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60% of children in day care aligned to full-time jobs 25 600 more children than in 2022/23 are in full-time equivalent day care

Vienna, 2024-08-27 – In the kindergarten year 2023/24, almost 33% of children under three years and 94% of three- to five-year-olds attended an elementary educational facility. Almost 60% of these children (196 000) were cared for in a facility that allows parents to work full-time. Compared to the reporting year 2022/23, this corresponds to an increase of 15% (about 25 600 children). This is shown by the second monitoring report on elementary education published by Statistics Austria, commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Women, Family, Integration and Media, which aims to provide a regional overview on child education and care throughout Austria, broken down to district level.

“Whether parents can organise their working lives depends heavily on the availability of childcare. Genuine freedom of choice only exists if there are enough daycare places that are compatible with full-time employment. Across Austria, the proportion of children up to the age of five in daycare facilities with full-time care rose from 51.7% in the 2022/23 school year to 59.1% in 2023/24. The proportion varies greatly from region to region. The federal state of Vienna is at 89.7% well above the Austrian average, followed by Burgenland and Vorarlberg. Lower Austria recorded the highest year-on-year increase,” explains Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas at the presentation of the Monitoring Report 2023/24.

Slight increase in attendance rates

The attendance rate – thus, the proportion of children in institutional childcare facilities compared to the resident population of the same age – rose slightly for children up to the age of five in all federal provinces in the reporting year 2023/24 compared to the year before. The Austrian average in 2023/24 was 64.3% (2022/23: 62.9%). The attendance rate increases with the age of the children: While it is lowest for children under one year of age in the reporting year 2023/24 (3.4%; 2022/23: 2.0%), it rises to 30.6% for one-year-olds (2022/23: 27.1%) and already reaches 61.3% for two-year-olds (2022/23: 59.4%). The attendance rate for five-year-olds is 97.4% and has decreased slightly compared to the reporting year 2022/23 (98.0%).

In addition to childcare in educational institutions, the extended attendance rate for the first time also includes children with childminders. The extended attendance rate (including childminders) is 34.9% for the under-threes (attendance rate without childminders: 32.8%). Fewer children aged three to five are looked after by childminders; the extended attendance rate (including childminders) for this age group is 94.2% (attendance rate without childminders: 94.0%).

Central data from daycare center statistics available down to district level

The annual childcare monitor provides an overview of the childcare situation in Austria and shows, broken down regionally to district level, where children have care that allows parents to work full-time. Key figures such as the number of childcare facilities, attendance rates according to the age of the children and the proportion of children attending VIF-compliant childcare facilities (compatibility indicator for family and work; see definition below in the box “information on methodology”) are presented in graphical and tabular form. For the first time, children with childminders are also included in the attendance rates and shown as an extended attendance rate. This includes those childminders who look after at least one child for 15 hours per week. The monitoring report thus provides a comprehensive overview of elementary education in Austria, the federal provinces and the political districts.

The current [monitoring report on statistics on elementary education 2023/24](#) (in German only) can be found on our [website](#). Furthermore, new interactive maps on [attendance rates](#), on [enhanced attendance rates including day care parents](#) and on the [proportion of children in VIF-compliant facilities](#) are available.

Information on methodology, definitions: This report only considers children up to the age of five who attend a childcare facility (crèches, kindergartens and mixed-age childcare facilities including after-school care) in the public and private sectors. Accordingly, only institutional childcare facilities attended by children up to the age of five are included.

The term “**institutional childcare**” is defined according to the following criteria: regular and full-year childcare, operated with public funding, by trained staff, without the presence of parents, for at least 30 weeks per year, on at least four days per week and for at least 15 hours per week. The cut-off date for data collection is 15 October of each reporting period.

The **attendance rate** describes the proportion of children in institutional childcare facilities compared to the resident population of the same age; the attendance rate does not include care provided by childminders. It should also be noted that the federal state or district of residence may differ from the location of the childcare facility. Accordingly, children from other federal states and districts or from abroad may also attend a childcare facility.

The **extended attendance rate** includes the proportion of children cared for in day care centres and children who are exclusively cared for by childminders in relation to the resident population of the same age. Childminders must look after at least one child for at least 15 hours per week, so that the children looked after by these childminders are included in the extended attendance rate. It should be noted that the children cared for are counted at the locations and not in the residential district.

VIF stands for compatibility indicator for family and career (“Vereinbarkeitsindikator für Familie und Beruf”). Opening hours of elementary educational institutions according to the VIF criteria are those that are compatible with full-time employment of the parents/guardians for at least 47 weeks per year, at least 45 hours per week, in any case on weekdays from Monday to Friday, on four days per week for at least 9.5 hours per day and a lunch offer. The proportion of children in VIF compliant facilities is assessed in relation to the total number of same-aged children in all childcare facilities.

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