

ECONOMIC STATISTICS

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Module 5	Productivity and the Labour Market
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Lecture 3	2 April 2026
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Topic	Labour Demand Indicators, Wages and Salaries
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Labour Demand Indicators

Survey on Employment, Working Hours, Wages and Labour Costs in Large Enterprises is part of an integrated data-production system consisting of three surveys to compile and disseminate indicators of labour demand in enterprises with employees.

This Survey includes all companies classified in industry and services with at least 500 employees on average in the base year (from 2024 onwards, the base year is 2021); these companies constitute the reference panel for calculating the survey indicators.

This is a monthly survey. Using the questionnaire, for each reference month, information is collected on the following variables: filled positions, working hours, wages, social security contributions, and job vacancies (quarterly only). All variables are measured separately by employee category: white-collar workers, blue-collar workers and managers.

<https://www.istat.it/informazioni-sulla-rilevazione/occupazione-grandi-imprese/>

Labour Demand Indicators

The other two surveys which complete the system are the quarterly survey of vacancies and hours worked (VELA) and the quarterly survey of Employment Pay and Social Charges (OROS).

Survey of Job Vacancies and Hours Worked (VELA)

Job vacancies capture unmet labour demand: they are paid posts (new or existing) for which the employer is actively seeking a suitable candidate.

In Italy, job vacancies and hours worked in the non-agricultural private sector are measured primarily through the quarterly VELA survey (covering a large share of enterprises), complemented by a monthly survey of large enterprises with more than 500 employees. VELA results and related indicators are disseminated on a quarterly basis. VELA covers employing enterprises in industry and private services (ATECO 2007 sections B–S, excluding Section O).

<https://www.istat.it/informazioni-sulla-rilevazione/vela/>

Labour Demand Indicators

The Quarterly Survey on employment, wages, social charges (OROS)

The OROS survey was designed to produce quarterly information on trends in employment, pay and social charges in enterprises with employees.

The survey population consists of private enterprises and institutions with employees who paid taxable wages for contribution purposes in the reference quarter and who carry out their economic activity in the sectors of industry (economic activity sections B to F of the Ateco 2007 classification) and services (sections G to S, excluding section O).

OROS produces indicators on employment, gross wages and social charges by making extensive use of administrative data from the INPS source (taken from UniEmens contribution declarations) and other data from the monthly survey on large companies with more than 500 employees.

<https://www.istat.it/scheda-qualita/rilevazione-oros-occupazione-retribuzioni-oneri-sociali/>

Wages and Salaries

Wages or earnings are the payments people receive for work. In theory, it encompasses both employees and the self-employed, but due to data limitations, most official statistics only cover employees.

There are two main sources of data on wages in Italy:

- 1) The Monthly Survey on Employment, Working Hours, Wages and Labour Costs in Large Enterprises**
- 2) The Quarterly Survey on employment, wages, social charges (OROS)**