

Unemployment

In Q1 2024, the unemployment rate according to the ILO definition stabilised compared to the previous quarter, at 7.5% of the labour force (► [Figure 1](#)). It was 0.4 points higher than in the last quarter of 2022 and the first quarter of 2023, which had been the lowest since 1982. Thus it remains well below its mid-2015 peak (-3.0 points). The year-on-year rise in unemployment is the result of a slowdown in employment (+246,000 net jobs), while the labour force has remained dynamic (387,000 additional workers). The employment rate (68.8%) and the labour force participation rate (74.5%) of 15-64-year-olds are both high, and in Q1 2024 they were at their highest since INSEE has been measuring them (1975). Year-on-year, the increase in employment and labour force participation rates mainly concerns the over-55s (reflecting in particular the effects of the pension reform implemented in September 2023). The unemployment rate year-on-year is increasing both for under-25s (+1.5 points) and 25-49-year-olds (+0.4 points), but remains virtually stable for the 50-64-year-olds.

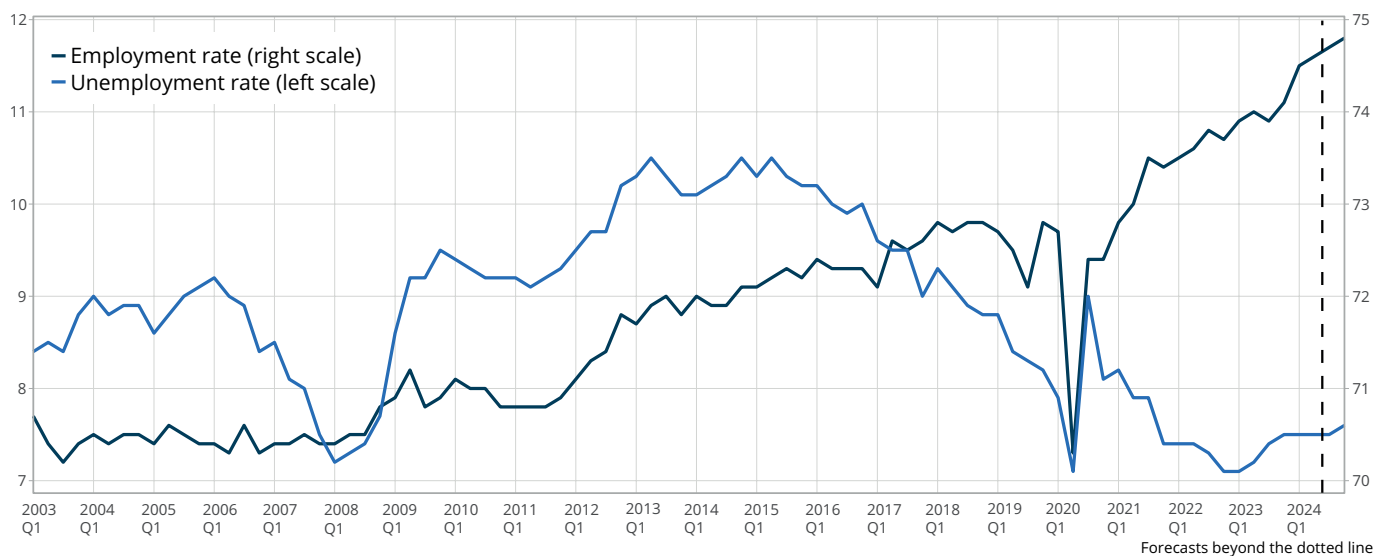
By the end of 2024, the labour force is expected to continue to increase significantly (about +50,000 workers per quarter), due to the continuing ramp-up of the 2023 pension reform and, to a lesser extent, to a decline in jobseekers entering training schemes,¹ which is linked to a drop in funding.

Thus, taking into account the expected slowdown in employment in H2 (+63,000 in the half-year after +122,000 in H1), the unemployment rate is expected to rise very slightly (+0.1 points) by the end of the year to 7.6% of the labour force (► [Figure 2](#)). ●

¹ Jobseekers, some of whom are also classified as unemployed according to the ILO definition, may in fact no longer be looking for a job or may no longer be available for work when they start a training course: in this instance their status changes from unemployed to inactive, according to the ILO definition (► [Focus](#), *Economic outlook*, June 2016).

► 1. Unemployment rate (ILO definition)

(quarterly average as % of labour force, SA data)



Scope: France (excluding Mayotte), persons aged 15 or over living in ordinary housing.

Source: INSEE, Labour Force Survey.

French economic outlook

► 2. Change in employment, unemployment and the active population

(variation in quarterly average in thousands, SA data)

| | Quarterly change | | | | | | | | Annual change | | | |
|---|------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| | 2023 | | | | 2024 | | | | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
| | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | | | | |
| Employment (1) | 81 | 68 | 71 | 51 | 57 | 65 | 35 | 28 | 889 | 513 | 270 | 184 |
| <i>reminder: employment at the end of the period</i> | 66 | 69 | 72 | 29 | 85 | 45 | 25 | 30 | 974 | 472 | 236 | 185 |
| Unemployment (2) | 10 | 29 | 76 | 30 | 7 | 3 | 12 | 22 | -158 | -75 | 145 | 44 |
| Active population = (1) + (2) | 91 | 97 | 147 | 80 | 63 | 68 | 47 | 49 | 732 | 438 | 415 | 228 |
| <i>Trend labour force (a)</i> | 11 | 9 | 23 | 39 | 38 | 38 | 39 | 39 | 31 | 30 | 82 | 154 |
| <i>"Pre-crisis" cyclical bending effect (b)</i> | 8 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 89 | 51 | 27 | 18 |
| <i>Effect of work-linked training on youth activity (c)</i> | 10 | 16 | 7 | 1 | 11 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 126 | 86 | 35 | 31 |
| <i>Residue (d)</i> | 63 | 64 | 109 | 35 | 9 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 486 | 271 | 271 | 24 |
| Variation in unemployment rate | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.1 | -0.7 | -0.3 | 0.4 | 0.1 |
| Unemployment rate | 7.1 | 7.2 | 7.4 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 7.6 | | | | |

■ Forecast

(a) Trend based on adjusted 2022 active population projections.

(b) This flexibility effect represents the fact that new workers enter the labour market when the employment situation improves.

(c) Effect based on sandwich contract numbers from DARES, calculations by INSEE.

(d) In 2020 and 2021, the residue covers the specific effect of the health crisis on activity behaviour.

Note: employment here corresponds to total employment (payroll workers and self-employed), measured as a quarterly average.

How to read it: between Q4 2023 and Q1 2024, employment increased by 57,000 persons on average, unemployment by 7,000 and the labour force by 63,000. The unemployment rate was stable at 7.5%.

Scope: France (excluding Mayotte), persons aged 15 or over.

Source: INSEE, Labour Force Survey, Quarterly employment estimates.