Standard-documentation
Meta information
(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)
on
University Statistics

This documentation is valid from the reference period:
2015/16


STATISTICS AUSTRIA
Bundesanstalt Statistik Österreich
A-1110 Vienna, Guglgasse 13
Phone: +43-1-71128-0
www.statistik.at

Directorate Social Statistics
Organizational unit Science, Technology, Education
Contact person:
MMag. Guido Sommer-Binder
Phone +43-1-71128-7349
E-Mail: guido.sommer-binder@statistik.gv.at
Executive Summary

The University Statistics provides data about the number of students, graduations and teaching staff in Austrian academic institutions based on the Bildungsdocumentationsgesetz. These institutions comprise public and private universities, theological schools, universities of applied sciences and university colleges of teacher education. The most important role have the public universities with nearly 300,000 students, followed by universities of applied sciences which provide around 50,000 students in Austria.

The results of the University Statistics represent the base for discussions in the education policy and therefore for its strategy. Furthermore the results are used for the compilation of indicators measuring education and for data reports to UNESCO, OECD and Eurostat.

While public universities, universities of applied sciences and university colleges of teacher education collect the data of their students each semester, private universities and theological schools do this once per year. The collection of data of graduates and teaching staff also takes place once per year.

First-year students of public universities and universities of applied sciences are interviewed by the start of their studies about their employment and the highest level of education completed by their father or mother and their father’s and mother’s professional position (survey “Ustat1”). When graduating studies, students are queried about their study-related stays abroad (survey “Ustat2”). This survey is performed permanently. These results are merged with the yearly data of graduates.

The most important source of data for the University Statistics are the registers of academic institutions. The registers are reported to Statistics Austria by the smaller structured and younger academic sector, since 2016/17 only by private universities.

In the by far largest and oldest sector, the public universities, another proceeding became best practice. All public universities have syndicated in a data network from where the data is delivered to the total evidence of all students which is operated by the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy. Once per semester data delivery from the total evidence of students takes place to Statistics Austria. The department of the University Statistics of Statistics Austria and the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy collaborate closely for decades, whereat the data validation is in authority of the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy and Statistics Austria obtains the final database.

Also in the second largest sector, the universities of applied sciences, the data delivery to Statistics Austria is effected indirectly. The Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Austria, which is the follower of the “Fachhochschulrat” has the responsibility for the collected database of the universities of applied sciences and forwards the checked and final data each semester to Statistics Austria.

Since June 2016 the university colleges of teacher education are also embedded in the syndicated data network of the public universities. They have the same software at their disposal like the public universities, the “PH-Online”, where the total evidences are administrated. Until 2015/16 each academic institution reported separately its data to Statistics Austria, where the data was checked by order of the Ministry of Education. Statistics Austria sent the corrected data back to the institutions who rectified the data and resent it to Statistics Austria as final data. Statistics Austria collected the final data each semester and transferred it to the Ministry of Education.

Complementary to the plenty of data from the evidences, Statistics Austria has primary statistical data at their disposal – one from the survey by the start of the students’ studies and one by the end of their studies concerning their study-related stays abroad. All data from the evidences and the primary statistical data contain a consistent student key. In accordance with the education documentation act this student key is the national insurance number. In this act it is also regulated, that students who (still) don’t have such a number, have to refer to their academic institution which has to apply for a substitute number called “Ersatzkennzeichen".
All final data is accumulated and stored in the database called “Bildungsverlaufsstatistik” where the national insurance number respectively the “Ersatzkennzeichen” is replaced by a technical student key. This database is the source of all statistical evaluations.

By means of this technical student key in this database Statistics Austria is able to match the results of the surveys UStat1 to a student and the ones from UStat2 to a graduation. Statistics Austria also calculates one adjusted number of students in Austria, which excludes multiple enrolments at several academic institutions.

By means of this technical student key it is possible to merge school data and data from the academic sector. It is the source for the register of educational level and the register census. This database is the basis for tables which are delivered to UNESCO, OECD and Eurostat and also for complex forecast models like the “Hochschulprognose” which is realised every third year.

As soon as new data for each academic sector is available, new data is stored in the “Bildungsverlaufsstatistik” and simultaneously the data base STATcube is updated. The main results are published promptly as tables in the Internet. Once per year early in September, the adjusted number of students in Austria for the precedent year is depleted by the multiple enrolments and is published as press release in the Internet. Finally the publication “Bildung in Zahlen” is released once per year, usually in April, which is an elaborated compilation of statistical results of academic institutions.

---

**University Statistics— Input**

- **Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy**
- **Public universities**
- **Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Austria**
- **Universities of applied sciences**
- **Private universities, theological schools**
- **University colleges of teacher education, private educational and theological courses of studies**
- **Ministry of Education**

**Primary Statistics**

- **UStat 1**
  Social background of first-year students enrolled for the first time at public universities and universities of applied sciences

- **UStat 2**
  Study-related stays abroad of graduates of public and private universities
  
  (In the sector of the universities of applied sciences the data about study-related stays abroad is gained of administrative data)
University Statistics – Output

- Data Export of the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy (Private universities)
- Data Export Ministry of Education (University colleges of teacher education; until 2015/16)
- Publication in the Data base STATcube
- Publication of Internet tables
- Publication in „Bildung in Zahlen”
- Register of educational level
- Register cencus
- Forecast model of the higher education statistics
- Data delivery to UNESCO, OECD and Eurostat
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>University Statistics – Main Features</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Topic of statistics</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students, enrolled studies, graduates and teaching staff at public universities, private universities and theological schools, universities of applied sciences and colleges of teacher education. Expenditure of education is excluded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Basic population</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Public universities, 12 private universities, 3 theological schools, 21 universities of applied sciences, 14 colleges of teacher education and 3 private religious education courses of studies; approximately 380,000 students at Austrian higher education institutions, approximately 440,000 enrolled studies, approximately 70,000 graduations per academic year, approximately 65,000 teaching staff at Austrian higher education institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type of statistics</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative data, complemented by primarstastistical surveys by the beginning and by the end of studies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Data source/Type of data collection</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative data: Evidences of the higher education institutions; Statistics of university staff by the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy, Total evidence of the students by the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy respectively the syndicated data network (since 2016/17) of the universities and colleges of teacher education, Evidence of the Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Austria Primary statistics: Survey of first-year students by the start of their studies about their social background (UStat1) and by the end of their studies about their study-related stays abroad (UStat2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reference Period respectively Reporting Date</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference period is the academic year. Its beginning is October and its end September of the following year. The year is broken down into winter and summer semester. Students at public universities, universities of applied sciences, university, colleges of teacher education per winter semester (4th Quarter) and summer semester (2nd Quarter). Students at private universities and theological schools once per year by reporting date 15th of November. Graduates and teaching staff once per academic year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Periodicity</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Survey Participation (Primary statistics)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compulsory survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main legislative acts</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bundesgesetz über die Dokumentation im Bildungswesen (Bildungs dokumentationsgesetz), BGBl. I Nr. 12/2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Most detailed regional breakdown</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Availability of results</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final data: Public universities: t+8m Universities of applied sciences, private universities and theological schools: t+4m University colleges of teacher education: t+6m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Release as publication &quot;Bildung in Zahlen&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>