



Ministry of Employment and the Economy
Knowledge Management Department
Information Management

7.9.2011

QUALITY DESCRIPTION

Employment Service Statistics

Author:

Ministry of Employment and the Economy

1. Relevance of the statistical information

1.1 Data content and purpose

The Employment Service Statistics contain the most important information about jobseekers registered with the Employment and Economic Development Offices (TE Offices), labour market policy measures and job vacancies. The size of jobseeker groups is described by the number of people and the number of people participating in labour market policy measures. Vacancies refer to the number of vacancies reported to the TE Offices at the time of monitoring. Unemployed persons have to register with the TE Office as unemployed jobseekers in order to receive unemployment benefits. Similarly, persons receiving unemployment pension have to be registered with a TE Office as a jobseeker for the duration of the pension.

ToimialaOnline database and Employment Bulletin includes the most important Employment Service Statistics data concerning jobseekers, unemployed jobseekers, measures, and vacancies. Among others, jobseekers appear in the statistics according to jobseeker group. A wide variety of information about unemployed jobseekers is available by industry, education and occupation, age group, gender, Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (ELY Centre) region, and duration of unemployment. The same vacancies appear in the statistics according to region, occupational group and industry. Furthermore, the number of employment services and other placements occurring in a month are available.

The purpose of the Employment Service Statistics is to serve as a monitoring and measurement tool for employment and economic development activity, the data from which is utilised to develop and increase the amount of services needed by the client groups. In addition, data from the Employment Service Statistics is extensively used in research, public administration and by those people who actively follow the labour market. Hopefully the Employment Service Statistics will also be of interest to the media, organisations and trade unions in the industry, and private citizens.

1.2 Concepts, classifications and material of the Statistics

1.2.1 Material:

The material for the Employment Service Statistics is derived entirely from the TE Offices' client service system.

1.2.2 Concepts:

1 Registered jobseekers

In the Employment Service Statistics, a jobseeker is considered to be a person who registers in person as a jobseeker with the TE Office. Jobseekers are divided into the following groups on the basis of their employment situation:

1. Unemployed
2. Laid-off
3. On reduced working week
4. Those who have work
5. Persons not in labour force
6. Unemployment pensioner

Unemployed person is a jobseeker who does not have work and is available for full-time work or who is waiting for an agreed job to begin. A jobseeker who can only accept employment after a certain period of time or who is only looking for work in which the working time is shorter than half of the normal working time in the industry is not classified as unemployed. People who have been laid-off are also classified as unemployed in the Employment Service Statistics. Recipients of unemployment pension or full-time pupils or students are not classified as unemployed jobseekers in the Employment Service Statistics.

Laid-off refers to a jobseeker who has been laid off without pay by his/her employer for a certain period or indefinitely. All laid-off persons who have registered with employment and economic development offices will be calculated to the unemployed jobseekers figure. Main part of the group lay-offs don't belong to unemployed jobseekers because they get unemployment allowance without registration.

On reduced working week refers to a jobseeker whose weekly working time has been shortened from the original agreement by the employer and who does not received any pay for the time that was reduced.

In jobseekers, **those who have work** refers to persons seeking a new job, those under threat of unemployment and those persons in subsidised employment who are still registered with the TE Office as a jobseeker during the subsidised employment period.

Also included as those who have work are jobseekers who are continuously at work for at least one day per week (at least 4 hours) as an employee, entrepreneur or self-employed worker, or who work as an assisting family member for 1/3 of the normal working time in the industry. Persons who temporarily absent from the workplace due to illness, holiday, labour disputes, poor weather (leave due to subzero temperatures), broken down equipment or other such reason are also classified as those with who have work.

Persons not in labour force are considered to be jobseekers who are not at work and may not be immediately available for full-time employment. When registering as a jobseeker, such a person is still, for example, in school, studying, doing military service or unpaid family work but will later be available for employment.

Persons not in labour force also include those jobseekers who are on fixed-term unemployment pension, generation change pension, and parental leave.

An unemployment pension recipient is a person over the age of 60 who has been on unemployment security for a long period and must be a jobseeker in a TE Office.

2 Measures

The Employment and Economic Development Administration uses **labour market policy measures** to increase the effectiveness of labour market activities and to emphasise active measures instead of passive unemployment security. Labour market policy measures also equalize regional differences in unemployment.

An **employment subsidy measure** is money granted to an employer in order to hire an unemployed person. Using employment subsidy measures an unemployed person can be employed at government agencies and institutes, municipal authorities or in the private sector. These subsidy measures also include apprenticeship and start-up grants as well as working life coaching under employment subsidy and placement under supplementary part-time benefit.

Labour market subsidy traineeship/coaching for working life A TE Office can assign a young labour market subsidy recipient without vocational education to a traineeship at a workplace in order to familiarise this person with working life. Coaching for working life is a measure equivalent to trainee work intended for persons who are over the age of 25 or have a vocational education. Traineeship and coaching for working life support the return to working life and promote work placement and professional skill. People can be assigned to traineeship or coaching for working life in the service of the state, municipality, municipal authority, other community, foundation or an entrepreneur.

Labour market policy adult education, also known as labour market training, is training funded by the Employment and Economic Development Administration. It is primarily designed for unemployed jobseekers and persons under threat of unemployment. The aim of the training is professional skills for working life tasks. The training is intended for those over the age of 20. Labour market training is arranged at vocational adult education centres and other vocational institutes and universities. It can also be arranged by private training organisers.

Job alternation leave refers to an arrangement in which the employee, in accordance with a job alternation agreement signed with his/her employer, is released for a certain period from the tasks of the service relationship and in which the employer simultaneously commits to hire for a corresponding period a person who is registered with a TE Office as an unemployed jobseeker (=employed in job alternation).

Rehabilitative work stands for long-term unemployed to promote their employability. Rehabilitative work will be based on activation plan made by unemployed, PES and municipality's social service. Municipality will have obligation to arrange rehabilitative work for long-term unemployed who gets labour market support or maintenance grant.

Self-motivated studies supported by unemployment benefits is available over 25 years old jobseeker. PES have to discover the need for education and assess that the education will promote professional skills and opportunities in the labour markets. Unemployment benefits are payable only for full-time studies.

3 Job vacancy

The Employment Service Statistics include the job vacancies that the employer has reported to be filled via the TE Office.

All vacancies during a month include vacancies that have been open in the TE office during the month.

New vacancies during a month include vacancies that have been announced open by the employer during the month.

Vacancies filled during a month include vacancies that have been filled during the month.

Jobs vacant at the end of month include vacancies that are still open in the TE office at the end of month = the last weekday of the month.

1.2.3 Classifications

Jobseekers: education, industry, occupation, age group, gender, duration of unemployment, activity prior to job seeking, reason for terminating job seeking. Regional classification: Municipality, Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (ELY Centre) and Employment and Economic Development Office (TE Office).

Measures: region, participants: age group, gender, duration of previous unemployment, placement after the measure, duration of measure.

Job vacancy: monthly new/all/filled/filled with a TE Office applicant during the month, those still vacant at the end of the month. Classification: duration of vacancy, occupation, industry, region.

2. Methodological description

Data about jobseekers, measures and vacancies are transferred on a monthly basis from the Employment and Economic Development Administration's individual-level client service register to the Employment Service Statistics system's individual database, from where the actual statistics tables are created according to certain classifiers and variables. The overview statistics for a single month include the persons that meet certain conditions that are in the register on the last weekday of the month in question. The monthly review statistics include all persons that meet the definitions of the table in question during that month, for example, unemployed jobseekers. The statistics for a period longer (four months, six months and annual statistics) than one month generally include all the persons that meet the conditions or the vacancies for that period, with the exception of separately calculated annual averages, which are based on the average of monthly data.

The Employment Service Statistics monthly release includes data that describe the situation on the last weekday of that month as well as monthly review data that describe the total number of people that belong to a certain group during the month (for example, unemployed jobseekers).

3. Correctness and accuracy of data

The Employment Service Statistics are entirely based on register data, which is transferred monthly from the Employment and Economic Development Administration's client service system. Thus all the data in the Statistics is register-based and completely dependent on the entries in the client register system. The URA system is a system intended for the registration of a broad range of clients and various TE Office services, in which the primary purpose is not to produce data for the Statistics system. Sometimes data entered in URA is updated after the statistical month has ended, in which case extracting individual statistics from the statistics system at a certain time can be important. For example, annual statistics are created again after the end of the statistical month in order to ensure that the data is as comprehensive and complete as possible for the statistical year in question.

In order to ensure the correctness of the data in the statistics system, the statistical data is spot checked before its release, thus making it possible to correct any errors in the statistical tables before they are released. In addition, consistency between the statistics system and the URA system and variables is ensured through cooperation between the experts responsible for the statistics, URA and the substance issues in question.

4. Timeliness and promptness of published data

The monthly data is ready three weeks after the end of the statistics month. At the end of each year, a release date is specified for the monthly statistics and the Employment Bulletin so that the schedule shows the precise release date for the next year's monthly releases. The release schedule is maintained on the Ministry of Employment and the Economy website at: www.tem.fi/releasedates

The Employment Service Statistics' 4-month and quarterly statistics are also released three weeks after the end of the statistics month. The 6-month and annual statistics are released 4-8 weeks after the end of the statistics month in question.

5. Accessibility and transparency/clarity of data

The key data contained in the Employment Service Statistics is published monthly in the Employment Bulletin in the ministry's website. The most important Employment Service Statistics data is also in Statistics Finland's Labour Force Survey and the Ministry of Employment and the Economy's joint release. In addition, the time series containing the most important monthly are available on the Ministry of Employment and the Economy's website at: www.tem.fi/employmentservicestatistics

Furthermore, Employment Service Statistics data is published in three-four Statistics Bulletins each year.

The most important time series of the Employment Service Statistics are presented in the Ministry of Employment and the Economy's Finnish Labour Review, which is published four times a year. The time series' include long lists of annual averages and the averages of the most recent quarters. The Finnish Labour Review is widely distributed in print form and is also available on the Ministry of Employment and Economy's website.

The Ministry of Employment and the Economy's Employment Bulletin, Statistics Bulletins, and Finnish Labour Review are available in PDF format on the Ministry website.

Basic data of the Employment Service Statistics since year 2006 is available in the ToimialaOnline – database in address: <http://www2.toimialaonline.fi/>

More detailed information about the Employment Service Statistics is available from the Ministry of Employment and the Economy's Monitoring of Operations group.

6. Comparability of statistics

The Statistics utilise classifications that are in general use. In addition to the Employment Service Statistics, Statistics Finland also compiles and publishes statistics on unemployment and job vacancies. The Employment Service Statistics are register-based, with definitions that are based on legislation and administrative provisions while Statistics Finland's Labour Force Survey is based on sampling and observes internationally agreed practices and definitions. Thus the content of these statistics are not comparable. The differences between the Employment Service Statistics and the Labour Force Survey are described in the following report: Työttömyys ja työllisyys tilastoissa, Tilastokeskuksen ja työministeriön tilastojen vertailua (only available in Finnish): http://www.tilastokeskus.fi/til/tyti/tyti_2005-05-27_men_002.pdf

The register-based Employment Service Statistics are also not comparable with similar register-based statistics in other countries due to the country-specific differences in national methods and definitions. However, Eurostat collects and publishes the registered unemployment figures for EU member States on an annual basis in its Labour Market Policy database (LMP database) as reference data, both on its website and in the publications of the actual database.

7. Coherence and consistency/uniformity

The Social Insurance Institution of Finland (Kela) and the Insurance Supervisory Authority (ISA) publish statistics on the payment of unemployment-related benefits. The data in the Employment Service Statistics includes jobseekers registered with the Employment and Economic Development Administration, participants in measures and reported job vacancies. Statistics Finland's Labour Force Survey is based on sampling and international agreements. Thus, each set of statistics has its own purpose in monitoring the development of unemployment and labour market policy measures. The Kela and ISA data take the payment of benefits into account in terms of how many people receive benefits and how much of each active or passive benefit is paid.

In contrast, the Ministry of Employment and the Economy's Employment Service Statistics and Statistics Finland's Labour Force Survey are derived from personal information that meets the definitions set for the statistics. The Employment Service Statistics include the number of persons registered in the URA system, the number of persons participating in measures, and the vacancies reported to the TE Offices. For example, the Employment Service Statistics include all unemployed jobseekers regardless of whether they are entitled to unemployment benefits. The Kela and ISA statistics only include those to whom, for example, unemployment benefits have been paid rather than all unemployed persons. The Employment Service Statistics include numbers data concerning the persons that have participated in Labour Administration measures, but it does not include data on the costs or amount of euros involved in such measures and employment subsidies. Cost data is monitored in the Ministry of Employment and Economic Development's economic systems. However, the personal statistics and cost data for measures are available together in the Labour Market Policy database, where the personal and euro data is combined by measure. The Labour Market Policy database is a comprehensive database for EU Member Countries (+Norway) administered by Eurostat. It includes the labour market policy measures for all Member Countries along with extensive statistical data and descriptions of measures.

8. Documentation

The documentation related to the Employment Service Statistics is available from the Ministry of Employment and the Economy's Information Management Group: Switchboard: +358 10 606 000, E-mail: [tyonvalitystilasto\(at\)tem.fi](mailto:tyonvalitystilasto(at)tem.fi).