



Memorandum

5.9.2024

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Factors affecting the quality of data on vacancies in Employment Service Statistics in 2024

This memorandum contains data on factors that have come to our attention during June-August 2024 and that have been identified to have an effect on the quality of data on vacancies in Employment Service Statistics. In practice, these factors have been incorrect entries reported by the TE Administration and the KEHA Centre, technical problems and unexpected effects caused by system changes.

1. Large deviation related to an individual number of vacancies

Due to a data entry error, the wellbeing services county of Central Finland had open vacancies for '999' nurses. The advertisement was corrected in June by cancelling '949' vacancies.

It can be verified from the flow of removed vacancies of Employment Service Statistics for June that '949' vacancies were cancelled. Based on the statistics, the figure stabilised back to the normal level in the data for July 2024. The detected data entry error affects the data on open vacancies in April, all open vacancies in April-June and cancelled vacancies in June.

2. Technical problem at the interface of Job Market Finland

A researcher from the ELY Centre reported a problem at the interface of Job Market Finland, as a result of which a job advertisement by the wellbeing services county of North Savo in Kuopio was listed under Joroinen. According to the researcher, similar error conditions have also occurred before. The wellbeing services county of North Savo and the TE Office have reportedly informed Job Market Finland of the matter.

The problem described above can be verified from the Employment Service Statistics. The figures clearly deviate starting from December 2023.

The time series may also indicate that the problem was possibly corrected during spring 2024. However, this is not certain, as the data normalising to the usual level may also be explained by other factors.

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3. Firewall problems at Job Market Finland and technical problems caused by system change

During 2024, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment noticed a significant growth in the phenomenon concerning the cancellation of open vacancies. These cancellations have been concentrated on municipalities and wellbeing services counties.

The KEHA Centre identified two situations where cancellations of vacancies may have been caused by systems. Around the turn of the year, Kuntarekry's job advertisements were missing from Job Market Finland due to firewall problems. Because of these problems, Kuntarekry's vacancies were entered directly at Job Market Finland. When the firewall problem was solved, the same advertisements appeared twice at Job Market Finland. The situation was corrected by deleting the double advertisements. Presumably, at least some of these deletions may also show as cancellations of job vacancies in the Employment Service Statistics. However, the majority of cancellations are made online, which indicates that employers make the cancellations.

The closure of the URA's Passari interface at the turn of May-June has also led to cancellations of vacancies. Based on the instructions for the transition phase, the advertisements submitted via Passari should be modified/deleted either by the employer – or alternatively by a TE Office official – who cancels the vacancy from the URA system. After the cancellation, the employer may reopen the same advertisement via the Job Market Finland interface. This process should be followed in order to prevent double advertisements.

4. Technical problem and unexpected effect of system change

In July, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment noticed that the number of job vacancies in the June data of the Employment Service Statistics was nearly a half smaller than in the data of the previous month. Due to the exceptionally large monthly change, an inquiry was sent to the KEHA Centre.

As a result of the closure of URA's Passari interfaces at the turn of May-June, those submitting job advertisements have begun to use Job Market Finland's import interface for job advertisements. The default value is that an advertisement published at Job Market Finland will also be transferred to the URA system. However, those submitting job vacancies may prohibit the transfer, in which case the advertisement is not transferred to the URA system. According to information received from the KEHA Centre, at the beginning of August, Job Market Finland's database contained a total of 3,157 job advertisements with 6,363 jobs for which the advertiser had prohibited the transfer. In addition, 1,970 and 2,313 advertisements were not transferred from Job Market Finland to the URA system for technical reasons in June and July, respectively. In these cases, it should be noted that one advertisement may contain several vacancies.

Summary:

The closure of URA's Passari interfaces and, on the other hand, technical reasons can be considered to have affected the job vacancy data of the Employment Service Statistics, and therefore, statistics (e.g. new vacancies/all vacancies) beginning from the June data is not fully comparable with data from earlier periods. The Employment Service Statistics contains data only on the vacancies that the employer has reported to be filled with the help of the TE Office. In other words, because the job statistics of the Employment Service Statistics are entirely based on the URA system at the moment, any changes in the number of advertisements in URA are also directly reflected in the Employment Service Statistics. The

data transfer system is currently being updated so that the jobs missing from URA – those published at Job Market Finland – could also be transferred to the statistical system.