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Fewer babies and fewer deaths in 2023

Balance of births remains negative: 11 448 fewer births than deaths

Vienna, 2024-02-20 – According to preliminary results from Statistics Austria, 77 296 children were born in Austria in 2023, 6.5% fewer than in 2022. 88 744 people died in the same period, 4.9% fewer than in the previous year. Thus, the preliminary balance of births and deaths remained negative in 2023 at –11 448 (2022: –10 705).

“In 2023, 6.5% fewer children were born in Austria than in the previous year, and 10.2% fewer than the average for the pre-pandemic years 2015 to 2019. There were 77 296 newborns and 88 744 deaths, meaning that 11 448 fewer people were born than died in 2023. Thus, Austria has a birth deficit for the fourth time in a row,” says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

The preliminary number of **deaths** in 2023 was 7.1% higher than the five-year average before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic (2015 to 2019). However, taking into account the increased population and changes in the age structure, slightly more deaths would have been expected in 2023 than in the years 2015 to 2019, even without the pandemic. In the main variant of the population projection issued by Statistics Austria in the fall of 2019 – i.e., before the start of the pandemic – a total of 85 720 deaths was projected for 2023. This figure has now been exceeded by 3.5%. The final number of deaths in 2023 will be slightly higher, as a few late registrations as well as some of the deaths of the Austrian population abroad are not yet included in the preliminary data. Experience in recent years has shown that an additional 1 000 to 1 500 deaths can be expected. The final number of deaths in 2023 will therefore be around 90 000.

Regionally, the decline in deaths in 2023 compared to the previous year was highest in Vorarlberg (–10.3%) and lowest in Lower Austria (–2.5%).

The preliminary number of **births** in 2023 was 10.2% below the five-year average before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic (2015 to 2019). It was also 10.1% below the total of 85 990 births predicted for 2023 in the main variant of the population projection by Statistics Austria before the start of the pandemic. Significantly fewer late registrations are expected for births than for deaths. The final figure is expected to be around 300 to 500 newborns higher.

Compared to 2022, there was a significant decline in births in all federal provinces. This was most pronounced in Tyrol at –9.2%, followed by Upper Austria and Burgenland at –7.8% each. The number of newborns fell least sharply in Styria and Vorarlberg (–3.3% each).

The preliminary **balance of live births and deaths** in 2023 was positive in three federal provinces, most strongly in Vienna with +1 226. In six federal provinces, however, there were fewer newborns than deaths in 2023, led by Lower Austria (–5 518), Styria (–3 138) and Carinthia (–2 242).

Detailed results and further information on [births](#) and [deaths](#) can be found on our website.

Preliminary results of natural population movement by federal state in 2023

Federal province	Births		Deaths		Balance of births and deaths	Crude birth rate in ‰	Crude death rate in ‰	Infant deaths	Infant mortality rate ²
	total ¹	change 2022–2023 in %	total ¹	change 2022–2023 in %					
Austria	77 296	-6,5	88 744	-4,9	-11 448	8,5	9,7	233	3,0
Burgenland	1 975	-7,8	3 442	-6,3	-1 467	6,5	11,4	6	3,0
Carinthia	4 201	-5,9	6 443	-4,9	-2 242	7,4	11,3	6	1,4
Lower Austria	13 484	-7,0	19 002	-2,5	-5 518	7,8	11,0	32	2,4
Upper Austria	13 637	-7,8	14 675	-3,7	-1 038	8,9	9,6	37	2,7
Salzburg	5 085	-6,7	5 105	-4,3	-20	8,9	9,0	10	2,0
Styria	10 339	-3,3	13 477	-4,9	-3 138	8,2	10,6	29	2,8
Tyrol	6 741	-9,2	6 592	-5,3	149	8,7	8,5	16	2,4
Vorarlberg	3 878	-3,3	3 278	-10,3	600	9,5	8,0	10	2,6
Vienna	17 956	-6,2	16 730	-7,3	1 226	9,0	8,4	87	4,8

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1) Including 455 births abroad to mothers with main residence in Austria and 762 deaths of persons with main residence in Austria.

– 2) Per 1 000 live births.

Information on methodology, definitions: Births and deaths also include events taking place abroad of persons with their main residence in Austria, if these have already been reported. Births and deaths in Austria of persons residing abroad are not included.

The regional assignment of the published data is based on the place of residence of the mother in the case of births and on the last place of residence in the case of deaths.

The **infant mortality rate** refers to those who died in the first year of life per 1 000 live births.

Preliminary results for 2023 include all information submitted by 5 February 2024. The preliminary figure of 88 321 deaths published on 29 January 2024 included death reports submitted through 23 January 2024.

Birth and death rates refer to a preliminary population averaged over the year 2023, formed from the final population on 1 January 2023 and the preliminary population on 1 January 2024.

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

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