

Press release: 13 337-103/24

Low educational mobility between generations

Early educational decisions influence the entire educational career

Vienna, 2024-05-21 – The level of formal education in Austria is rising, according to “Education in Figures 2022/23” by Statistics Austria. The current publication also shows that educational opportunities in Austria continue to be “inherited” to a not inconsiderable extent and that early educational decisions are decisive for the entire educational career.

“Education pays off – with a higher degree, the chances of employment in the labour market increase and the pay is higher. Educational mobility between generations is only weakly developed in Austria. The education that children and young people receive still depends heavily on their social background – and the course for their educational career is set early on. For example, nine out of ten pupils attend schools leading to the Matura after completing the lower cycle of an academic secondary school, but only four out of ten after completing compulsory secondary school,” says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

Detailed results and further information on education statistics can be found in the publication “Education in Figures 2022/23”, in the accompanying volume of tables and on our [website](#).

Information on methodology, definitions:

Educational attainment: Data on the educational attainment of the Austrian population of prime working age are taken from the national censuses and the educational attainment register.

Educational inheritance describes the differences in the relative frequencies (proportions) with which a person’s level of education is attained depending on the parents’ level of education.

Matura: School-leaving examinations qualifying for university attendance. The term “schools leading to the Matura” comprises the upper cycle of academic secondary schools as well as colleges for higher vocational education.

Further enquiries:

For information on results and methodology, please contact:

Regina Radinger, Phone: +43 1 711 28-7457, E-mail: Regina.Radinger@statistik.gv.at

Guido Sommer-Binder, Phone: +43 1 711 28-7349, E-mail: Guido.Sommer-Binder@statistik.gv.at

For interview requests, please contact the press office: presse@statistik.gv.at

Media owner, producer and publisher:

STATISTICS AUSTRIA | Federal Institution under Public Law | Guglgasse 13 | 1110 Vienna | www.statistik.at

Press: Phone: +43 1 711 28-7777 | E-mail: presse@statistik.gv.at

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