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Communication and working with digital devices shape everyday work life in Austria

Significant differences between occupational groups

Vienna, 2023-11-22 – The most frequently performed activities in everyday working life include communication and working with digital devices. Hard physical work is performed by less than one in five employed persons in Austria. This is shown by the results of the ad-hoc module 2022 of Statistics Austria’s Microcensus Labour Force on job skills.

“In Austria, internal company communication, working with digital devices and communicating with external persons make up a large part of everyday working life. However, which activities take centre stage depends very much on the occupational group: While 60.0% of the day-to-day work of people working in service and sales is characterised by communication with external people, almost half (48.4%) of the day-to-day work of skilled workers in agriculture and forestry consists of physical work,” says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

Significant differences between occupational groups

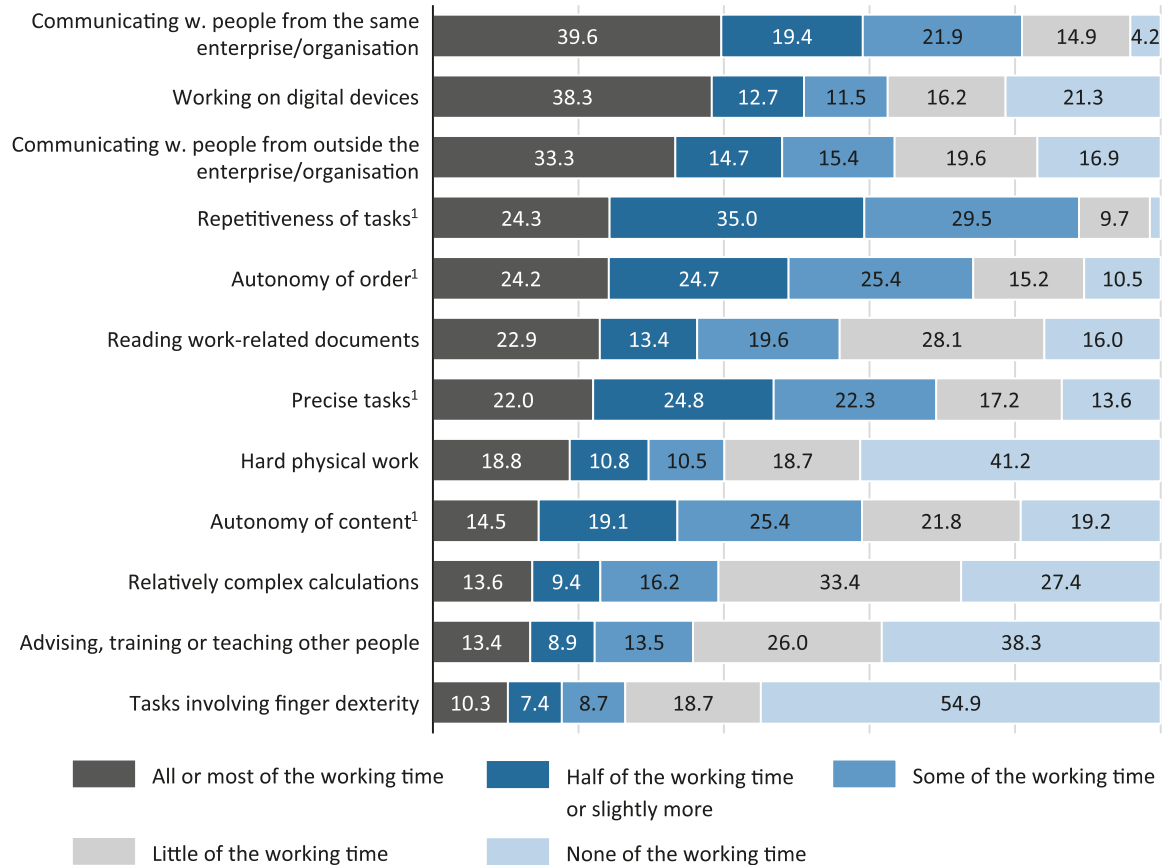
The comparison of activities shows large differences between occupational groups. For example, service and sales professions are characterised by a high proportion of communicating with external persons (60.0%). This activity was just as important in the everyday working life of employees in academic professions (41.5%), such as teachers, business economists, lawyers, but also for people in academic and allied health professions such as nurses. For both managers and professionals, communicating with people in the same company plays an important role in everyday working life. More than half of managers (53.5%) and 41.7% of clerical support workers communicate with people in the same company. However, intensive use of digital devices ranks first among these occupational groups. Three quarters of clerical support workers (75.3%) and about two thirds of managers (64.9%), but also more than half of professionals (54.3%) use digital devices all or most of their working time. On the other hand, skilled agricultural and forestry workers (48.4%) and craft and related trades workers (42.2%) are more likely than average to perform heavy physical work. Again, elementary occupations (48.4%) and plant and machine operators, assemblers (43.7%) are exposed to repetitive tasks with little variation or variety.

Communication with people shapes working life

Communication with people in the same company played an important role in the Austrian labour market. 39.6% always or almost always communicate with colleagues for work purposes either in person, by phone or via video call. However, it is not only communication with colleagues that is essential in everyday working life; communicating with people outside the company is also an important part of the job. A third of employees (33.3%) always or almost always communicate with external people, such as customers, patients or students. Working with digital devices has an equally large influence on everyday working life. Almost four out of ten employees (38.3%) always or almost always use devices such as computers, tablets or smartphones at work. On the other hand, tasks involving finger dexterity such as assembling objects or machines were a determining factor in the daily working lives of only one tenth of the employed (10.3%).

For detailed results and further information on the ad-hoc module on job skills please refer to our [website](#).

Specific activities of employed persons 2022



S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Labour Force Survey (Austrian Microcensus) – Module 2022 “Job Skills”, annual average over all weeks.- Employed persons in the age of 15 to 64 years. – 1) Categories “to a very large extent”, “to a large extent”, “to some extent”, “to little extent”, “to no extent”.

Information on methodology, definitions: The results presented are data from the ad-hoc module 2022 of the European Labour Force Survey (LFS), which was conducted in Austria as part of the Microcensus. The Microcensus is a sample survey that collects information on the labour market situation in Austria in a standardised way from randomly selected private households. For the module 2022, 19 122 persons (net sample) were interviewed. These data were then extrapolated to the whole population.

Target group of the ad-hoc module 2022: All persons aged 15 to 74 who were currently employed or not currently employed but who had left their last job in the previous 24 months were surveyed (excluding compulsory military or civilian service). The presented analysis refers to the working age population (15 to 64 years).

Employed persons according to the international definition: According to the concepts of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), persons are considered to be employed if they have worked at least one hour in the reference week as employees, self-employed persons or unpaid family workers. If they have not worked due to holidays, compensatory time off, part-time work for older employees, other working time arrangements, illness, vocational training or maternity/paternity leave, but are otherwise in work, they are considered to be in employment.

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