

Press release: 12.949-247/22

A quarter of migrants with difficulties in finding a job

43.6 % of people born abroad stated that insufficient German language skills are the reason for the difficulties in finding a job

Vienna, 2022-12-01 – A quarter of foreign-born 15-64 year olds have faced difficulties in finding a suitable job and around 8 % of foreign-born employed feel discriminated against in their current job. These are the findings of the 2021 module of Statistics Austria's Microcensus Labour Force Survey on the labour market situation of migrants in Austria.

"The Austrian labour market is dependent on migrants, all the more so as the shortage of skilled workers continues to worsen. Nevertheless, of the foreign-born persons of working age in 2021, almost 25 % had difficulties finding a suitable job. The reasons given by 43.6 % were insufficient German language skills, 16.8 % could not find a job that matched their qualifications and for 15.2 % the lack of recognition of their foreign educational qualifications was the biggest obstacle to finding a job," says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

One fifth of migrants with German as their native language

18.9% of foreign-born people between the ages of 15 and 64 stated that German was their first language; 2.6% had another first language in addition to German. More than another third (35.5 %) had – according to their own assessment – fluent and one-fourth (24.4 %) advanced knowledge of the German language. 15.7 % had basic German language skills and 5.5 % had almost no or no German skills. Employed migrants reported slightly better German language skills on average, with nearly four out of ten employed persons (37.9 %; non-employed: 30.3 %) reporting fluent and a quarter (25.5 %; non-employed: 22.2 %) reporting advanced German language skills.

Three quarters of working-age migrants completed the highest education abroad

Almost three quarters of the foreign-born (73.0 %) aged 15 to 64 years completed the highest education abroad, most of them in their country of origin. Of these, 13.3 % applied for recognition or assessment of their formal qualifications acquired abroad in Austria. Ten out of one hundred (10.6 %) migrants with educational qualifications from another country had their education recognized in Austria. 86.7 % did not apply for recognition or assessment of their qualifications in Austria, mainly because, in their opinion, recognition was not necessary. Recognition of educational qualifications acquired abroad is associated with greater labour market participation: While migrants with foreign educational qualifications aged 15 to 64 years had an employment rate of 66.7 %, the employment rate was 76.1 % for persons with recognized formal qualifications acquired abroad in Austria.

Lack of German language skills main obstacle to finding a job

A quarter (24.9 %) of migrants of working age, who either have currently or previously worked or at least looked for work in Austria, faced some obstacles in finding suitable work. For 43.6 % of those who faced such difficulties, insufficient German language skills were the main problem. Another 16.8 % were unable to find work that corresponded to their education. For 15.2 % the lack of recognition of their foreign educational qualifications was the greatest difficulty. 8.9 % of migrants with work experience in Austria cited a lack of work permit and almost as many (8.0 %) their foreign origin as the main obstacle to finding suitable

work. A further 7.5 % of migrants were confronted with other difficulties in finding suitable work that could not be assigned to any of the available response categories. In general, female migrants were confronted with more obstacles (27.1 %) compared to male migrants (22.8 %) were.

Migrants more often discriminated at work

Around 8 % of employed migrants felt discriminated against in their current job, women slightly more often (8.9 %) than men (8.0 %). The most important reason for discrimination cited by 78.4 % of migrants who experienced discrimination was their foreign origin; for men, this share was 89.1 %. Overall, employed persons born in Austria were affected by discrimination to a lesser extent (5.1 %), but women were affected significantly more often (7.4 %) compared to men (3.1 %). More than one in two (53.1 %) women born in Austria cited gender as the main reason for discrimination.

Detailed results and further information on the labour market of migrants in Austria can be found in the publication on our [website](#).

Table 1: German language skills of foreign-born persons (15 to 64 years), annual average 2021

Sex, employment	Unit	Foreign-born (15-64 y.) total	Native language German	Thereof:	Another native language	German language skills ¹			
				German and another native language		Fluent	Advanced	Basic skills	Hardly any or no skills
Men and women	1 000	1 394,8	263,8	36,8	1 131,0	494,7	340,8	219,3	76,2
Men	1 000	675,8	127,6	20,0	548,2	223,5	186,9	105,3	32,5
Women	1 000	718,9	136,2	16,7	582,8	271,1	153,9	114,1	43,7
Employed	1 000	944,9	197,1	28,8	747,8	358,2	240,9	117,8	30,9
Non-Employed	1 000	449,9	66,7	(7,9)	383,2	136,5	99,9	101,5	45,3
Men and women	%	100,0	18,9	2,6	81,1	35,5	24,4	15,7	5,5
Men	%	100,0	18,9	3,0	81,1	33,1	27,7	15,6	4,8
Women	%	100,0	18,9	2,3	81,1	37,7	21,4	15,9	6,1
Employed	%	100,0	20,9	3,1	79,1	37,9	25,5	12,5	3,3
Non-Employed	%	100,0	14,8	(1,8)	85,2	30,3	22,2	22,6	10,1

Q: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Labour Force Survey (Austrian Microcensus) – Module “Labour market situation of migrants and their immediate descendants”, annual average over all weeks. – Population in private households without compulsory military or civilian service. – () Published with warning (Coefficient of variation > 17 %).

1) According to own assessment; percentages related to foreign-born persons.

Table 2: Foreign-born persons (15 to 64 years) by formal qualifications obtained abroad and application for recognition in Austria, annual average 2021

Sex, employment	Unit	Foreign-born (15-64 y.) total	Highest level of education successfully completed		Application in Austria for recognition of the formal qualifications obtained abroad ¹		
			in Austria	abroad	has applied	has not applied	has applied, formal qualifications recognised
Men and women	1 000	1 394,8	377,2	1 017,6	135,3	882,3	107,8
Men	1 000	675,8	197,7	478,1	56,2	421,9	47,7
Women	1 000	718,9	179,5	539,4	79,0	460,4	60,1
Employed	1 000	944,9	266,5	678,4	102,1	576,3	82,0
Men and women	%	100,0	27,0	73,0	13,3	86,7	10,6
Men	%	100,0	29,3	70,7	11,8	88,2	10,0
Women	%	100,0	25,0	75,0	14,7	85,3	11,1
Employed	%	100,0	28,2	71,8	15,1	84,9	12,1
Employment rate ²	%	67,7	70,7	66,7	75,5	65,3	76,1

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Labour Force Survey (Austrian Microcensus) – Module “Labour market situation of migrants and their immediate descendants”, annual average over all weeks. – Population in private households without compulsory military or civilian service.
1) Percentages related to foreign-born with formal qualifications obtained abroad. – 2) Employed persons as a percentage of the population in the same age group.

Table 3: Foreign-born employed and non-employed (who have previously worked or looked for a job in Austria) by obstacles to getting a suitable job in Austria, annual average 2021

Sex, employment	Unit	Foreign-born employed and non-employed ¹ (15-64 y.) total	Obstacles to getting a suitable job	Main obstacle to getting a suitable job in Austria ²					
				Lack of German language skills	Lack of recognition of formal qualifications obtained abroad	Restricted right to work	Foreign origin	No suitable job available	Other
Men and women	1 000	1 246,9	310,7	135,5	47,2	27,8	24,8	52,2	23,2
Men	1 000	634,2	144,9	59,3	21,9	16,6	(12,9)	23,6	(10,6)
Women	1 000	612,7	165,9	76,3	25,3	(11,2)	(12,0)	28,6	12,6
Employed	1 000	944,9	209,3	84,0	37,8	18,0	19,1	36,2	14,2
Non-Employed ¹	1 000	302,0	101,5	51,5	(9,3)	(9,8)	(5,7)	16,1	(9,0)
Men and women	%	100,0	24,9	43,6	15,2	8,9	8,0	16,8	7,5
Men	%	100,0	22,8	40,9	15,1	11,5	(8,9)	16,3	(7,3)
Women	%	100,0	27,1	46,0	15,3	(6,7)	(7,2)	17,2	7,6
Employed	%	100,0	22,1	40,1	18,1	8,6	9,1	17,3	6,8
Non-Employed ¹	%	100,0	33,6	50,8	(9,2)	(9,6)	(5,6)	15,8	(8,9)

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Labour Force Survey (Austrian Microcensus) – Module “Labour market situation of migrants and their immediate descendants”, annual average over all weeks. – Population in private households without compulsory military or civilian service. – () Published with warning (Coefficient of variation > 17 %).

1) Non-employed persons who have previously worked or at least looked for a job in Austria. – 2) Percentages related to persons who indicated obstacles.

Table 4: Employed persons (15 to 64 years) by discrimination in the current work, annual average 2021

Employment, sex, country of birth	Unit	Employed (15-64 y.) total	Discrimination in the current work	Most important reason for the discrimination ¹				
				Age	Gender	Foreign origin	Disability	Other
Foreign-born employed	1 000	944,9	79,6	(x)	(8,5)	62,4	(x)	(6,9)
Men	1 000	510,4	40,7	(x)	(x)	36,3	(x)	(x)
Women	1 000	434,5	38,9	(x)	(7,1)	26,1	-	(x)
Native-born employed	1 000	3 291,4	168,5	23,0	65,8	14,4	(6,6)	58,8
Men	1 000	1 739,3	53,3	(8,3)	(x)	(10,6)	(x)	26,6
Women	1 000	1 552,1	115,1	14,7	61,2	(x)	(x)	32,1
Foreign-born employed	%	100,0	8,4	(x)	(10,7)	78,4	(x)	(8,6)
Men	%	100,0	8,0	(x)	(x)	89,1	(x)	(x)
Women	%	100,0	8,9	(x)	(18,4)	67,1	-	(x)
Native-born employed	%	100,0	5,1	13,6	39,1	8,5	(3,9)	34,9
Men	%	100,0	3,1	(15,6)	(x)	(19,8)	(x)	50,0
Women	%	100,0	7,4	12,7	53,1	(x)	(x)	27,9

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Labour Force Survey (Austrian Microcensus) – Module “Labour market situation of migrants and their immediate descendants”, annual average over all weeks. – Population in private households without compulsory military or civilian service. – () Published with warning (Coefficient of variation > 17 %). – (x) Suppressed (Coefficient of variation > 25 %).

1) Percentages related to persons who felt discriminated against.

Informations on methodology, definitions: The results presented here on the labour market situation of migrants in Austria are data from the 2021 module of the European Labour Force Survey (LFS), which was conducted in Austria as part of the Microcensus. The Microcensus is a sample survey, where information on the labour market situation in Austria is collected in a standardized form in randomly selected private households. For the module 2021 25 907 (Net sample) persons were interviewed. These data were then extrapolated to the population.

Target group of the module 2021: In principle, all persons between the ages of 15 and 74 (excluding compulsory military or civilian service) were surveyed; depending on the question, there were further restrictions. The analysis referred to the working-age population (15 to 64 years).

Employed persons according to the international definition: According to the concepts of the International Labour Organization (ILO), persons are considered to be employed if they have worked at least one hour in the reference week as employees, self-employed persons or unpaid family workers. If they have not worked due to holidays, compensatory time off, part-time work for older employees, other working time arrangements, illness, vocational training or maternity/paternity leave, but are otherwise in work, they are considered to be in employment.

Employment rate: Employed persons as a percentage of the population in the same age group.

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

Beatrix Wiedenhofer-Galik, Tel.: +43 1 711 28-8287, E-Mail: beatrix.wiedenhofer-galik@statistik.gv.at

Katrin Baumgartner, Tel.: +43 1 711 28-7211, E-Mail: katrin.baumgartner@statistik.gv.at

Media owner, producer and publisher:

STATISTICS AUSTRIA | Federal Institution under Public Law | Guglgasse 13 | 1110 Vienna | www.statistik.at

Press: phone: +43 1 711 28-7777 | e-Mail: presse@statistik.gv.at

© STATISTICS AUSTRIA