

Press release: 13 340-106/24

Fewer weddings, more divorces in 2023

3.4% fewer marriages than in 2022, 5.2% more divorces

Vienna, 2024-05-28 – According to final data from Statistics Austria, a total of 45 855 couples married in a civil ceremony in 2023 and 14 721 couples divorced in court. In addition, 1 955 registered partnerships were established and 181 registered partnerships were dissolved in the same period.

“In 2023, there were fewer marriages in Austria and slightly more divorces than in the previous year. 45 855 couples said ‘I do’ to each other. Although this is 1 627 or 3.4% fewer than in the previous year, it is more than the average for the pre-coronavirus years 2015 to 2019, which was 45 375 marriages per year. At the same time, 14 721 marriages were legally divorced, 724 or 5.2% more than in 2022. Compared to the five-year average of 16 215 divorces in the pre-coronavirus years, however, this is a significant decrease. There was an increase of more than a fifth in registered partnerships. 1 955 couples opted for this form of cohabitation and 181 dissolved their partnership, 43 or 31.2% more than in 2022”, says Tobias Thomas, Director General of Statistics Austria.

In 2023, 785 out of the 45 855 civil marriages were **same-sex marriages**; this option exists since 1 January 2019. At the same time, 1 843 **opposite-sex couples** and 112 **same-sex couples** entered into **registered partnerships**. On the other hand, 65 of the 14 721 divorces in 2023 were between same-sex couples. Also, 86 opposite-sex and 95 same-sex registered partnerships were dissolved.

In seven **federal provinces**, fewer marriages were performed in 2023 than in the previous year. The sharpest decline was recorded in Carinthia (-7.0%), followed by Salzburg (-6.6%), Styria (-5.6%), Upper Austria (-4.5%) and Lower Austria (-4.3%). There were more marriages than in the previous year in Burgenland (+1.6%) and Vienna (+0.6%).

In 71.4% of marriages in 2023, it was the first marriage for both partners (2022: 71.1%). The highest share of first marriages was recorded in Tyrol (76.6%), and the lowest in Burgenland (65.5%). The **median age at first marriage** for men in 2023 was 33.5 years, and for women 31.5 years (2022: men 33.3 and women 31.3). The youngest age at first marriage was 32.5 for men and 30.6 years in Vorarlberg. The oldest newlyweds on average were found in Carinthia (men: 34.9 years and women: 32.6 years).

The subsequent marriage of their parents involved a total of 19 939 **joint premarital children** in 2023. This corresponds to an average of 1.47 children of all ages per marriage with children. The average number of children per marriage with children was highest in Upper Austria (1.51) and lowest in Burgenland (1.42).

The number of **registered partnerships** also increased in seven federal provinces in 2023. Compared to 2022, the most significant increases were registered in Lower Austria (+38.4%), Upper Austria (+37.4%), Styria (+26.6%) and Burgenland (+25.0%). Of the total of 1 955 registered partnerships in 2023, 31.5% were founded by couples residing in Vienna. In 58.2% of cases, both partners were previously single.

In eight federal provinces, more **marriages** were **legally divorced** in 2023 than in the previous year. The strongest increase was recorded in Tyrol (+12.9%), followed by Carinthia (+11.9%), Vorarlberg (+11.1%) and Upper Austria (+9.9%). Only in Styria (-0.2%) were there slightly fewer divorces than in 2022. In 2023, 12 670 or 86.1% of all divorces were by mutual consent (§55a of the Austrian Marriage Act). In a total of 1 802 disputed divorces, the man was at fault in 44.5% of cases, the woman in 9.4%, both in 32.7% and neither in 13.3%.

At 36.1%, the overall **divorce rate** in 2023 was higher than in 2022 (34.5%). In a comparison of the federal provinces, it was highest in Carinthia at 41.3%, followed by Vorarlberg (39.1%), Vienna (38.7%), Burgenland (37.7%) and Lower Austria (37.5%). In Tyrol, Styria, Upper Austria and Salzburg, the overall divorce rate was below the Austrian average (between 32.8% and 33.7%).

At 10.4 years, the **median duration of marriages** divorced in 2023 was below the previous year's level (10.6 years). Of these, 1.4% of divorces took place within the first year of marriage and a further 4.4% during the second year of marriage. Overall, almost half of all divorces involved marriages lasting less than ten years (48.2%). Around one in eight divorces (12.8%) took place after the silver wedding anniversary or after 25 years, including 56 couples who divorced after their golden wedding anniversary. The average age of divorce (median) fell by 0.1 years for men to 45.6 years and for women to 42.3 years in 2023.

A total of 17 408 children, including 12 524 of whom were minors (71.9%), were affected by their parents' divorce. The ex-couples thus had an average of 1.18 children (of all ages), more than half of whom were younger than 14 years of age (9 727 or 55.9 %).

For detailed results and further information on marriages and registered partnerships, divorces and judicial dissolutions of registered partnerships please refer to our website.

Table 1: Marriages and registrations of registered partnerships 2023 by federal province

| Federal province | Marriages | | | | Registrations of registered partnerships | | |
|------------------|---------------|-------------------|--|-----------------------|--|-------------------|-----------------------|
| | total | thereof: same-sex | thereof: conversion of RP ¹ | change 2022–2023 in % | total | thereof: same-sex | change 2022–2023 in % |
| Austria | 45 855 | 785 | 49 | -3,4 | 1 955 | 112 | 22,3 |
| Burgenland | 1 436 | 28 | 4 | 1,6 | 50 | 1 | 25,0 |
| Carinthia | 2 786 | 30 | 3 | -7,0 | 75 | 2 | -2,6 |
| Lower Austria | 8 650 | 127 | 10 | -4,3 | 393 | 16 | 38,4 |
| Upper Austria | 7 906 | 92 | 4 | -4,5 | 283 | 13 | 37,4 |
| Salzburg | 2 966 | 50 | 1 | -6,6 | 106 | 5 | 3,9 |
| Styria | 6 351 | 97 | 9 | -5,6 | 238 | 8 | 26,6 |
| Tyrol | 4 174 | 53 | 1 | -2,6 | 133 | 6 | 11,8 |
| Vorarlberg | 2 215 | 29 | 1 | -1,7 | 62 | 1 | -7,5 |
| Vienna | 9 371 | 279 | 16 | 0,6 | 615 | 60 | 19,4 |

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Including 3 441 marriages and 4 registrations of registered partnerships abroad of persons with their main residence in Austria. – 1) RP = registered partnership.

Table 2: Marriages and joint premarital children 2023 by federal province

| Federal province | Marriages | | Median age at first marriage in years | | Joint premarital children | |
|------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|---|
| | absolute | both sides first marriages in % | Man | Woman | absolute | Ø per marriage with children ¹ |
| Austria | 45 855 | 71,4 | 33,5 | 31,5 | 19 939 | 1,47 |
| Burgenland | 1 436 | 65,5 | 34,6 | 32,4 | 656 | 1,42 |
| Carinthia | 2 786 | 69,3 | 34,9 | 32,6 | 1 510 | 1,46 |
| Lower Austria | 8 650 | 66,9 | 33,2 | 31,2 | 3 682 | 1,48 |
| Upper Austria | 7 906 | 73,8 | 33,1 | 30,9 | 3 905 | 1,51 |
| Salzburg | 2 966 | 73,6 | 33,7 | 31,6 | 1 548 | 1,49 |
| Styria | 6 351 | 72,1 | 34,3 | 32,0 | 3 137 | 1,45 |
| Tyrol | 4 174 | 76,6 | 33,6 | 31,8 | 2 159 | 1,46 |
| Vorarlberg | 2 215 | 73,0 | 32,5 | 30,6 | 937 | 1,49 |
| Vienna | 9 371 | 71,1 | 33,1 | 31,4 | 2 405 | 1,45 |

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Including 3 441 marriages abroad of persons with their main residence in Austria and including 785 marriages of same-sex partners (365 male and 420 female couples) and 49 conversions of registered partnerships into marriages. – 1) Arithmetic mean of joint premarital children of all ages legitimized by parents' marriages.

Table 3: Divorces, children from divorced marriages and dissolutions of registered partnerships 2023 by federal province

| Federal province | Divorces | | Median age at divorce in years | | Median duration of marriage in years | Total divorce rate ¹ | Children under 18 years | Dissolutions of registered partnerships |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| | absolute | change 2022-2023 in % | Man | Woman | | | | |
| Austria | 14 721 | 5,2 | 45,6 | 42,3 | 10,4 | 36,1 | 12 524 | 181 |
| Burgenland | 460 | 2,2 | 48,0 | 44,2 | 12,3 | 37,7 | 408 | 1 |
| Carinthia | 1 031 | 11,9 | 47,3 | 42,9 | 10,3 | 41,3 | 940 | 5 |
| Lower Austria | 2 847 | 1,8 | 46,8 | 43,1 | 11,2 | 37,5 | 2 520 | 22 |
| Upper Austria | 2 332 | 9,9 | 45,1 | 42,0 | 10,1 | 33,5 | 2 047 | 21 |
| Salzburg | 877 | 4,4 | 46,4 | 43,0 | 10,7 | 33,7 | 724 | 10 |
| Styria | 1 902 | -0,2 | 46,4 | 42,9 | 10,7 | 33,3 | 1 472 | 12 |
| Tyrol | 1 109 | 12,9 | 45,8 | 42,5 | 10,7 | 32,8 | 953 | 12 |
| Vorarlberg | 723 | 11,1 | 44,4 | 42,1 | 9,2 | 39,1 | 636 | 7 |
| Vienna | 3 440 | 3,3 | 43,6 | 40,6 | 9,6 | 38,7 | 2 824 | 91 |

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Including 249 divorces and one dissolution of a registered partnership abroad of persons with main residence in Austria. Including 65 divorces of same-sex marriages (18 male and 47 female couples) and 86 dissolutions of different-sex registered partnerships. – 1) For definition of total divorce rate, see Methodological information, definitions.

Information on methodology, definitions: Marriages, dissolutions of marriages and registered partnerships also **include events abroad** of persons whose **main residence** is in Austria. Marriages, dissolutions of marriages, as well as the establishment and dissolution of registered partnerships of persons residing abroad are not included. The reports on marriage dissolutions and dissolutions of registered partnerships submitted on an ongoing basis by the district courts are compared with the data submitted by the Central Civil Status Register.

The **regional classification** of the published data is based either on the couple's common place of residence or, in the case of separate places of residence, on the man's place of residence in the case of opposite-sex couples or on the place of residence of the older person in the case of same-sex couples.

The **total divorce rate** indicates the percentage of marriages that end by divorce (rather than by the death of one of the spouses). The basis for calculating the total divorce rate is the divorces observed in a given year, which are related to those marriage cohorts from which they originate (marriage-duration-specific divorce rates).

The **final results** for 2023 include all information transmitted by the Central Civil Status Registry by 16 April 2024.

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