

Corrected press release: 13 117145/23

Census 2021: Austria is growing due to immigration and ageing

Trend towards smaller households, more mobility of employed persons

Correction note: Due to an error in the data transmission, some values in the quote as well as in the first paragraph had to be corrected. The corrected values are shown in parentheses.

Vienna, 2023-07-17 – The long-term trends continue: Austria's population is growing, lives in smaller households, has ever higher educational qualifications and is demonstrating mobility in its choice of workplace. These are among other things, final results from the 2021 census, which has been conducted by Statistics Austria as a register-based census.

“While in some other countries, such as Germany, the census is still carried out in the classic way by means of surveys, Austria has since 2011 been one of the countries in which only administrative data is used for this. The register census as a modern form of census leads to significantly lower burdens on citizens. The results of the 2021 register census show: Austria is growing primarily through immigration and is ageing. From 2011 to 2021, the population increased by 6.7% from 8.4 million to almost nine million. At the same time, the proportion of over-65 year olds increased from 15.2% [corr: 17.8%] to 19.4% and the proportion of 15- to 64-year olds fell from 69.4% [corr: 67.6%] to 66.2%. The proportion of under 15-year olds also fell from 15.4% [corr: 14.6%] to 14.4%. The trend towards increasing and ageing population in Austria will continue in the coming years,” explains Tobias Thomas, Director General of Statistics Austria.

Population increases due to immigration and is getting older

On October 31, 2021, 8 969 068 people lived in Austria, an increase of 6.7% compared to the Census 2011. 1 291 680 (14.4%) had an age below 15 years and 19.4% of the population (1 744 320) was 65 years or older. In 2011, the share of the population under the age of 15 was 15.4% [corr: 14.6%] and 15.2% [corr: 17.8%] for the population over 64. The average age of the population was 43.2 years (2011: 41.8 years). The number of persons with a foreign country of birth living in Austria increased to 1 829 824, which corresponds to a share of 20.4%. Looking at the working age population between 15 and 64 years, the share of foreign-born persons in 2021 was one quarter (24.8% respectively 1 472 862 persons). In 2001, the share of the working age population born abroad was 14.4%; by 2011 it had risen to 18.6%.

Trend towards smaller households continues

Since the Census 2011, the number of private households has grown by 10.4%, significantly more than the population in private households (+6.7%). This is in line with the trend towards smaller households of recent decades. In 1961, less than half (46.7%) of the households were inhabited by only one or two persons, this share has grown to more than two-thirds of all private households (68.7%) in 2021. The share of single-person households has doubled between 1961 (19.7%) and 2021 (38.3%). In recent decades the average household size has declined continuously: in 1961 the average occupancy was 3.02 persons, this number decreased to 2.70 persons in 1981 and further to 2.38 persons in 2001. In 2021 the average household size was only 2.19 persons.

Apprenticeship most common formal education qualification

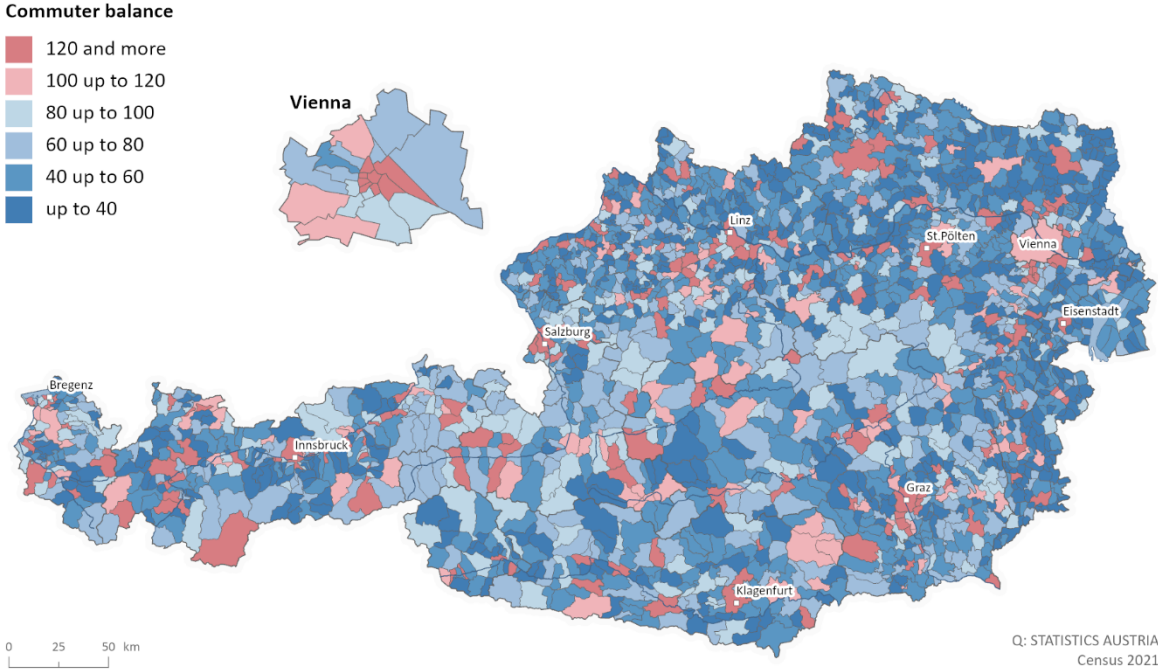
2 370 592 people over the age of 15 (30.9%) in Austria had an apprenticeship diploma (1971: 23.1%). Among the 1 178 348 persons with an academic degree, a majority of 54.1%, were women. In general, the long-

term trend is towards higher formal qualifications. Younger age groups had larger shares of tertiary degrees, with women having significantly larger shares than men in the 20 to 40 age group. Men, on the other hand, had higher shares of secondary qualifications than women, especially in the 50+ age group. Overall, a far greater change in the educational structure can be seen among women than among men over the last 50 years: 27.9% of women have completed just compulsory education in 2021, compared to 73.0% in 1971. At the same time, the proportion of university graduates among women aged 15 and over increased from 1.0% in 1971 to 16.3% in 2021. Among men, the share of persons with a compulsory education decreased from 48.9% (1971) to 20.8% (2021), while at the same time the share of university graduates increased from 3.5% to 14.4%.

About 600 000 employed persons commuted to a different federal province

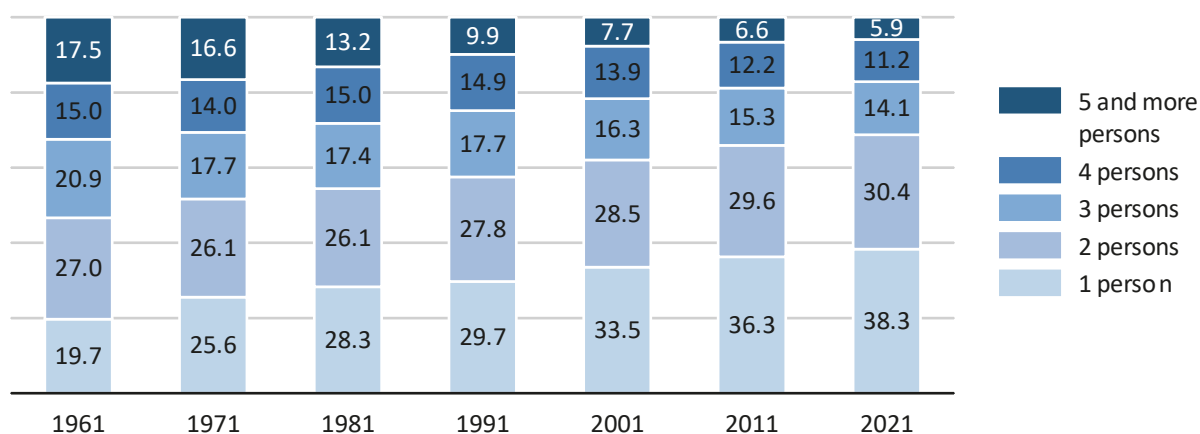
One in seven employed persons in Austria (598 531) leaves the federal province of main residence for work. In particular, Vienna is attractive as a place of work. The federal capital has the largest share of incoming commuters in Austria: 26.7% or 284 795 of the people working in Vienna are incoming commuters, i.e. these people have their main residence in another federal province. Apart from Vienna, Salzburg is the only federal province with a positive commuter balance. Differences between the provinces can also be seen in the distance of road kilometers and the time employed persons commute to work. In Austria, commuters travel an average distance of 27 kilometers to reach their place of work, with employed persons in Vienna covering the shortest distance of around 17 kilometers, while people from Burgenland commute the longest distance to their place of work, an average of 41 kilometers. On average, employed persons in Austria spend 27 minutes on their way to work, with people from Burgenland taking eight minutes longer. Employed persons in Vorarlberg (21 minutes) and Vienna (23 minutes) have the shortest commuting times on average.

Commuter balance 2021



Q: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Census 2021.

Private households by household size, 1961 to 2021 – in percent



S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Censuses 1961 to 2021. From 2001 onwards: household-dwelling-concept, until 1991: housekeeping-unit-concept

Detailed results and further information on the individual topics can be found on our [website](#).

STATatlas: <https://www.statistik.at/atlas>, Atlas of commuters: <https://www.statistik.at/atlas/pendler/>.

Information on methodology, definitions: The 2021 census (reference date: 31 October 2021) covers the Austrian resident population and was conducted for the second time as a register 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, existing registers and administrative data are used in the best possible way and linked with each other according to legal requirements.

Tertiary degrees include degrees from universities, universities of applied sciences, colleges of education, academies and colleges. The category of **secondary degrees** includes people who have graduated from a general or vocational secondary school, a multi-year vocational middle school or completed an apprenticeship.

A routing network based on the Graph Integration Platform (GIP 2021) for motorized private transport was used to calculate the **distance between the place of main residence and the place of work**. The calculations were performed from building to building according to optimized **travel time** based on the road network. Time was calculated for the outbound trip between home and work. For commuters who live and work in the same building, and for commuters abroad, no data are available.

The **commuter balance** only includes commuter flows within Austria. The commuter balance is the ratio of employed persons at the place of work to employed persons at the place of main residence.

Positive balance (values greater than 100): There are more jobs than employed persons living there.

Negative balance (values less than 100): There are fewer jobs than employed persons living there.

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.

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