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Smart devices and systems more and more popular

67 % of the Austrian resident population use smart entertainment devices or systems, 21 % smart home solutions

Vienna, 2022-10-19 – Slightly more than three quarters of 16- to 74-year-olds in Austria use the internet several times a day. At the same time, smart devices and systems are finding their way into more and more households. This is shown by the results of a survey carried out by Statistics Austria between April and July 2022 on the use of information and communication technology (ICT) in private households.

Private use of the internet at a high level

Almost 6.3 million persons aged 16 to 74 years used the internet in the last three months prior to the survey. This corresponds to about 94 % in this age group and represents a slight increase compared to the year before (+ 1.1 %). The vast majority (about 76 %) is online several times a day. 82 % use the internet at least once a day.

At the same time, the proportion of offliners decreased to an all-time low of less than 5 %. Offliners are people who have never used the internet. At the moment, this group of people consists almost exclusively of older people; a noteworthy proportion is only found amongst the above 55-year-olds. Among 55- to 64-year-olds, the proportion of offliners is 7 %. By far the most offliners are found in the oldest age group surveyed, the 65 to 74 year olds. In this age group, the proportion amounts to 24 %.

Internet of Things is finding its way into more and more households

The Internet of Things (IoT) is a term that describes the technology used to connect various devices or systems via the internet. By means of cutting-edge technology devices are digitally connected. Consumer IoT applications are wide spread. They extend from wearables such as smart watches used to measure blood pressure and to count steps, to smart home devices and systems used to connect household appliances and to internet-connected cars. Since 2020, when IoT applications were last included in the ICT survey, an increase across all application areas was recorded.

Entertainment devices remain most popular. The survey assessed the use of internet-connected smart TVs, game consoles and audio systems. 67 % used at least one of these smart entertainment devices or systems. Smart TVs were by far the most popular; they were used by 60 %, followed by smart game consoles (27 %) and audio systems (24 %).

Smart home solutions that allow households to control their energy management, security systems or household appliances via the internet, lead a comparatively niche existence, but have gained strongly in popularity in the past two years. The proportion of people using smart home solutions has nearly doubled from 12 % in 2020 to 21 % in 2022. In particular, smart energy management systems such as internet-connected thermostats or lighting are becoming increasingly popular and are now used by 15 % of 16- to 74-year-olds.

Wearables such as smart watches, safety trackers, smart headphones or other internet-connected accessories are also used more frequently than two years ago. These small body-worn devices are already being used by more than a quarter of respondents (27 %). Compared to 2020 this corresponds to an increase of about 10 percentage points.

Smart devices for collecting health metrics or for health and personal care, such as smart scales, smart blood pressure monitoring systems or smart toothbrushes, so-called eHealth devices, are still relatively uncommon. Yet even these devices increased in use from 8 % in 2020 to 12 % in 2022.

For detailed results and further information on the ICT usage in households and by individuals please refer to the [website](#).

Table 1: Frequency of internet use 2022

Characteristic	Individuals who used the internet	
	on average several times a day during the last three months	never
	% of all individuals	
Total	76.0	4.8
Age		
16- to 24-year-olds	95.3	-
25- to 34-year-olds	90.9	-
35- to 44-year-olds	87.1	(0.2)
45- to 54-year-olds	78.0	1.9
55- to 64-year-olds	62.4	6.6
65- to 74-year-olds	39.7	23.8
Sex		
Men	78.1	4.1
Women	73.9	5.6

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, European survey on the use of ICT in households and by individuals 2022. – Data collection: April to July 2022. – The data refers to use of the internet for private purposes. – Values in parentheses reflect data based on limited observations: Data based on marginal distribution less than 50 or less than 20 observations in a cell is presented in parentheses. Data based on marginal distribution less than 20 is not presented.

Table 2: Individuals using smart devices or systems 2022

Characteristic	Individuals using smart devices or systems			
	entertainment ¹	smart home solutions ²	wearables ³	eHealth ⁴
	% of all individuals			
Total	66.6	21.4	27.0	11.9
Age				
16- to 24-year-olds	89.1	21.3	39.7	19.1
25- to 34-year-olds	81.0	27.7	35.0	14.0
35- to 44-year-olds	76.9	26.3	34.5	16.2
45- to 54-year-olds	68.6	24.1	25.8	10.8
55- to 64-year-olds	52.0	15.0	18.5	7.8
65- to 74-year-olds	30.9	12.2	8.8	4.2
Sex				
Men	69.4	23.0	27.5	11.6
Women	63.9	19.9	26.6	12.2

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, European survey on the use of ICT in households and by individuals 2022. – Data collection: April to July 2022. – Multiple-answer question. – Values in parentheses reflect data based on limited observations: Data based on marginal distribution

less than 50 or less than 20 observations in a cell is presented in parentheses. Data based on marginal distribution less than 20 is not presented.

1) Smart entertainment devices or systems summarise smart TVs, smart game consoles and smart audio systems or smart speakers. – 2) Smart home solutions summarise smart energy management systems, smart home appliances and smart security systems. – 3) Wearables comprise smart watches, smart fitness trackers, smart safety trackers, smart headphones and other smart clothes or accessories. – 4) eHealth devices or systems comprise smart devices for collecting health metrics or for health and personal care.

Information on methodology, definitions: These are the extrapolated results of the survey on ICT usage in households and by individuals in Austria in 2022. The survey is based on an EU regulation (Regulation (EC) No 2019/1700) which obliges Austria and all other EU member states to deliver specified data, as well as on a Commission regulation (Regulation (EU) No 2021/1223) which contains all the indicators. Statistics Austria conducted the Austrian survey as a sample survey. The questionnaire, definitions and methodology were standardised across the EU.

Data from approximately 3 500 households and approximately 4 400 individuals was collected via telephone interviews or a web-based questionnaire. Data collection took place from April to July 2022. For household data the reference period was the time of the survey; for individual data it was the time of the survey or the last three or twelve months prior to the survey. The survey included households with at least one household member between the age of 16 and 74 years and household members within this age bracket.

Besides the main indicators assessed each year (ICT equipment in households, internet use, use of e-government services and online shopping), the questionnaire also included indicators on ICT-related issues that change every year. Since the 2022 survey was conducted in every EU member state, data comparison within the EU will be possible. EU-wide results are expected by the end of 2022.

If you have any questions on this topic, please contact:

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