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Naturalisations in 2023 decreased by 3.2% Plus 9.2% for naturalised citizens residing in Austria

Vienna, 2024-02-15 – In 2023, Austrian citizenship was granted to 19 939 persons, including 8 041 (40.3%) persons living abroad, as Statistics Austria reports. There were 3.2% fewer naturalisations in total than last year (20 606 naturalisations).

“The trend of rising naturalisation figures did not continue in 2023. 19 939 people obtained an Austrian passport in 2023. This is 3.2% fewer than in 2022. The decline is mainly due to the fact that naturalisations of victims of National Socialism and their descendants fell by 17.7% to 7 975,” says Tobias Thomas, Director General of Statistics Austria.

The **provisional naturalisation rate**, i.e. the ratio of naturalisations to the number of non-Austrian citizens living in Austria based on provisional population figures, is 0.7% for 2023. This is the same as the rate in 2022.

In 2023, 7 975 people were naturalised as persons politically persecuted under National Socialism or their descendants (§58c StbG). Of these, 7 955 people or 98.9% **lived abroad**. The list of persons naturalised under §58c StbG in 2023 was headed by nationals of the following three countries: Israel (4 255 or 21.3% of all naturalised persons in 2023), the United States (1 620) and the United Kingdom (1 094).

Compared to 2022, naturalisations of persons **residing in Austria** saw an increase of 9.2% to 11 898 persons. One fifth of the people naturalised in 2023 were **born in Austria** (3 836 or 19.2%). Every second naturalised person was a **woman** (50.3%), a third were **minors** under 18 years of age (32.7%). 4 597 people or 38.6% of naturalised citizens residing in Austria were previously citizens of one of the following four countries: Syria (1 865 or 15.7% of all naturalised persons residing in Austria in 2023), Türkiye (1 141), Bosnia and Herzegovina (803) and Afghanistan (788).

In seven **federal provinces**, more people were naturalised in the year 2023 than in the previous year. The relative increases were highest in Burgenland (+44.9% to 297 naturalisations), followed by Styria (+43.8% to 1 309), Upper Austria (+36.1% to 1 808), Lower Austria (+33.4% to 2 031), Tyrol (+18.6% to 913), Salzburg (+8.8% to 530) and Vorarlberg (+4.6% to 677). Fewer naturalisations compared to the year 2022 were reported in Carinthia (-21.4% to 434) and Vienna (-12.9% to 3 899).

More than three quarters of all naturalisations in 2023 were based on a **legal entitlement** (15 304 people or 76.8%). Of these, 5 822 people were naturalised after at least six years of residence in Austria and for reasons worthy of particular consideration (e.g. proven knowledge of German and sustainable integration, birth in Austria, EEA citizenship or entitlement to asylum – §11a, para. 4, para. 6 and para. 7), 21 were politically persecuted persons and 7 954 descendants of politically persecuted persons (§58c, para. 1 to para. 6), 670 were naturalised on the basis of marriage to an Austrian citizen (§11a, para. 1 and para. 2) and 430 on the basis of at least 15 years of residence in Austria and sustainable integration (§12, para. 1, line 1). Another 1 002 persons were granted citizenship on a **discretionary** basis (5.0%), including 940 persons after at least ten years of residence (Art. 10, para. 1). Under the title of **extension of conferral**, a total of 3 633 persons or 18.2% were naturalised, of whom 521 spouses (§16) and 3 112 children (§17).

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

Naturalisations in 2023 by country of birth, age, gender, legal ground and place of residence

Place of residence	2023	Change 2022 – 2023 in %	Of which:			Legal ground ¹			Q4 2023	Change Q4 2022 – Q4 2023 in %
			born in Austria	under 18 years	women	discretion	entitlement	extension		
Austria incl. abroad	19 939	-3.2	3 836	6 529	10 025	1 002	15 304	3 633	8 906	-5.8
Austria	11 898	9.2	3 791	4 100	6 043	992	7 277	3 629	3 479	25.8
Burgenland	297	44.9	67	96	169	22	184	91	150	78.6
Carinthia	434	-21.4	146	135	222	35	288	111	119	-10.5
Lower Austria	2 031	33.4	597	719	1 021	192	1 185	654	574	49.1
Upper Austria	1 808	36.1	645	700	874	182	1 047	579	564	68.4
Salzburg	530	8.8	205	187	258	55	290	185	169	57.9
Styria	1 309	43.8	423	468	691	157	775	377	404	137.6
Tyrol	913	18.6	327	333	425	97	539	277	269	94.9
Vorarlberg	677	4.6	239	228	339	34	428	215	190	-14.0
Vienna	3 899	-12.9	1 142	1 234	2 044	218	2 541	1 140	1 040	-12.8
Abroad	8 041	-17.2	45	2 429	3 982	10	8 027	4	5 427	-18.9

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Statistics on Naturalisations. Preliminary results.

1) Paragraph of the StbG 1985 as amended; discretion: §10 – entitlement: §§ 11a, 12-14, 25, 57, 58c, 64a – extension: §§ 16, 17. All paragraphs are only applied if all other requirements for naturalisation are met.

Table 2: Naturalisations in 2023 by country of birth, place of residence, age and previous citizenship

Previous citizenship	Naturalisations absolute				Naturalisations in %			
	total	thereof:			total	thereof:		
		born in Austria	residing abroad	under 18 years		born in Austria	residing abroad	under 18 years
Total	19 939	3 836	8 041	6 529	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
EU states	1 785	500	104	629	9.0	13.0	1.3	9.6
other European countries (incl. Türkiye)	5 531	1 951	1 147	1 878	27.7	50.9	14.3	28.8
thereof:								
Türkiye	1 142	664	1	418	5.7	17.3	0.0	6.4
United Kingdom	1 123	17	1 088	284	5.6	0.4	13.5	4.3
Bosnia and Herzegovina	803	340	-	257	4.0	8.9	-	3.9
Serbia	535	280	6	211	2.7	7.3	0.1	3.2
Africa	871	299	24	328	4.4	7.8	0.3	5.0
America	2 483	41	2 285	590	12.5	1.1	28.4	9.0
thereof:								
United States	1 637	15	1 621	389	8.2	0.4	20.2	6.0
Asia	8 894	1 008	4 267	3 012	44.6	26.3	53.1	46.1
thereof:								
Israel	4 270	11	4 258	1 479	21.4	0.3	53.0	22.7
Syria - Arab Republic	1 866	396	1	737	9.4	10.3	0.0	11.3
Afghanistan	788	177	-	232	4.0	4.6	-	3.6
other non-European countries, unknown	375	37	214	92	1.9	1.0	2.7	1.4

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Statistics on Naturalisations.

Information on methodology, definitions: The statistics on naturalisations are based on the information from the legally binding decisions of the offices of the provincial governments of Austria on the granting of citizenship and are carried out on behalf of the Federal Ministry of the Interior. The statistics on naturalisations document all types of acquisition of citizenship under the Naturalisation Act 1985, as amended (sections 10 to 17, 25, 57, 58c and 64a), which are effected by a declaration of intent by the acquirer and a subsequent official act, but not automatic types of acquisition such as birth or legitimation of an illegitimate child. The naturalisation statistics include both naturalisations of persons residing in Austria and of persons residing abroad.

In the case of naturalisations pursuant to §58c (politically persecuted persons and their descendants), the statistical effective date of naturalisation is the effective date of the decision and not the date of receipt of the notification by the authorities. These naturalisations mainly concern persons residing abroad.

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

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