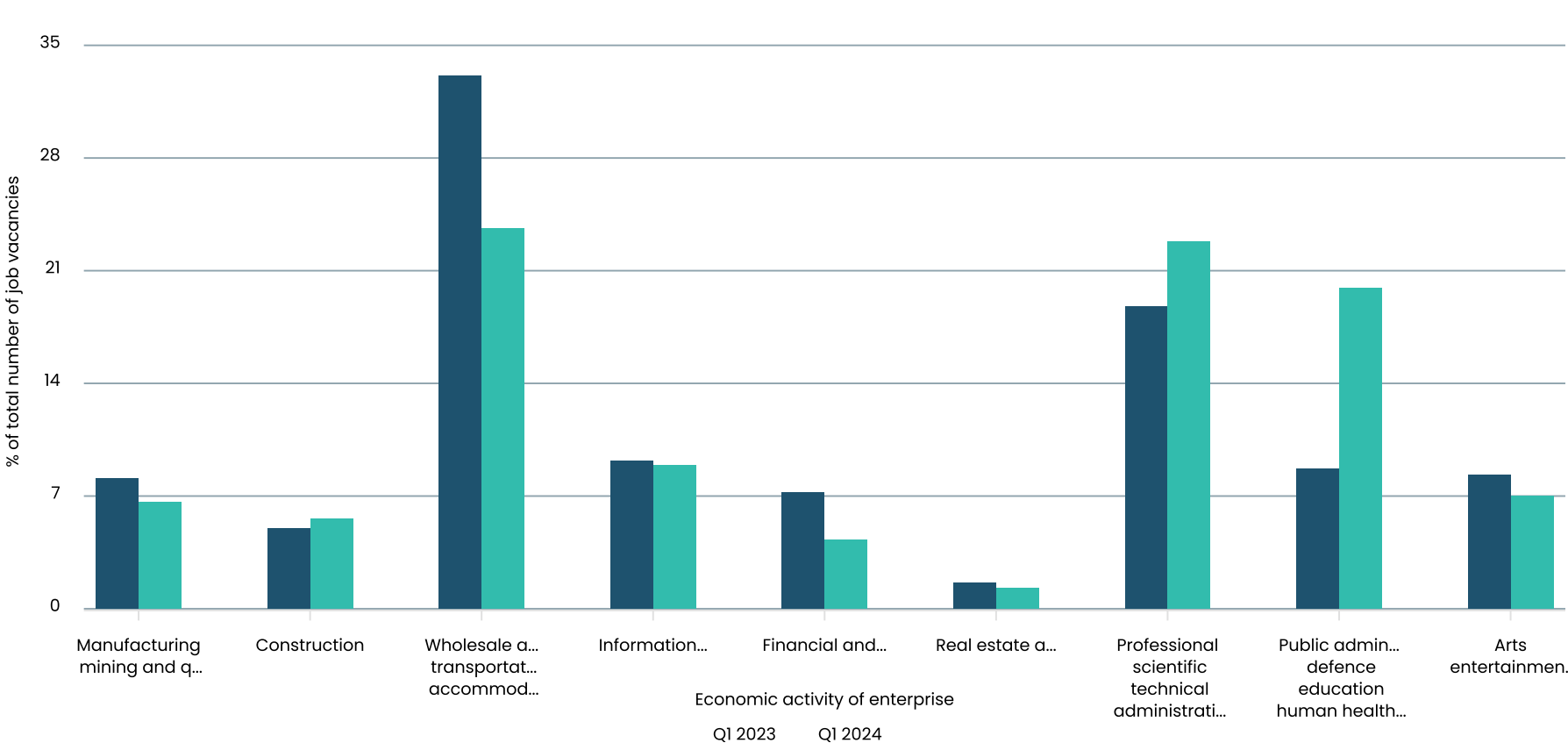
Chart 1. Number of job vacancies and occupied posts



The wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage and accommodation and food service activities sector generated 23.6 per cent of all vacancies during the first quarter of 2024. On the other hand, the real estate activities sector recorded the lowest number of job vacancies, standing at 1.3 per cent of the total number of calls for application in Q1 2024 (Chart 2, Table 1).

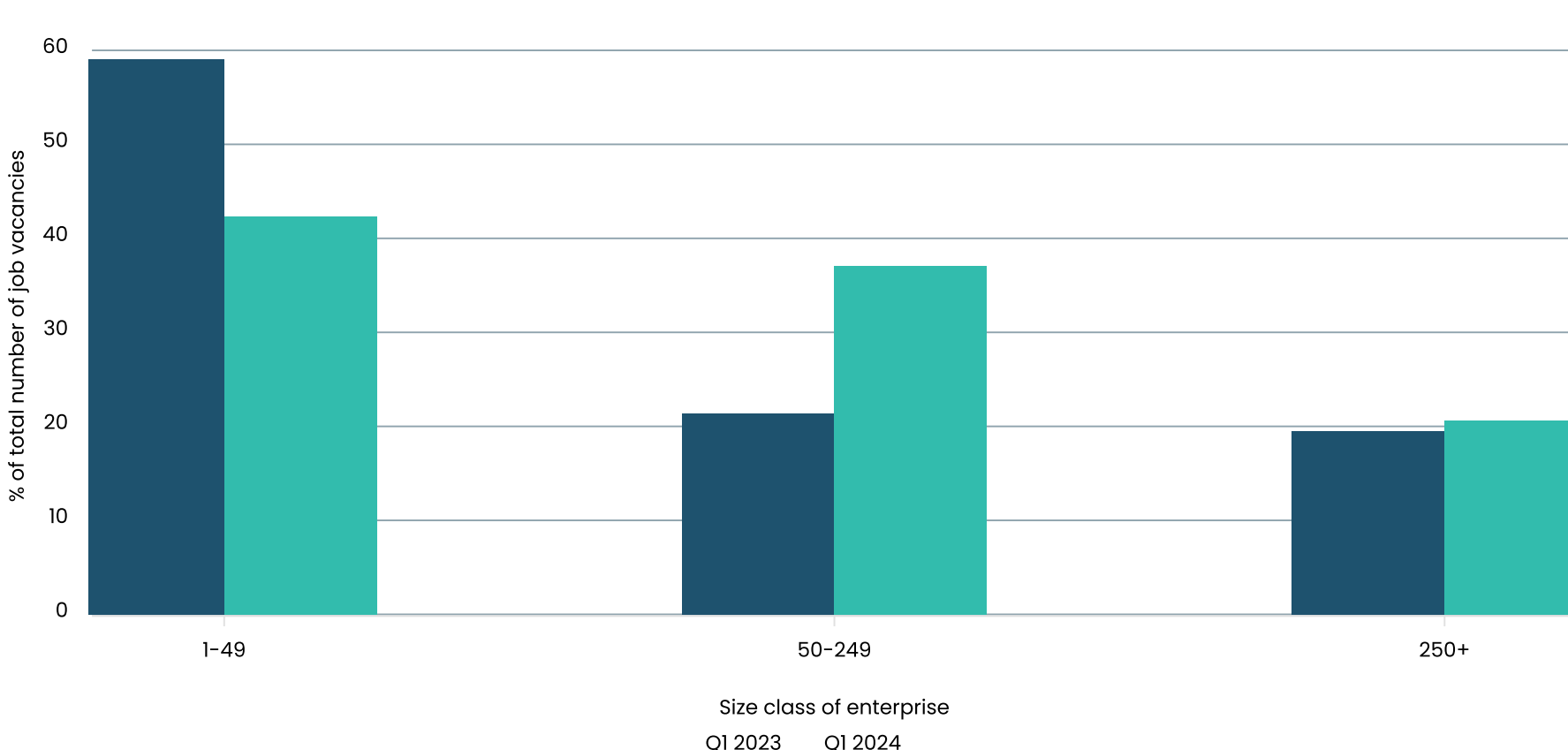
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities recorded the highest year-on-year increase in the number of vacancies, with an addition of 1,144 vacancies. This was followed by professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities, which saw an increase of 708 vacancies. On the contrary, the wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities sector experienced the largest drop when compared to the first quarter of 2023, with a reduction of 201 vacancies (Table 1).

Chart 2. Job vacancies by economic activity of enterprise



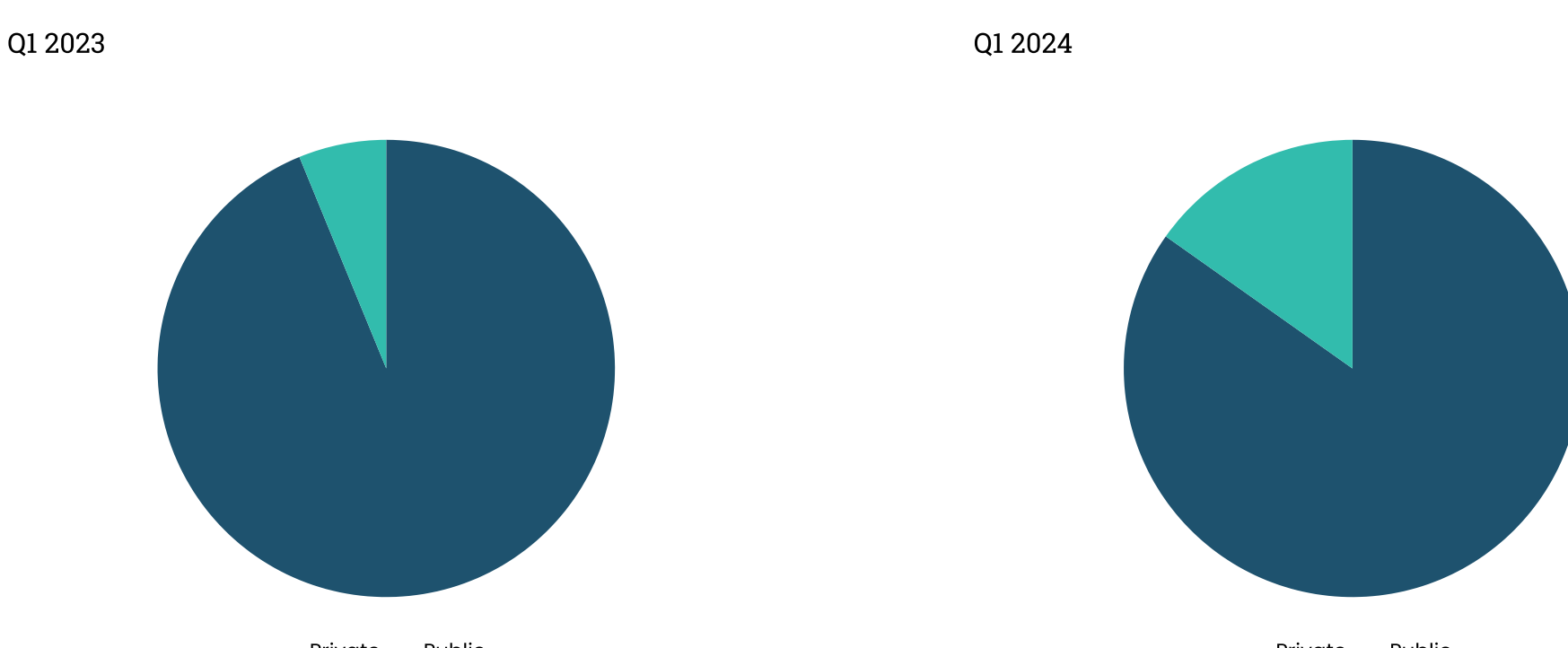
Data also shows a correlation between enterprise size and number of job vacancies. In this regard, small enterprises (1 to 49 employees) contributed to approximately four in every ten vacancies whereas companies with 250 employees or more generated 20.6 per cent of all vacancies of the first quarter of 2024 (Chart 3, Table 2).

Chart 3. Job vacancies by size class of enterprise



In the private sector, job vacancies increased by 1,002 between the first quarter of 2023 and the first quarter of 2024, whereas the public sector experienced an increase of 897 vacancies over the same period (Table 3). As Chart 4 illustrates, the private sector continues to dominate the job vacancy market, representing 84.8 per cent of all vacancies, leaving the public sector with a 15.2 per cent share (Chart 4).

Chart 4. Job vacancies by economic sector



Occupied Posts

During the first quarter of 2024, the total number of occupied posts within enterprises employing 1 or more employees stood at 264,379 (Chart 1, Table 4). Just over one fourth of these posts were recorded in the wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities. In this regard, over a period of one year, this category of economic activities registered a growth of 3.7 per cent. A further 65,705 occupied posts were estimated to be in the public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities sector, making up 24.9 per cent of the total number of occupied posts (Table 4).

During the first quarter of 2024, 38.7 per cent of occupied posts were estimated to be in enterprises employing 250 employees or more. Units with 50 to 249 employees made up just above one fourth of all occupied posts (Table 5).

Occupied posts within the private sector stood at 209,428, garnering 79.2 per cent of the total amount of jobs. The public sector totalled 54,951, making up the remaining 20.8 per cent (Table 6).

Job Vacancy Rate

In the first quarter of 2024, 3.2 per cent of jobs in Malta were vacant, increasing by 0.4 percentage points when compared to the preceding quarter and 0.6 percentage points from the first quarter of 2023 (Chart 5, Table 7). The job vacancy rate was highest within the information and communication sector (6.1 per cent) whilst the manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry registered the lowest rate of job vacancies (2.2 per cent) (Table 7).

Medium sized enterprises, with 50 to 249 employees, showed a higher job vacancy rate of 4.5 per cent, suggesting a greater demand for labour in this segment. Large enterprises, comprising 250 or more employees, exhibited a lower rate of job vacancies at 1.7 per cent (Table 8).

The private sector registered a job vacancy rate of 3.4 per cent in the first quarter of 2024 whereas 2.3 per cent of total jobs in the public sector were vacant during the same period (Table 9).

Chart 5. Job vacancy rate

in relation to unemployment rate

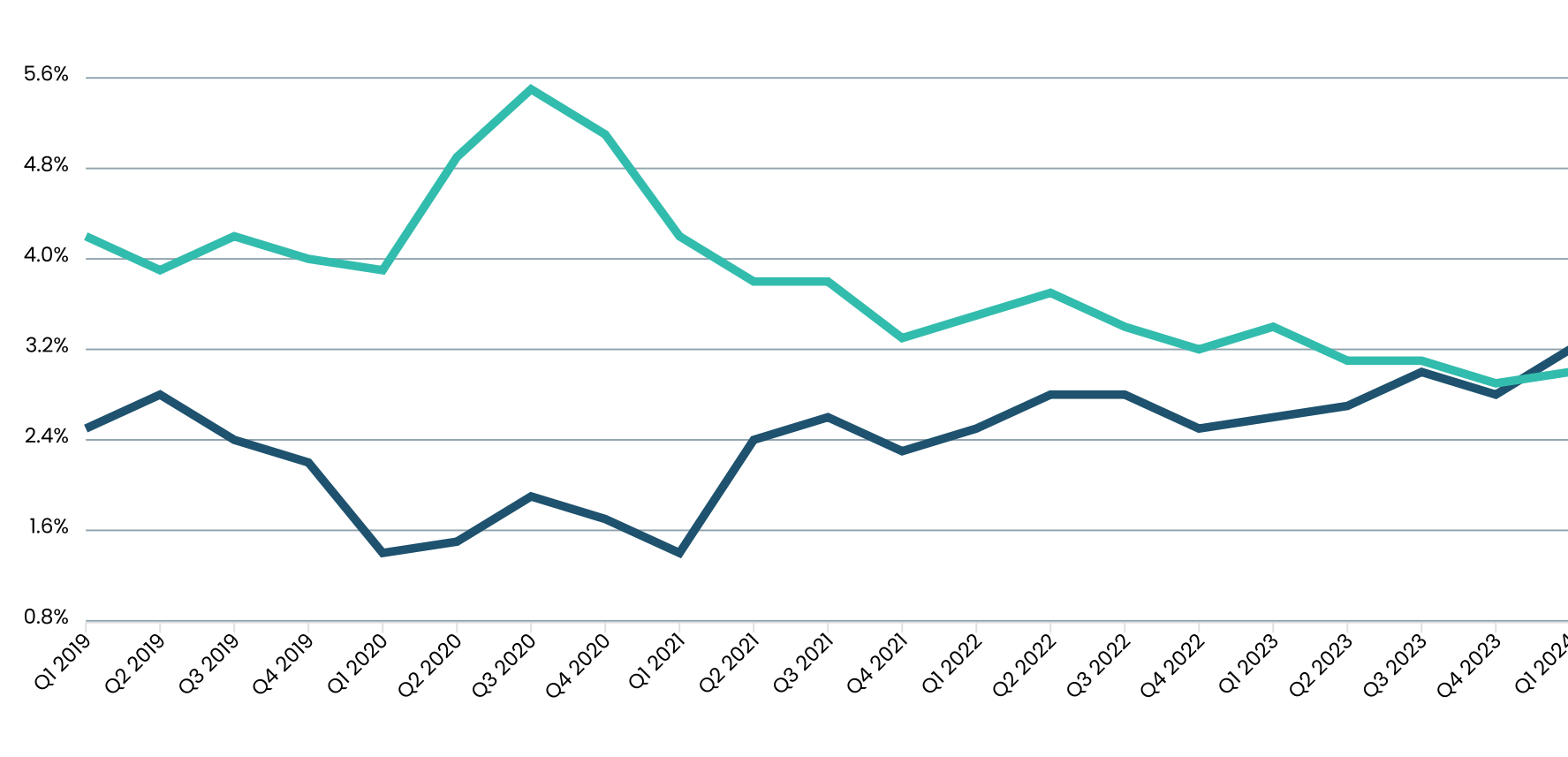


Table 1. Number of job vacancies by economic activity of enterprise

Year	Quarter	Economic activity									
		B-E	F	G-I	J	K	L	M-N	O-Q	R-S	B-S
		Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	Construction	Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	Information and communication	Financial and insurance activities	Real estate activities	Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	Arts, entertainment and recreation; other service activities	Total economy
2021	Q1	297	131	546	309	285	38 ^u	841	538	469	3,454
	Q2	649	284	2,064	421	259	41	910	674	634	5,937
	Q3	651	160	1,759	389	358	42	1,409	775	880	6,423
	Q4	605	269	1,773	391	255	36	1,085	455	766	5,635
2022	Q1	600	230	1,663	540	304	47	1,424	688	811	6,306
	Q2	738	459	1,898	660	377	34	1,311	620	936	7,034
	Q3	654	405	2,167	715	606	61	1,164	876	578	7,225
	Q4	509	463	2,094	762	492	75	1,053	365	595	6,407
2023 (revised)	Q1	553	338	2,251	628	486	111	1,274	590	563	6,795
	Q2	652	352	2,298	355	523	65	1,319	717	837	7,117
	Q3	826	496	2,016	609	359	62	1,900	1,048	696	8,013
	Q4	720	474	2,181	632	409	103	1,754	770	588	7,630
2024	Q1	574	485	2,051	775	376	111	1,982	1,734	605	8,694

Note: ^u unreliable: relative margin of error of 30% or more

Table 2. Number of job vacancies by size of enterprise

Year	Quarter	Size class			
		1-49	50-249	250+	Total
2021	Q1	1,687	917	850	3,454
	Q2	4,002	1,281	654	5,937
	Q3	3,749	1,599	1,076	6,423
	Q4	3,897	1,179	559	5,635
2022	Q1	3,954	1,317	1,035	6,306
	Q2	4,217	1,442	1,374	7,034
	Q3	4,403	1,699	1,123	7,225
	Q4	4,158	1,329	919	6,407
2023 (revised)	Q1	4,017	1,452	1,326	6,795
	Q2	4,439	1,937	741	7,117
	Q3	4,691	2,374	948	8,013
	Q4	4,041	1,916	1,672	7,630
2024	Q1	3,675	3,229	1,790	8,694

Table 3. Number of job vacancies by economic sector

Year	Quarter	Economic sector		
		Private	Public	Total
2021	Q1	3,159	295	3,454
	Q2	5,472	465	5,937
	Q3	5,920	503	6,423
	Q4	5,302	333	5,635
2022	Q1	5,965	341	6,306
	Q2	6,687	347	7,034
	Q3	6,826	399	7,225
	Q4	6,160	247	6,407
2023 (revised)	Q1	6,371	424	6,795
	Q2	6,738	379	7,117
	Q3	7,211	802	8,013
	Q4	7,277	353	7,630
2024	Q1	7,373	1,321	8,694

Table 4. Number of occupied posts by economic activity of enterprise

Year	Quarter	Economic activity									
		B-E	F	G-I	J	K	L	M-N	O-Q	R-S	B-S
		Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	Construction	Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	Information and communication	Financial and insurance activities	Real estate activities	Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	Arts, entertainment and recreation; other service activities	Total economy
Number of occupied posts											
2021	Q1	23,853	13,022	61,685	11,113	13,741	2,788	40,516	61,183	13,917	241,818
	Q2	23,956	13,190	61,793	11,199	13,785	2,755	40,443	61,370	13,765	242,256
	Q3	23,632	11,857	59,659	10,929	12,664	2,402	42,980	62,385	12,993	239,500
	Q4	23,861	11,988	60,249	11,172	12,765	2,471	43,477	63,147	13,083	242,212
2022	Q1	23,716	12,256	60,869	11,234	12,457	2,458	44,344	62,800	13,479	243,613
	Q2	23,695	12,629	62,393	11,393	12,461	2,555	46,281	63,335	13,644	248,385
	Q3	24,027	12,735	63,296	11,783	12,675	2,607	46,326	63,936	14,094	251,479
	Q4	24,107	12,825	63,760	11,859	12,699	2,653	48,757	64,207	13,963	254,830
2023 (revised)	Q1	24,312	12,913	64,260	11,777	12,909	2,629	49,398	64,555	13,817	256,571
	Q2	24,526	13,076	64,933	11,868	13,255	2,698	49,680	65,408	13,832	259,275
	Q3	24,565	13,098	65,960	11,958	13,309	2,908	50,575	65,346	13,915	261,633
	Q4	24,791	13,174	66,479	11,966	13,570	2,712	51,231	65,924	13,814	263,661
2024	Q1	25,005	13,317	66,618	12,032	13,296	3,033	51,608	65,705	13,765	264,379

Table 5. Number of occupied posts by size of enterprise

Year	Quarter	Size class			
		1-49	50-249	250+	Total
2021	Q1	90,696	58,926	92,196	241,818
	Q2	90,562	58,649	93,045	242,256
	Q3	88,663	58,785	92,052	239,500
	Q4	87,756	59,647	94,809	242,212
2022	Q1	89,222	59,234	95,157	243,613
	Q2	91,199	60,732	96,455	248,385
	Q3	92,729	62,297	96,453	251,479
	Q4	92,672	63,192	98,965	254,830
2023 (revised)	Q1	92,472	63,738	100,361	256,571
	Q2	93,508	64,761	101,007	259,275
	Q3	93,883	66,289	101,462	261,633
	Q4	93,329	66,623	103,709	263,661
2024	Q1	93,999	68,140	102,240	264,379

Table 6. Number of occupied posts by economic sector

Year	Quarter	Economic sector		
		Private	Public	Total
2021	Q1	188,240	53,578	241,818
	Q2	188,414	53,842	242,256
	Q3	184,708	54,792	239,500
	Q4	187,165	55,047	242,212
2022	Q1	188,780	54,833	243,613
	Q2	193,527	54,858	248,385
	Q3	197,414	54,065	251,479
	Q4	199,731	55,099	254,830
2023 (revised)	Q1	201,416	55,155	256,571
	Q2	204,413	54,862	259,275
	Q3	206,721	54,912	261,633
	Q4	208,571	55,090	263,661
2024	Q1	209,428	54,951	264,379

Table 7. Job vacancy rate by economic activity of enterprise

Year	Quarter	Economic activity									
		B-E	F	G-I	J	K	L	M-N	O-Q	R-S	B-S
		Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	Construction	Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	Information and communication	Financial and insurance activities	Real estate activities	Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	Arts, entertainment and recreation; other service activities	Total economy
2021	Q1	1.2	1.0	0.9	2.7	2.0	1.3 ^u	2.0	0.9	3.3	1.4
	Q2	2.6	2.1	3.2	3.6	1.8	1.5	2.2	1.1	4.4	2.4
	Q3	2.7	1.3	2.9	3.4	2.7	1.7	3.2	1.2	6.3	2.6
	Q4	2.5	2.2	2.9	3.4	2.0	1.5	2.4	0.7	5.5	2.3
2022	Q1	2.5	1.8	2.7	4.6	2.4	1.9	3.1	1.1	5.7	2.5
	Q2	3.0	3.5	3.0	5.5	2.9	1.3	2.8	1.0	6.4	2.8
	Q3	2.6	3.1	3.3	5.7	4.6	2.3	2.5	1.4	3.9	2.8
	Q4	2.1	3.5	3.2	6.0	3.7	2.7	2.1	0.6	4.1	2.5
2023 (revised)	Q1	2.2	2.6	3.4	5.1	3.6	4.0	2.5	0.9	3.9	2.6
	Q2	2.6	2.6	3.4	2.9	3.8	2.3	2.6	1.1	5.7	2.7
	Q3	3.3	3.6	3.0	4.8	2.6	2.1	3.6	1.6	4.8	3.0
	Q4	2.8	3.5	3.2	5.0	2.9	3.6	3.3	1.2	4.1	2.8
2024	Q1	2.2	3.5	3.0	6.1	2.8	3.5	3.7	2.6	4.2	3.2

Note: ^u unreliable: relative margin of error of 30% or more

Table 8. Job vacancy rate by size of enterprise

Year	Quarter	Size class			
		1-49	50-249	250+	Total
2021	Q1	1.8	1.5	0.9	1.4
	Q2	4.2	2.1	0.7	2.4
	Q3	4.1	2.6	1.2	2.6
	Q4	4.3	1.9	0.6	2.3
2022	Q1	4.2	2.2	1.1	2.5
	Q2	4.4	2.3	1.4	2.8
	Q3	4.5	2.7	1.2	2.8
	Q4	4.3	2.1	0.9	2.5
2023 (revised)	Q1	4.2	2.2	1.3	2.6
	Q2	4.5	2.9	0.7	2.7
	Q3	4.8	3.5	0.9	3.0
	Q4	4.2	2.8	1.6	2.8
2024	Q1	3.8	4.5	1.7	3.2

Table 9. Job vacancy rate by economic sector

Year	Quarter	Economic sector		
		Private	Public	Total
2021	Q1	1.7	0.5	1.4
	Q2	2.8	0.9	2.4
	Q3	3.1	0.9	2.6
	Q4	2.8	0.6	2.3
2022	Q1	3.1	0.6	2.5
	Q2	3.3	0.6	2.8
	Q3	3.3	0.7	2.8
	Q4	3.0	0.4	2.5
2023 (revised)	Q1	3.1	0.8	2.6
	Q2	3.2	0.7	2.7
	Q3	3.4	1.4	3.0
	Q4	3.4	0.6	2.8
2024	Q1	3.4	2.3	3.2

Methodological Notes

1. The Job Vacancy Survey (JVS) is a quarterly enterprise survey carried out with over 2,500 private sector entities employing one or more employees. Administrative sources are used to compile information relating to the public sector.

2. The objective of this survey, as laid down in the regulation (EC) No. 453/2008, is to provide information on the demand for labour at a reference date across units employing one or more employees and engaged in NACE sections B-S. The economic activity is classified according to NACE Rev. 2 (Nomenclature générale des Activités économiques dans les Communautés Européennes).

3. Definitions:

- 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** and is prepared to take further steps to find a suitable candidate from outside the enterprise concerned, and the employer intends to fill either immediately or **within a specific period of time**.

- **Active steps** to find a suitable candidate include:

- notifying the job vacancy to the public employment services;
- contacting a private employment agency;
- advertising the vacancy in the media, for example, internet, newspapers and magazines;
- advertising the vacancy on a public notice board;
- approaching, interviewing or selecting possible candidates/potential recruits directly;
- approaching employees and/or personal contacts;
- using internships.

- The term '**within a specific period of time**' refers to the maximum time the vacancy is open and intended to be filled. When the period is unlimited, all vacancies for which active steps are ongoing after the reference date shall be reported.

- An **occupied post** means a paid post within the organisation to which an employee has been assigned. This value excludes all board members, self-employed owners, directors, partners and managers who are solely paid by way of profits, persons on unpaid leave, posts unoccupied due to long-term absences (e.g., parental leave or long-term sickness) together with employees of temporary employment agencies, outside contractors or consultants, and voluntary workers.

- The **Job Vacancy Rate (JVR)** is calculated using this formula:

$$\text{JVR} = \frac{\text{number of job vacancies}}{\text{number of job vacancies} + \text{number of occupied posts}} \times 100$$

- The Job Vacancy Survey takes a snapshot of the number of job vacancies and occupied posts on a specific day, known as the reference date. For 2017, the reference date was the 30th day of the end of quarter month (i.e., March, June, September and December). As from 2018, the reference date was the 15th day of the end of quarter month (i.e., March, June, September and December). Starting from the first quarter of 2024, the reference date has been changed to the 28th day of the middle quarter month (i.e., February, May, August and November).

- The **unemployment rate** refers to the number of unemployed persons (15-74 years) as a percentage of the total labour force (15-74 years). Unemployment rates were obtained from the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

4. Data in this news release is provisional and therefore subject to revisions. These revisions generally occur annually to align the estimates with the latest population figures. Additionally, quarterly revisions may be necessary to ensure the consistency of the data series.

5. Figures that have a relative margin of error of 30 percent or more should be interpreted with caution. Such data may not be statistically representative due to the high potential for error.

6. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:

[Sources and Methods](#)

[Statistical Concepts](#)

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7. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately. For guidance on access and re-use of data please visit our [dedicated webpage](#).

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