

Labour market monitoring

CEE

April 2023



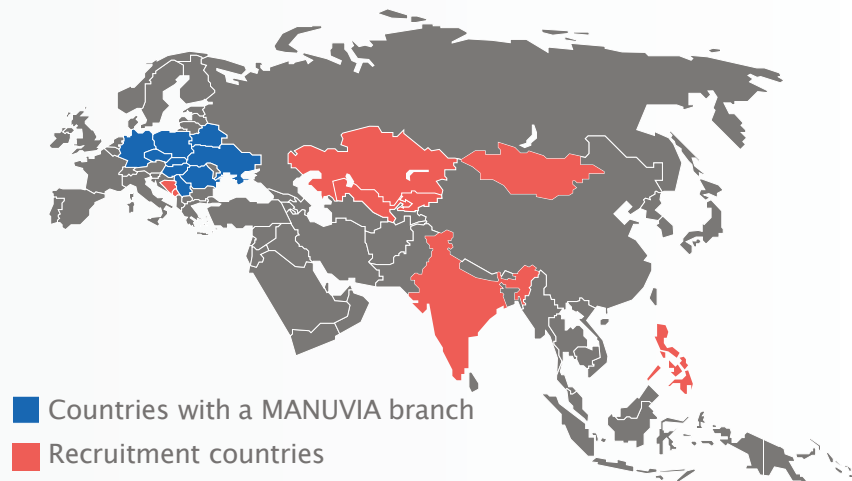
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Manuvia around the world



Unemployment in the Czech Republic



The Labor Office of the Czech Republic recorded as of 30 April 2023 for a total of 261,683 job seekers.
This is 11,795 less than in the previous month and 18,025 more than last year.

The share of unemployed persons fell slightly by 0.1 p. p.

And it rose by 0.3 percentage points year-on-year. At the end of April, it stood at 3.6%.

In an international comparison, the unemployment rate according to the latest available EUROSTAT data (March) is the lowest in the EU at 2.6% (EU average 6.1%).

Unemployment is still at relatively low numbers.

Employers are still interested in new employees.

Mostly in blue-collar and highly skilled occupations. There is a long-term demand for skilled craftsmen.

In the previous month, 31,800 people registered with the Office of the Labor Office of the Czech Republic and 43,600 people (the highest figure for April in the last 4 years).

Many have found applications, for example, in retail and wholesale, civil engineering, education, or crop and livestock production. Freelancers who had temporarily suspended their business over the winter also resumed their activities.

	04/2023	04/2022	04/2021
Unemployment rate in the Czech Republic	3.6%	3.3%	4.1%
Number of job seekers	261,683	243,658	297,876
Number of reachable job seekers	237,276	220,318	279,508
Number of job vacancies	284,530	344,350	343,407
Unemployment rate according to EUROSTAT	2.6%	2.3%	3.4%

'The Czech Republic still has the lowest unemployment rate in Europe, which indicates that the Czech economy is stable and able to cope with the current challenges. Statistics support an optimistic outlook for the future in terms of the unemployment rate.'

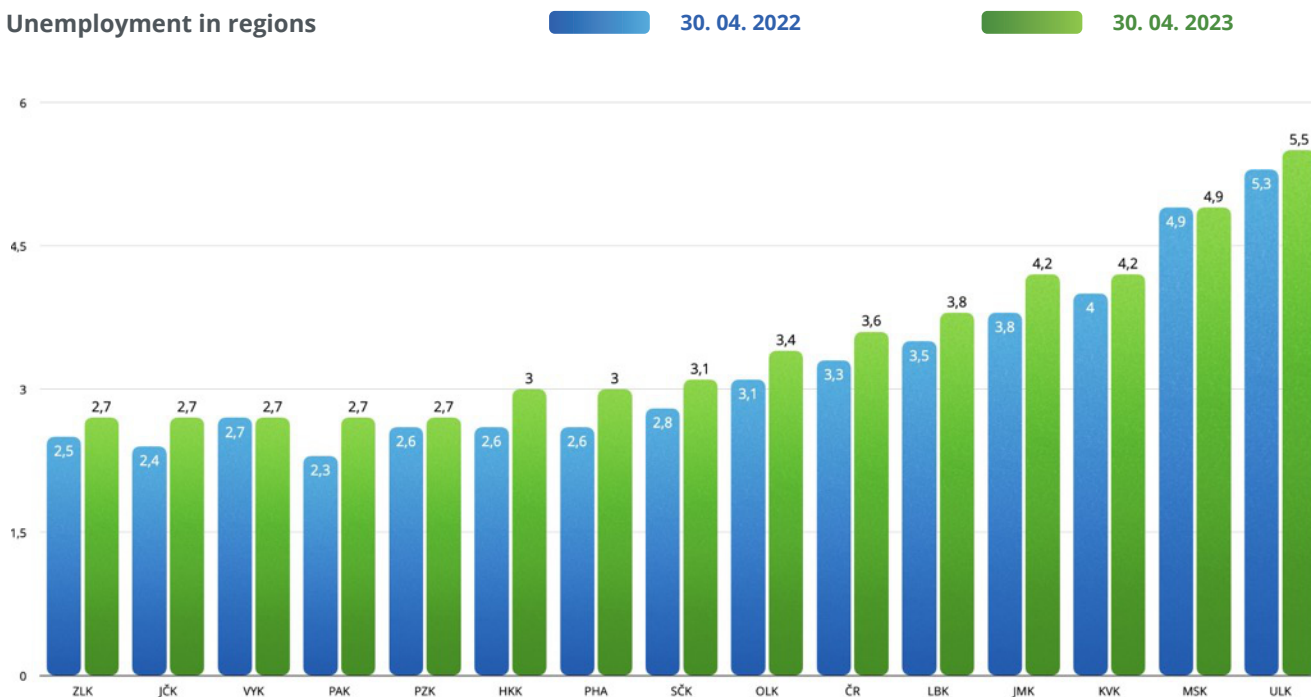
Karla Smičková, COO

Unemployment in regions



The highest share of unemployed persons in April was in Ústí nad Labem 5.5% and the Moravian-Silesian Region 4.9%. These regions had the highest proportion of unemployed persons in the same period last year, which is the long-term unemployment situation in these regions. On the other hand, the lowest unemployment was in the Zlín, South Bohemia, Vysočina, Pardubice and Plzeň regions – the same 2.7%.

Unemployment in regions



Structure of job seekers



Of the total number of registered jobseekers, **54.7%** were women, representing **143,064** unemployed.



The proportion of unemployed **men** fell to **3.1%** and for women to **4%**.



In the past month, **36,394** people with disabilities were seeking work (PWD). This was **13.9%** of the total unemployed.



Employers offered them a total of **10,101 vacancies** through the Labor Office of the Czech Republic.



The average age of the unemployed was **43.3 years** in April, compared to **43.8 years** last year. The age structure of applicants of employment has not changed significantly over the past 5 years. And even over the past 12 months there have been only slight changes.



Jobseekers with lower qualifications **were most likely to be unemployed**, especially those with an apprenticeship lacking a high school diploma and with primary education.

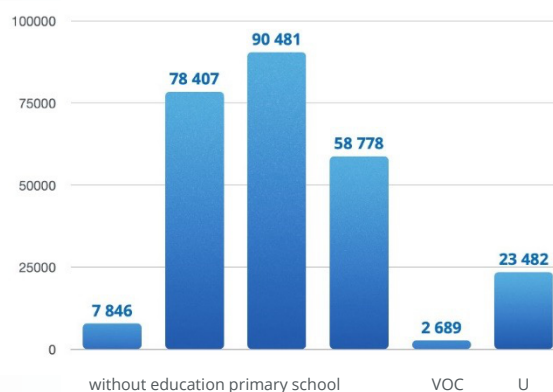


Changes in the structure of the unemployed **by education level** show that the highest year-on-year increase in growth occurred in the case of registered jobseekers with primary education (by 7,167) and jobseekers with higher education (by 5,053).

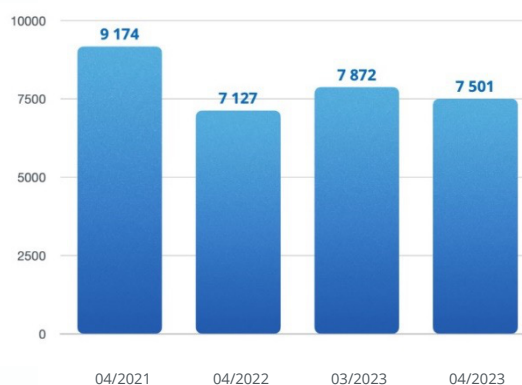


At the end of the previous month, the Labor Office registered **11,914 school graduates of all levels of education and minors**. This is down 429 month-on-month and up 842 year-on-year. They accounted for 4.6% of total unemployment (March – 4.5%, April 2022 – 4.5%). Of the total number of graduates and juveniles at the end of April there were only 7,501 graduates in the records of the Labor Office of the Czech Republic.

Structure of job seekers



Number of graduates



Over the last 12 months, the structure of jobseekers according to the length of time they have been registered with the Office of the Labor Office of the Czech Republic has changed. In April 2023, the share of those who have been unemployed for more than 12 months in the total number of unemployed fell by 4.5 percentage points year-on-year to **28.9%**, i.e. to a total of **75,657 persons**. **The average length of registration increased by 19 days to 490** compared to March.

Average wages in Q4 2022



CZK 43,412

was the average wage

CZK 37,463

was the median wage

In Q4 2022,

the average gross monthly nominal wage in the national economy increased by **7.9%** compared to the previous year, but dropped by **6.7% in real wages**.

Consumer prices

increased by 15.7%, which caused a decline in real wages.

The wage volume

increased by **8.9%**, and the number of employees increased by **0.9%**.

The average wage

increased in Q4 2022 by **2.1%** compared to the previous quarter, and the highest growth was recorded in the prices of electricity and gas, other activities, and the financial and insurance sectors.

The median wage increased

by **9.0%**, and 80% of employees had a salary between CZK 18,666 and CZK 70,514.

The average

wage in 2022 was CZK 40,353, which is 6.5% more than in the previous year, but consumer prices increased by 15.1%, so the real wage declined by 7.5%.

Unemployment in Slovakia



Unemployment Drops Most Sharply in 1.5 Years

Unemployment in April fell the most sharply since October 2021. The main **indicator of percentage of available jobseekers decreased** from March's 4.29% to **4.08%**. At the national level, it fell month-on-month by 0.21 percentage point, in the Košice Region even by 58 hundredths of a percentage point. The decrease was partly due to changes in the area of activation work.

Since April, major legislative changes in the field of activation work have been in force

to improve efficiency and targeting in the use of funding for activation work and to increase the motivation of the unemployed to find a job. The key change brought about by the amendment to Act No. 417/2013 Coll. on assistance in material need was the deletion of Section 12, paragraph 3, letter b, points 5 and 6 from the Act.

In practice, this meant ending one of the ways in which the state paid activation allowances to the unemployed for carrying out activation work. The people who were activated under this section were still registered as available jobseekers at the labor offices in March. Since April, around 6,000 of these people have been involved in active labor market measures projects. Since they have been involved in projects of 3-6 months and now there is a direct contractual relationship between them and the Labor Office based on the signing of an agreement on the conditions for carrying out activation activities in the form of small-scale services, the Labor Offices currently registers them as unavailable jobseekers.

The available number of jobseekers has thus fallen as a result of the change.

- **The percentage of available jobseekers reached 4.08% in April, down 0.21 percentage point month-on-month and up 72 hundredths of a percentage point year-on-year.**
- **The percentage of available jobseekers declined for the third consecutive month in April.**
- In addition to the decline in total unemployment, **unemployment continues to decline in all counties** with the exception of the Bratislava region, where unemployment stagnated.
- **The most significant month-on-month decrease** was recorded by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family **in the Košice region**, from 6.07 in March to **5.49%** in April. Unemployment fell by half a percentage point in the Prešov Region and by more than a quarter of a percentage point in the Banská Bystrica Region.



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	12 012	396 226	11 311	3,03	2,85
Trnava Region	11 138	296 743	9 885	3,75	3,33
Trenčín Region	11 374	293 820	9 868	3,87	3,36
Nitra Region	15 028	348 483	12 581	4,31	3,61
Žilina Region	17 139	361 189	14 979	4,75	4,15
Banská Bystrica Region	29 719	318 062	25 796	9,34	8,11
Prešov Region	42 547	396 193	35 748	10,74	9,02
Košice Region	34 905	381 415	28 821	9,15	7,56
SLOVAKIA	173 862	2 792 131	148 989	6,23	5,34

Unemployment statistics – April 2023

Percentage of available jobseekers of working age in the working age population: **4.08%**

(4.29% in March 2023; 4.80% in April 2022).

Jobseekers in the Košice Region:	5,49%	(6,07% in March 2023)
Jobseekers in the Prešov:	6,61%	(7,11% in March 2023)
Jobseekers in the Banská:	6,25%	(6,53% in March 2023)
Jobseekers in Žilina Region:	3,20%	(3,28% in March 2023)
Jobseekers in Trenčín Region:	2,59%	(2,66% in March 2023)
Jobseekers in the Nitra Region:	2,77%	(2,82% in March 2023)
Jobseekers in Trnava Region:	2,57%	(2,58% in March 2023)
Jobseekers in the Bratislava:	2,31%	(2,31% in March 2023)

Rate of registered unemployment: **5.34%** (5.6% in March 2023).

Number of available jobseekers of working age: **148,957** (156,903 persons in 2023).

Total number of registered jobseekers: **173,862** (175,605 in March 2023; 193,409 in April 2022).

There are **12,505** jobseekers in the labor market (13,402 in March 2023).

Number of vacancies: **75,618** (76,127 in March 2023). The highest number of vacancies was in the Bratislava Region – 29,235 places, the lowest number of vacancies was in the Prešov Region – 2,504.

Number of vacancies suitable for graduates: **38,653**.

Number of collective redundancies reported during April 2023: **2** (175 jobs at risk).



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%.

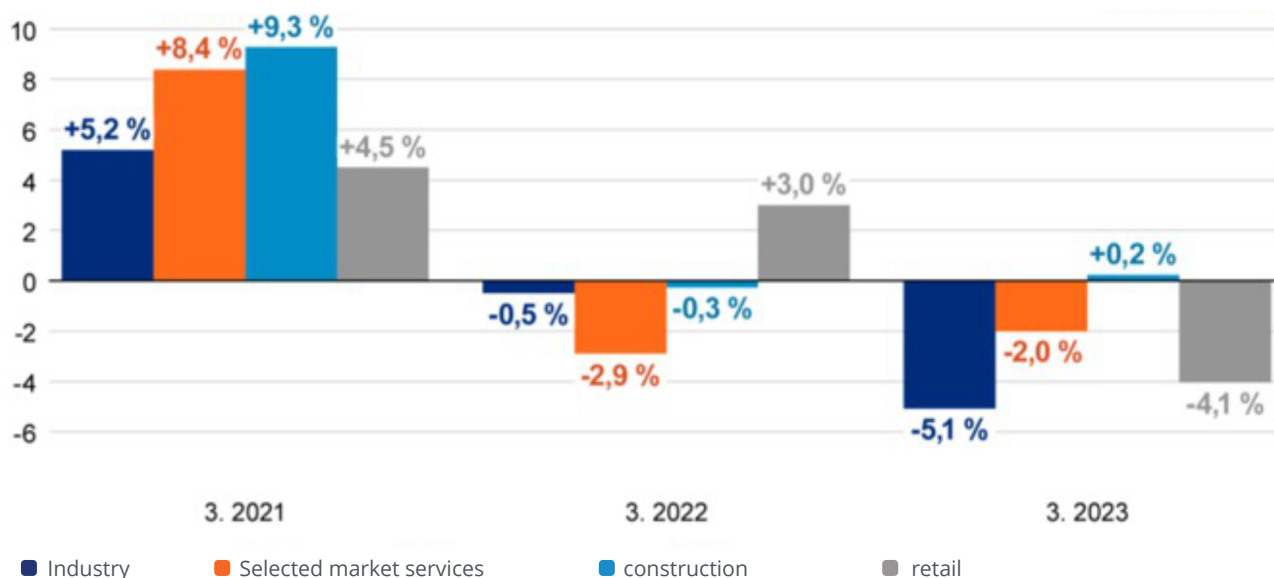


Real wages increased by 2.8% in restaurants and catering activities and very slightly by 0.2% in accommodation and construction.

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 April was 5.3%.

According to data from the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, it is 0.1 pp higher. Lower than this March and lower than the same period last year. Today, unemployment is lower than before the outbreak of the pandemic, which clearly shows the effectiveness of the support tools implemented by the government.

Lower unemployment rate than last year

- According to estimates by the Ministry of Family and Social Policy, the rate of registered unemployment at the end of April was **5.3%**. Compared to the previous month, the rate decreased by **0.1 pp** and compared to the end of April 2022, it was lower by **0.3 pp**.
- **The lowest unemployment** at the end of April this year was recorded in Wielkopolska – 3%.
- According to preliminary data, **at the end of April 2023, 823,700** unemployed people were registered at labor offices, i.e. 23,100 (**2.7%**) less than at the end of the previous month. Compared to the end of April 2022, the number of unemployed decreased by 54,200 people (**6.2%**).
- In the number of registered unemployed at the end of April this year, there were **16,300** unemployed citizens of Ukraine and they made up **2%** of the total number of unemployed. Compared to the end of March, the number of unemployed citizens of Ukraine decreased by more than **1,000**.
- **Poland remains a country with one of the lowest unemployment rates in the EU.** The unemployment rate in March this year, according to Eurostat data, was 2.8% in Poland, compared to 6% in the EU and 6.5% in the eurozone. Together with Germany, Poland is thus ranked 2nd behind the Czech Republic (2.6%) in terms of the lowest unemployment rate in the EU.

Voivodeship	Unemployment rate in %
POLAND	5.3
Dolnośląskie	4.6
Kujawsko-Pomorskie	7.4
Lubelskie	7.9
Lubuskie	4.4
Łódzkie	5.6
Małopolskie	4.6
Mazowieckie	4.2
Opolskie	6.3
Podkarpackie	8.8
Podlaskie	7.3
Pomorskie	4.8
Śląskie	3.7
Świętokrzyskie	7.8
Warmińsko-Mazurskie	8.9
Wielkopolskie	3.0
Zachodniopomorskie	6.8

'If we compare the data from April 2023 to February 2020, i.e. just before the outbreak of the pandemic, we see that the number of registered unemployed decreased by 96,100 people, i.e. by more than 10%.'

Marlena Maląg

Minister of Family and Social Policy

The unemployment rate in April was 5.7%.

As the spring recovery continues, unemployment fell to **2,586,000** in April 2023 from the previous month. The decline was a tepid 8,000. After seasonal adjustment, the number of unemployed increased by 24,000. Compared to April last year, the number of unemployed is 276,000 higher. Even without taking Ukrainian refugees into account, unemployment would have increased compared to the previous year, albeit less significantly. As in March, the **unemployment rate** in April 2023 was **5.7%**, which is 0.7 pp more than in the same month last year.

The spring recovery remains weak

- **Underemployment**, which, in addition to unemployment, also includes changes in labor market policy and short-term incapacity for work, increased by a seasonally adjusted 18,000 compared to the previous month.
- In April 2023, it was **3,445,000** people. That was 389,000 more than a year ago. Without taking Ukrainian refugees into account, underemployment would be 34,000 higher than in the previous year.
- According to current data, **part-time work was reported for 36,000 people** from April 1 up to 24. And according to preliminary extrapolated data from the Federal Labor Office, short-term work benefits were paid to 162,000 employees this month.
- In April, **773,000 jobs** were registered at the Federal Labor Office, which is 79,000 less than a year ago.

'The spring recovery in the labor market remained weak in April. One of the reasons was the stagnant economy. Overall, however, the labor market is stable.'

Andrea Nahles

Chair of the Executive Board of the Federal Employment Agency (BA)

The unemployment rate in April reached 3.9%.

The number of unemployed in April 2023 was **190,000**, the unemployment rate was **3.9%**.

- For the period February to April 2023, the number of unemployed people aged 15-74 increased by 27,000 to **197,000**, while the unemployment rate increased by 0.5 pp to **4.0%**. The number of unemployed men was 106,000, their unemployment rate increased by 0.4 pp to 4.1%. Among women, there were 91,000 unemployed, their unemployment rate increased by 0.7 pp to 4.0%.
- The number of unemployed people aged **15-24 was 34,000** and their unemployment rate was 11.1%. 17.2% of all unemployed people came from this age group. The unemployment rate in the 25-54 age group increased by 0.7 pp to 3.7% and in the 55-74 age group the unemployment rate decreased by 0.2 pp to 2.9%.
- The average job search lasted **9.4 months**, 33.8 % of the unemployed had been looking for work for at least a year.

Unemployment developments by age group among people aged 15-74, February-April 2023

Age group, years	Number of people		Unemployment rate	
	thousand people	change, thousand people a)	%	change, thousand people a)
15-24	33.9	4.0	11.1	1.0
25-54	136.5	23.4	3.7	0.7
55-74	26.9	-0.4	2.9	-0.2
Total	197.2	27.0	4.0	0.5

a) Compared to the same period last year.

At the end of April 2023 compared to the previous year

According to the administrative data of the National Employment Service, the number of registered job applicants decreased by 2.6 % to 235,000 people.

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