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More deaths again in Austria in December 2022

Number of deaths in 2022 remains at a similarly high level as in 2020 and 2021

Vienna, 2023-01-12 – Based on preliminary results, Statistics Austria reports a significant increase in the number of deaths in December 2022. With 2 257 deceased persons in calendar week 51, the highest number of deaths in 2022 was reported shortly before the end of the year.

“In the last weeks of 2022, there was a significant increase in the number of deaths in Austria, after the number of deceased in the fall of 2022 had still been below the level of the previous year. In the penultimate week of December, 2 257 people died, more than in any other calendar week in 2022, surpassing the highest figure of 2021, which was 2 201 in calendar week 48,” says Statistics Austria's Director General Tobias Thomas.

Number of weekly deaths rose since mid-December

The number of deaths increased significantly in the last three weeks of 2022. While fewer than 2 000 deaths were registered in each week between calendar week 13 and 49, there were 2 161 deaths in calendar week 50 (12 to 18 December 2022), 2 257 deaths in calendar week 51 (19 to 25 December 2022) and 2 226 deaths in calendar week 52 (26 December 2022 to 1 January 2023). This slightly exceeded the maximum value for a single calendar week in 2021 (2 201 people died in calendar week 48 of 2021). Compared with the five-year average for the same calendar weeks in the years before the start of the Corona pandemic (2015–2019), 34.5 % more people died in calendar week 50 of 2022, 36.5 % more in calendar week 51 of 2022, and 28.3 % more in calendar week 52 of 2022 (see table). However, as [data by the Center for Virology at the Medical University of Vienna](#) show, the sharp increase in deaths coincides with the current influenza wave.

2022 shows similar number of deaths as in 2020 and 2021

According to first preliminary results from Statistics Austria, approximately 91 600 deaths have been reported so far for the period 1 January to 31 December 2022. This number is at a similar level as for the first two pandemic years 2020 (91 599) and 2021 (91 962), but 10.5 % higher than the five-year average before the start of the Corona pandemic (2015–2019). However, in the coming weeks the number of deaths reported for 2022 will increase somewhat as registry offices continue to report deaths from the previous year. Moreover, the present number for 2022 does not yet include deaths of the Austrian population that occurred abroad.

Considering the increased population and changes in the age structure, slightly more deaths would have been expected anyway in 2022 than in the years 2015 to 2019, even without the Corona pandemic. Under the main variant of the population projection published by Statistics Austria in autumn 2019 – i.e., before the start of the pandemic – a total of 85 427 deaths were projected for 2022. This figure has now been exceeded by 7.2 %.

Further information on deaths can be found on our [website](#), including an interactive web application – the [Atlas of Deaths](#) – which graphically illustrates trends and regional distribution. Detailed results can be found in Statistics Austria's [open data repository](#). Detailed results for the full calendar year 2022 will be published presumably at the end of January 2023 together with a first estimate of results for life expectancy.

Deaths 2022 by calendar week in comparison to previous years

Calendar week	Number of deaths in 2022	Deviation of number of deaths in 2022 compared to the previous year (2021) in %	Deviation of number of deaths in 2022 compared to the average 2015–2019 in %.
CW 52*	2 226	19,4	28,3
CW 51*	2 257	21,6	36,5
CW 50	2 161	12,0	34,5
CW 49	1 890	-10,8	17,9
CW 48	1 863	-15,4	20,5
CW 47	1 738	-19,2	13,0
CW 46	1 779	-15,7	14,6
CW 45	1 732	-15,6	14,7
CW 44	1 718	-11,6	13,5
CW 43	1 829	-3,1	21,2
CW 42	1 766	2,6	17,3
CW 41	1 764	8,1	16,1
CW 40	1 870	16,9	23,8
CW 39	1 727	3,1	17,3
CW 38	1 652	4,8	16,1
CW 37	1 589	0,6	11,5
CW 36	1 544	-5,1	12,1
CW 35	1 454	-5,7	1,9
CW 34	1 550	-1,1	8,1
CW 33	1 685	3,9	15,3
CW 32	1 560	-3,8	9,4
CW 31	1 661	14,2	10,4
CW 30	1 732	13,2	16,3

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Vital Statistics.

Preliminary results for all weeks of 2022. Excluding deaths of persons residing in Austria who died outside of Austria. – *) Including estimated values for calendar week 52/2022 (104 deaths) and calendar week 51/2022 (24 deaths).

Information on methodology, definitions: Statistics Austria processes all reports of deaths supplied by the registry offices. However, not all death reports are available within the planned publication deadline. Therefore, the expected deaths of the most recent two weeks are estimated based on the empirical values of previous years. The underlying estimation model is regularly evaluated and adjusted if necessary. In any case, the results are preliminary and subject to uncertainty, i.e. the final numbers of deaths in the two most recent weeks may be slightly higher or slightly lower. However, in all weeks for which results are published, the proportion of reported deaths is at least 90 % of all deaths for that week.

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

Team Demography, Statistics Austria, e-mail: demographie@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

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