

Press release: 13 252-018/24

Number of deaths decreased in 2023 for the first time since 2020

Life expectancy increased for men and women

Vienna, 2024-01-29 – So far, 88 321 deaths have been reported for 2023. According to Statistics Austria, based on preliminary results, this is the first decline since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic. Life expectancy for men increased in 2023 by 0.32 years, for women it increased by 0.42 years.

„88 321 people died in Austria in 2023. After the sharp rise in deaths in the coronavirus years, this is the first time that the number has fallen again. Nevertheless, the number of deaths is still above average, even when the ageing population is taken into account. Women’s life expectancy in 2023 is 84.20 years and thus reached the level from before the pandemic, while men’s life expectancy of 79.37 years is still slightly lower than before Corona“, says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

Number of deaths decreased but remains on high level

Since the beginning of the Corona pandemic in 2020, the number of deaths increased every year (2019: 83 386, 2020: 91 599, 2021: 91 962, 2022: 93 332). Based on the preliminary results available for 2023, deaths decreased for the first time with approximately 5 000 fewer people dying than in 2022 (–5.4%). Still, the number of deaths remains relatively high: Compared to the average of the five years before the pandemic (2015 to 2019), 6.6% more people died in 2023. However, considering the increased population and changes in the age structure, an increase of deaths would have been expected even without the Corona pandemic. Within the population projection calculated by Statistics Austria in autumn 2019 – before the start of the pandemic – a total of 86 104 deaths was projected for 2023 according to the main variant. This figure has now been exceeded by 2.6%. The final number of deaths in 2023 will be somewhat higher, since the available data do not yet include deaths of the Austrian population that occurred abroad and registry offices might report a few more deaths from the previous year. According to experience of recent years this will amount to an additional 1 500 to 2 000 deaths. The final number will therefore probably be around 90 000 deaths in 2023.

Life expectancy of women 2023 reached level of before the pandemic

The available data now also allow a first preliminary estimate of life expectancy in 2023, which is 84.20 years for women and 79.37 years for men. Compared to 2022, this is an increase for both (+0.42 years for women, +0.32 years for men). The decrease of life expectancy acquired during the years of the pandemic was thus almost compensated for women, while men’s life expectancy is still 0.17 years below the level of before the pandemic (life expectancy 2019: women 84.21 years, men 79.54 years).

Number of deaths particularly high in the first and last weeks of 2023

Preliminary results by individual calendar weeks (cw) show that the first weeks of 2023 had the highest numbers of deaths (cw 1 from 1 to 8 January 2023: 2 365 deaths, cw 2 from 9 to 15 January 2023: 2 123 deaths). The only other week with more than 2 000 deaths in 2023 was cw 51 (from 18 to 24 December 2023) with 2 066 deaths. There were fewer deaths during the warm season. With 1 407 and 1 408 deaths, cw 35 (28 August to 3 September 2023) and cw 26 (26 June to 2 July 2023) had the lowest numbers of deaths.

Further information on [deaths](#) including results for individual calendar weeks and age-standardised death rates can be found on our website, including an interactive web application – [the Atlas of Deaths](#) – which graphically illustrates trends and regional distribution. Detailed results can be found in Statistics Austria’s [open data repository](#).

Table 1: Deaths by federal provinces 2023 in comparison to the population projection

Federal state	Deaths (absolute)				Deviation of number of deaths in 2022 (preliminary) compared to ...		
	2023 (preliminary)	Expected for 2023 (main variant projection 2019)	2022 (final)	Average 2015–2019 (final)	Expected for 2023 (main variant projection 2019)	2022 (final)	Average 2015–2019 (final)
Austria	88 321	86 104	93 332	82 875	2.6	-5.4	6.6
Burgenland	3 436	3 494	3 675	3 315	-1.7	-6.5	3.7
Carinthia	6 415	6 323	6 773	6 045	1.5	-5.3	6.1
Lower Austria	18 945	18 135	19 486	17 311	4.5	-2.8	9.4
Upper Austria	14 573	14 002	15 233	13 474	4.1	-4.3	8.2
Salzburg	5 070	4 892	5 333	4 608	3.6	-4.9	10.0
Styria	13 431	12 815	14 176	12 650	4.8	-5.3	6.2
Tyrol	6 560	6 567	6 959	6 033	-0.1	-5.7	8.7
Vorarlberg	3 227	3 335	3 656	3 035	-3.2	-11.7	6.3
Vienna	16 664	16 541	18 041	16 404	0.7	-7.6	1.6

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Vital Statistics, Population Projection 2019.

Table 2: Life expectancy 2014 to 2023¹ by sex

Year	Men	Women
2023 ¹	79.37	84.20
2022	79.05	83.78
2021	78.80	83.76
2020	78.94	83.74
2019	79.54	84.21
2018	79.29	84.01
2017	79.27	83.89
2016	79.14	83.95
2015	78.63	83.59
2014	78.91	83.74

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Demographic Indicators – 1) Estimates based on preliminary results.

Information on methodology, definitions: Vital statistics, including the **number of deaths**, are based on entries in the Central Civil Status Register (ZPR). Statistics Austria processes all reports on deaths provided by the civil status authorities. The analyses presented here are based on preliminary results and do not include deaths of members of the Austrian resident population that occurred abroad. Further, deaths of persons living abroad are not included.

The **life expectancy** at birth calculated for a calendar year indicates how many years a newborn child would live on average if the age-specific mortality rates observed in the calendar year would not change in the future. The estimation of life expectancy in 2023 takes into account the expected effect of not yet entered late registrations of deaths and persons who died abroad, therefore the results are comparable with previous years.

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

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