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Unemployment continued to rise in Q3 2023

Employment slightly increased compared to the previous year

Vienna, 2023-12-07 – In the third quarter of 2023, the number of people in employment further increased by 41 000 compared to the third quarter of the previous year, as Statistics Austria’s Microcensus Labour Force Survey shows. At the same time, the number of unemployed according to the international definition rose by 25 500 to 247 200.

“The recession is having a noticeable impact on the labour market. Nevertheless, the number of people in employment rose in the third quarter of 2023 compared to the previous year – by 0.9% to just over 4.5 million. However, the increase is solely attributable to the service sector, with the number of people in employment falling in agriculture and industry. Unemployment also rose again in the third quarter: 247 200 people in Austria were looking for work, a full 11.5% more than a year earlier”, says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

41 000 more employed persons than in the third quarter of 2022 ...

In the third quarter of 2023, an average of 4 532 100 people aged 15 and over were in employment (see table). Compared to the third quarter of the previous year, this represents a further increase of 41 000 people in employment (+0.9%) despite the recession. The employment rate, i.e. the proportion of people aged 15 to 64 who are in employment, was 78.9% for men and 70.9% for women (overall: 74.9%).

The gain in employment was solely due to the significant growth of the number of people employed in service occupations (+80 100 or +2.6%). In the economic sectors of agriculture and forestry (–19 800 or –12.3%) and industry (–19 200 or –1.6%), there were declines in the number of people in employment compared to the third quarter of 2022. Construction was particularly affected by the current economic situation.

... but also 25 500 more unemployed

The number of unemployed people according to the international definition increased year-on-year for the third time in a row in the third quarter of 2023. Despite the continuing high number of job vacancies, a total of 247 200 unemployed people were looking for work, 25 500 or 11.5% more than in the same quarter of the previous year.

The unemployment rate thus increased by 0.5 percentage points compared to the same quarter of the previous year to a total of 5.2%. The increase was slightly higher for men (+0.6 percentage points) than for women (+0.3 percentage points). The increase in the unemployment rate according to the ILO definition was also more pronounced for foreign nationals (+1.7 percentage points to 10.4%) than for Austrian nationals (+0.1 percentage points to 3.8%). The unemployment rate has also risen at an above-average rate to 12.8% (+1.4 percentage points) for people with no more than a compulsory school qualification.

Detailed results and further information on the labour market in the third quarter of 2023 can be found in the report “Statistik im Fokus – Arbeitsmarktstatistik 3. Quartal 2023, Mikrozensus-Arbeitskräfteerhebung (SB 5.8)” on our [website](#) (available in German only).

Main results of the labour market statistics (international definition), Q3 2023

Employed and unemployed (ILO ¹ concept)	Unit	Q3 2023	Changes compared to... (absolute or in % points)	
			Q2 2023	Q3 2022
Employed (15 years and over)	1 000	4 532,1	51,2	41,0
Agriculture and forestry ²	1 000	141,9	-1,8*	-19,8*
Industry ²	1 000	1 172,0	13,1*	-19,2*
Services ²	1 000	3 218,3	39,9*	80,1*
Employment rate ³ (15 to 64 years)	%	74,9	0,8	0,2*
Men	%	78,9	1,0	-0,1*
Women	%	70,9	0,6	0,5*
Unemployed	1 000	247,2	22,4	25,5
Unemployment rate ⁴	%	5,2	0,4*	0,5*
Men	%	5,3	0,5*	0,6*
Women	%	5,1	0,3*	0,3*
Austrian nationality	%	3,8	0,2*	0,1*
Foreign nationality	%	10,4	1,1*	1,7*

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Labour Force Survey (Microcensus). – International definition according to ILO concept. – Non-significant changes are marked with *.

1) ILO: International Labour Organization. – 2) Economic sector according to ÖNACE 2008. – 3) Employed persons as a percentage of the population of the respective age group. – 4) Unemployed as a percentage of the labour force (employed and unemployed) aged 15 to 74.

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 45 000 persons are surveyed each quarter. 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:

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