

Labour market monitoring

CEE

June 2023



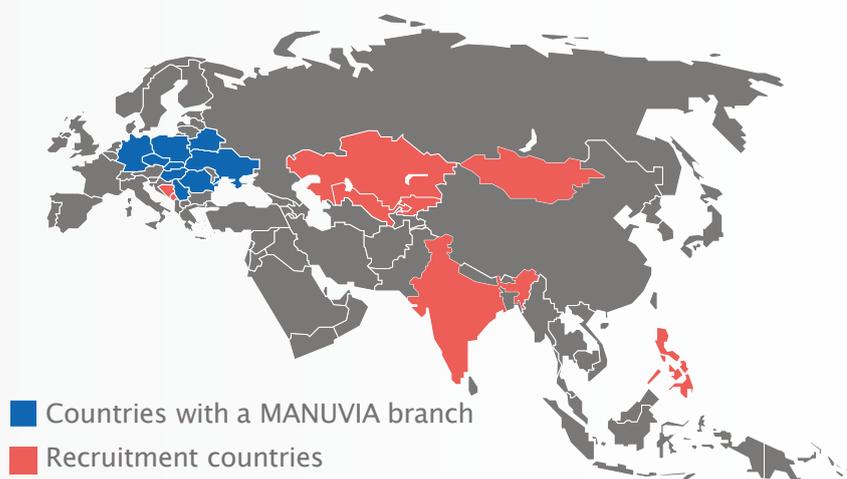
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Manuvia around the world



Unemployment in the Czech Republic



The Labour Office of the Czech Republic registered a total of 249,792 job seekers as of 30. June 2023. This is 4,101 fewer than in the previous month and 18,483 more than last year.

The share of unemployed persons decreased by 0.1 p.p., month-on-month, and increased by 0.3 p.p. year-on-year. At the end of June, it amounted to 3.4%.

In international comparison, the unemployment rate according to the latest available EUROSTAT data (for May) was the lowest in the entire EU, at 2.3% (EU average being 5.8%).

In June, the decline in the share of unemployed persons continued.

The labour market is currently affected

namely by seasonal activities in addition to the long-term high interest of employers in employees mainly in blue-collar and highly specialised professions or craftsmen.

	06/2023	06/2022	06/2021
Unemployment rate in the Czech Republic	3.4%	3.1%	3.7%
Number of job seekers	249,792	231,309	273,302
Number of reachable job seekers	226,143	208,196	253,940
Number of job vacancies	286,690	319,408	355,612
Unemployment rate according to EUROSTAT	2.3%	2.4%	3%

'In the summer season and with a high number of industrial jobs, the number of unemployed men fell by 3,000 a month. This gives us one of the lowest unemployment rates in the EU. The labour market is constantly evolving and many professions are changing rapidly due to digitalisation. The demands on workers are increasing, so people should not stop learning and seize every opportunity to acquire knowledge and improve their qualifications. Summer is the perfect time to acquire digital skills, for example, which they can then use immediately.'

Petr Straka, CSO



Unemployment in regions



The highest share of unemployed persons in June was 5.3% in the Ústí nad Labem and 4.7% in the Moravian-Silesian Region. These regions had the highest proportion of unemployed persons in the same period last year, too, this being the long-term unemployment situation in these regions. On the other hand, the lowest unemployment rate was in the South Bohemian Region at 2.4%, in the Zlín Region, the Vysočina Region and the Pardubice Region (all at 2.5%). Year-on-year, the situation has changed the most in the Pardubice Region, where the share of unemployed persons increased by 0.4 p.p. compared to June 2022.

Unemployment in regions



Structure of jobseekers



Of the total number of registered applicants, **138,851 were women** and made up **55.6%** of the total number of job seekers.



The share of **unemployed men fell to 2.9%** and remained at **3.9% for women**.



Last month, 35,683 persons with disabilities (PWD) – 14.3% of the total number of unemployed – were looking for work. Employers offered them a total of 10,481 job vacancies through the Labour Office of the Czech Republic.



The **average age** of the unemployed was **43.4 years** in June compared to **43.9 years** last year. The age structure of jobseekers has not changed significantly over the past five years. Also over the past **12 months**, there have been only slight changes.

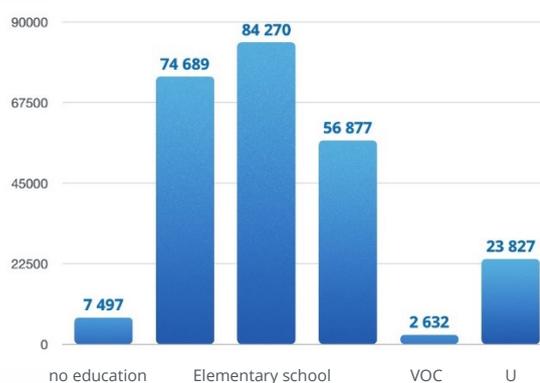


Most often, jobs are sought by the unemployed **with lower qualifications**, especially those with apprenticeships without A-level examination and with basic education.



Changes in the structure of the unemployed by the level of education achieved show that the highest year-on-year increase occurred in the case of registered applicants with basic education (**by 7,469**) and applicants with a university education (**by 4,809**).

Structure of jobseekers



Number of graduates



In a year-on-year comparison, the share of unemployed persons in the age group up to 29 years increased slightly in June as well as in the 30-49 age group. On the contrary, the 50+ category decreased by 1.4 p. p. In absolute terms, however, this is an **increase by 3,616 persons**.

As of 30. June 2023 **there were 93,152 applicants over 50 years of age in the register of the Labour Office of the Czech Republic and they accounted for 37.3%** of the total number of the unemployed.

As far **as the division by profession is concerned**, at the end of June the highest number in the register the Labour Office of the Czech Republic represented auxiliary and unskilled workers, **77,415**.

Average wages in Q1 2023



CZK 41,265

was the average gross monthly nominal wage

CZK 34,741

was the median wage

In Q1 2023

the average gross monthly nominal wages per headcount in the national economy rose by **8.6%** compared with the same period of the previous year, but fell by **6.7% in real terms**.

Decline in real wages continued in Q1 2023

Although the average gross monthly nominal wage per headcount increased by 8.6% to CZK 41,265 compared with the same period last year, **after taking into account the effect of inflation, it fell by 6.7%**. Consumer prices had risen by 16.4% in Q1.

In Q1 2023

the average gross monthly nominal wage per the number of employees in the national economy totaled CZK 41,265, which is CZK 3,265 (8.6%) higher than in the same period of 2022.

Consumer prices

increased by **16.4%** over the period, so real wages fell by **6.7%**.

Wage volume

increased by **9.8%**, the number of employees increased by **1.1%**.

Compared to the previous quarter,

the average wage growth in Q1 2023, seasonally adjusted, was **2.2%**.

The highest average wage growth

compared to the same period in 2022 was recorded in the **production and distribution of electricity, gas, heat and air conditioning (23.1%)** sector. The lowest growth of 3.9% occurred in education.

Median wages

increased by **8.9%** compared to the same period of the previous year, reaching CZK 37,696 for men and CZK 31,856 for women. **80%** of the employees received a salary between **CZK 18 601–65,512**.

Unemployment in Slovakia



Unemployment in June: The indicator of the proportion of available jobseekers of working age in the working age population fell below 10 percent in all districts.

The increased inflow of university graduates into the register of jobseekers caused a slight increase in unemployment in June. The main indicator of the proportion of available jobseekers of working age in the working age population rose slightly month-on-month in June to **3.92 percent**. Despite this, for the first time this year, in all districts of Slovakia, the indicator of the proportion of available jobseekers of working age in the working age population remained below **10 percent**.

As late as January 2023, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family recorded the indicator of the proportion of available jobseekers of working age in the working age population above 10 percent in six districts - Rimavská Sobota (**13.79%**), Revúca (**11.59%**), Kežmarok (**11.32%**), Vranov nad Topľou (**10.60%**), Rožňava (**10.30%**) and Medzilaborce (**10.08%**). Proportion of working-age available jobseekers to working-age population is the main unemployment indicator used by the Department of Labour, Social Affairs and Family since January this year. In May, the indicator of the proportion of available jobseekers of working age in the working age population exceeded the 10 percent threshold only in the Kežmarok district. In June, thanks to a decline of more than half a percentage point, the Kežmarok district also joined the other districts in Slovakia with the indicator of the proportion of available jobseekers of working age in the working age population below 10 percent.

There has also been a positive development since the beginning of the year in the case of unemployed people **aged 50** and over, whose number on the register of jobseekers has gradually decreased from **53,284** in January to **50,275** in June, as well as in the case of people who have been on the register for more than 12 months. Their number has gradually decreased since January from **74,215** persons to **70,535** in June.

The total unemployment rose slightly in June, by two hundredths of a percentage point month-on-month. The main reason was the increase in the number of university graduates on the register of jobseekers. While in May there were **2,116** people on the register who had completed their higher education no later than two years ago, in June there were up to **5,500** persons.

"Almost three and a half thousand young people have been added to the labour offices, but in total, at the end of June we have only **509** people on the register month-on-month. This means that many people, including those over **50** years of age or long-term unemployed, found a job in June. Alongside this, the number of vacancies has increased slightly again," said Juraj Káčer, State Secretary of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family.

The leap in the number of university graduates has been repeated year after year. It is caused by completion of higher education. Last June, the number of university graduates in the register rose month-on-month by **3,490** persons, and similarly in 2021 and 2020. In June 2019, the number of graduates rose by up to **4,274** persons month-on-month.

Unemployment in Slovakia



In June, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family registered the largest number of this year's graduates from Comenius University (**759**), Prešov University (**462**) and Pavol Jozef Šafárik University (**360**). Most job seekers were graduates from the fields of Economic Sciences, Non-Medical Health Sciences and Medical Sciences. "Many years of experience show us that thanks to the support of the labour offices, the vast majority of them will soon find their place in the labour market. Last year, for example, more than three-quarters of last year's university graduates had found work by the end of the year, and after a year around five per cent remained on the register. Traditionally, we expect a similar increase in graduates this September, too. These will be secondary school graduates, there is usually at least a thousand more of those than university graduates. Labour offices are continuously preparing themselves to provide the best possible services to these graduates," said Karol Zimmer, Director General of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family.

Matěj Bělín, an analyst at the Institute of Social Policy, pointed out that unemployment levels are at historic lows and that he does not see any room for a more substantial decline in the near future. "A significant drop in the unemployment levels is unlikely unless there is a significant change in the world economy, such as a sudden end to the conflict in Ukraine. We assume that the development of unemployment during the summer months will roughly follow the trends of previous years. A slight increase is possible in July, and we could see a slight improvement in August due to seasonal work. In September, as high school graduates enter the labour market, it is reasonable to expect another slight increase in the number of the unemployed," Bělín concluded.



Unemployment in regions



Territory	Status of jobseekers at the end of the month	Economically active population	Number of jobseekers available	Unemployment rates calculated from the total of jobseekers available	Rate of recorded unemployment (in %)
Bratislava Region	12,339	396,406	11,696	3.11	2.95
Trnava Region	11,117	296,753	9,952	3.75	3.35
Trenčín Region	11,651	293,773	10,188	3.97	3.47
Nitra Region	14,942	348,490	12,596	4.29	3.61
Žilina Region	16,972	361,162	14,790	4.70	4.10
Banská Bystrica Region	29,130	318,010	22,514	9.16	7.08
Prešov Region	41,704	396,159	33,543	10.53	8.47
Košice Region	34,378	381,378	27,696	9.01	7.26
SLOVAKIA	172,233	2,792,131	142,975	6.17	5.12

Unemployment statistics – June 2023

PDU (Proportion of available jobseekers of working age to working age population): 3.92%
(3.90% in May 2023; 4.62% in June 2022).

The indicator of the proportion of available jobseekers of working age in the working age population in the district of Kežmarok: 9.85% (10.41% in May 2023).

Registered Unemployment Rate: 5.12% (5.10% in May 2023).

Number of available jobseekers of working age: 142,943 (142,277 in May 2023).

Total number of university graduates on the register of jobseekers: 5,500 (2,116 persons in May 2023).

Number of university graduates on the register of jobseekers who completed their education in 2023: 5,083 (1,564 persons in May 2023).

Total number of registered jobseekers: 172,233 (171,724 in May 2023; 187,122 in June 2022).

11,827 jobseekers found their place in the labour market (12,220 in May 2023).

Number of vacancies: 78,932 (77,309 in May 2023). The highest number of vacancies was in the Bratislava region - 30,524 places, the lowest number of vacancies was in the Prešov region - 2,457.

Number of vacancies suitable for graduates: 39,516.

Number of collective redundancies reported during June 2023: 0 (0 Number of threatened jobs).



In March, the most pronounced increase average gross wage rate in the restaurant and hospitality sector

Average nominal monthly wages slowed their annual growth rate in all 10 sectors of the economy in March 2023.



As last month, wages rose the most in the lowest-earning sectors, **in restaurants and catering by 18% to €700, in construction by 15% to €1,000 and in accommodation by 15% to €1,038.**



Wages grew the slowest in the sector with the longest-standing highest earnings, namely **information and communication, by almost 6% to €2,617.**



High inflation distorted nominal earnings during March, so real wages were lower year-on-year in 7 of the 10 sectors surveyed. The biggest falls were in information and communication by 7.8%, transport and storage by 5.7% and industry by 5.1%.

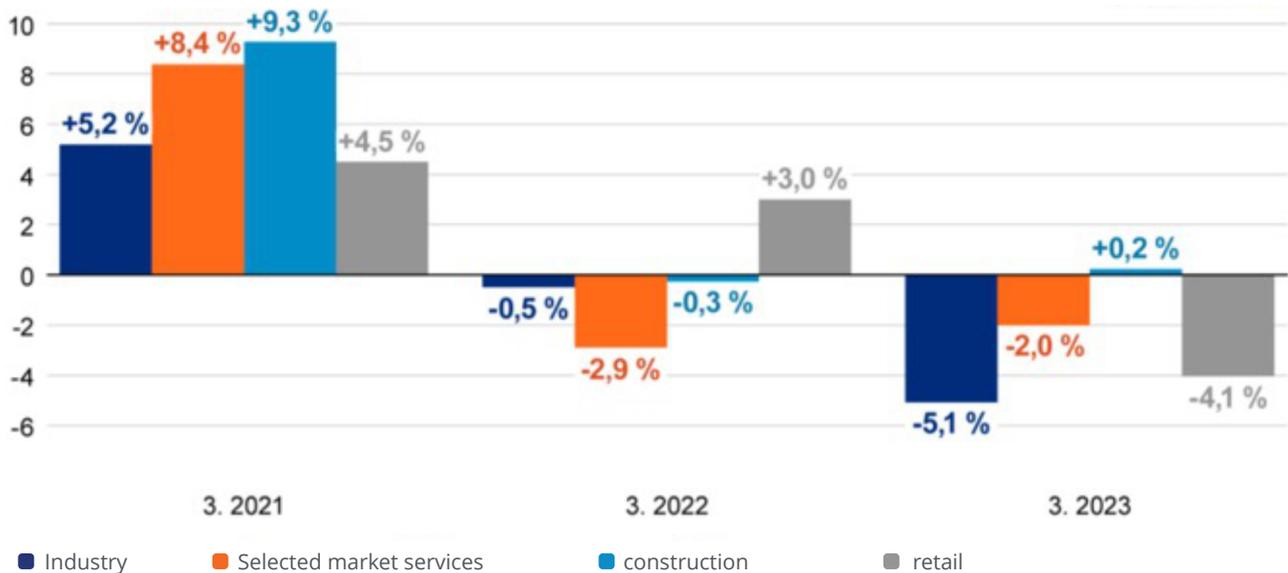


Real wages increased by 2.8% in restaurants and catering activities and very slightly by 0.2% in accommodation and construction.

Average Monthly Salary in sectors*



Year-on-year change in %



* Sectors with highest employment share
Source: Statistical Office SR

For the whole of Q1 2023, nominal monthly wages grew in all sectors surveyed, with most sectors growing at double-digit rates.

The largest increase was in accommodation, up one-fifth, and the smallest was in information and communication, **up 7.4%**.

Real wages have only increased by 5% since the beginning of the year in accommodation and 1.5% in restaurants and catering activities. In the other 8 sectors they fell from 0.3% in construction to 6.7% in information and communication.

The unemployment rate in June was 5%.

The rate of registered unemployment at the end of June 2023, estimated by the Ministry of Family and Social Policy, was **5%**. This is 0.1 p.p. less than a month ago and less than in June 2022, when unemployment reached 5.2%.

Lower unemployment rate than last year

- **The lowest unemployment rate** in Poland was recorded in the Greater Poland Voivodeship (2.9%).
- At the end of June, **785,000** people were registered as unemployed at the labour offices.
- Compared to the previous month, the number of the unemployed **decreased by 17.3 thousand persons, i.e. by 2.2%**.
- There were **33.1 thousand** fewer unemployed people in the unemployment register at the end of June this year than at the end of June 2022. That's a decrease of **4%**.
- In June of this year, according to preliminary data, employers reported **100.2 thousand** jobs, vacancies and professional activation posts to the labour offices. That's circa **5.4 thousand** more compared to the previous month and also a 4 thousand increase from June 2022.
- According to the Eurostat data, Poland is among the countries with the lowest unemployment. The unemployment rate in Poland, calculated according to the definition adopted by Eurostat, was 2.7% in May this year, compared to 5.9% in the EU and 6.5 % in the eurozone. Poland thus ranked second after the Czech Republic (2.4%) in terms of the lowest unemployment rate in the EU.

Voivodeship	Unemployment rate in %
POLAND	5.0
Dolnośląskie	4.4
Kujawsko-Pomorskie	7.1
Lubelskie	7.5
Lubuskie	4.2
Łódzkie	5.5
Małopolskie	4.4
Mazowieckie	4.0
Opolskie	6.2
Podkarpackie	8.4
Podlaskie	7.1
Pomorskie	4.5
Śląskie	3.6
Świętokrzyskie	7.6
Warmińsko-Mazurskie	8.3
Wielkopolskie	2.9
Zachodniopomorskie	6.4

'A comparison of the level of unemployment at the end of June this year with the end of February 2020, i.e. just before the COVID-19 epidemic, shows that the number of registered unemployed persons decreased by 134.9 thousand people, i.e. by 14.7%. On the other hand, the rate of registered unemployment is 0.5 percentage points lower today. All this is the best answer to the claim that the State is unable to cope with the crisis caused first by the pandemic and then by the war in Ukraine. The statistics clearly show that this is untrue. The measures we have taken have allowed us to avoid real fluctuations in the labour market.'

Marlena Małaż

Minister of Family and Social Policy

The unemployment rate in June was 5.5%.

After seasonal adjustment, the number of unemployed in June 2023 **increased by 28 thousand** compared to the previous month. Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rose by 11,000 to **2,555,000**. Compared to June of last year, the number of unemployed is higher by 192,000. Unemployment would increase even without taking Ukrainian refugees into account.

Noticeable effects of a weak economic development

- **The unemployment rate** in June 2023 was the same as in the previous month at **5.5%**. Compared to the same month last year, the rate increased by 0.3 pp. The unemployment rate determined by the Federal Statistical Office based on the ILO employment concept was 2.9% in May.
- **Underemployment**, which in addition to unemployment also includes changes in labour market policy and short-term incapacity for work, rose by a seasonally adjusted 3,000 compared to the previous month. In June 2023, it was 3,409,000 people. That was 301,000 more than a year ago. If Ukrainian refugees were included, underemployment would be only 75,000 higher than the previous year.
- According to the Federal Statistical Office **the seasonally-adjusted number of people in employment** fell by 1,000 in May 2023 from the previous month. With 45.88 million people, it was 365 thousand more than the previous year.

'Now we are also experiencing more difficult economic conditions in the labour market. Unemployment is rising and employment growth is losing momentum.'

Andrea Nahles

President of the Federal Labour Office (BA)

The unemployment rate in June reached 3.8%.

The number of unemployed in May 2023 was **187,000** with the unemployment rate at **3.8%**.

- For the period of April to June 2023, the number of unemployed people aged 15-74 increased by 36 thousand to **193 thousand**, while the unemployment rate increased by 0.7 p.p. to **3.9%**. The number of unemployed men was 104,000, their unemployment rate increased by 0.6 p.p. to 4.0%. There were 89,000 unemployed women, their unemployment rate increased by 0.8 p.p. to 3.8%.
- The number of unemployed 15-24 year olds **was 41,000** and their unemployment rate was **13.9%**. 21.3% of all unemployed came from this age group. The unemployment rate within the 25-54 age group rose by 0.6 pp to 3.4%, while it remained essentially unchanged at 2.8% as regards the 55-74 age group.
- The average time spent looking for a job was **9.5 months**, 35.9% of the unemployed had been looking for a job for a year at least.

Development of unemployment by age groups among people aged 15-74, April to June 2023

Age group, years	Number of people		Unemployment rate		
	thousand people	change, thousand people a)	%	change, thousand people a)	
15-24	41.1	12.2	13.9	3.9	
25-54	125.3	22.8	3.4	0.6	
55-74	26.3	0.7	2.8	-0.1	
Total	192.7	35.7	3.9	0.7	

a) Compared to the same period last year.

At the end of May 2023 compared to the previous year

According to the administrative data of the National Employment Service, **the number of registered job applicants decreased by 3% to 224 thousand persons.**

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