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# Population census 2021: 8 969 068 inhabitants

## Population grew in all federal states since last census year 2011

Vienna, 2023-04-28 – The number of Austrian inhabitants amounted to 8 969 068 on census day 31 October 2021, according to Statistics Austria’s final results of the Register-based census 2021. On this reference date, 9 031 948 persons had been registered in the central population register, but a detailed residency analysis resulted in the reduction of this number by 62 880.

“In 2021 the census in Austria took place for the second time as a register-based census. While in other countries people still have to fill out lengthy questionnaires for the census, Statistics Austria has only used administrative data since 2011. This means that Austria – along with countries such as Denmark, Norway and Sweden – is playing a pioneering role in Europe. With the data expertise of Statistics Austria, the administrative registers are evaluated in great detail in the course of the register census. The residence analysis has shown that as of the reference date of the 2021 register-based census, 0.7% of the main residence registrations in the central population register were incorrect - the population was therefore 62 880 fewer than the CPR had reported says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

### **Official population number: residence analysis adjusted result by -62 880 persons**

The number of main residences from the Central Population Register (CPR) as of 31 October 2021 was 9 031 948. After quality assurance measures by the residence analysis, the population figure was 8 969 068, a reduction by 62 880. The largest share of unrecognised main residences was recorded by the provinces of Vienna with 1.48% and Salzburg with 0.96%, while the provinces of Vorarlberg with 0.31% and Burgenland with 0.24% had the smallest share. The number of Austrian citizens was determined to be at 7 401 924 (see table 1).

### **Official result on population and citizenship has immense importance in Austria**

The official final result on population and citizenship is of central importance in Austria and requires a high degree of accuracy. The number of the resident population serves as a calculation basis for numerous legal norms of the federal and state governments. The best known of these is the fiscal equalisation ("Finanzausgleich") between the federal government, the provinces and the municipalities. The population figure also serves as the starting point for calculating the distribution of political representatives. Once the results of the register census are available, various statistics will be revised, and they will also provide the new basis for projections of the personal and household sample surveys conducted by Statistics Austria.

### **Population increases in metropolitan areas, decreases in peripheral areas**

Since 2011, the largest population increase at provincial level took place in Vienna (+12.4% or +212 733 persons), where more than 1.92 million people lived on 31 October 2021. Vorarlberg (+8.3%) and Tyrol (+7.5%) also experienced above-average growth. The smallest population increase was recorded in Carinthia, with growth of around 8 000 people, an increase of 1.5% compared to 2011 (see table 2).

The provincial capital with the strongest population growth was Eisenstadt (+16.2%), followed by Vienna (+12.4%) and Graz (+11.5%). The strongest population growth outside the provincial capitals was recorded in the districts of Bruck an der Leitha (+14.6%), Wiener Neustadt city (+14.0%), Graz-Umgebung (+11.8%)

and Gänserndorf (+11.6%). The largest population decline was recorded in Upper Styria and the northwestern part of Lower Austria. The biggest decreases were found in the districts of Murau (-6.5%), Leoben (-4.8%), Waidhofen an der Thaya (-4.4%), Zwettl and Gmünd (both -4.3%; see map).

### Population is getting older; average age at 43.2 years

The average age in Austria has risen by 1.4 years since 2011 and was at 43.2 years on 31 October 2021. Between the 2001 and 2011 censuses, this increase still amounted to 2.2 years – thus, the population is still getting older, but not as fast as in the decade before. Men are on average 2.5 years younger than women (see table 3).

### More foreign nationals, Germans are largest immigrant group

The number of persons with foreign citizenship living in Austria has increased by two thirds (+66.7%) to about 1.57 million persons compared to 2011. The share of residents who do not hold Austrian citizenship amounts to 17.4%. The largest group among these persons are German citizens (approx. 213 000), followed by Romanian citizens (approx. 136 000) and Serbian citizens (approx. 122 000). Vienna has the largest share of foreign citizens (31.9%), followed by Vorarlberg (18.7%) and Salzburg (18.3%).

For more information and detailed results on the population according to the Fiscal Equalisation Act, the residency analysis and the demographic characteristics of the register-based census, please refer to our [website](#).

The results of the register-based census on employment, commuting, education, households and families will be published in July 2023.

**Table 1: Official result of the Register-based census on 31 October 2021 incl. non-recognitions by federal state**

Federal province	Population stock 31.10.2021 <sup>1</sup>	Population in the CPR <sup>2</sup>	180 days rule <sup>3</sup>	Cases not counted		Proportion of non-recognised main residences in % <sup>6</sup>	Citizens 2021 <sup>7</sup>
				Technical <sup>4</sup>	Quality assurance measures <sup>5</sup>		
<b>Austria</b>	<b>8 969 068</b>	<b>9 031 948</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-7 933</b>	<b>-54 947</b>	<b>-0,70</b>	<b>7 401 924</b>
Burgenland	297 506	298 228	-23	-120	-579	-0,24	267 845
Carinthia	564 328	566 806	7	-234	-2 251	-0,44	498 333
Lower Austria	1 698 951	1 705 292	-105	-1 414	-4 822	-0,37	1 514 920
Upper Austria	1 504 237	1 509 947	-15	-972	-4 723	-0,38	1 292 229
Salzburg	561 714	567 145	28	-443	-5 016	-0,96	458 598
Styria	1 251 683	1 258 751	-31	-824	-6 213	-0,56	1 098 463
Tyrol	762 652	767 475	9	-522	-4 310	-0,63	633 583
Vorarlberg	401 037	402 301	12	-207	-1 069	-0,31	325 778
Vienna	1 926 960	1 956 003	118	-3 197	-25 964	-1,48	1 312 175

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Register-based census 2021; territorial status 2021.

1) Population stock on 31 October 2021 according to § 7 Register Census Act. – 2) Population stock from the Central population register on 31 October 2021 incl. population stock adjustments and closing of gaps on the reference date: Central population register (CPR); data withdrawal on 31 October 2021, 23.59. Subsequent stock adjustments (registrations and de-registrations up to 30 April 2022) in the CPR that affected the reference date of 31 October 2021. Gap closure: Persons who were not registered with their main residence in Austria on the reference date were counted with their main residence if the registration gap around the reference date was 90 days or less. The person was counted in the municipality where the date of deregistration or registration was closest to the reference date. – 3) Balance from the application of the 180-days rule according to Section 7 (2) of the Register census act. – 4) Includes persons who died before 1 November 2021, but still showed up in the Central population register on the reference date, multiple counts of a person dissolved after the reference date who were still present in the CPR reference date stock as of 31 October 2021, 90-days cases (according to Register Census Act, Section 7 (3)). – 5) Written survey of all persons concerned (according to Section 5 (5) of the Register Census Act). – 6) Calculated from the sum of: balance of the application of the 180-days rule, technical non-recognitions, quality assurance measures measured against the CPR reference date population stock. – 7) Persons with Austrian citizenship.

**Table 2: Population stock on 31 October 2021 compared to 2011 by federal provinces**

Federal province	Population stock		Change in population stock		Foreign citizens on 31 October 2023	
	31 October 2021	31 October 2011	Absolute number	in %	Absolute number	in %
<b>Austria</b>	<b>8 969 068</b>	<b>8 401 940</b>	<b>567 128</b>	<b>6,7</b>	<b>1 567 144</b>	<b>17,5</b>
Burgenland	297 506	285 685	11 821	4,1	29 661	10,0
Carinthia	564 328	556 173	8 155	1,5	65 995	11,7
Lower Austria	1 698 951	1 614 693	84 258	5,2	184 031	10,8
Upper Austria	1 504 237	1 413 762	90 475	6,4	212 008	14,1
Salzburg	561 714	529 066	32 648	6,2	103 116	18,4
Styria	1 251 683	1 208 575	43 108	3,6	153 220	12,2
Tyrol	762 652	709 319	53 333	7,5	129 069	16,9
Vorarlberg	401 037	370 440	30 597	8,3	75 259	18,8
Vienna	1 926 960	1 714 227	212 733	12,4	614 785	31,9

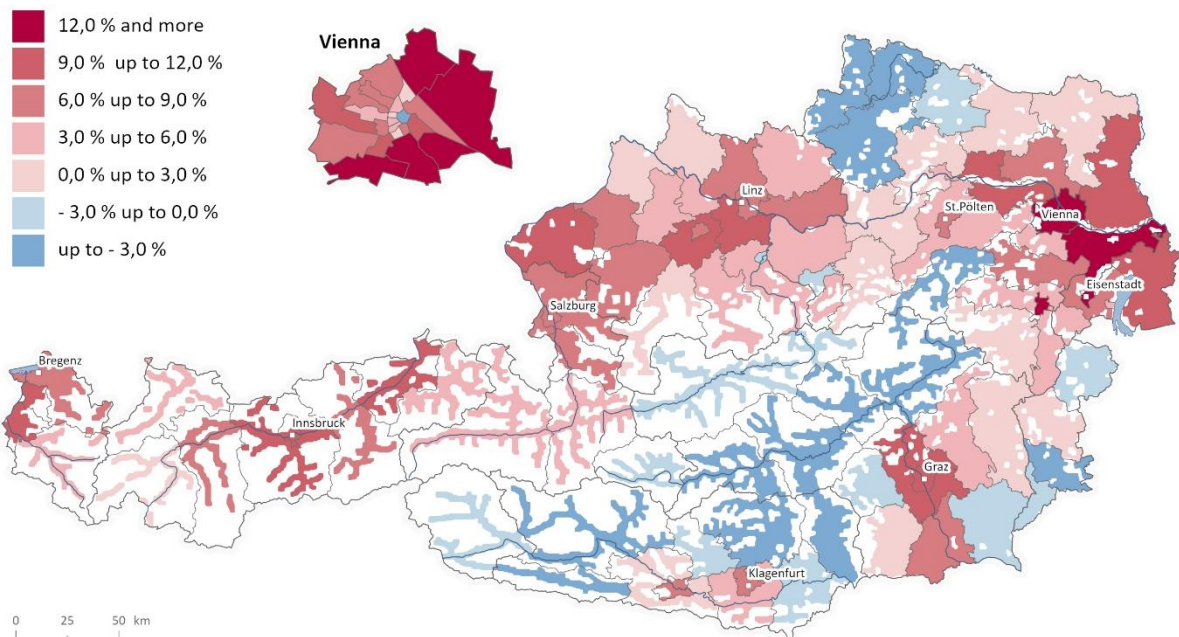
S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Register-based census 2011 and 2021.

**Table 3: Population on 31 October 2021 by age group and sex, including change since 2011**

Age group	Register-based census 2021			Change 2011–2021 in %		
	Austria	Women	Men	Austria	Women	Men
<b>Austria</b>	<b>8 969 068</b>	<b>4 550 167</b>	<b>4 418 901</b>	<b>6,75</b>	<b>5,6</b>	<b>7,9</b>
0–14	1 291 680	627 500	664 180	5,2	4,8	5,6
15–64	5 933 068	2 939 962	2 993 106	4,4	3,5	5,4
65 and older	1 744 320	982 705	761 615	16,9	13,2	22,0
<b>Average age</b>	<b>43,2</b>	<b>44,4</b>	<b>42,0</b>			

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Register-based census 2011 and 2021.

**Population change 2011 to 2021 in %**



S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Register-based census 2011 and 2021.

**Information on methodology, definitions:** The 2021 census (reference date: 31 October 2021) was conducted in Austria for the second time as a register-based census. The aim is to achieve the best possible reflection of the actual circumstances of the population's residence, living and working situation, despite the fact that a primary statistical survey (i.e. a direct questionnaire survey) is largely dispensed with. To this end, the existing registers and administrative data are used in the best possible way and linked with each other according to legal requirements.

Within Europe, the census is currently conducted register-based by 12 countries: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

**Data protection:** Statistics Austria receives and processes fully pseudonymised datasets, according to section 6 (2) Register census act, from different register-keeping authorities. Thanks to the eGovernment act, registers can be linked in absolute compliance with data protection. This is done using the "branch-specific personal identification number for official statistics" (bPIN OS), which is generated by the Data protection commission and does not allow any conclusions to be drawn about individual persons. Data linkage is therefore performed without names using the pseudonym bPIN OS.

**Residence analysis:** Statistics Austria is instructed in the Register census act to carry out a so-called residence analysis as part of data quality assurance (Register census act, Section 5 (4) and (5)). The Central population register (CPR) on the reference date 31 October 2021 serves as the base register. It is checked, which of the persons with a valid main residence in the CPR actually belong to the population as of 31 October 2021. Since data are also available from other administrative registers, confirmations from these registers arise for each person included in the CPR. These entries are counted as "sign of life" of the person. All persons with main residence who are exclusively contained in the Central Population Register and have no other vital signs in other administrative registers are checked within the scope of the residence analysis. Statistics Austria writes to these persons by RSb letter and asks them about their residence status on 31 October 2021. Austria-wide, the written survey covered about 79 000 persons, of whom 54 947 were not counted as having their main residence in Austria. This final population stock serves as the basis for fiscal equalisation in the 2023 fiscal year. The number of Austrian citizens with main residence in the federal territory serves as the basis for calculating the allocation of National Council seats to the constituencies (federal provinces) and regional constituencies.

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

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