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Every fourth person living in Austria has a migration background

Statistical Yearbook Migration & Integration 2024

Vienna, 2024-07-08 – According to Statistics Austria, an average of around 2.45 million people (27.2% of the total population) with a migration background lived in Austria in 2023, around 635 900 or 35.1% more than in 2015 (1.81 million).

“More than a quarter of the population in Austria has a migrant background. Since 2015, the proportion has risen steadily from 21.4% to 27.2%. Not only have many of the immigrants arrived here physically, the majority of them have positive ties to Austria. Almost three quarters of those born abroad feel a sense of belonging to Austria. Austria's population has been growing for decades due to immigration, particularly in recent years due to the arrival of refugees. Without immigration, the population would shrink to the level of the 1950s by 2080,” says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

German, Romanian and Turkish citizens are the largest groups of foreigners in Austria

The largest group of the 1 800 900 people with non-Austrian citizenship living in Austria on 1 January 2024 are 232 700 German citizens (see table 2), followed by 153 400 Romanian citizens, 124 100 Turkish citizens and 122 200 Serbian citizens. In fifth to tenth place are nationals from Hungary, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Syria, Ukraine and Poland. Since 2015, the largest increases in absolute numbers have been among people with Syrian (+83 900), Romanian (+80 100), Ukrainian (+72 100), German (+62 300) and Hungarian (+52 300) citizenship.

Three out of four migrants feel that they belong to Austria

As part of the 2024 migration survey, the population in Austria with and without a migration background was asked how they perceive the integration process and migration-related issues. One of the questions asked in the migration survey was about affiliation of immigrants with Austria. The survey reveals that the majority of immigrants have a positive affiliation with Austria. Almost three quarters (72.8%) feel a sense of belonging to Austria. The bond is particularly strong among people born in Syria (80.8%), Iran (80.5%) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (76.8%). The lowest perceived affiliation with Austria can be found among immigrants from Ukraine (59.0%). As the length of stay increases, the tendency to feel a sense of belonging to Austria strengthens. When asked whether they feel they belong more to Austria or to their country of origin, 55.7% of immigrants who have lived in Austria for between one and less than five years choose Austria. This proportion rises to 70.4% with a stay of five to 15 years and to 81.0% with more than 15 years.

Austrians perceive living together more critical than Migrants

23.2% of those born in Austria rate coexistence with migrants as “very good” or “fairly good”, while four out of ten people (40.2%) rate it as “fairly bad” or “very bad”. Compared to previous years (2022: 25.1%; 2023: 34.0%), the critical voices have increased notably. People born in Austria who have particularly frequent contact with migrants tend to rate living together as better than those for whom this is rarely or never the case. In turn, 55.8% of immigrants rate the coexistence between Austrians and migrants as “very good” or “rather good” and perceive it more positively than those born in Austria. Compared to the previous year, however, when 61.3% of those born abroad rated the relationship as “very good” or “fairly good”, the atmosphere has also deteriorated. Among immigrants, those who have lived in Austria for a shorter period of time rate living together better compared to those who have been in Austria for longer. The proportion

of immigrants who rate living together as “very good“ or “rather good“ falls from 70.9% for people with a stay of one to less than five years, to 61.7% for those with a stay of five to 15 years, and finally to 47.8% for those who are already in Austria for more than 15 years.

Good German language skills among those born in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia or Afghanistan

The migration survey 2024 also included questions on language use and language skills. 12.9% of the immigrants state that communication at home takes place predominantly in German. One half (50.8%) communicates at home predominantly in their language of origin. German is used significantly more often by immigrants as a language among friends – 24.5% speak mainly German in this context, while 25.4% communicate exclusively or predominantly in their language of origin. People who were born in Bosnia and Herzegovina (72.0%), Serbia (67.7%) or Iran (67.6%) are most likely to consider their present German language skills to be at least good. This proportion is lowest among immigrants from Ukraine (36.9%), Türkiye (51.2%) and Syria (58.1%).

Detailed results and further information can be found on our [website](#). The “Statistical Yearbook on Migration & Integration 2024” as well as the presentation for the press conference on 8 July 2024 are available in German only on our German language [website](#) (under “Publikationen” and “Berichte/Verweise”).

Table 1: Population with migration background on annual average 2015 and 2023

Migration background, country of birth	2015 absolute	2015 in % of pop.	2023 absolute	2023 in % of pop.
Population with migration background	1 812 900	21.4%	2 448 800	27.2%
First Generation (born abroad)	1 334 300	15.7%	1 828 700	20.3%
Second Generation (born in Austria with both parents born abroad)	478 700	5.6%	620 100	6.9%

Q: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Labour Force Survey, annual average of all weeks. – Population in private households.

Table 2: Foreign citizens – Top-15-nationalities in Austria 2015 and 2024

Citizenship	Jan. 01, 2015	Jan. 01, 2024
Foreign citizens total	1 146 078	1 800 866
including: Germany	170 475	232 739
Romania	73 374	153 427
Türkiye	115 433	124 068
Serbia	114 289	122 204
Hungary	54 939	107 264
Croatia	66 475	106 679
Bosnia and Herzegovina	92 527	99 837
Syria	11 255	95 180
Ukraine	8 582	80 665
Poland	54 262	67 930
Afghanistan	16 779	49 818
Slovakia	32 052	49 782
Bulgaria	19 607	39 830
Italy	22 465	39 435
Russian Federation	30 032	37 332

Q: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Statistics of the Population Status.

Information on methodology, definitions: The “Statistical Yearbook for Migration & Integration” has been published since 2008. In addition to current data and facts on the topics of migration and integration, it also contains 25 indicators defined in the “National Action Plan for Integration” for assessing integration processes – from demographic aspects to the socioeconomic situation to the topic of security. By including different sources and enriching existing data, it is possible to compile meaningful information across all statistical areas.

The **figures on migration background** were extrapolated from a **sample survey** (microcensus). They are therefore subject to statistical fluctuation. For this reason, only **rounded results** are presented.

People with a **migration background** are those whose parents were both born abroad. Persons who were themselves born abroad are categorized as “first generation”, while descendants born in Austria of parents with a foreign place of birth are assigned to the “second generation”. According to this definition, persons with only one parent born in Austria do not have a migration background. The country of birth of the mother is decisive for the assignment of the country of origin.

The **migration survey** is a sample survey (stratified random sample), which was conducted as an online survey in 2024 and then extrapolated to the population level. The results are therefore subject to statistical fluctuation and are consequently only presented in the form of percentages. Persons with selected countries of birth were surveyed. The sample consists of persons with the following countries of birth: Austria (1 052 persons), Bosnia and Herzegovina (442), Serbia (405), Türkiye (456), Afghanistan (386), Iran (395), Russian Federation (395), Syria (434), Romania (449) and Ukraine (445). A total of 4 859 people were interviewed for the migration survey in 2024.

Third countries are all countries that are not EU member states or small states associated with the EU or EFTA countries, excluding the United Kingdom (UK).

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

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