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Ukraine crisis causes faster population growth

Austria's population grows to more than 10 million by 2080 [Corr: mid-2060s]

Explanation: The following corrections were necessary because an incorrect parameter for the age distribution of immigration was erroneously used when preparing the 2022 population forecast. This had an impact on the predicted age structure of the population and, as a result, also on the forecast of the total population. The error was corrected on 12/20/2022.

Vienna, 2022-11-30 – Austria's population will continue to grow and age until 2080, as shown in the population projection published by Statistics Austria. After Austria's population already reached the nine million mark in the first quarter of 2022 due to immigration from Ukraine, it is projected to grow by 6.8 % to 9.66 million [Corr: 6.65 million] by 2040, and finally by 11.6 % [Corr: 13,5 %] to 10.55 million [Corr: 10.26 million] by 2080.

"Austria's population is growing – mainly due to immigration. Refugee migration from Ukraine will lead to higher immigration in 2022 than in 2015, when many people from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq came to Austria. As early as the mid-2050s [Corr: 2060s], Austria will surpass the ten million inhabitants mark. But Austria is also getting older. This puts funding pressure on pay-as-you-go systems such as pensions and health care. While in 1950 there were still six people of working age for every person of pensionable age, today there are only three and in 2040 there will only be two", says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

Migration gains exceed projected birth deficits

Future population growth is exclusively attributable to expected migration gains of around 30 200 [Corr: 30 900] persons per year in the long run. This represents a continuation of a long-standing trend: Since the turn of the century, Austria's population has risen primarily due to migration surpluses. In the 2001 census, Austria had a population of just over 8 million for the first time; by 2021, this figure had risen by 11.3 % to 8.95 million. Of this increase, only around 3 % was due to birth surpluses; the majority was due to positive net migration. In the coming years, the number of deaths is also likely to rise above the number of births, as the strong birth cohorts of the baby boom of the 1950s and 1960s increasingly move into older age groups. Despite a foreseeable negative birth balance, a further population increase is likely in the future, as the projected migration gains will exceed the losses from the birth deficit.

Strongest population growth in retirement age

The population of the age group 65+ will grow strongly in the future, both in absolute numbers and in relation to the younger population. In 2022, there will be roughly the same number of people aged 65 and over in Austria as there are people under the age of 20. In addition to stagnating birth rates, this is due in particular to the strong birth cohorts of the 1950s and 1960s, who are gradually moving into retirement age. In 2040, the population aged 65 and older is expected to be 45.5 % (or around 790 000 persons) [Corr: 48.1 % (or around 834 000 persons)] larger than in 2021. At the same time, their share of the population will increase from 19.4 % at present to 26.1 % [Corr: 26.6 %] (2040). The number of persons of working age from 20 to under 65 will reach its temporary maximum in 2022 at 5.51 million [Corr: 2023 at 5.53 million]; by 2040, it will fall below this figure by just under 244 000 persons (-4 %, see Table 1). After 2040, the number of persons of working age will remain relatively stable according to the projection, before rising again from 2060 onward. The share of people under the age of 20 in the total population remains largely constant throughout the projection period (2021: 19.3 %; 2040: 19.4 % [Corr: 18.6%]). In absolute terms, the number

of people under the age of 20 is expected to stagnate until 2040 [Corr: mid-2040s] and then grow again slightly.

Vienna to reach two million inhabitants in 2024

The projected population growth for Austria of 11.6 % [Corr: 13.5 %] by 2080 will be distributed very unevenly between regions. Vienna is expected to show above-average growth due to migration. The federal capital accounts for more than one third of international immigration to Austria. According to the projection, Vienna will exceed the two-million mark in 2024 – as it did last at the beginning of the 20th century. In Carinthia, on the other hand, slight population losses are expected – as in past years – as a result of which the number of inhabitants should fall behind Salzburg in the foreseeable future. As a result, Salzburg will become the sixth-largest federal province in terms of population size. In addition to Vienna, above-average population growth is also forecast for Vorarlberg and Lower Austria, while the development in Upper Austria is in line with the national trend. In the other provinces, population growth is projected to be lower (see Table 2).

For detailed results and further information as well as an [interactive population pyramid](#) please refer to our [website](#).

Table 1: Projection of the Austrian population by age (annual averages)

Jahr	Total population, absolute terms				In percent		
	Total	Under 20 years	20 to 65 years	65 and more years	Under 20 years	20 to 65 years	65 and more years
2021	8 951 520	1 723 436	5 495 035	1 733 049	19.3	61.4	19.4
2025	9 195 993	1 862 904	5 454 251	1 878 838	20.3	59.3	20.4
2030	9 362 286	1 895 097	5 320 063	2 147 126	20.2	56.8	22.9
2040	9 657 064	1 873 393	5 262 777	2 520 894	19.4	54.5	26.1
2050	9 915 533	1 942 373	5 315 885	2 657 275	19.6	53.6	26.8
2060	10 086 112	2 044 807	5 316 538	2 724 767	20.3	52.7	27.0
2070	10 283 450	2 080 161	5 491 029	2 712 260	20.2	53.4	26.4
2080	10 552 122	2 115 203	5 625 486	2 811 433	20.0	53.3	26.6

Q: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Population projection 2022, main variant.

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	Total	Under 20 years	20 to 65 years	65 and more years	Under 20 years	20 to 65 years	65 and more years
2021	8 951 520	1 723 436	5 495 035	1 733 049	19,3	61,4	19,4
2025	9 192 729	1 792 444	5 514 345	1 885 940	19,5	60,0	20,5
2030	9 362 956	1 807 868	5 390 415	2 164 673	19,3	57,6	23,1
2040	9 654 021	1 800 164	5 286 660	2 567 197	18,6	54,8	26,6
2050	9 857 112	1 814 209	5 301 786	2 741 117	18,4	53,8	27,8
2060	9 961 052	1 869 390	5 233 101	2 858 561	18,8	52,5	28,7
2070	10 087 285	1 905 620	5 278 880	2 902 785	18,9	52,3	28,8
2080	10 260 530	1 923 883	5 366 259	2 970 388	18,8	52,3	28,9

Q: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Population projection 2022, main variant

Table 2: Projection of the Austrian population by federal province (annual averages)

Bundesland	2021	2025	2030	2040	2050	2060	2070	2080
Burgenland	296 704	303 678	307 315	313 884	317 916	320 208	324 842	333 754
Carinthia	563 176	566 467	564 752	558 763	550 375	538 961	533 590	535 866
Lower Austria	1 695 013	1 736 147	1 762 112	1 816 785	1 871 792	1 915 133	1 967 203	2 038 729
Upper Austria	1 500 043	1 539 144	1 568 708	1 620 682	1 660 667	1 685 330	1 718 583	1 765 782
Salzburg	561 416	574 193	583 496	599 123	610 900	617 839	626 511	640 116
Styria	1 249 278	1 269 458	1 281 516	1 297 239	1 304 250	1 299 361	1 301 992	1 318 157
Tyrol	761 596	780 652	793 558	812 046	824 543	828 859	834 650	846 681
Vorarlberg	400 469	412 139	422 100	440 040	456 189	467 018	477 251	490 070
Vienna	1 923 825	2 014 115	2 078 728	2 198 501	2 318 900	2 413 403	2 498 829	2 582 968
Austria, total	8 951 520	9 195 992	9 362 285	9 657 064	9 915 533	10 086 112	10 283 450	10 552 122

Q: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Population projection 2022, main variant.

Corr: Table 2: Projection of the Austrian population by federal province (annual averages)

Bundesland	2021	2025	2030	2040	2050	2060	2070	2080
Burgenland	296 704	304 036	308 133	315 110	318 401	319 307	322 197	328 102
Carinthia	563 176	566 663	565 479	560 655	551 218	538 038	530 413	529 090
Lower Austria	1 695 013	1 736 820	1 765 245	1 822 515	1 868 554	1 899 535	1 938 057	1 989 547
Upper Austria	1 500 043	1 539 908	1 571 536	1 623 251	1 655 036	1 671 405	1 695 060	1 727 545
Salzburg	561 416	574 158	584 360	600 640	610 579	614 914	620 803	630 099
Styria	1 249 278	1 268 972	1 281 439	1 297 293	1 298 208	1 286 139	1 281 454	1 286 630
Tyrol	761 596	780 054	794 019	813 598	823 419	823 113	825 283	832 047
Vorarlberg	400 469	412 254	422 796	440 607	453 770	461 465	468 331	476 465
Vienna	1 923 825	2 009 864	2 069 949	2 180 352	2 277 927	2 347 136	2 405 687	2 461 005
Austria, total	8 951 520	9 192 729	9 362 956	9 654 021	9 857 112	9 961 052	10 087 285	10 260 530

Q: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Population projection 2022, main variant.

Information on methodology, definitions: The population projection estimates the population of Austria and its federal provinces by age and sex up to the year 2080. The starting point is the population stock as of January 1, 2022, disaggregated by age, sex, federal province of residence and country of birth (in groups). In addition, assumptions are made about the future development of demographic indicators on fertility, mortality and migration. Starting with the 2022 reporting year, the methodology is changed from the previously used cohort component method to a microsimulation model. In the microsimulation, each person is simulated individually in their demographic processes (births, deaths, migration). The new birth cohorts of a projection year are calculated using age-specific fertility rates (live births by age of the mother). Deaths are derived from age- and sex-specific death probabilities multiplied by population levels. International immigration is given in absolute numbers, respectively by age, sex and country of birth (in groups) or federal province (for those born in Austria). In order to project international emigration, rates at which persons emigrate in a given time interval are estimated, dependent on the duration of stay in Austria (so-called hazard rates). In the long term, 147 350 immigrants are expected to arrive annually. With about 117 200 [Corr: 116 420] people emigrating, this results in annual net migration of about 30 200 [Corr: 30 900] people. Internal migration between the nine federal provinces of Austria is modeled using age-, sex- and direction-specific emigration rates.

When interpreting the results according to the characteristic “born domestically/abroad”, it should be noted that this is not a projection of Austria’s population by citizenship. In addition to international immigration

and emigration (and, of course, fertility and mortality), the future development of the population by citizenship depends in particular on the development of naturalization rates. These depend to a large extent on future political conditions and can therefore hardly be anticipated. In contrast, the “country of birth” characteristic chosen here remains unchanged for the lifetime of the respective person.

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

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