

Press release: 12.986-014/23

Number of deaths in 2022 remains at level of the two previous years

Life expectancy slightly increased for men, unchanged for women

Vienna, 2023-01-26 – According to the current preliminary results of Statistics Austria, 91 765 deaths have been reported for 2022. This number is similar to the previous year (2021: 91 962), but 10.7 % higher than the five-year average before the start of the corona pandemic (2015–2019). Life expectancy for men increased slightly (+0.20 years), while it remained almost constant for women (0.03 years).

„In 2022, 91 765 people died in Austria. This is 10.7 % more than the average of the last five years before the outbreak of the pandemic and also more than would have been expected due to the aging of the population. Life expectancy for women, at 83.7 years, and for men, at around 79 years, is still below the level of the years 2016 to 2019. In the long term, however, life expectancy has been rising for decades. In 1951 for example, life expectancy was 67.8 years for women and 62.4 years for men“, says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

Number of deaths forecast exceeded

Considering the increased population and changes in the age structure, slightly more deaths would have been expected in 2022 than in the years 2015 to 2019, even without the Corona pandemic. Within the population projection calculated by Statistics Austria in autumn 2019 – thus, before the start of the pandemic – a total of 85 427 deaths was projected for 2022 according to the main variant. This figure has now been exceeded by 7.4 %.

Results for the federal states show that Vienna (17 407 deaths in 2022) had the smallest difference from the five-year average 2015 to 2019 (+6.1 %), while Vorarlberg (3 535 deaths in 2022) differed the most (+16.5 %). The difference from the 2022 values predicted before the start of the Corona pandemic is lowest in both Vienna and Burgenland (+5.2 % each) and was highest in Styria (+9.7 %).

However, the final number of deaths in 2022 is expected to be somewhat higher, since the available data do not yet include deaths of the Austrian population that occurred abroad and registry offices might report a few more deaths from the previous year.

Life expectancy 2022 still below the level of the years 2016 to 2019

The available data now also allow a first preliminary estimate of life expectancy in 2022. In the third year of the Corona pandemic, the average life expectancy for men is 78.99 years and for women 83.73 years. Compared to the previous year, life expectancy for men increased slightly (2021: 78.80 years), while it remained almost constant for women (2021: 83.76 years). For both sexes, however, life expectancy remains noticeably below the pre-pandemic level (2019: 79.54 years for men and 84.21 years for women).

Number of deaths particularly high in the last weeks of 2022 and the first weeks of 2023

Preliminary numbers of deaths by individual calendar weeks shows that in the last week of 2022 (calendar week 52 from 26 December 2022 to 1 January 2023) a total of 2 291 people died. These numbers were similar in the two weeks of the new year (calendar week 1 from 2 to 8 January 2023 and calendar week 2 from 9 to 15 January 2023) when 2 346 and 2 092 people deceased. Compared to the five-year average of

the same calendar weeks in the years before the start of the Corona pandemic (2015–2019), 32.0 % more people died in calendar week 52 of 2022, 29.8 % more in calendar week 1 of 2023 and 12.6 % more in calendar week 2 of 2023.

The age-standardised death rate, in which the number of deaths is adjusted for the age structure of the population on the basis of a standard population, was higher in the last two calendar weeks of 2022 than in the same calendar weeks of most years between 2016 and 2021. If Austria's age structure corresponded to Eurostat's standard population, approximately 25 out of 100 000 people would have died in each of the calendar weeks 51 and 52 of 2022, whereas in the same calendar weeks of 2016 to 2021 it would have been mostly between 18 and 23 people. Only in calendar week 52 of 2016 – when Austria was hit by a strong influenza wave – this number was slightly higher with 26 deaths per 100 000 people. In calendar week 51 of 2020, the same level as in 2022 was reached with 25 deaths.

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](#).

Table 1: Deaths by federal states 2022 in comparison to the population projection

Federal state	Deaths (absolute)				Deviation of number of deaths in 2022 (preliminary) compared to...		
	2022 (preliminary)	Expected for 2022 (main variant projection 2019)	2021 (final)	2022 (preliminary)	Expected for 2022 (main variant projection 2019)	2021 (final)	Average 2015–2019 (final)
Austria	91 765	85 427	91 962	82 875	7.4	-0.2	10.7
Burgenland	3 654	3 474	3 600	3 315	5.2	1.5	10.2
Carinthia	6 723	6 309	6 495	6 045	6.6	3.5	11.2
Lower Austria	19 324	17 899	19 710	17 311	8.0	-2.0	11.6
Upper Austria	15 018	13 859	15 201	13 474	8.4	-1.2	11.5
Salzburg	5 197	4 805	5 331	4 608	8.2	-2.5	12.8
Styria	14 046	12 808	13 532	12 650	9.7	3.8	11.0
Tyrol	6 861	6 454	6 626	6 033	6.3	3.5	13.7
Vorarlberg	3 535	3 270	3 381	3 035	8.1	4.6	16.5
Vienna	17 407	16 549	18 086	16 404	5.2	-3.8	6.1

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Vital Statistics, Population Projection 2019.

Table 2: Life expectancy 2011 to 2022¹ by sex

Year	Men	Women
2022*	78,99	83,73
2021	78,80	83,76
2020	78,94	83,74
2019	79,54	84,21
2018	79,29	84,01
2017	79,27	83,89
2016	79,14	83,95
2015	78,63	83,59
2014	78,91	83,74
2013	78,45	83,56

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Demographic Indicators – 1) Estimates based on preliminary results.

Table 3: Deaths 2022 and 2023 by calendar week in comparison to previous years

Calendar week	Number of deaths in 2022 and 2023	Deviation of number of deaths in 2022 and 2023 compared to the previous year (2021 and 2022) in %	Deviation of number of deaths in 2022 and 2023 compared to the average 2015–2019 in %.
CW 02/2023 ¹	2 092	24,6	12,6
CW 01/2023 ¹	2 346	33,6	29,8
CW 52/2022	2 291	22,8	32,0
CW 51/2022	2 281	22,9	37,9
CW 50/2022	2 174	12,6	35,3
CW 49/2022	1 900	-10,4	18,5
CW 48/2022	1 868	-15,1	20,8
CW 47/2022	1 743	-19,0	13,3
CW 46/2022	1 780	-15,7	14,6
CW 45/2022	1 733	-15,5	14,8

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Vital Statistics. Preliminary results for all weeks of 2022 and 2023. Excluding deaths persons residing in Austria who died outside of Austria. – 1) Including estimated values for calendar week 01/2023 (23 deaths) and calendar week 02/2023 (97 deaths).

Table 4: Age-standardised death rates¹ by calendar weeks 2016 to 2022

Calendar week	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
CW 52	26	19	19	18	23	20	25
CW 51	22	19	19	18	25	20	25
CW 50	20	18	19	19	27	21	23
CW 49	19	19	19	18	28	23	20
CW 48	19	18	17	18	27	24	20
CW 47	18	18	18	17	26	23	19
CW 46	19	17	18	17	25	23	19
CW 45	18	17	17	17	22	22	19
CW 44	17	18	18	17	21	21	18
CW 43	18	17	17	17	19	21	20

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Vital Statistics. Preliminary data for all calendar weeks 2022. Excluding deaths persons residing in Austria who died outside of Austria. - 1) For an explanation of age-standardised death rates see „Information on methodology, definitions“.

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.

The **age-standardised death rate** indicates how many deaths would have occurred per 100 000 living persons if the age structure of the population in the reporting period had corresponded to that of a so-called standard population. To calculate these age-standardised rates, the crude death rates (deaths per 100 000 of the population) of the observed age group are multiplied by the proportion of the population in the same age group according to the European Standard Population. The standard population defined by Eurostat in 2013 was used to calculate the rates presented here; an „artificial population“ with an estimated age structure for the European population. The age-standardised death rates thus relate deaths to a fictitious population that is left unchanged over time in terms of the number of people and its composition by age and gender. This excludes changes that result only from an increase in the number of inhabitants (more inhabitants mean more deaths) or from more people moving into higher age groups with a correspondingly higher probability of death. The change in life expectancy is not considered in the calculation of age-specific rates. Differences

in the level of mortality observed over time are thus largely a consequence of rising life expectancy and make comparisons with years further back difficult. Since a fictitious standard population is used for the calculation, the age-standardised death rates can only be interpreted in comparison with each other, but not in terms of their individual absolute values.

The **life expectancy** at birth calculated for a calendar year indicates how many years a newborn child would live on average if the age-specific mortality rates observed in the calendar year would not change in the future. The estimation of life expectancy in 2022 takes into account the expected effect of not yet entered late registrations of deaths and persons who died abroad, therefore the results are comparable with previous years.

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