

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Country:	Austria
Member/Company	Federation of Austrian Industries
Initiative	Industry to labor market: counteract the shortage of labor and skilled workers

Overview
<p><u>The number of vacancies continues to rise – exploit all potential – reduce non-wage labor costs</u></p> <p>“The shortage of workers and skilled workers is getting worse and worse. The number of vacancies continued to rise in April 2022 and illustrates the massive challenge for Austria as a business location. The existing potential on the labor market must be used in the best possible way and the employment incentives must be further strengthened,” emphasizes the Secretary General of the Federation of Austrian Industries (IV), Christoph Neumayer, on the occasion of the figures published today by the AMS on the current situation on the labor market.</p> <p>Almost 129,000 vacancies are now registered with the AMS, of which over 46,000 are in the manufacturing sector. The AMS platform "alle jobs" even has well over 250,000 job offers. The number of people registered with the AMS fell further compared to the previous month, with 327,308 people registered with the AMS in April.</p> <p>The shortage of workers and skilled workers is also reflected in the apprenticeship market. There are over 9,700 vacancies registered with the AMS, but only just under 4,900 people looking for an apprenticeship. In eight out of nine federal states, the number of vacant apprenticeship positions more than doubles that of those looking for an apprenticeship position, and in four out of nine even more than three times as much. The number of employees is also at a record high. “This development illustrates the urgent need for action. It is time to comprehensively reform unemployment insurance, to strengthen employment incentives and to promote work,” emphasizes Neumayer.</p> <p>In eight out of nine federal states, the number of vacant apprenticeship positions more than doubles that of those looking for an apprenticeship position, and in four out of nine even more than three times as much. The number of employees is also at a record high. “This development illustrates the urgent need for action. It is time to comprehensively reform unemployment insurance, to strengthen employment incentives and to promote work,” emphasizes Neumayer. In eight out of nine federal states, the number of vacant apprenticeship positions more than doubles that of those looking for an apprenticeship position, and in four out of nine even more than three times as much. The number of employees is also at a record high. “This development illustrates the urgent need for action. It is time to comprehensively reform unemployment insurance, to strengthen employment incentives and to promote work,” emphasizes Neumayer.</p> <p>Labor mobility in Austria can also be expanded, while more than 85 percent of the reported vacancies are outside of Vienna, around 42 percent of the people registered with the AMS are in Vienna. “The order of the day must be to get more people into employment, reduce inactivity traps and increase mobility. In any case, simply increasing unemployment benefits would be the wrong way to go about it,” says Neumayer. The non-wage labor costs, which are high by international standards, are also a heavy burden on the labor market. According to Eurostat, Austria's ancillary wage costs are more than four percentage points higher than the German level, which has an inhibiting effect on growth and puts a strain on the employment location.</p>

Key Messages

The industry is in favor of further strengthening employment-promoting measures such as integration allowances and combined wages. It is also important to set incentives to promote the mobility of people looking for work and to force a tailor-made, supra-regional placement. "Only with sufficient workers and skilled workers throughout Austria can there be economically sustainable development," emphasizes Neumayer in conclusion.