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Immigration leads to further population growth

Austria surpasses the ten million mark in the mid-2060s

Vienna, 2023-11-22 – Austria’s population will continue to grow and age until 2080, according to the population projection by Statistics Austria. Having already reached the nine million mark in 2022 due to immigration from Ukraine, Austria’s population will grow by 6.6% to 9.7 million by 2040 and by 13.1% to 10.2 million by 2080.

“Austria’s population is growing – and this is solely due to immigration. In 2022, migration from Ukraine led to a significant increase in the population and we expect the population to continue to grow in the future due to migration. Austria will crack the ten million mark by the mid-2060s. However, Austria is also getting older: by 2040, the proportion of people aged 65 and over will rise from the current 19.5% to 26.6% of the total population. That puts funding pressure on pensions and healthcare systems and increases the shortage of skilled workers and labor. Whereas in 1950 there were six people of working age for every person of retirement age, today there are only three and by 2040 there will only be two”, says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

Migration surpluses exceed projected birth deficits

Future population growth is exclusively attributable to expected net migration of around 28 000 to 35 000 people per year in the long term. This would represent a continuation of a long-run trend: Since the turn of the century, Austria’s population has risen primarily due to migration surpluses. In the 2001 census, Austria had a population of just over 8 million for the first time; by 2022, this figure had risen by 12.6% to 9.1 million. Of this increase, only around 1.4% was due to birth surpluses; the majority was due to positive net migration. In the coming years, the number of deaths is also likely to rise above the number of births, as the strong birth cohorts of the baby boom of the 1950s and 1960s increasingly move into older age groups. Despite a negative birth balance, according to the main variant of the population projection, further population growth is projected for the future, as migration gains exceed the losses from the birth deficit.

Strongest population growth in retirement age

The population of the age group 65+ will grow strongly in the future, both in absolute numbers and in relation to the younger population, according to the main variant of the population projection. In 2022, around 1.77 million people aged 65 and over lived in Austria. The number of under 20-year olds was slightly lower at around 1.75 million. In addition to stagnating birth rates, this is due in particular to the strong birth cohorts of the 1950s and 1960s, who are gradually moving into retirement age. By 2040, the population aged 65 and over is likely to be 45.5% (or around 804 000 people) larger than in 2022. At the same time, their share of the population will increase from the current 19.5% to 26.6% by 2040 (see Table 1). The number of people of working age (20 to below 65 years) will reach its provisional maximum of 5.57 million in 2023 and 2024 and will fall below this figure by around 268 000 people (4.8%) by 2037. According to the projection, the number of people of working age will then remain relatively stable at a level of 5.30 million to 5.32 million until 2050, before falling again and reaching a low of 5.21 million in 2063. From then on, the number of 20 to 64-year-olds will rise again, to 5.34 million by 2080. The proportion of under-20-year olds in the population will fall only slightly over the projection horizon (2022: 19.3%; 2040: 18.4%). In absolute terms, the age group under 20 will grow slightly (2022: 1.75 million; 2040: 1.78 million; 2080: 1.92 million).

Labour force stagnates despite population growth

According to the trend variant of the labour force projection, the economically active population, i.e. the sum of employed and unemployed persons, as well as those in military and civilian service, will be only 0.6% higher in 2040 than in 2022, despite population growth of 6.6% (see Table 2). In absolute figures, this represents around 31 000 additional persons in the labour force (2022: 4.71 million; 2040: 4.74 million). From the mid-2040s, the number of people in the labour force will fall, reaching a low of 4.68 million in 2061. The labour force will then rise again to 4.78 million by 2080. If the age- and sex-specific labour force participation rates were to remain constant at the 2022 level, a decline of 2.8% to 4.58 million people in the labour force would be expected by 2040.

Vienna reached two million inhabitants in 2023

The projected population growth of 13.1% for Austria by 2080 will be distributed unevenly across the federal provinces. Due to migration, above-average growth is projected for Vienna. The federal capital accounts for more than a third of international immigration to Austria. According to preliminary results, the population of Vienna exceeded the two million mark by 1 October 2023 – as it last did around 100 years ago. For Carinthia, on the other hand, slight population losses are projected. The number of inhabitants has already fallen behind Salzburg as of 1 April 2023. Salzburg has thus become the sixth-largest federal province in terms of population. In addition to Vienna, up to 2040, above-average population growth is also projected for Vorarlberg and Upper Austria, while the trend in Lower Austria is roughly in line with the national average. Population figures are growing more slowly in the other federal provinces (see Table 3).

For detailed results and further information on the [population](#) and [labour force projections](#) as well as an [interactive population pyramid](#) please refer to our [website](#).

Table 1: Projection of the Austrian population by age (annual averages)

Year	Total population, absolute terms			In percent			
	Total	Under 20 years	20 to 65 years	65 and more years	Under 20 years	20 to 65 years	65 and more years
2022	9 052 856	1 751 019	5 536 287	1 765 550	19,3	61,2	19,5
2025	9 198 644	1 765 890	5 549 419	1 883 335	19,2	60,3	20,5
2030	9 367 379	1 784 832	5 416 993	2 165 554	19,1	57,8	23,1
2040	9 654 080	1 780 419	5 304 127	2 569 534	18,4	54,9	26,6
2050	9 852 951	1 810 573	5 297 001	2 745 377	18,4	53,8	27,9
2060	9 945 083	1 857 170	5 221 043	2 866 870	18,7	52,5	28,8
2070	10 065 663	1 892 366	5 256 460	2 916 837	18,8	52,2	29,0
2080	10 235 200	1 918 442	5 337 792	2 978 966	18,7	52,2	29,1

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Population projection 2023, main variant (rounded results).

Table 2: Labour force projection for Austria by sex, age and projection variant

	Trend variant				Constant variant		
	2022	2040	2060	2080	2040	2060	2080
Men	2 511 675	2 480 864	2 450 299	2 506 037	2 450 912	2 412 789	2 467 665
15 to 34 years	870 779	781 833	793 945	823 344	814 074	828 379	859 264
35 to 54 years	1 150 550	1 177 489	1 119 214	1 139 136	1 174 332	1 116 775	1 136 473
55 and more years	490 347	521 542	537 140	543 557	462 506	467 635	471 928
Women	2 195 439	2 256 759	2 231 141	2 278 272	2 124 464	2 082 831	2 129 178
15 to 34 years	743 195	706 486	718 563	744 202	710 581	722 312	748 223
35 to 54 years	1 084 400	1 100 207	1 060 752	1 077 644	1 073 668	1 033 935	1 050 246
55 and more years	367 845	450 066	451 826	456 426	340 215	326 584	330 709
Total	4 707 115	4 737 623	4 681 440	4 784 309	4 575 376	4 495 620	4 596 843
15 to 34 years	1 613 974	1 488 319	1 512 508	1 567 546	1 524 655	1 550 691	1 607 487
35 to 54 years	2 234 950	2 277 696	2 179 966	2 216 780	2 248 000	2 150 710	2 186 719
55 and more years	858 191	971 608	988 966	999 983	802 721	794 219	802 637

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Labour force projection 2023 (rounded results).

Table 3: Projection of the Austrian population by federal province (annual averages)

Federal province	2022	2025	2030	2040	2050	2060	2070	2080
Burgenland	299 968	303 601	308 048	315 163	317 794	318 035	321 296	327 152
Carinthia	567 196	567 782	566 686	561 522	551 425	537 093	529 267	527 724
Lower Austria	1 711 341	1 733 727	1 764 967	1 821 610	1 868 255	1 895 252	1 932 090	1 982 414
Upper Austria	1 515 781	1 539 113	1 570 592	1 622 361	1 653 891	1 667 834	1 691 422	1 723 582
Salzburg	565 851	573 706	584 053	600 075	609 262	613 054	618 818	628 089
Styria	1 260 016	1 270 238	1 282 250	1 298 055	1 298 756	1 285 304	1 279 759	1 284 499
Tyrol	767 795	778 977	792 856	812 095	821 873	821 191	822 841	829 170
Vorarlberg	404 253	412 104	422 414	440 579	453 627	460 499	466 566	474 908
Vienna	1 960 655	2 019 396	2 075 513	2 182 620	2 278 068	2 346 821	2 403 604	2 457 662
Austria, total	9 052 856	9 198 644	9 367 379	9 654 080	9 852 951	9 945 083	10 065 663	10 235 200

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Population projection 2023, main variant (rounded results).

Information on methodology, definitions:

The **population projection** estimates the population of Austria and its federal provinces by age and sex up to the year 2080. The starting point is the population stock as of 1 January 2023, disaggregated by age, sex, federal province of residence and country of birth (in groups). In addition, assumptions are made about the future development of demographic indicators on fertility, mortality and migration. Starting with the 2022 reporting year, the methodology is changed from the previously used cohort component method to a microsimulation model. In the microsimulation, each person is simulated individually in their demographic processes (births, deaths, migration). The new birth cohorts of a projection year are calculated using age-specific fertility rates (live births by age of the mother). Deaths are derived from age- and sex-specific death probabilities multiplied by population levels. International immigration is given in absolute numbers, respectively by age, sex and country of birth (in groups) or federal province (for those born in Austria). In order to project international emigration, rates at which persons emigrate in a given time interval are estimated, dependent on the duration of stay in Austria (so-called hazard rates). In the long term, 147 350 immigrants are expected to arrive annually. With about 116 350 people emigrating, this results in annual net migration of about 31 000 people. Internal migration between the nine federal provinces of Austria is modeled using age-, sex- and direction-specific emigration rates.

The **labour force projection** is based on an extrapolation of age- and sex-specific employment rates by five-year age groups. Multiplied by the main variant of the current population projection, this results in the projected labour force figures. The underlying labour force participation rates are based on the ILO concept. Accordingly, the classification of people as employed, unemployed and economically inactive is based on the

guidelines of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). A person is considered to be employed if they have worked at least one hour in the reference week, and unemployed if they were not employed in this sense, have currently taken active steps to look for work and could start working at short notice. For the purposes of the labour force projection, persons undertaking military or civilian service are also included. The historical labour force participation rates for Austria are derived from the annual averages of the labour force according to the Labour Force Survey/Microcensus since 2004. The Register-based Labour Market Statistics are used to estimate the labour force in non-private households. The disaggregation by federal province is based on the relative regional differences in labour force participation rates according to the Register-based Labour Market Statistics.

The labour force projection is produced in two variants: a constant variant and a trend variant. The constant variant keeps the age- and sex-specific labour force participation rates constant at the 2022 level. The trend variant takes into account the observed trends in labour force participation since 2004, while also integrating further changes, such as the increase in the labour force participation of women aged 60 to 64 as a result of the increase in the statutory retirement age, into the assumptions. This results in a change in the variant concept compared to previous projection generations, in which a pure trend extrapolation was carried out for the trend variant in most age groups, while the so-called activation variant deterministically increased the labour force participation rates of the trend variant.

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