French economic outlook

Employment

In Q1 2023, payroll employment increased by 0.3% (+92,400 jobs between the end of December 2022 and the end of March 2023), after +0.2% in Q4 2022 (+55,400 jobs) and +0.3% in Q3 2022 (+88,700 jobs). Thus at the end of March 2023, payroll employment rose by +1.3% year-on-year. This was the ninth consecutive quarter to experience a rise since the end of 2020. However, the pace of salaried job creations has gradually declined: +0.9% on average every quarter in 2021, then +0.3% on average for each quarter in 2022.

In Q1 2023, payroll employment accelerated in the market tertiary sector, while industrial payroll employment increased once again by 0.3%. Conversely, in construction, payroll employment fell back for the first time since Q4 2016. All in all, payroll employment has risen sharply since the end of 2019 (+1.3 million jobs), with the expansion in apprenticeships contributing a third of these job creations.

In the coming quarters, this momentum in apprenticeships is likely to falter a little, with salaried employment expected to slow significantly, against a background of moderate growth in economic activity. As a result, apparent per capita labour productivity –the ratio of value added to employment– is expected to pick up very slightly. It will still be well below its prehealth crisis level, however, especially in construction and industry despite the decline forecast for employment in these sectors in H2. By also taking into account the slight rise forecast in self-employment, total employment is expected to increase by 38,000 during Q2 2023 then by 40,000 in H2 2023, after +97,000 in Q1 2023. At the end of 2023, the number of jobs created over the year should reach 175,000, much less than one year earlier (+445,000 at the end of 2022).

▶1. Payroll employment, quarterly evolution by sector of activity



Note: temporary workers are counted in the market service sector. How to read it: in Q4 2022, payroll employment increase by 55,000. Scope: France (excluding Mayotte).

Source: INSEE.

▶2. Change in payroll employment

(in thousand, seasonally adjusted, at the end of the period)

		Evolution over 3 months											Evolution over 1 year			
		2021				2022				2023						
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2020	2021	2022	2023
Payroll employment	166	320	252	164	87	114	89	55	92	33	15	15	-67	901	345	155
	0.6%	1.2%	1.0%	0.6%	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	-0.3%	3.5%	1.3%	0.6%
Agriculture	-1	5	6	-3	2	-7	-6	12	0	0	0	0	6	7	2	0
Industry	12	7	12	11	6	10	13	9	8	0	-2	-2	-29	42	38	5
Construction	22	10	12	7	5	3	3	3	-2	-10	-10	-10	53	51	13	-32
Market tertiary	116	278	187	151	68	103	75	24	70	41	24	24	-168	732	270	160
Non-market tertiary	18	19	35	-3	5	5	4	7	15	2	2	2	71	70	21	21
Self-employment	56	56	56	56	25	25	25	25	5	5	5	5	60	225	100	20
All	222	376	308	220	112	139	114	80	97	38	20	20	-6	1,126	445	175
	0.8%	1.3%	1.0%	0.7%	0.4%	0.5%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	3.9%	1.5%	0.6%

Forecast

Note: in this table, temporary workers are counted in the commercial tertiary sector. How to read it: in Q1 2023, payroll employment rose by 0.3%, or 92,000 net new jobs.

Scope: France (excluding Mayotte).

Source: INSEE.

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