

Press release: 13 453-219/24

Financial burden on single mothers has increased since the end of 2021

Increase in reported income difficulties from 19% to 32%

Vienna, 2024-10-23 – Not being able to cover running costs with household income affects single mothers much more than the general population. This is the result of the report on social impact of the crisis and the social situation of women, which was prepared by Statistics Austria on behalf of Caritas Austria. The report examined the living situation of women in Austria in the period from the end of 2021 to the beginning of 2024.

“In recent years, single mothers in particular have noticed a deterioration in their situation. While at the end of 2021, around a fifth of single mothers (19%) stated that they had difficulties making ends meet, this figure doubled to almost 38% in the third quarter of 2022 and was still just under 32% at the start of 2024. By comparison, in the overall population aged between 18 and 74, the proportion of those who had difficulties making ends meet remained almost constant at around 16% between the end of 2021 and 2023 and fell to 13% in the first quarter of 2024,” says Janina Enachescu, Project Manager of the Statistics Austria survey on the social impact of the crisis, at the press conference to present the results.

Higher housing cost burden and lower life satisfaction among single mothers over time

The financial burden of housing costs increased during the period in review for single-mother households. At the end of 2021, a quarter (24%) of this group stated that housing costs were very burdensome. At the start of 2024, the proportion was 42%, an increase of 18 percentage points. Compared to the general population (19% with a very high housing cost burden in the first quarter of 2024), single-mother households are also affected to an above-average extent.

In addition to increased financial difficulties, there has also been a decline in general life satisfaction among persons in single-mother households since the fourth quarter of 2021. At the end of 2021, 46% of this group stated that they were very satisfied with their lives - at the beginning of 2024, this figure was only around a third (34%).

Detailed results can be found in the report “Krisenfolgen und die soziale Lage von Frauen”, which was commissioned by Caritas Austria and compiled by Statistics Austria, available on our [website](#).

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. Further results can be found [here](#).

Persons in a household with a female single parent: The person lives in a household with a female single parent with at least one child under the age of 25. The respondent is either the (female) parent or the child

between the ages of 16 and 25 (waves 1-5) or 18 to 25 (waves 6-10). As the sample of households with a male single parent is too small, only people in households with female single parents were analysed and their situation compared with that of the general population.

Further enquiries:

For information on results and methodology, please contact:

Janina Enachescu, phone.: +43 1 711 28-7076, e-Mail: janina.enachescu@statistik.gv.at

Lena Wittmann, phone.: +43 1 711 28-8077, e-Mail: lena.wittmann@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

© STATISTICS AUSTRIA