



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
EUROSTAT

Directorate F: Social Statistics and Information Society  
Unit F-2: Labour market statistics



## **Skillsnet workshop**

**Bucarest, 21-22 June 2007**

### **"Job vacancy Statistics"**

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## **1. WHY A DATA COLLECTION ON JOB VACANCY STATISTICS? POLICY BACKGROUND**

The importance of developing good quality statistics on job vacancies has been underlined on several occasions. The European Council of March 2005<sup>1</sup> re-launched the Lisbon strategy, calling for action, among others, to attract more people into the labour market and create more jobs. An indicator of job vacancies as a measure of labour market tightness and skill shortages has to be developed and published. The Employment Guidelines (2005-2008), including the Integrated Guidelines for Growth and Jobs<sup>2</sup>, and the Broad Economic Policy Guidelines<sup>3</sup>, thus reinforce the need for better information on labour demand and job matching in order to address these priorities.

The ECB and Commission have for several years included as part of its requirements for general economic statistics data on job vacancies. Timely short term labour market indicators are key for economic analysis. Job vacancies are included in the set of Principal European Economic Indicators (PEEIs) and needed for the assessment of labour market conditions in the EU / euro area as stated in the 2002 Communication of the Commission to the EP and the Council on eurozone statistics<sup>4</sup>.

The importance of the need for data on job vacancies for the Commission is fully reflected in the European Employment Strategy<sup>5</sup> and the Employment Guidelines<sup>6</sup>. The labour demand/supply structure provides the conceptual framework for labour market analysis and to identify key labour market statistics. In contrast to the abundance of statistics on labour supply (i.e. unemployment), there is a lack of reliable, comparable and coherent statistics on labour demand (i.e. job vacancies) at Community level – a prerequisite for a complete and thorough analysis of labour market developments and behaviour.

## **2. LEGAL BASIS**

The intention is to establish a legal framework to cover the current and identifiable future activities in the field of job vacancy statistics. A legal basis provides the mechanism for achieving a comparable methodological basis within a clear time frame. This includes in particular guaranteeing a harmonised data collection on statistics on job vacancies to satisfy the demand of the ECB and the Commission in this domain.

For the time being the regulatory framework will consist on an EP/Council regulation on Community quarterly job vacancy statistics followed by an implementing regulation. The state of play as regards these two regulations is the following:

1. EP/Council Regulation: The proposal for a regulation has been adopted in March 2007 by the Commission and it is being discussed at Council and European Parliament level. The aim is to have this regulation adopted end 2007/beginning 2008.
2. Commission Regulation: the draft of the proposal is being discussed by a group of experts (Task Force). The next Task Force meeting is scheduled for early July 2007. The implementing act should be adopted in 2008/2009. The aim is to start the data collection under the regulation in 2010.

Given the reservations expressed by Member States as regard the burden of the structural data collection, the collection of data on annual job vacancy statistics will continue under the gentlemen's agreement. The enlargement of the legal basis to the annual data collection should be considered

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<sup>1</sup> Presidency conclusions, European Council – Brussels 22-23 March 2005, 7619/1/05 Rev 1, Concl. 1.

<sup>2</sup> Council Decision of 12 July 2005 on Guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States 2005/600/EC, OJ L 205, 6.8.2005, p.21, including the integrated guidelines, p. 23.

<sup>3</sup> Council Recommendation of 12 July 2005 on the Broad Guidelines for the economic policies of the Member States and the Community (2005 to 2008) 2005/601/EC, OJ L 205, 6.8.2005, p.28.

<sup>4</sup> Communication of the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on Eurozone statistics "Towards improved methodologies for eurozone statistics and indicators", COM/2002/661 of 27.11.2002.

<sup>5</sup> Extraordinary European Council Meeting on Employment – Luxembourg, 20-21 November 1997, SN 300/97

<sup>6</sup> Council Decision of 22 July 2003 on Guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States 2003/578/EC, OJ L 197, 5.8.2003, p.13.

only in the medium term, after the analysis and evaluation of the progress of both data collections, quarterly and yearly in the forthcoming years.

### 3. CURRENT SITUATION OF THE DATA COLLECTION

National data on job vacancies and occupied posts have been collected since 2003 under a Gentlemen's Agreement.

- Data on number of job vacancies and number of occupied post broken down by economic activity (NACE Rev. 1,1, at section level) are collected on a quarterly basis, with a transmission deadline of t+70. Currently 22 out of the 27 Member States provide data on a quarterly basis. Most recent figures available are for 2007 Q1. See annex for some examples.

- In addition, some of the participating Member States also transmit more detailed breakdown on an annual basis. The number of vacancies and number of occupied post are also provided broken down by region (NUTS 2 level) and by occupation (ISCO 88 1-digit level)

The table below shows the current situation as concerns the surveys and data collections:

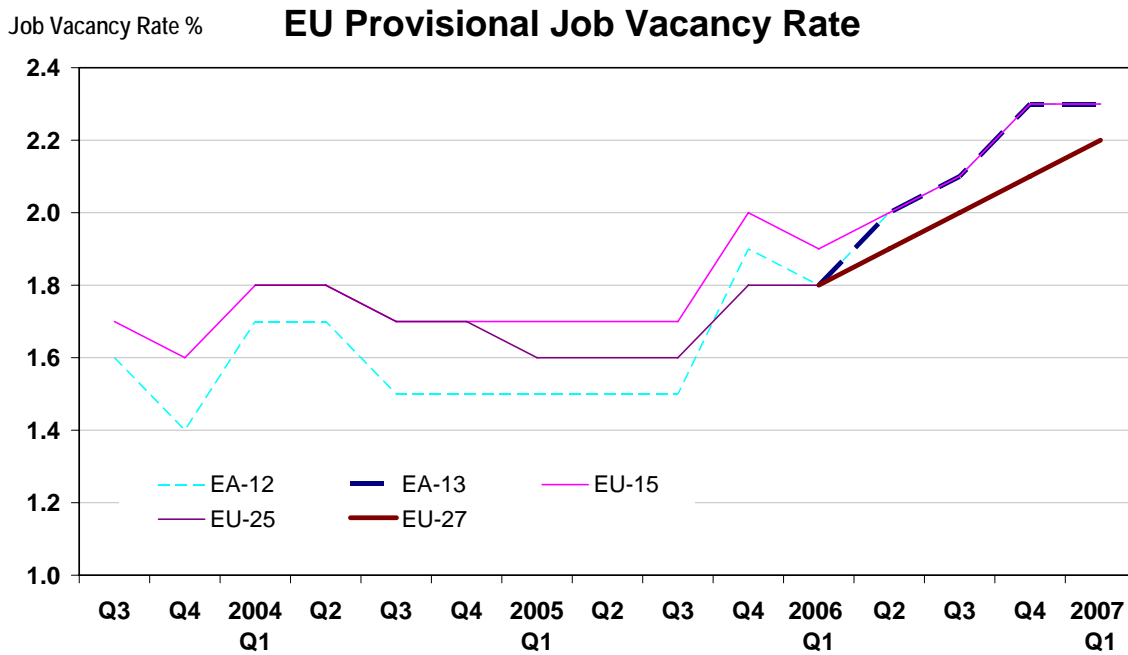
	Source	Firms, employees	NACE (see NB)	Quarterly time series from	Annual (see NB)
<b>EU</b>			TOTAL	2003 Q3	No
<b>Euro area</b>			TOTAL	2003 Q3	No
<b>Belgium</b>	Adm. sources	1+	A-O	2004 Q1	No
<b>Bulgaria</b>	Survey	1+	A-O	2005 Q1	Yes
<b>Czech Republic</b>	Adm. sources	1+	A-O	2005 Q1	Yes
<b>Denmark</b>			<i>No data collection</i>		
<b>Germany</b>	Survey			2005 Q4	Yes
<b>Estonia</b>	Survey	1+	A-O	2005 Q1	Yes
<b>Greece</b>	Survey	1+	C-O	2002 Q1	Yes
<b>Spain</b>	Survey	1+	C-O, no L	2001 Q1	Yes
<b>France</b>	Survey	10+	C-O, no L	2003 Q2	No
<b>Ireland</b>			<i>No data collection</i>		
<b>Italy</b>	Survey	10+	C-K	2003 Q2	No
<b>Cyprus</b>	Survey	1+	A-O	2005 Q1	No
<b>Latvia</b>	Survey	1+	A-O	2005 Q1	Yes
<b>Lithuania</b>	Survey	1+	A-O	2004 Q2	Yes
<b>Luxembourg</b>	Adm. sources	1+	A-O	2001 Q1	No7
<b>Hungary</b>	Survey	1+	A-O, no L	2004 Q2	Yes
<b>Malta</b>			<i>No data collection</i>		
<b>Netherlands</b>	Survey	1+	A-O	2001 Q1	Yes
<b>Austria</b>			<i>No data collection</i>		
<b>Poland</b>	Survey	10+	A-O	2005 Q1	Yes
<b>Portugal</b>	Survey	1+	C-O, no L	2001 Q1	Yes
<b>Romania</b>	Survey	1+	A-O	2005 Q1	Yes
<b>Slovenia</b>	Adm. sources	1+	A-O	2005 Q1	Yes
<b>Slovakia</b>	Survey	1+	A-O	2005 Q1	Yes
<b>Finland</b>	Survey	1+	A-O	2002 Q1	Yes
<b>Sweden</b>	Survey	1+	A-O	2001 Q1	No
<b>United Kingdom</b>	Survey	1+	C-O	2001 Q2	No

NB: activity breakdown sometimes is available at aggregated (A6) level only. Annual data coverage is very heterogeneous in terms of regions and occupations categories. Only 12 countries provide information by occupation.

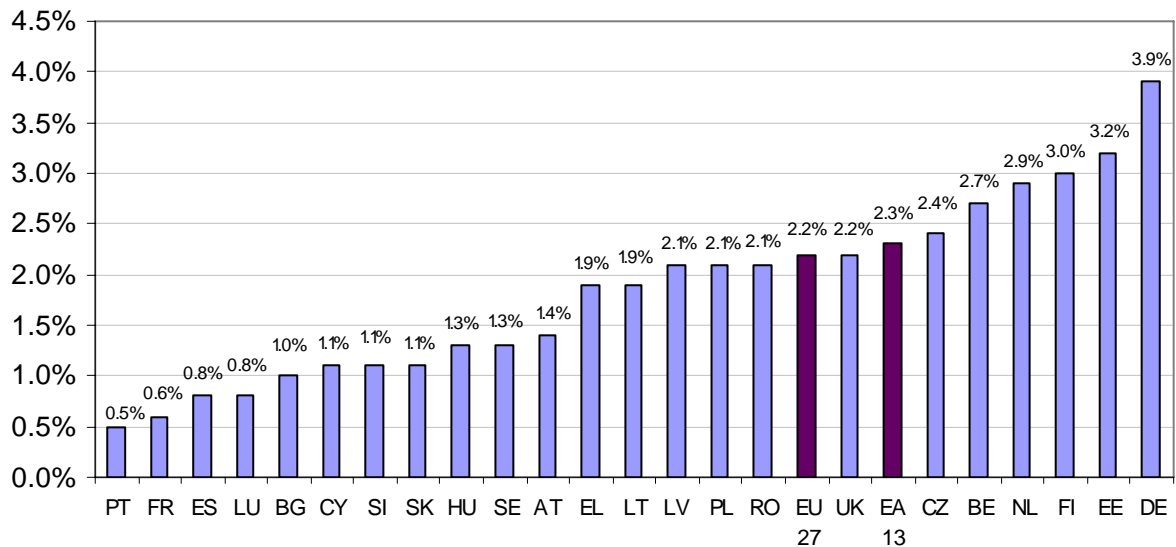
Data available on job vacancies and methodological information are available in Eurostat website, under theme "Population and social conditions" at the following address:

<http://www.ec.europa.eu/eurostat>

ANNEX:



### MS Job vacancy rate, 2007 Q1



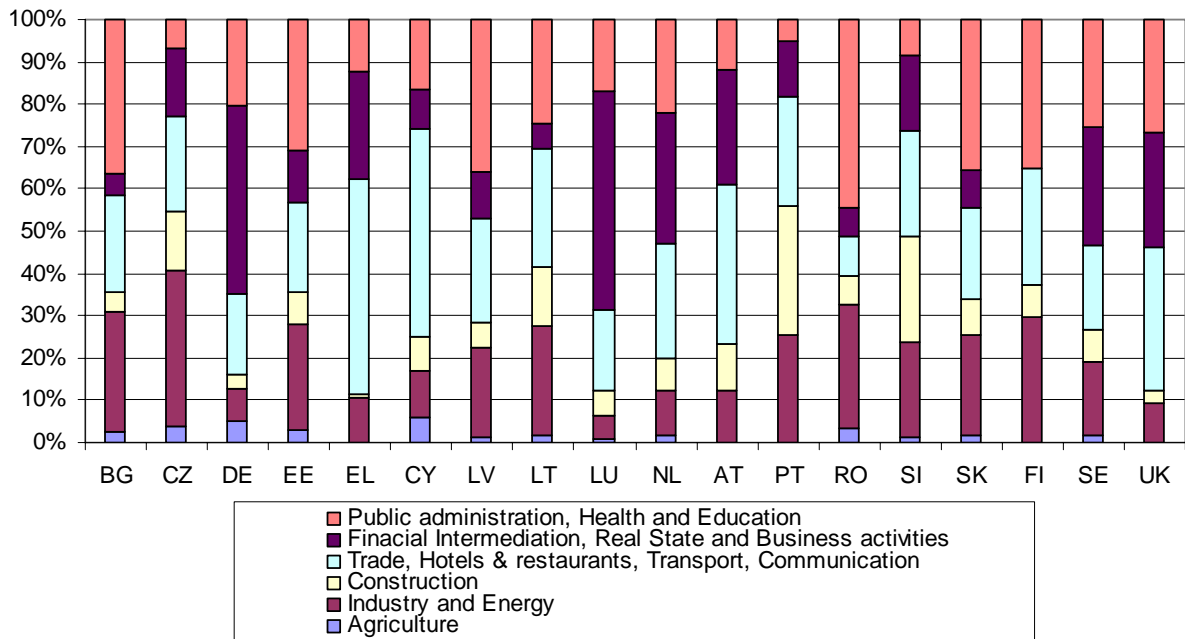
**NB:**

Sectoral coverage is not harmonised and differs from country to country. In addition, France only provides data from companies with at least 10 employees.

Data for Bulgaria, Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg, Hungary, Netherlands, Latvia, Slovenia, United Kingdom and EU aggregates are provisional. Italy data are confidential. Denmark, Ireland and Malta not available.

Reference quarter differs for the following countries: Greece and the Netherlands (2006Q4), Belgium and Cyprus (2006Q3), Portugal (2005Q4) and Austria (2005Q1).

## Job vacancies by economic activity (NACE), 2007 Q1

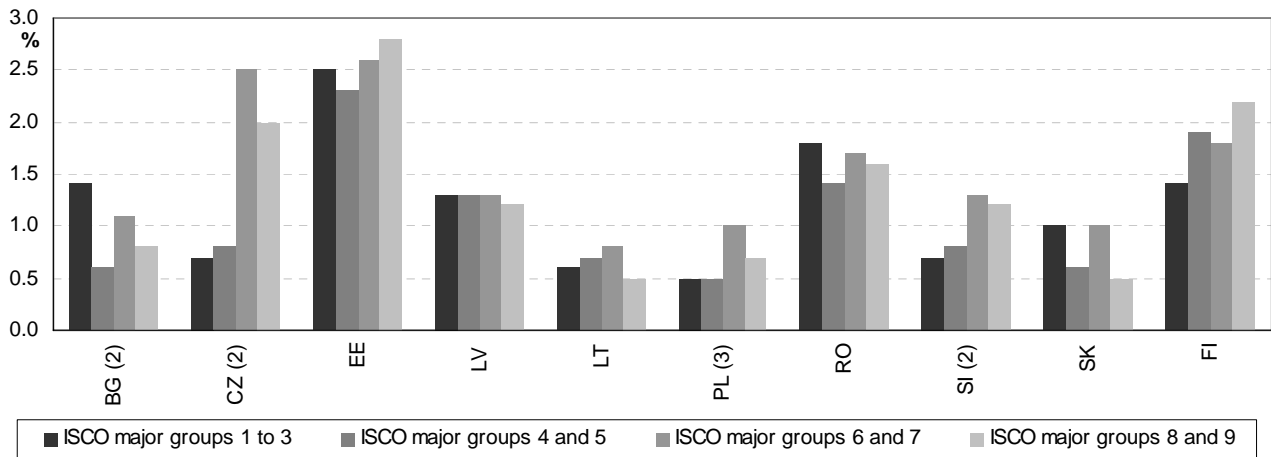


NB:

Missing countries: data not available or confidential.

Reference quarter differs for the following countries: Greece and the Netherlands (2006Q4), Cyprus (2006Q3), Portugal (2005Q4) and Austria (2005Q1).

## Job vacancy rate, by occupation(1), 2005



NB:

Missing countries: data not available or confidential.

(1) Excluding ISCO major group 0. (2) Provisional. (3) Units with employment of 10 or more.

ISCO1-3 Legislators, senior officials and managers, Professionals, Technicians and associate professionals

ISCO4-5 Clerks, Service workers and shop and market sales workers

ISCO6-7 Skilled agricultural and fishery workers, Craft and related trades workers

ISCO8-9 Plant and machine operators and assemblers, Elementary occupations