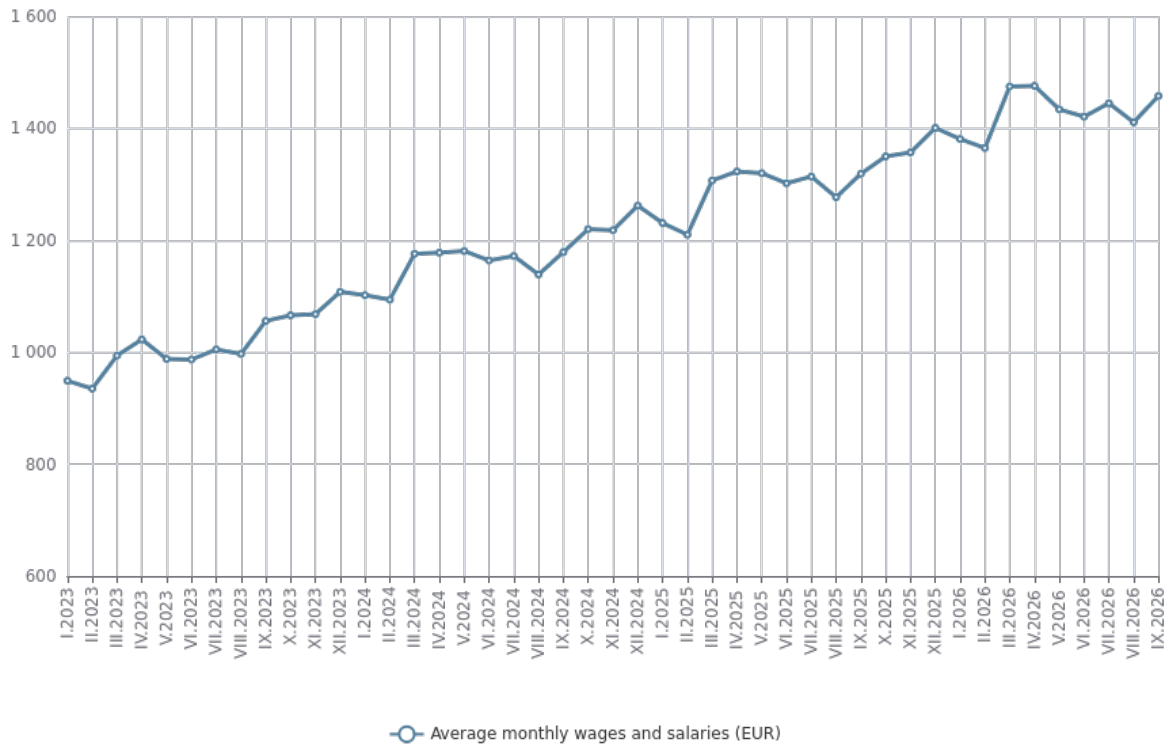
EMPLOYEES AND AVERAGE WAGES AND SALARIES - THIRD QUARTER OF 2026

The **number of employees** under labour contract at the end of September 2026 decreased by 43.5 thousand, or by 1.8% compared to the end of June 2026, and reached 2.32 million according to the preliminary data of the National Statistical Institute (NSI). The highest decrease was observed in the following economic activities: 'Accommodation and food service activities' - by 15.2%, 'Agriculture, forestry and fishing' - by 3.8%, and 'Real estate activities' - by 3.5%. An increase was recorded in the economic activities: 'Human health and social work activities' - by 0.7%, and 'Education' - by 0.1%.

At the end of September 2026, compared to September 2025, the number of employees under labour contract decreased by 31.4 thousand, or by 1.3%. The highest decrease in absolute figures was observed in the economic activities 'Manufacturing' - by 23.4 thousand, 'Administrative and support service activities' - by 4.9 thousand, and 'Agriculture, forestry and fishing' - by 3.3 thousand, and the highest increase was in 'Human health and social work activities' - by 10.0 thousand. In percentages, the highest decrease at the end of September 2026, compared to September 2025, was in the economic activity 'Real estate activities' - by 6.1%, in 'Manufacturing' - by 5.4%, as the highest increase was reported in 'Human health and social work activities' - by 4.8%.

The **average monthly gross wages and salaries** of the employees under labour contract in July 2026 were 1 445 EUR, in August 2026 - 1 411 EUR, and in September 2026 - 1 458 EUR.

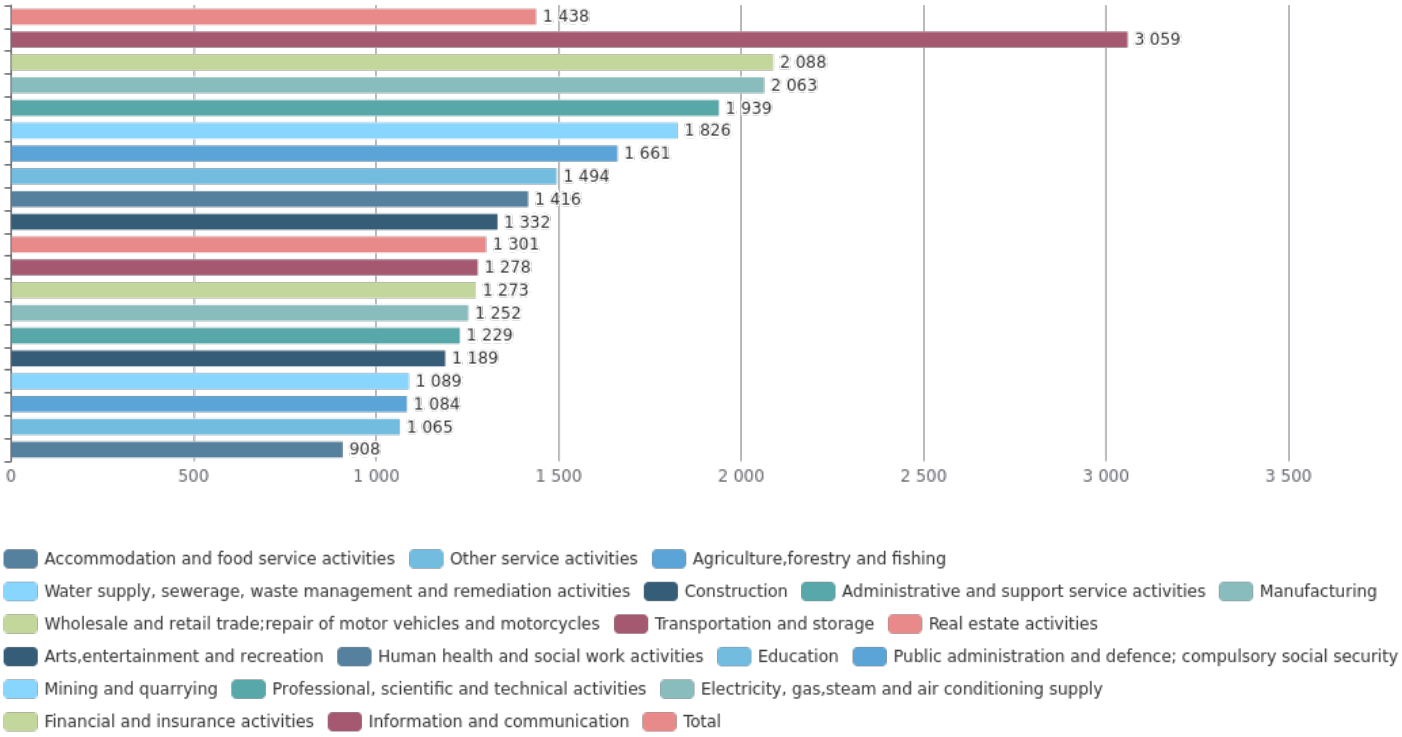
Figure 1. Gross average wages and salaries by months



In the third quarter of 2026, in comparison with the second quarter of 2026, the average monthly wages and salaries decreased by 0.4% and reached 1 438 EUR. The highest decrease in wages and salaries was reported in: ‘Mining and quarrying’ - by 7.1%, ‘Financial and insurance activities’ - by 2.4%, and ‘Education’ - by 2.2%.

Q3 2026

Figure 2. Gross average monthly wages and salaries of the employees under labour contract by economic activities (EUR)



Q2 2026

Figure 2. Gross average monthly wages and salaries of the employees under labour contract by economic activities (EUR)

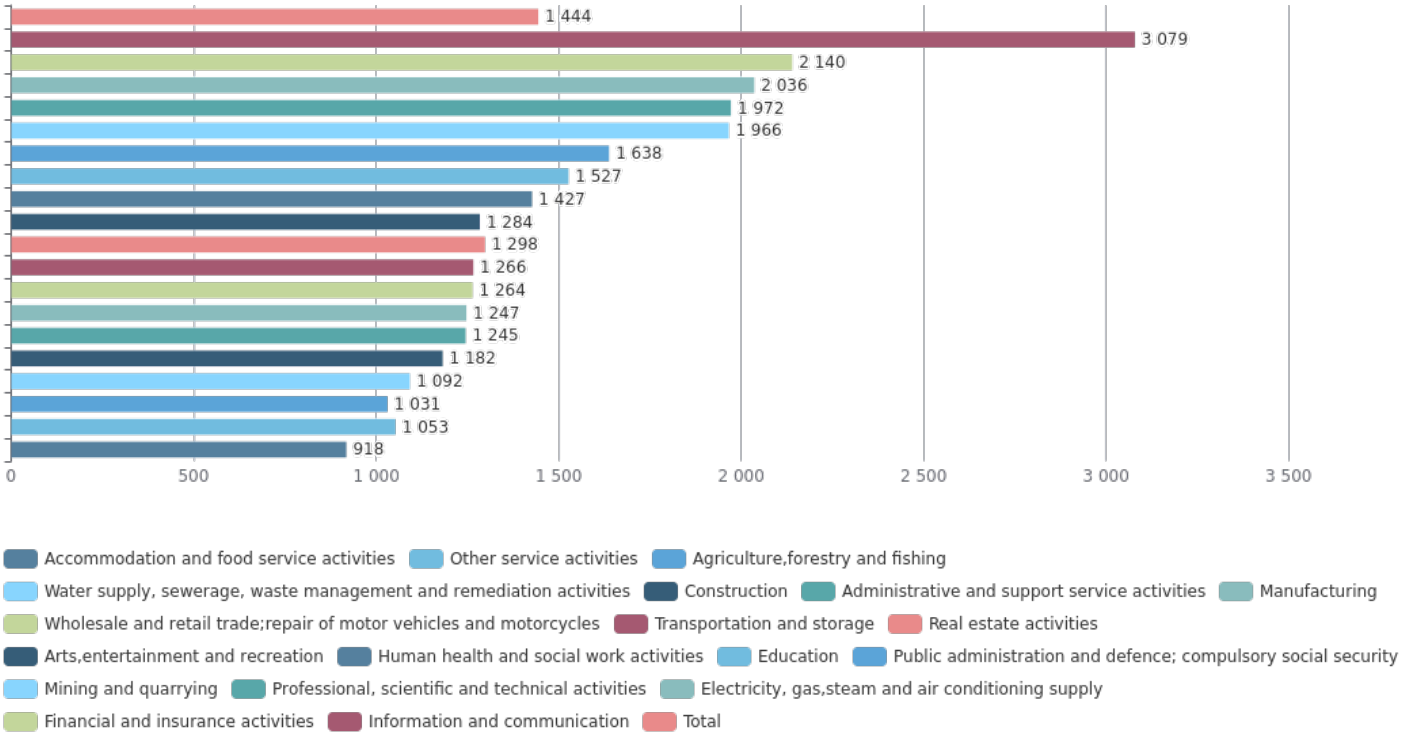
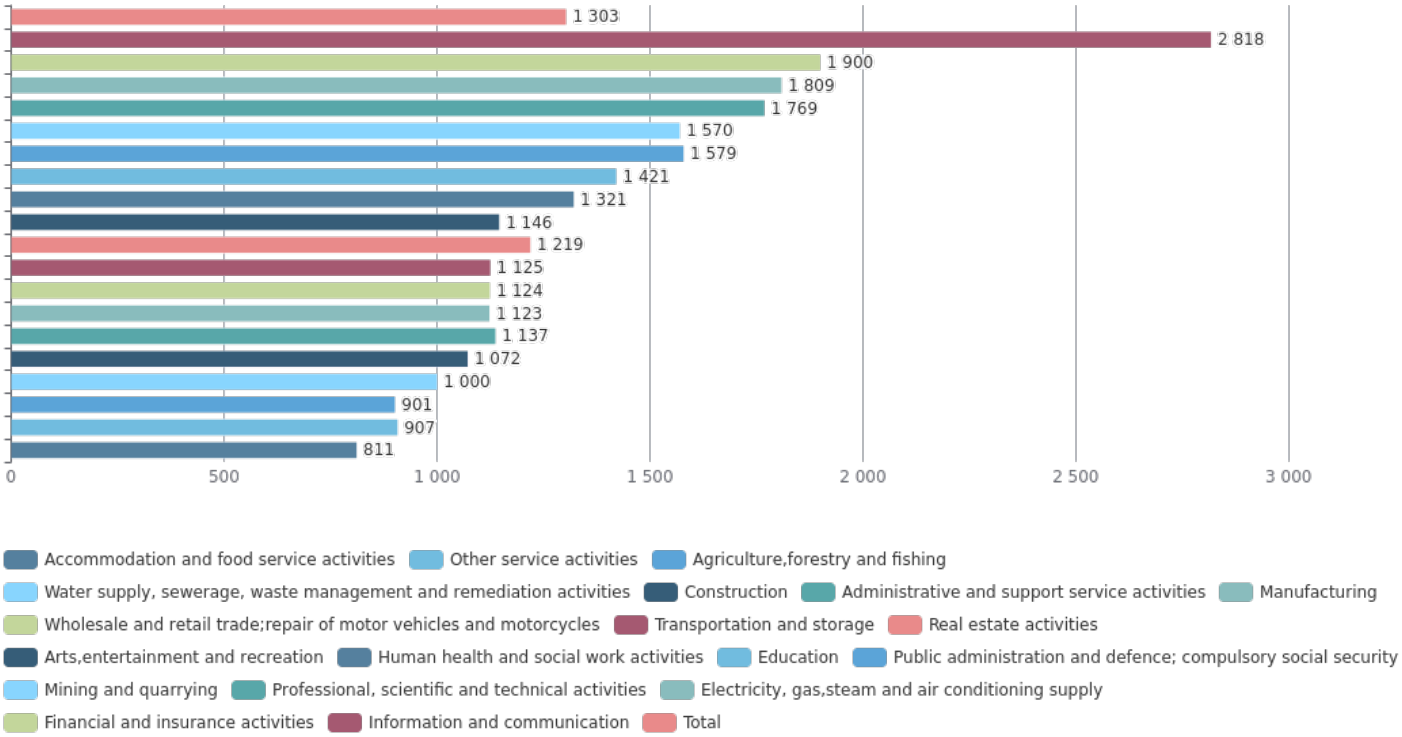


Figure 2. Gross average monthly wages and salaries of the employees under labour contract by economic activities (EUR)



Compared to the third quarter of 2025, the average monthly wages and salaries in the third quarter of 2026 rose by 10.4%. The highest growth rates were recorded in the following economic activities: ‘Agriculture, forestry and fishing’ - by 20.3%, and ‘Other service activities’ - by 17.4%.

The economic activities with the highest wages and salaries in the third quarter of 2026 were:

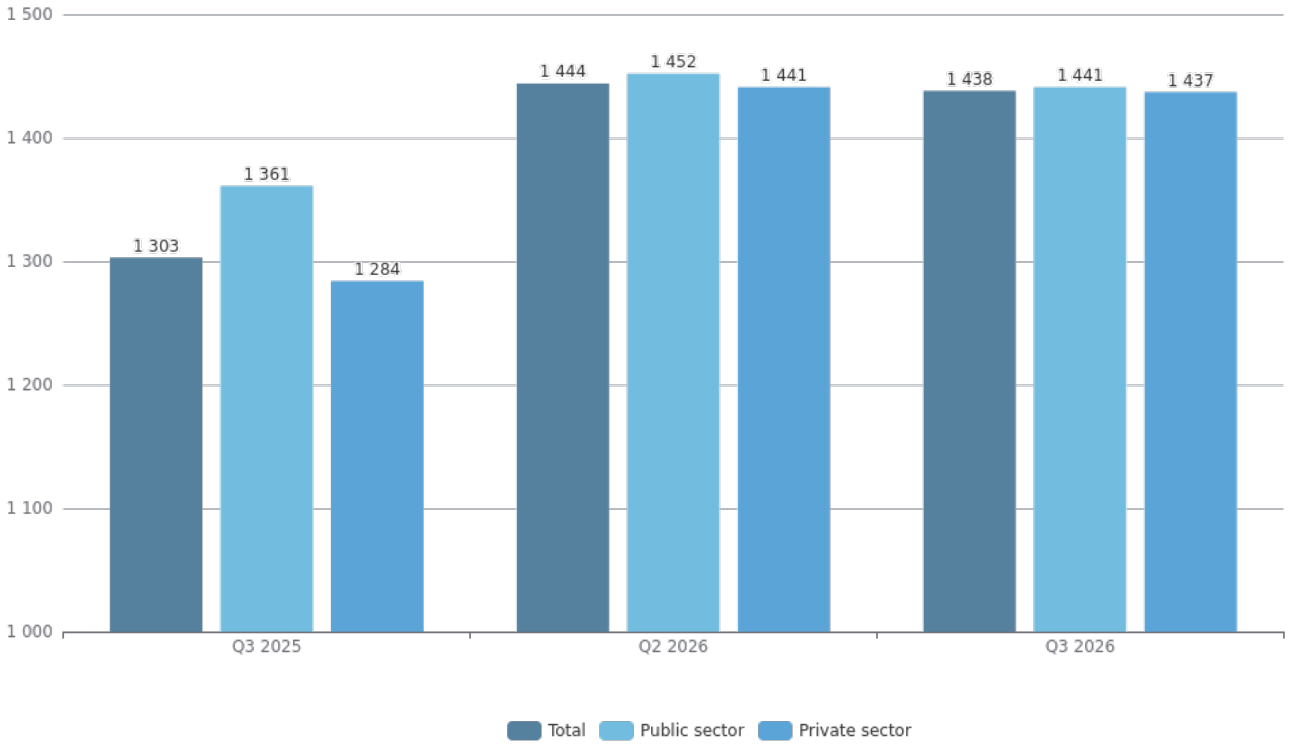
- ‘Information and communication’ - 3 059 EUR;
- ‘Financial and insurance activities’ - 2 088 EUR;
- ‘Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply’ - 2 063 EUR.

The lowest wages and salaries were recorded in:

- ‘Accommodation and food service activities’ - 908 EUR;
- ‘Other service activities’ - 1 065 EUR;
- ‘Agriculture, forestry and fishing’ - 1 084 EUR.

In comparison with a year earlier, the average monthly wages and salaries in the public sector grew by 5.9% and in the private sector - by 11.9%.

Figure 3. Gross average monthly wages and salaries by kind of ownership (EUR)



Methodological notes

The source of information is the ‘Quarterly Survey on employees, hours worked, wages and salaries, and other expenditures paid by the employer’. The main purpose of this sample survey is to make a study of the current state and dynamics of some main aspects of the labour market. The sample used for the survey is a stratified random sample without replacement. Stratification criteria used include: economic activity (NACE, Rev. 2), size of the enterprise (according to the number of employees) and regional breakdown (28 districts, NUTS3).

Annex

Table 1. Employees under labour contract at the end of the month by economic activities in 2026 (Numbers)[1]

Economic activities	**VII.2026**	**VIII.2026**	**IX.2026**
Total	2367637	2349339	2324148
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	61316	60995	60471
Mining and quarrying	17301	17288	17294
Manufacturing	420412	416363	413555
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	28395	28397	28329
Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	36965	36676	36486
Construction	137313	136840	136661
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	397199	394449	390875
Transportation and storage	142408	141999	141540
Accommodation and food service activities	135561	130045	111287
Information and communication	128555	127654	126823
Financial and insurance activities	57424	57201	56842
Real estate activities	21333	21017	20500
Professional, scientific and technical activities	88152	87898	87776
Administrative and support service activities	113121	112623	111766
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	114592	114294	113774
Education	169572	167817	173662
Human health and social work activities	218450	218822	219314
Arts, entertainment and recreation	41164	40805	39566
Other service activities	38404	38156	37627
[1] Preliminary data.			

Table 2. Gross average monthly wages and salaries of the employees under labour contract by economic activities in 2026 (EUR)[1]

Economic activities	VII.2026	VIII.2026	IX.2026
Total	1445	1411	1458
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1095	1051	1107
Mining and quarrying	1819	1814	1846
Manufacturing	1248	1232	1275
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	2102	2050	2037
Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	1083	1075	1109
Construction	1182	1185	1199
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	1286	1251	1283
Transportation and storage	1253	1274	1306
Accommodation and food service activities	896	902	930
Information and communication	3074	3001	3101
Financial and insurance activities	2129	2045	2089
Real estate activities	1282	1292	1331
Professional, scientific and technical activities	1950	1915	1950
Administrative and support service activities	1227	1223	1238
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	1858	1550	1573
Education	1467	1443	1570
Human health and social work activities	1408	1404	1435
Arts, entertainment and recreation	1296	1309	1391
Other service activities	1059	1059	1078
[1] Preliminary data.			