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# Around one fifth of all families with children are single-parent families

## A total of 2.5 million families in Austria in 2023, including 1.4 million with children

Vienna, 2024-03-19 – In 2023, there were 2 510 000 families in Austria, including 1 417 000 with children (56.4%), according to calculations by Statistics Austria based on the Micro-census Labour Force Survey. Around one in five families with children was a single-parent family (21.3%). Following a decline during the COVID-19 pandemic, this proportion has risen and was recently close to the 2019 level again.

“Family life in Austria has changed significantly since the mid-1980s. In 2023, 1.4 million families with one or more children lived in a joint household in Austria. Around two thirds of these were married couples with children. In 1985, the proportion of married couples with one or more children in a joint household was 78.8%. At the same time, the proportion of unmarried couples with one or more children in the same household has increased significantly, from 1.9% in the mid-1980s to 13.2% today. The proportion of single-parent families among all families with children in the same household rose from 19.2% to 21.3% in the same period,” says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

Of the 2 510 000 families that lived in Austria in 2023, 2 208 000 or 88.0% were couple families. This included 1 766 000 married couples (70.4%) and 441 000 consensual unions (17.6%). In 302 000 families (12.0%) there was a single parent. The majority of these were single mothers (10.0%). Single fathers were much less common (2.0% of all families).

### Proportion of lone parents rises again after pandemic decline

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of lone parent families fell from 299 000 in 2019 to 270 000 in 2021 (–29 000). At the same time, the number of couple families with children rose from 1 092 000 in 2019 to 1 119 000 in 2021, meaning that the share of single-parent families among all families with children fell from 21.5% in 2019 to 19.4% in 2021. In 2022 and 2023, the number of lone parent families increased again, so that the share of single-parent families among all families with children in 2023 was 21.3% and thus close to the pre-pandemic level (2019: 21.5%).

### Changing forms of family life

For many people, the term family conjures up the image of a couple with one or more children. However, if married couples and consensual unions with at least one child in the same household are combined, only 44.4% or 1 115 000 of the 2 510 000 families corresponded to this image in 2023. Although this family type is still just about the most common, the proportion of couple families with children is declining overall: in 1985 it was 55.1% and in 2000 it was 50.0%.

There is an opposite trend for couples living without (or again without) children in the household. In 1985, their share among all families was 31.7%, in 2000 it was 37.2% and in 2023, at around 43.6%, their share was only slightly lower than that of couples with at least one child in the household. Single parents and their children accounted for 12.0% of all families in 2023 (1985: 13.1%, 2000: 12.8%).

Consensual unions have become significantly more important over time: While their share among all couple families was 4.1% in 1985, it was 10.8% in 2000 and 20.0% in 2023.

For detailed results and further information on families, households and living arrangements please refer to our [website](#).

### Families 1985 to 2023 – in thousands

	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2023
<b>All families</b>	2 052	2 114	2 223	2 265	2 291	2 333	2 389	2 460	2 510
Without children in the household	651	690	767	842	881	932	998	1 063	1 093
With children in the household	1 400	1 423	1 456	1 423	1 409	1 401	1 391	1 397	1 417
<b>All couples</b>	1 783	1 841	1 937	1 975	1 985	2 028	2 093	2 171	2 208
Without children in the household	651	690	767	842	881	932	998	1 063	1 093
With children in the household	1 131	1 151	1 170	1 133	1 104	1 095	1 094	1 108	1 115
<b>Married couples</b>	1 710	1 755	1 768	1 762	1 692	1 693	1 713	1 751	1 766
Without children in the household	606	633	667	717	722	743	782	828	840
With children in the household	1 104	1 122	1 101	1 045	971	951	931	923	927
<b>Consensual unions</b>	73	86	169	213	293	334	379	420	441
Without children in the household	45	57	100	124	160	190	216	236	253
With children in the household	27	29	69	89	133	145	163	185	188
<b>Lone parent families</b>	269	273	286	290	306	306	296	288	302
<b>Lone mother families</b>	235	236	251	252	259	264	251	242	252
<b>Lone father families</b>	34	37	36	37	46	42	45	47	50

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, until 2003 Microcensus, average of the surveys in March, June, September and December; from 2004 Microcensus Labour Force Survey, annual average over all weeks. – The definition of family used here corresponds to the nuclear family concept (see Information on methodology, definitions). – Compiled on 19 March 2024.

**Information on methodology, definitions:** Married couples and consensual unions with or without children (living in the same household) as well as single-parent families constitute a (nuclear) family in the sense of the family statistics. In the definition of family statistics, children are all biological, step- or adopted children living with their parents or one parent in the same household, who do not have their own partner in the household and do not yet have children themselves – regardless of their age.

The results presented here are data from the Microcensus Labor Force Survey. The Microcensus is a sample survey of private households that interviews approximately 1 500 households each week. The population in institutional households is not part of the Microcensus Labour Force Survey.

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

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