

Icelandic Job Vacancy Survey (IS-JVS)

1. Contact

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2. Metadata update

2.3 Metadata last update	22.10.2021
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3. Statistical presentation

3.1 Data description

The main purpose of the Icelandic Job Vacancy Survey (IS-JVS) is to collect information about number of vacant jobs and number of occupied positions at legal entities who pay wages in Iceland. The Job Vacancy Survey is conducted in accordance with European regulation nr. 453/2008. The results are comparable with other results about vacant jobs statistics from other countries in the European Statistical System.

Data is collected for the IS-JVS quarterly with a reference date in the middle of the second month of the quarter which is considered typical for the quarter.

The target population of the survey are all legal entities (enterprises) in Iceland that on average, have at least one employee per month over the past year and are still active when the sample is selected.

To estimate the job vacancy rate, Job Vacancy Survey data is used as well as the number of employed according to register data.

Register-based labour force is a count of individuals from monthly pay as you earn (PAYE) - and population data. Pay as you earn data is obtained from the Commissioner of the Inland Revenue settlement of cash payment of wages and/or calculated remuneration according to laws of cash payment nr. 45/1897. The settlement is enriched with additional information so the data can be used for official statistics, for example, to be able to distinguish wage payments from other payments. Population data is obtained from the population register from Registers Iceland. Further information on metadata related to the registered labour force can be found on Statistics Iceland's web under the headline „[Labour market](#)“.

All information collected is treated as confidential. Measures are taken when results are published and disseminated to prevent tracking information back to individuals or legal entities. Further information regarding confidentiality and data security can be found [here](#).

3.2 Classification system

Along with total numbers for the country, figures for each quarter are classified by economic activities which can be seen in table 1. The ISAT08 is the Icelandic classification system for industries which is based on the statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community, NACE rev.2.

Table 1. Classification system of economic activities in the IS-LFS

Economic activities	ISAT08 economic activities
Total	All economic activities A to S
A. Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1 to 3
B-E. Mining and quarrying; manufacturing; electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply; water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	5 to 39
C. Manufacturing	10 to 33
F. Construction	41 to 43
G-I. Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles; transportation and storage; accommodation and food service activities	45 to 56
J. Information and communication	58 to 63
K. Financial and insurance activities	64 to 66
L. Real estate	68
M-N. Professional, scientific and technical activities; administrative and support service activities	69 to 82
O-Q. Public administration and defence, compulsory social security; education; human health and social work activities	84 to 88
R-S. Arts, entertainment and recreation, other service activities	90 to 96
Tourism industries	The category is custom made and built from few economic activities in ISAT08: The two-letter division 79, the three letter groups 491, 501, 503, 511, 551, 552, 553, 561, 563, 771, and the four-letter classes 4932, 4939, 7721, 9604 and 5223
A03 & C102. Fishing industry and aquaculture	The category is custom made and built from few economic activities in ISAT2008: 03 and 102.

3.3 Sector coverage

The Icelandic Job Vacancy Survey covers all legal entities in the Icelandic labour market that pay more than one employee wages during the reference period for the sample.

3.4 Statistical concepts and definition

Legal entity: A company or an organization that has legal rights and obligations.

Employer: The smallest composition of a legal entity which has one or more activities in one or more local units.

Local unit: A local unit is an enterprise or part thereof situated in a geographically identified place. At or from this place economic activity is carried out for which one or more persons work for one and the same enterprise.

Job vacancy: Is defined as a paid post that is newly created, unoccupied, or about to become vacant:

- a) 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
- b) which 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/head hunters
- advertising the vacancy in the media (for example internet, newspapers, 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

Employee: Individual who works for an organisation on the reference day, whether the individual is in full, half or temporary job. The number of employees is not converted into the count of full-time equivalents.

Occupied post: those with any income from employment accounted for in the Icelandic tax authority settlement of withholding taxes, including those on maternity leave from work and those with calculated remuneration, during the period covered by the data

Job vacancy rate:

$$JVR = \frac{\text{Job vacancies} \times 100}{(\text{Job vacancies} + \text{Occupied posts})^*}$$

* the number of employed according to register data.

3.5 Statistical unit

The statistical unit is the enterprise (legal entity).

3.6 Statistical population

The target population of the IS-JVS consists of all legal entities (enterprises) in Iceland that employ at least one individual.

The sampling frame relies on the Icelandic business register and consists of all enterprises which had more than one employee working for them on average during each month of the previous calendar year of data collection and which were in business on the day the sample was taken. The sample is chosen with stratified random sampling of social security numbers from Statistics Iceland business register.

Before taking the sample, the enterprises are classified in four size categories (9 or more employees, 10-49 employees, 50-249 employees, 250 or more employees) and ten ISAT2008 economic activity categories (see table 2 and 3). The next step involves giving enterprises sampling probabilities. Enterprises who have more than 250 employees get the sampling probability of 1 and the probabilities get smaller as the enterprises get smaller. With this method, new samples of medium, small and micro businesses are renewed every year but the largest enterprises are always a part of the sample.

Table 2. Size classes

Size class	Number of employees
Large	> 250
Medium	< 250
Small	< 50
Micro	< 10

Table 3. Summary of economic activities for the IS-LFS sample

Economic activities	ÍSAT08 economic activities
A. Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1 to 3
B-E. Mining and quarrying; manufacturing; electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply; water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	5 to 39
F. Construction	41 to 43
G-I. Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles; transportation and storage; accommodation and food service activities	45 to 56
J. Information and communication	58 to 63
K. Financial and insurance activities	64 to 66
L. Real estate	68
M-N. Professional, scientific and technical activities; administrative and support service activities	69 to 82

	O-Q. Public administration and defence, compulsory social security; education; human health and social work activities	84 to 88
	R-S. Arts, entertainment and recreation, other service activities	90 to 99

3.7 Reference area	Total numbers are published for the whole country.
3.8 Time coverage	Statistics Iceland Job Vacancy Survey has been carried out quarterly since the first quarter of 2019.
3.9 Base period	Quarter
4. Unit of measure	
4. Unit of measure	Employers who have had more than one employee working for them on average during each month of the calendar year.
5. Reference period	
5. Reference period	The reference day for vacant job positions is in the middle of the reference quarter, typically the 15th day of the second month of the quarter.
6. Institutional mandate	
6.1 Legal acts and other agreements	Laws nr. 163/2007 on Statistics Iceland and official statistics and (EC) 453/2008.
7. Confidentiality	
7.1 Confidentiality - policy	See Statistics Iceland's rules of procedure for treating confidential data .
7.2 Confidentiality – data treatment	See laws nr. 163/2007 on Statistics Iceland and official statistics and (EC) 453/2008.
8. Release policy	
8.1 Release calendar	See rules on statistical releases .

8.2 Release calendar access	Advance release calendar is available on Statistics Iceland website.
8.3 User access	PX-tables are available for users on Statistics Iceland's web under the headline „ Labour market “.
9. Frequency of dissemination	
9. Frequency of dissemination	Statistics Iceland provides quarterly news releases along with the results from each quarter.
10. Accessibility and clarity	
10.1 News release	News release with main results are released approximately 10 days after the end of the quarter. Release dates are predefined for the ongoing year.
10.2 Publication	
10.3 On-line database	
10.4 Micro-data access	Access to microdata for scientific purposes can be requested through Statistics Iceland research service.
10.5 Other	
10.6 Documentation on methodology	
10.7 Quality documentation	
11. Quality management	

11.1 Quality assurance	Statistics Iceland follows the principles of the Code of Practise for European Statistics (CoP) and uses the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (QAF) for the implementation of the principles. Furthermore, Statistics Iceland is certified with regards to ISO27001.
11.2 Quality assessment	<p>Statistics Iceland's policy is to work according to sound methodology and appropriate statistical procedures and with objectivity and statistical confidentiality. Confidence intervals are always published with the quarterly figures.</p> <p>Quality reports are submitted regularly to Eurostat. The goal for the quality reports is to ensure that the quality of the Icelandic Job Vacancy survey is in harmony with European standards on production of statistics.</p>
12. Relevance	
12.1 User needs	Main users are social partners, ministries, institutions, media, and the public.
12.2 User satisfaction	
12.3 Completeness	
13. Accuracy and reliability	
13.1 Overall accuracy	The Job Vacancy Survey is a sample survey which inevitably involves uncertainty, which increases with more breakdown of the data. To counteract this uncertainty, participant answers are weighted by their sample probabilities based on the size of legal entities to adjust the sample to the population.
13.2 Sampling errors	Data is collected using a stratified random sample of all legal entities that have had more than one employee working for them on average during each month of the calendar year. Stratified random sampling is used to minimize sampling error and ensures that each subgroup within the population receives proper representation within the sample. Nevertheless, some uncertainty can always be expected when using sample surveys since the sample can never be an exact replica of the population. This uncertainty increases with more breakdown of the data. To inform users of this uncertainty, 95% confidence intervals are published in the quarterly news releases.

13.3 Non-sampling errors

The main non-sampling errors of the Job Vacancy Survey are coverage/frame errors and non-response errors.

Coverage/frame errors: Coverage errors can be either over-coverage or under-coverage. Coverage errors arise when the sampling frame is either not exhaustive or when it consists of legal entities that don't belong in the sampling frame. Sometimes legal entities are deregistered over the time period of the survey and are no longer part of the population according to the definition, this is referred to as over-coverage. Under-coverage can be seen when legal entities that should be considered as a part of the population are not in the sampling frame. That could be a group of legal entities that start a new business over the time period of the survey. Under-coverage is most often harder to detect than over-coverage.

Non-response errors: Non-response errors most often arise from refusals from respondents to participate or the inability to reach respondents. Non-response errors can skew results and can be problematic when there is a significant difference between those who respond to the survey and those who don't. On the other hand, non-response rate in the Job Vacancy survey is low (less than 10%) as Icelandic enterprises have legal obligations to return the requested data to Statistics Iceland.

14. Timeliness and punctuality

14.1 Timeliness

Data is released approximately 10 days after the end of the quarter.

14.2 Punctuality

15. Coherence and comparability

15.1 Comparability – geographical

The survey is conducted according to the European regulation No. 453/2008. Emphasis is put on harmonized methods for data collection and analysis between countries within the European Statistical System so results are comparable between the countries.

15.2 Comparability – over time

Methods and processing of data is coordinated over time. In cases where methods are changed, figures for older time-periods are recalculated and users informed. That way, statistics are comparable over time.

15.3 Coherence – cross domain	<p>The Job Vacancy Survey of Statistics Iceland is the only source of data for job vacancies in the Icelandic labour market.</p> <p>Figures on numbers of occupied jobs from register data and figures on employment from national accounts are largely made up from the same data sources, but national accounts use other data sources as well as different models for calculations, in addition to the register data. In both cases, numbers of occupied jobs is the average number of employed per month over a given time period, who are paid with a taxable income. In both sources, individuals can have more than one job and therefore occur more than once per month in the calculations.</p>
15.4 Coherence – internal	<p>The same definitions of employment are used in the job vacancy survey, figures of register based employment and the labour force survey. ÍSAT economic classification is used in the JVS as in other statistics within the field, as well as ÍSTARF95 occupation classification and ÍSMENNT2011 education classification system.</p>
16. Kostnaður og svarbyrði	
16. Cost and burden	<p>The web questionnaire for the Icelandic Job Vacancy Survey is very short to minimize the burden on respondents.</p>
17. Data revision	
17.1 Data revision - policy	<p>See Statistics Iceland revision policy.</p>
17.2 Data revision - practice	<p>The results are revised annually after all information on changes in the population and the sample have been received and analysed. As 2019 was the first year of quarterly dissemination of JVS statistics, it was clearly stated in the news releases that the results were preliminary and that they would be revised when data on changes in the population had been received.</p>
18. Statistical processing	
18.1 Source data	<p>Job vacancies and occupied jobs are collected quarterly through an enterprise web survey. The sampling frame of the survey covers all legal entities that, on average, had at least one employee per month over the past year and were still active when the sample was selected.</p>
18.2 Frequency of data collection	<p>The data is collected quarterly, with each quarter having their own set day for reference. The data collection for each quarter usually spans a seven-week period.</p>

18.3 Data collection	The JVS is implemented as a web survey using Blaise5. Data collection usually starts on the reference day and ends on the last day of the quarter.
18.4 Data validation	During the data collection process, previous answers are checked to ensure internal consistency of each respondent answer. In the processing stage, both unit and item non-response are checked. When the results have been analysed they are compared to results from previous quarters.
18.5 Data compilation	Answers are weighted by their sample probabilities based on the size of legal entities to adjust the sample to the population.
18.6 Adjustment	The Icelandic JVS started quarterly data collection in the first quarter of 2019. There is no seasonal adjustment of the data.
19. Comment	
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