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# More than a quarter of the population has roots abroad

## Statistical Yearbook Migration & Integration 2023

Vienna, 2023-08-24 – According to Statistics Austria, an average of about 2.35 million persons with migration background lived in Austria in 2022, about 540 000 or 30% more than in 2015 (1.81 million). The proportion of persons whose parents were both born abroad has thus risen to 26.4% of the total population.

“For decades, Austria has been growing primarily through immigration, last year especially due to refugee migration from Ukraine. Without immigration, the number of inhabitants would fall back to the level of the 1950s in the long term. Since 2015, when there was a particularly strong refugee movement to Europe due to international crises, the proportion of the population with a migration background has risen from 21.4% to 26.4%. Many of the immigrants have not only arrived physically: Almost three quarters of them feel they belong to Austria”, says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

### German and Romanian citizens remain the largest groups of foreigners in Austria

The largest group of the 1 729 800 foreigners living in Austria on 1 January 2023 are the 225 700 Germans, followed by 147 500 Romanians and 121 900 Serbian and 119 700 Turkish citizens. Ranked fifth to tenth are citizens of Croatia, Hungary, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Syria, Ukraine and Poland. Since 2015, the largest increases in absolute numbers have been among persons with Romanian (+74 100), Ukrainian (+71 000), Syrian (+70 900) and German citizenship (+54 500).

### Three out of four migrants feel that they belong to Austria

One of the questions asked in the migration survey was about affiliation with Austria. The survey reveals that the majority of migrants have a positive affiliation with Austria. Almost three quarters (74%) of migrants feel a sense of belonging to Austria. At around 80%, the bond is particularly strong among people born in Afghanistan (78%), Bosnia and Herzegovina (80%), Syria (80%) and the Maghreb states (81%). The lowest perceived affiliation with Austria can be found among migrants from Ukraine (54%). As the length of stay increases, the tendency to feel a sense of belonging to Austria strengthens, from 52% (stay of one to less than five years) to 73% (five to 15 years) to 78% (more than 15 years).

### Migrants perceive living together more positively than persons born in Austria

In 2023, around 28% of those born in Austria consider living together with migrants to be “rather good” or “very good”, while around one-third (34%) regards it as “rather bad” or “very bad”. Compared to the previous year, when 25% of those born in Austria were critical of living together, the number of sceptical voices has grown significantly. In contrast, migrants have a much more positive perception of living together with Austrians, with 61% rating it as “rather good” or “very good”. This represents an increase compared to 2022, when 56% of the migrants perceived living together as good. For those born in Austria, the perception of living together is generally related to the frequency of contact. Those who have particularly frequent contact with migrants, tend to have a better perception of coexistence than those who have infrequent or no contact. Among migrants, meanwhile, those who have lived in Austria for a shorter period of time tend to perceive living together as better than those who have been in Austria for a longer period of time.

### Migrants mostly speak their language of origin at home, but use German more frequently with friends

For the first time, the 2023 migration survey also included questions on language use and language skills. 13% of the migrants state that communication at home takes place predominantly in German. One half (51%) communicates at home predominantly in their language of origin, and one third (34%) does so equally in German and in their language of origin. German is used significantly more often by migrants as a language among friends – 23% speak mainly German in this context, and another 47% use their language of origin as well as German. Language use is closely related to German language skills. People born in the North African Maghreb countries, Bosnia and Herzegovina or Serbia are particularly likely to consider their German language skills to be at least good. This proportion is lowest among immigrants from Ukraine, Syria and Türkiye.

Detailed results and further information can be found on our [website](#). The “[Statistical Yearbook on Migration & Integration 2023](#)” as well as the [presentation for the press conference on 24 August 2023](#) are available in German only on our German language [website](#) (under “Publikationen” and “Berichte/Verweise”).

**Table 1: Population with migration background on annual average 2015 and 2022**

Migration background, country of birth	2015 absolute	2015 in % of pop.	2022 absolute	2022 in % of pop.
<b>Population with migration background</b>	<b>1 812 900</b>	<b>21.4%</b>	<b>2 351 800</b>	<b>26.4%</b>
First Generation (born abroad)	1 334 300	15.7%	1 731 300	19.5%
Second Generation (born in Austria with both parents born abroad)	478 700	5.6%	620 600	7.0%

S: 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 2023**

Citizenship	1 January 2015	1 January 2023
<b>Foreign citizens total</b>	<b>1 146 078</b>	<b>1 729 820</b>
including: Germany	170 475	225 012
Romania	73 374	147 490
Serbia	114 289	121 916
Türkiye	115 433	119 706
Croatia	66 475	101 803
Hungary	54 939	99 679
Bosnia and Herzegovina	92 527	98 461
Syria	11 255	82 169
Ukraine	8 582	79 615
Poland	54 262	67 168
Slovakia	32 052	48 477
Afghanistan	16 779	47 373
Bulgaria	19 607	38 469
Italy	22 465	37 718
Russian Federation	30 032	35 586

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Statistics of the Population Status.

**Information on methodology, definitions:** The “Statistical Yearbook for Migration & Integration” has been published since 2008. 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” for assessing integration processes – from demographic aspects to the socioeconomic situation to the topic of security. By including different sources and enriching existing data, it is 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.

People with a **migration background** are those whose parents were both born abroad. Persons who were themselves born abroad are categorised as “first generation”, while descendants born in Austria of parents with a foreign place of birth are assigned to the “second generation”. According to this definition, persons with only one parent born in Austria do not have a migration background. The country of birth of the mother is decisive for the assignment of the country of origin.

The **migration survey** was conducted in 2023 as a random sample survey (stratified random sample) in an online survey and then extrapolated to the population level. The results are therefore subject to statistical fluctuation and therefore only presented in the form of percentages. Persons with selected countries of birth were surveyed. The sample consists of persons with the following countries of birth: Austria (1 166 persons), Bosnia and Herzegovina (422), Serbia (389), Türkiye (380), Afghanistan (542), Maghreb countries (i.e. here Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia; 521), Russian Federation (452), Syria (594), Romania (373), and Ukraine (494). A total of 5 333 people were interviewed for the 2023 migration survey.

Third countries are all countries that are not EU member states or small states associated with the EU or EFTA countries, excluding the United Kingdom (UK).

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

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