

Press release: 13 045-073/23

High labor force participation of higher education graduates

Four out of five graduates are employed two years after graduation

Vienna, 2023-04-13 – Two years after graduation, four out of five university graduates are employed and only 2% are unemployed. This is the result of the latest update of the Graduate Tracking (ATRACK), a joint project of Statistics Austria and a consortium of Austrian higher education institutions under the leadership of the University of Vienna, covering career entries, employment and income opportunities for graduates of Austrian higher education institutions.

“Graduates from higher education institutions in Austria have very good labor market opportunities. Two years after graduation, only 2% are affected by unemployment. The degree also pays off financially. Three years after graduation, the average gross monthly salary is around 3 400 euros per month, five years later it is 3 800 euros, and ten years after graduation graduates earn an average of 4 600 euros, although the salary varies according to the course of study and academic degree”, says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

Higher education enables a sustainable integration into the labor market

The employment rate of graduates from Austrian higher education institutions rises rapidly after graduation. While 45% are considered to be employed at the time of graduation, one year later this figure rises to 81% and peaks at 82% two years after graduation. At later reference dates, the proportion of employed persons drops slightly, which is partly due to the increase in parental leave among female graduates. While two years after graduation 6% of them were on parental leave, the figure rises to almost 13% ten years later. At this time, only 1% of male graduates are on parental leave.

There are also differences between genders in terms of the amount of time worked: Three years after graduation, 89% of men work full-time, compared to 78% of women. Ten years after graduation, the situation for women is completely different: at this point, still around 89% of employed men continue to work full-time, but now only 53% of women do so.

Attractive earning opportunities after graduation

Higher education graduates have very good earning opportunities. On average, graduates in full-time employment earn an inflation-adjusted gross monthly income of about 3 100 euros one year after graduation. The longer one looks into the future after graduation, the higher the expected salaries: Three years after graduation, graduates earn a median of around 3 400 euros, five years after graduation 3 800 euros and ten years after graduation 4 600 euros. Differences can be observed between the different degrees: While bachelor's graduates earn a median income of about 3 000 euros per month three years after graduation, people with master's or diploma degrees earn about 3 600 euros, and graduates with doctorates or PhDs earn 4 400 euros.

The data also show gender-specific wage differences. Three years after graduation, female graduates have a median gross salary of around 3 100 euros, while male graduates earn around 3 900 euros. This corresponds to a wage difference of around 19%. This ratio even increases over time and amounts to 24% ten years after graduation.

Detailed results or further information on the Graduate Tracking (ATRACK) can be found on our [website](#).

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

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