

Press release: 12.854-152/22

Increase in the childcare rate in day care centres

Statistics on day care for children 2021/22

Vienna, 2022-07-14 – In the kindergarten year 2021/22, a total number of 73 933 children under the age of three and 251 589 three- to five-year-olds attended a childcare facility. This is a new record, according to the latest figures from Statistik Austria.

The care rate of children in day care centres shows an increase for children from zero to under three years of age in all federal provinces. In Austria, every third child (29.1 %) under three years of age is already in childcare in the kindergarten year 2021/22, compared to only every fifth child (19.7 %) in the kindergarten year 2011/12.

Significant increases in care for children under three years in all federal provinces

In a ten-year comparison, all federal provinces recorded large increases in the day care number of children aged zero to under three. In the reporting year 2011/12, Styria had the lowest childcare rate for children under three years at 10.0 % and recorded an increase to 18.6 % in 2021/22. Despite this increase, Styria shows the lowest rate of children in day care centers under the age of three among all federal provinces. Vienna on the other hand, still has compared to the other federal provinces a significantly higher childcare rate in this age group at 44.3 %. Apart from Vienna, only Burgenland (37.0 %) and Vorarlberg (30.9 %) are above the Austrian average of 29.1 %.

Viewed by single years, more than half of the children at the age of two attend a childcare facility throughout Austria (57.9 %), for the one-year-olds the childcare rate is 26.4 %. Only 2.1% of the children who have not yet reached the age of one are accommodated in day care centers.

Combined childcare rate for three- to five-year-olds rose to 94.1 per cent

In the kindergarten year 2021/22, 251 589 children from the age three to five years attended a day care center or, as early entrants, already attended a school. This is a new high in this age group, which includes all children aged three to under six. Currently, the combined childcare rate for three- to five-year-olds is 94.1 % in Austria (2011/12: 90.9 %). The highest rates are in Lower Austria (98.3 %) and Burgenland (97.1 %), while Styria (89.3 %) and Carinthia (90.5 %) are clearly below the Austrian average.

Viewed by single years, in this age group the three-year-olds show the greatest increase in a ten-year comparison with a childcare rate of 88.0 % in 2021/22 (2011/12: 80.2 %). The childcare rate for children aged four increased only slightly in the kindergarten year 2021/22 to 96.2 % (2011/12: 94.2 %), the rate for five-year-olds increased only slightly to 98.2 % (2011/12: 98.1 %).

Care rate of children cared for in day care centres in 2021/22 compared to 2011/12

Federal provinces	0- to under 3-year-olds in %		3- to 5-year-olds ¹⁾ in %	
	2021/22	2011/12	2021/22	2011/12
Austria	29.1	19.7	94.1	90.9
Burgenland	37.0	29.0	97.1	100.2
Carinthia	27.7	16.5	90.5	84.6
Lower Austria	28.6	21.2	98.3	96.5
Upper Austria	19.6	11.2	94.2	92.3
Salzburg	24.3	14.1	93.5	89.6
Styria	18.6	10.0	89.3	84.6
Tyrol	27.8	18.0	96.2	90.7
Vorarlberg	30.9	17.3	96.3	90.0
Vienna	44.3	33.2	92.9	89.7

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1) Children aged three to under six; incl. five-year-olds who enrolled in schools early.

Information on methodology, definitions: The day care centre statistics include the following institutional childcare facilities: Crèches and infant care facilities (toddler crèches, crèches), kindergartens (general kindergartens, integration kindergartens, special kindergartens and practice kindergartens), after-school care facilities (general after-school care facilities, integration kindergartens, special kindergartens, practice kindergartens and similar school care facilities) and mixed-age care facilities (e. g. day care centres, children's groups, etc.). Generally excluded are childminders, playgroups, boarding schools, all-day schools and dormitories.

The term "institutional childcare" is defined according to the following criteria: regular and year-round childcare, operated with public funding, by trained staff, without the presence of parents, for at least 30 weeks per year, on at least four days per week and for at least 15 hours per week. The cut-off date for data collection is 15 October of each reporting period.

The childcare rate is measured as the proportion of children in day-care facilities (crèches, kindergartens, mixed-age childcare facilities, children's groups, after-school care centres, day-care centres, etc.) on the survey date of 15 October with the age in full years as of 1 September in the resident population of the same age according to the statistics on the state of the population. In the calculation of the combined childcare rate for three- to five-year-olds (children aged three to under six), five year old children who have started school early are also included in the school statistics - reduced by five-year-olds looked after in after-school care centres, as these are already included in the children in day care centres.

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Media owner, producer and publisher:

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