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More than a quarter of the total Austrian population has a migration background

Statistical Yearbook Migration & Integration 2022

Vienna, 2022-07-25 – According to Statistics Austria, around 2.24 million people (25.4 % of the total population) with a migration background lived in Austria on average in 2021, around 430 000 or 24 % more than seven years ago (2015: 1.81 million).

“Austria’s population is growing solely through immigration; without it, the population would fall back to the level of the 1950s in the long term, according to the population forecast. Since 2015, the share of the population with a migration background has risen continuously from 21.4 % to 25.4 %. Personal contact is a driver of integration: The more often people born in Austria and immigrants have direct contact, the more often they report positive things about living together”, says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

Germans and Romanians are the largest groups of foreigners in Austria

The ranking of the total of 1 587 000 foreigners living in Austria on 1 January 2022 was headed by 217 000 German nationals, followed by 138 000 Romanian citizens, 122 000 Serbian citizens and 118 000 Turkish citizens. In fifth place were the 97 000 citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, just ahead of the 95 000 Croatian and 94 000 Hungarian nationals. They were followed at some distance by 68 000 Syrians and 66 000 Polish nationals. The number of Ukrainian citizens in Austria increased particularly significantly in 2022: While at the beginning of the year 2022 there were about 13 000 Ukrainians living in Austria, on 1 April 2022 there were already almost 53 000.

Frequent contact has a positive influence on the assessment of living together

Within the framework of the integration survey, it was asked, how often people born in Austria and immigrants have contact with each other. It was found that Austrian-born with infrequent or no contact with immigrants perceive living together with migrants as “very good” or “rather good” much less frequently than those with more frequent contact. Specifically, 46 % of people born in Austria with daily contact described living together as “very good” or “rather good”, while only 29 % of those with infrequent or no contact did so.

The same was also true among immigrants. 55 % of respondents born in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia or Türkiye described living together as “very good” or “rather good” if they had daily contact with Austrian-born. If they had contact only rarely or never, the proportion dropped to 43 %. Among those born in Afghanistan, Syria or the Russian Federation, the corresponding proportions were 76 % (daily contact) and 52 % (rarely or no contact).

Social media important for migrants

For the first time, the Integration Survey 2022 also asked about the frequency of use of different types of media as well as the language in which the media were used. Social media play a much greater role for the foreign-born population than for those born in Austria.

While 49 % of Austrian-born used social media daily, 63 % of people born in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia or Türkiye did so, and 76 % of those born in Afghanistan, Syria or the Russian Federation. In contrast, daily television viewing was significantly more common among people born in Austria (77 %) and immigrants

from Bosnia, Serbia or Türkiye (66 %) than among those born in Afghanistan, Syria or the Russian Federation (45 %).

Detailed results and further information can be found on our [website](#). The “[Statistical Yearbook on Migration & Integration 2022](#)” as well as the [presentation for the press conference on 25 July 2022](#) are available in German only.

Table 1: Population with a migration background on annual average 2015 and 2021

Migration background, country of birth	2015 absolute	2015 in % of pop.	2021 absolute	2021 in % of pop.
Population with a migration background	1 812 900	21,4 %	2 240 300	25,4 %
First Generation (born abroad)	1 334 300	15,7 %	1 635 000	18,6 %
Second Generation (born in Austria with both parents born abroad)	478 700	5,6 %	605 300	6,9 %

Q: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Labour Force Survey, annual average of all weeks. – Population in private households.

Table 2: foreign citizens – Top-15-nationalities in Austria 2015 and 2022

Citizenship	01.01.2015	01.01.2022	01.04.2022
Foreign citizens total	1 146 078	1 586 709	1 642 026
thereof: Germany	170 475	216 731	218 347
Romania	73 374	138 408	140 454
Serbia	114 289	121 613	121 643
Türkiye	115 433	117 625	117 944
Bosnia and Hercegovina	92 527	97 347	97 676
Croatia	66 475	95 297	96 759
Hungary	54 939	94 411	94 595
Syria	11 255	68 358	70 901
Poland	54 262	66 090	66 155
Ukraine	8 582	12 673	52 803
Slovakia	32 052	46 707	46 944
Afghanistan	16 779	45 120	45 394
Bulgaria	19 607	35 879	36 335
Italy	22 465	35 696	36 051
Russian Federation	30 032	33 926	34 392

Q: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, population statistics.

Information on methodology, definitions: The Statistical Yearbook on Migration & Integration is published in the present form for the thirteenth time. In addition to current data and facts on the topics of migration and integration, it also contains 25 indicators defined in the National Action Plan for Integration to assess integration processes - from demographic aspects to the socio-economic situation to the topic of security. By including different sources and enriching existing data, it was possible to compile meaningful information across all statistical areas.

The figures on migration background were extrapolated from a sample survey (microcensus). They are therefore subject to statistical fluctuation. For this reason, only rounded results are presented.

Persons with a migration background are those whose parents were both born abroad. Persons with only one parent born in Austria do not have a migration background according to this definition. The country of birth of the mother is decisive for the assignment of the country of origin.

The integration survey was conducted as a random sample survey (stratified random sample) only in online mode and then extrapolated to the population level. The results are therefore subject to statistical fluctuation and are thus only presented in the form of distributions. The samples were drawn according to country

of birth, i.e. among the immigrants, persons born in selected countries were interviewed. Second-generation immigrants, on the other hand, were exclusively included in the sample of those born in Austria. 1 143 persons born in Austria, 981 persons with place of birth in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia or Türkiye and 1 107 persons with roots in Afghanistan, Syria or the Russian Federation were interviewed.

Third countries: All states except EU states, small states associated with the EU, EFTA states and the United Kingdom (UK).

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

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