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Increase in multi-person households in 2022

Of more than 4 mio. private households, 2.5 mio. are multi-person households

Vienna, 2023-03-17 – In 2022, there were 4 067 000 private households in Austria, including 2 521 000 multi-person households, according to calculations by Statistics Austria based on the Microcensus Labour Force Survey. A total of 1 546 000 people lived alone.

“Austria’s population has grown strongly in 2022. This is also reflected in the number and structure of private households: In particular, there was a significant increase in the number of multi-person households, with a plus of 27 000 compared with the previous year. Overall, the number of private households in Austria increased by 48 000 in 2022. The last time there was such a high increase was in 2015 and 2016,” says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

The population in private households grew by 94 000 persons (+ 1.1%) on an annual average from 2021 to 2022 and now stands at 8 901 000 persons. The number of private households has also increased by 48 000 (+ 1.2%) and now stands at 4 067 000.

Multi-person households increased more than single households in 2022

The number of multi-person households increased by 27 000 in 2022, more than the number of single households (+21 000). Since 2004, this has only been the case in the years 2015 to 2017 – in all other years, the annual increases were mainly among single households. One reason for this development is the high level of immigration: In 2022, there was an annual average of 31 000 private households with at least one person who immigrated to Austria in 2022. The majority of these were multi-person households (88.2% or 28 000 households). In fact, around 10 000 households were exclusively inhabited by persons who had immigrated to Austria in 2022. The majority of these were also multi-person households (62.3% or 6 000 households).

Forms of cohabitation are changing

For many people, the term household conjures up the image of a couple with one or more children. However, taking together married couples and consensual unions with at least one child, only 26.7%, i.e. 1 087 000 of the 4 067 000 private households corresponded to this image in 2022. Overall, the proportion of couples with children is declining: In 1985 it was 37.9% and in 2000 33.5%.

Compared to other forms of cohabitation, couples with children nevertheless represent the most common type among family households. About a quarter of all private households (25.5%) are couples living without children in the household, 6.5% are single-parent households. Two or more families live together in only 1.3% of private households.

Among non-family households, single-person households are the most prevalent (38.0% of all private households). On the other hand, non-family multi-person households (e.g. shared apartments), hardly play a role (2.0% of all private households).

For detailed results and further information on families, households and living arrangements please refer to our [website](#).

Private households by household size and population in private households 2015 to 2022 – in thousands

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Private households	3 817	3 865	3 890	3 916	3 950	3 988	4 020	4 067
Single households	1 418	1 429	1 438	1 457	1 480	1 506	1 526	1 546
Multi-person households	2 398	2 435	2 452	2 460	2 470	2 483	2 494	2 521
thereof with: 2 persons	1 141	1 162	1 175	1 186	1 199	1 211	1 222	1 240
3 persons	574	583	585	584	582	582	582	584
4 persons	445	450	451	449	448	449	450	455
5 persons	170	171	177	174	172	173	177	178
6 or more persons	68	68	64	67	69	67	63	64
In % of all private households								
Private households	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Single households	37.2%	37.0%	37.0%	37.2%	37.5%	37.8%	38.0%	38.0%
Multi-person households	62.8%	63.0%	63.0%	62.8%	62.5%	62.2%	62.0%	62.0%
thereof with: 2 persons	29.9%	30.1%	30.2%	30.3%	30.3%	30.4%	30.4%	30.5%
3 persons	15.0%	15.1%	15.0%	14.9%	14.7%	14.6%	14.5%	14.4%
4 persons	11.7%	11.7%	11.6%	11.5%	11.4%	11.3%	11.2%	11.2%
5 persons	4.5%	4.4%	4.5%	4.4%	4.3%	4.3%	4.4%	4.4%
6 or more persons	1.8%	1.8%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%	1.6%	1.6%
Population in private households								
	8 491	8 599	8 646	8 679	8 717	8 766	8 807	8 901
Average household size	2.22	2.22	2.22	2.22	2.21	2.20	2.19	2.19

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Microcensus Labour Force Survey (annual average across all weeks). – Compiled on 17 March 2023.

Information on methodology, definitions:

Married couples and consensual unions with or without children (living in the same household) as well as single-parent families constitute a (nuclear) family in the sense of the family statistics. In the definition of family statistics, children are all biological, step- or adopted children living with their parents or one parent in the same household, who do not have their own partner in the household and do not yet have children themselves - regardless of their age.

The results presented here are data from the Microcensus Labor Force Survey. The Microcensus is a sample survey of private households that interviews approximately 1 500 households each week. The population in institutional households is not part of the Microcensus Labour Force Survey.

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

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