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# Increases in household income in Q2 2024 more frequent than a year ago

## Difficult income situations more often, satisfaction lower for unemployed

Vienna, 2024-10-09 – In the second quarter of 2024, around 45% of people between the ages of 18 and 74 surveyed by Statistics Austria on the social consequences of the crisis perceived improvements in their household income – this means that almost twice as many reported about improvements than a year ago. However, the trend was less positive for households affected by unemployment in spring 2024: around 46% experienced income losses, compared to 51% in the previous year. In addition, household members who were unemployed were generally less satisfied in various areas of life, such as finances and personal relationships.

“For more people, the economic crisis seems to have bottomed out – at least as far as their income is concerned. Almost half of people living in Austria noticed an improvement in their income situation in the second quarter of 2024 – at 45%, this was almost twice as many as in the second quarter of the previous year, when only 23% reported an improvement in income. Despite ongoing difficulties in making ends meet with current income, fewer people than in the previous year had problems affording key basic necessities. Expectations for the future also developed slightly positively,” says Tobias Thomas, Director General Statistics at Statistics Austria.

### Improvements in household income for just under half of the population

In the second quarter of 2024, around 45% of people aged between 18 and 74 in Austria experienced an increase in household income in the past twelve months. This is a slight decrease compared to the previous quarter (Q1/2024: 49%). Compared to the previous year, however, the number of respondents who have noticed an improvement in their household income has increased significantly (Q2/2023: 23%). Similar to the previous quarter, 22% of people aged between 18 and 74 in Austria have recorded a loss of income in the past twelve months (see table 1).

### Persistent burden from inflation, slightly lower housing cost burden

Despite improvements in income for a large proportion of the population, 13% still had difficulties making ends meet with their current income (see table 1). Just under a third of people aged between 18 and 74 in Austria (31%) stated that their income was somewhat or much lower than a year ago, the same proportion as in the previous quarter (Q1/2024: 31%; see table 2). Almost a third of those who perceived a deterioration in their own situation cited increased expenditure on food as the main reason for the deterioration in their income, followed by higher expenditure on housing and energy (25%).

In terms of the subjective housing cost burden, however, the perceived burden continued to fall, as in the previous quarters. In the second quarter of 2024, just under 16% perceived housing costs as a heavy financial burden (Q1/2024: 19%; see table 1).

### Expectations for the future continue to grow more confident

The proportion of the population expecting their financial situation to improve in the next twelve months has risen slightly compared to the previous year (Q2/2023: 16%, Q2/2024: 19%; see table 1). Around a third

of the population aged between 18 and 74 stated that they wanted to reduce major expenditure in the next twelve months. This proportion has fallen slightly compared to the previous quarter (Q1/2024: 36%, Q2/2024: 33%). Around one in two (48%) expected the economic situation in Austria to deteriorate over the next twelve months. This is around 13% less than in the previous year (Q2/2023: 60%). This figure is also slightly down on the previous quarter (Q1/2024: 55%).

### **Households affected from unemployment live in a financially strained situation**

Around 9% of people aged between 18 and 74 (extrapolated between 483 000 and 646 000) lived in a household affected by unemployment in the second quarter of 2024. As part of the eleventh cross-sectional report of the survey on the impact of the social crisis, their situation and the effects of unemployment on their financial situation and satisfaction were examined in more detail. In addition to the consequences for the person affected, unemployment can also have a negative impact on household members.

For people in households with unemployment, a perceived decline in household income was twice as common (46%) as for the population aged between 18 and 74 (22%). Although improvements compared to the previous year (fewer people with income losses, more with income increases) were also reported in the group of households affected by unemployment, these were far less pronounced (see table 1, table 3).

Unemployment is also associated with difficulties in making ends meet for the household. If a household was affected by unemployment in the second quarter of 2024, it was 6 percentage points more likely to struggle to make ends meet. While around a quarter of the population as a whole stated that they were unable to cover unexpected expenses (of €1 390 or more, see box “information on methods, definitions” below) from their own resources, more than half (52%) of households affected by unemployment were unable to do so.

In addition to increased difficulties in making ends meet, being affected by unemployment in the household was also associated with significantly lower life satisfaction and satisfaction with the financial situation and personal relationships.

Detailed results can be found in the report “So geht’s uns heute: Die sozialen Krisenfolgen im 2. Quartal 2024 – Schwerpunkt: Auswirkungen von Arbeitslosigkeit” (in German language only), issued jointly by IHS and Statistics Austria. The report is available on our [website](#) along with other detailed results.

**Table 1: Financial Situation**

Attribute		Q2/2023	Q3/2023	Q4/2023	Q1/2024	Q2/2024	
		in %				in %	in 1 000
Perceived change in income (last twelve months)	Increase	22,6	20,5	19,3	48,8	45,3	2 995
	Unchanged	45,8	48,7	52,2	30,1	32,8	2 168
	Decrease	31,7	30,8	28,4	21,1	21,9	1 449
Expected change in income (next twelve months)	Increase	15,5	17,2	21,6	17,4	18,6	1 233
	Unchanged	59,3	59,0	57,5	63,8	62,8	4 151
	Decrease	25,2	23,8	20,9	18,8	18,6	1 227
Making ends meet with the house-hold income	With great difficulty	7,1	6,7	6,1	5,0	5,8	384
	With difficulty	10,0	9,2	9,6	7,9	7,4	489
	With slight difficulty	29,6	32,2	28,0	28,6	27,3	1 802
	With slight ease	33,1	32,3	33,9	35,4	36,7	2 427
	With ease	13,5	13,8	15,8	15,2	16,0	1 055
Burden of housing cost	With great ease	6,8	5,8	6,5	7,9	6,9	454
	Heavy burden	22,2	21,2	19,8	18,7	15,9	1 054
	Some burden	63,7	62,5	64,2	64,6	62,5	4 132
	No burden	14,1	16,3	16,0	16,8	21,6	1 425
<b>Total</b>		<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>6 611</b>

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Survey "So geht's uns heute". – Data as of 05.08.2024.

**Table 2: Change in financial situation**

Attribute		Q1/2024	Q2/2024	
		in %	in %	in 1 000
Change in ability to make ends meet compared to twelve months ago	Much worse	5,8	5,2	342
	Slightly worse	28,9	26,2	1 734
	Unchanged	51,1	52,2	3 448
	Somewhat improved	12,6	14,2	942
	Much improved	1,6	2,2	145,
<b>Total</b>		<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>6 611</b>

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Survey "So geht's uns heute". – Data as of 05.08.2024.

**Table 3: Financial situation for people from households affected by unemployment**

Attribute		Q2/2023	Q3/2023	Q4/2023	Q1/2024	Q2/2024	
		in %				in %	in 1 000
Perceived change in income (last twelve months)	Increase	14,4	10,9	8,8	23,0	22,5	127
	Unchanged	34,6	46,3	40,2	37,4	31,5	178
	Decrease	51,0	42,8	51,0	39,6	46,0	260
Making ends meet with the household income	With great difficulty	24,4	24,1	22,2	16,7	15,4	87
	With difficulty	17,1	16,9	22,3	16,6	14,6	82
	With slight difficulty	39,4	38,4	35,3	41,9	45,5	257
	With slight ease	14,5	9,8	13,8	17,1	19,1	108
	With ease	2,7	8,2	6,3	4,9	4,5	26
	With great ease	1,9	2,5	0,2	2,9	0,9	5
Unexpected expenditures	Affordable	40,8	41,9	40,6	44,7	47,7	269
	Not affordable	59,2	58,1	59,4	55,3	52,3	295
<b>Total</b>		<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>564</b>

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Survey "So geht's uns heute". – Data as of 05.08.2024.

**Information on methods, definitions:** The eleventh wave of the survey "So geht's uns heute" took place in Mai and June 2024. Approximately 3 400 respondents between 18 and 74 years participated in the survey. Between 2021 and 2023 Austria carried out the project with ten other EU countries and was funded by Eurostat and the Ministry of Social Affairs. From the survey in the first quarter of 2024 onwards, "So geht's uns heute" is fully funded by the Ministry of Social Affairs. The current results in Austria show the subjective public opinion of the second quarter of 2024. The study focuses on personally experienced income losses; the subjective coping with the cost of life, personal well-being, and happiness. The quarterly study aims to identify the social effects of developments in the current crisis as early as possible. The sample was drawn from the Austrian civil register. Register data was not used in order to depict changes in the public opinion in a timely manner. The questionnaire can be found [here](#).

**Unexpected expenditure of 1 390 euro or more:** The poverty risk threshold from the EU-SILC survey is used as the basis for this amount (survey waves 1–6: 1 300 euros, waves 7–9: 1 370 euros, from wave 10: adjustment of the expenditure amount to 1 390 euros).

**Further enquiries:**

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