April 2026

INVEST EUROPE

Private Equity at Work

Employment and job creation

Private equity and venture capital are present in every region and major business sector across Europe. This is an industry that is woven into the economic and social fabric of Europe, producing the goods and services that people demand – and driving the creation of high-value jobs, prosperity and sustainable growth in the process.

Employment 2024

11.4 million

employees worked in private equity-backed European companies

5%

of Europe's total 244 million workforce
Source: EDC / Eurostat / UK ONS

Employment

Private equity is a cornerstone of the European economy present in every region and every major business sector across the continent. From technology and life sciences start-ups to manu-facturing small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and large consumer-focused multinationals, private equity-backed companies create and support millions of high-value jobs driving prosperity and growth in the process. Private equity supports 11.4 million jobs in European companies, making it a major employer in most industry sectors.

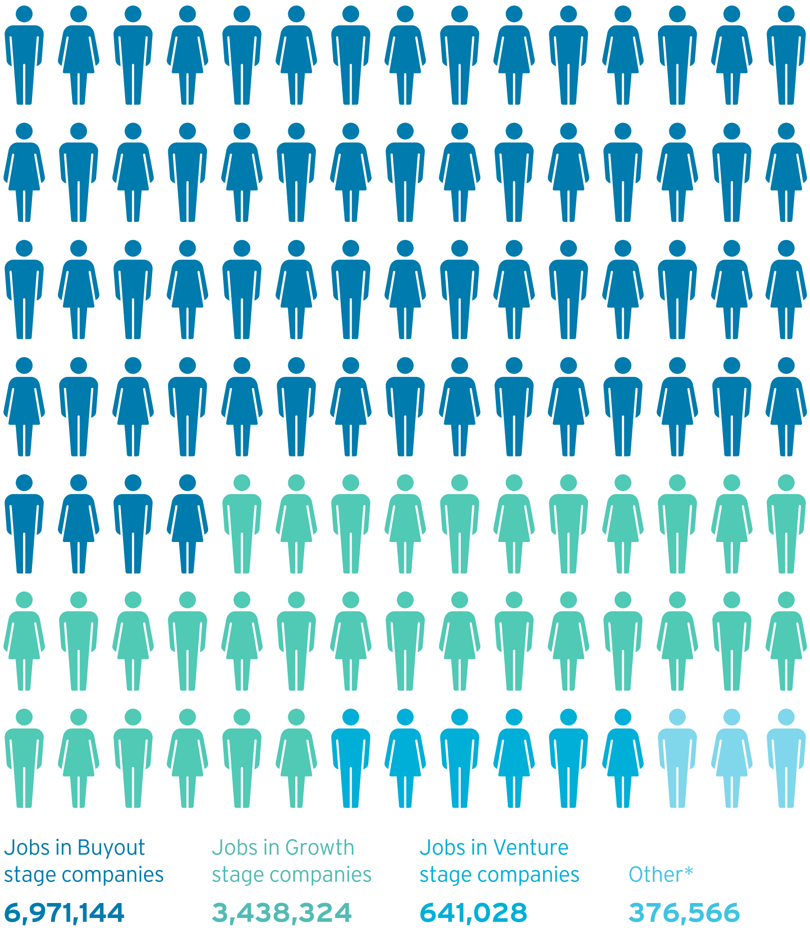
29,338

companies in Europe backed by private equity in 2024 across all industry sectors and all regions

22,127

of which were SMEs employing 1,053,753 people

Employment by portfolio company stage



Note: Employment data is based on an extrapolation of a sample of 17,992 portfolio companies

* Other includes Turnaround/Rescue and Replacement capital

Job creation

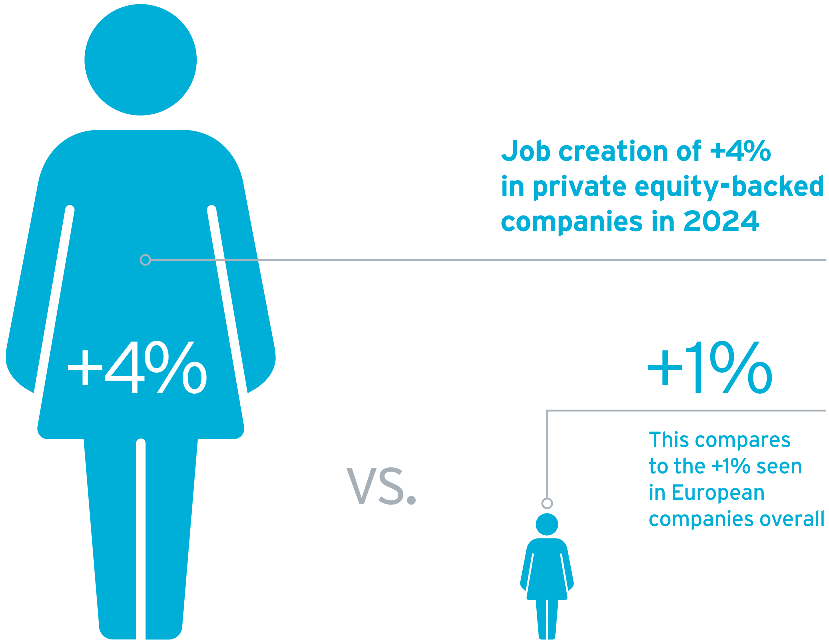
Private equity builds successful businesses. Successful businesses invest more in growth. And growth leads to job creation.

+295,312

net jobs were created by private equity-backed companies in 2024, a figure roughly comparable to the working population of Riga, Latvia

Source: EDC / Eurostat

Job creation 2023-24



Job creation by type of private equity firm

All stages of private equity are contributing to job creation. In 2024, Growth firms recorded the highest job creation rate: +7% (+38,420 people). Typically backing larger companies, Buyout firms increased employment in theirs by 166,272 (+4%).

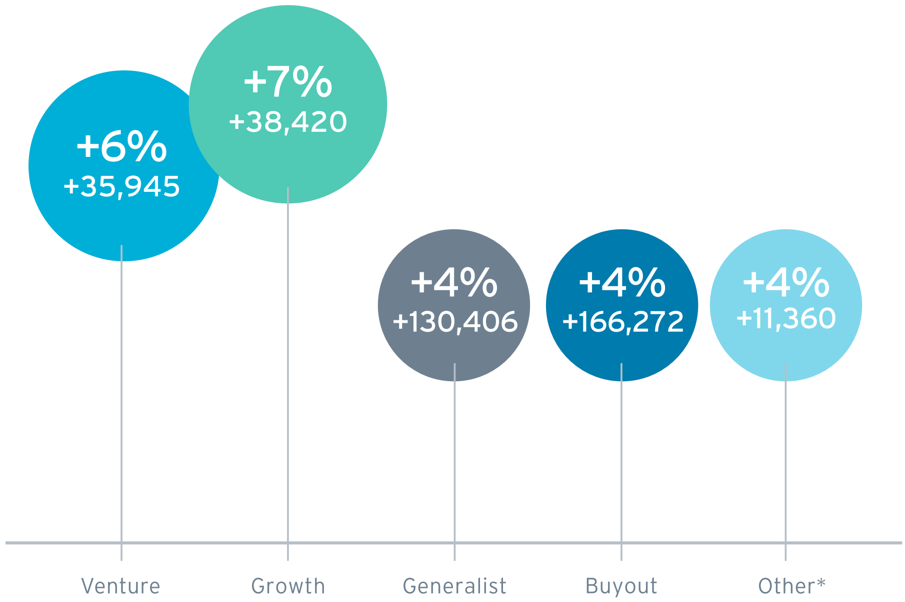
+4%

net jobs created by private equity-backed SMEs in 2024

Note: Job creation on portfolio companies in Europe active and backed by private equity as of end of 2024.

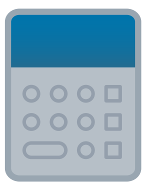
Job creation 2023-24

By type of private equity firm

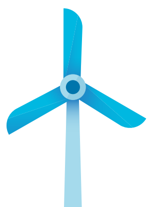


Sector highlights

Real Estate
79,900 employees
+8,668 new jobs
+24.6% growth



Financial & Insurance Activities
449,643 employees
+20,665 new jobs
+7.8% growth



Energy & Environment
556,575 employees
+20,967 new jobs
+6.2% growth

This document is a summary report.
For a copy of the full research report, please visit www.investeurope.eu

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