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Every sixth employed person wants to work less

Unemployment increased in Q2 2023 compared to previous year

Vienna, 2023-09-07 –In the second quarter of 2023, there were 42 100 more employed persons than in the same quarter of the previous year, according to Statistics Austria's Microcensus Labour Force Survey. One in six (17.3%) of the total of 4 480 900 employed persons wanted shorter weekly working hours. The number of unemployed according to the international definition increased by 26 800 to a total of 224 700 compared to the second quarter of the previous year.

“The economic slowdown also has an impact on the labour market. Although the number of people in employment increased by 42 100 year-on-year to just under 4.5 million in the second quarter of 2023, unemployment rose again at the same time: 224 700 people in Austria were looking for work, 13.5% more than in the same quarter of the previous year. The trend towards more part-time work also continues: Every sixth employed person would like to work less, 15.8% of employed women and 18.7% of men,” says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

Every sixth employed person (17.3%) would like to work less

There were 4 480 900 employed persons aged 15 and older in the second quarter of 2023, which was 42 100 or 0.9% more than in the same quarter a year earlier (see table 1). The employment rate, i.e. the proportion of people aged 15 to 64 in employment, remained unchanged from the previous year at 74.1%. It was 78.0% for men and 70.2% for women.

After all, 17.3% of all employed persons would like to work fewer hours per week, even if this meant accepting a financial loss (see table 2). Significantly fewer people (6.5%) expressed the wish to work more hours. The majority (76.1%) of all employed persons stated that they did not want to change their normal weekly working hours.

Number of unemployed persons rises to 224 700

The number of unemployed persons according to the international definition increased for the second consecutive quarter (year-on-year). As a result, a total of 224 700 unemployed persons were looking for work in the second quarter of 2023, 26 800 or 13.5% more than in the same quarter in 2022.

The non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate thus rose by 0.5 percentage points compared to the same quarter of the previous year to a total of 4.8% (Q2 2022: 4.3%). The increase was slightly stronger for women (+0.7 percentage points) than for men (+0.4 percentage points).

The majority of the unemployed (55.2%) wanted a full-time job (see table 3). There are clear gender differences observable: 70.0% of unemployed men but only 38.4% of women were looking exclusively for full-time work. Part-time work, on the other hand, is primarily sought by women: 38.5% were looking exclusively for a part-time job in Q2 2023.

Table 1: Main results of the labour market statistics (international definition), Q2 2023

Employed and unemployed (ILO concept)	Unit	Q2 2023	Changes compared to... (absolute or in % points)	
			Q1 2023	Q2 2022
Employed (15 years and over)	1 000	4 480.9	60.6	42.1
Employment rate ¹ (15 to 64 years)	%	74.1	0.9	0.0*
Men	%	78.0	1.3	-0.2*
Women	%	70.2	0.4*	0.3*
Unemployed	1 000	224.7	-32.9	26.8*
Unemployment rate ²	%	4.8	-0.7	0.5
Men	%	4.8	-1.3	0.4*
Women	%	4.8	-0.1*	0.7*

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Labour Force Survey (Microcensus) – International definition according to ILO concept.

Non-significant changes are marked with *.

1) Employed persons as a percentage of the population of the respective age group. – 2) Unemployed as a percentage of the labour force (employed and unemployed) aged 15 to 74.

Table 2: Employed persons by desire for more or fewer working hours, Q2 2023

Sex	Employed in 1 000	Desire for fewer/equal/more hours of work		
		fewer hours in %	equal hours in %	more hours in %
Total	4 480.9	17.3	76.1	6.5
Men	2 367.9	18.7	76.5	4.8
Women	2 113.0	15.8	75.7	8.5

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Labour Force Survey (Microcensus) – International definition according to ILO concept.

Table 3: Unemployed persons according to the extent of working time sought, Q2 2023

Sex	Unemployed in 1 000	Only full-time employ- ment sought in %	Full- or part-time em- ployment sought in %	Only part-time em- ployment sought in %
Total	224.7	55.2	21.3	23.5
Men	119.5	70.0	19.7	(10.3)
Women	105.2	38.4	23.0	38.5

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Labour Force Survey (Microcensus) – International definition according to ILO concept. –

() = Values in brackets are highly randomized due to low number of cases.

Detailed results and further information on the labour market of the second quarter of 2023 can be found in the report “Statistik im Fokus – Arbeitsmarktstatistik 2. Quartal 2023, Mikrocensus-Arbeitskräfteerhebung (SB 5.8)” on our [website](#) (available in German only).

Information on methodology, definitions: The European Labour Force Survey (LFS), which takes place in all EU Member States, collects information on employment and job search in a standardised form from randomly selected private households. In Austria, the LFS is conducted as part of the Microcensus – a sample survey in which about 1 500 households are interviewed weekly. These data are extrapolated to the population.

Employed persons: According to the international definition (ILO concept), persons are considered to be employed if they have worked at least one hour in the reference week or if they have not worked due to vacation, illness, etc., but are normally employed. Military and civilian servants are excluded.

Unemployed persons: According to the international definition (ILO concept), persons are considered to be unemployed if they are not employed (see above) and have actively sought work during the reference week

or the three preceding weeks. Also considered as unemployed are persons who already have a job offer and start this job within three months. In addition, they must be able to start work within the next two weeks after the reference week.

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

Labour Force Survey team, ake@statistik.gv.at

Media owner, producer and publisher:

STATISTICS AUSTRIA | Federal Institution under Public Law | Guglgasse 13 | 1110 Vienna | www.statistik.at

Press: phone: +43 1 711 28-7777 | e-mail: presse@statistik.gv.at

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