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58.0% of adults took part in education and training activities in 2022/23

Sharp rise in young adults participating in education and training

Vienna, 2024-01-09 – Around six in ten 25 to 64-year-olds in Austria stated in the 2022/23 the Adult Education Survey by Statistics Austria that they had taken part in education and training activities in the twelve months prior to the survey. There was a sharp increase in participation in education and training among 18 to 24-year-olds, who were surveyed again for the first time since 2011/12.

58.0% of the Austrian working-age population (25 to 64 years) took part in **formal** (education in regular school and higher education) or **non-formal** educational activities (further education in courses, seminars, workshops, lectures, training at the workplace or in private lessons) in 2022/23. This is a slight decrease of 1.9 percentage points compared to the 2016/17 survey, but a significant increase of 9.8 percentage points compared to the 2011/12 survey.

The participation rate for men fell from 61.1% (2016/17) to 57.5% (2022/23), while it remained almost constant for women (2016/17: 58.8%; 2022/23: 58.5%).

A more nuanced picture emerges according to age group: While the participation rate for 25- to 34-year-olds remained stable at 69.1% (2022/23) compared to 2016/17 at 69.3%, there was a significant drop of 5.4 percentage points for 35- to 44-year-olds (2016/17: 67.5%; 2022/23: 62.1%) The participation rate for 45- to 54-year-olds also fell by around 2 percentage points (2016/17: 60.7%; 2022/23: 58.7%). Although the 55 to 64 age group continues to be the group with the lowest participation rate of 43.4% (2022/23), the proportion of people in this age group who are active in education and training has risen by 2.1 percentage points (2016/17: 41.3%).

The proportion of people who took part in **formal education activities** in the last twelve months before the survey increased slightly from 6.2% (2016/17) to 7.0% (2022/23). In contrast, participation in **non-formal education activities** decreased by 2.9 percentage points (2016/17: 58.4%; 2022/23: 55.5%).

Training and further education activity increases with the level educational qualification

Only one in four people (27.0%) with a compulsory school-leaving certificate took part in formal or non-formal education and training in 2022/23. This group continues to have the lowest participation rate in education and training. The participation rate of people who have completed an apprenticeship was 50.2% in 2022/23, that of graduates of schools for intermediate vocational education (BMS) 61.0% and that of people with general higher education entrance qualification 68.6%. Graduates of Universities, Universities of Applied Sciences or higher education-related courses continue to form the group with the highest participation in education, with eight out of ten (78.8%) classified as active in education and training. Compared to the last survey in 2016/17, there was a decline in all groups (see Table 1).

Participation in education and training based on the Adult Education Surveys (AES)2011/12, 2016/17 and 2022/23

Characteristics	AES 2011/12		AES 2016/17		AES 2022/23	
	in 1 000	in %	in 1 000	In %	in 1 000	In %
Total	2 256.4	48.2	2 895.2	59.9	2 907.6	58.0
Sex						
Men	1 135.8	48.7	1 473.4	61.1	1 442.1	57.5
Women	1 120.7	47.6	1 421.8	58.8	1 465.5	58.5
Alter						
25 to 34 years	604.3	55.4	817.7	69.3	837.5	69.1
35 to 44 years	634.8	51.3	773.1	67.5	758.1	62.1
45 to 54 years	657.7	48.8	841.9	60.7	734.2	58.7
55 to 64 years	359.6	35.7	462.5	41.3	577.8	43.4
Highest level of completed school education						
Compulsory schools	182.8	25.3	212.1	30.9	185.1	27.0
Vocational schools for apprentices	747.3	40.3	958.7	53.0	846.6	50.2
School for intermediate vocational education (BMS)	341.9	53.3	396.3	62.8	367.8	61.0
Colleges for higher education (AHS/BHS)	432.7	59.2	583.6	70.9	608.6	68.6
University, university of applied sciences, university-related training	551.7	75.1	744.5	84.3	897.9	78.4
Employment status						
Employed	1 849.5	54.2	2 385.4	68.2	2 369.3	65.7
Unemployed	85.4	42.5	157.6	47.7	124.8	45.1
Outside of the labour market	321.6	30.0	352.2	35.1	413.5	36.7

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Adult Education Survey 2011/12 (AES), Adult Education Survey 2016/17 (AES) and Adult Education Survey 2022/23 (AES). Extrapolated figures for the 25-64-year-old population.

High increase in participation in education among young adults

Young adults aged 18 to 24 were surveyed again in the 2022/23 survey. The latest comparative data from the 2011/12 survey shows a sharp increase in participation rates in all forms of educational activities: The participation rate in **formal educational activities** has risen sharply from 32.4% (2011/12) to 54.5% (2022/23). The proportion of young adults who took part in **non-formal educational activities** also recorded a significant increase of 13.6 percentage points overall (2011/12: 43.0%; 2022/23: 56.6%). Compared to 2011/12, three times as many people report **informal learning activities** (learning that is not institutionalized and not very structured, but happens consciously. Informal learning can take place anywhere) (2011/12: 28.6%; 2022/23: 86.2%).

For detailed results and further information please refer to our [website](#).

Information on methods, definitions:

In Austria, the Adult Education Survey (AES) 2022/23 was conducted from October 2022 to March 2023. The reporting period for education and learning activities is the last twelve months prior to the survey. The comparable predecessor survey AES 2016/17 was conducted from October 2016 to March 2017.

Education and training includes both formal and non-formal educational activities.

Formal education activities: Training in the regular school and university system (examples: Apprenticeship, health and nursing school, AHS, university, college).

Non-formal education activities: Organised learning activities that take place in an institutionalised setting and do not count as formal education. These include courses, seminars, workshops, lectures, workplace training and private lessons. These can be attended for professional or private purposes.

Informal learning: Process that is consciously and not casually pursued for the purpose of learning. Informal learning activities are not institutionalized, are less structured and can take place almost anywhere. Examples of this are Learning from family members, colleagues and friends, reading books or professional journals, learning with the help of electronic devices such as televisions, computers or cell phones.

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