

Press release: 13 454-220/24

About two thirds search for health-related information online

Younger people, women and the highly educated use the internet more intensively

Vienna, 2024-10-24 – 65% of 16- to 74-year-olds in Austria obtain information about health topics online. This applies particularly to younger, female and highly educated individuals as shown by Statistics Austria’s latest results of the survey on the usage of information and communication technologies (ICT) in households and by individuals.

“Two out of three people in Austria search online for health-related information. The share of people who obtain information about health topics online is particularly high for those in their mid-twenties to mid-forties, for women and for more highly educated people, with over 70% in each case. Other health-related online services are used significantly less: Just under 28% make medical appointments online and 23% access their personal health record online”, says Tobias Thomas, Director General of Statistics Austria.

Internet use consolidates at a high level

95% of people in Austria aged between 16 and 74 used the internet in the last three months before the survey on ICT use in households which took place between April and July 2024 – most of them on a daily or almost daily basis (85%). Only a few people had been online weekly, but not daily (8%), or even less frequently (3%) in the three months prior to the survey. 4% have never used the internet.

Two in three individuals search for health-related information online

65% of the 16- to 74-year-old population in Austria search for health-related information online; other health-related online activities are less common. For instance, around one in four individuals make medical appointments online (28%) or access their personal health record online (23%). Less than one in ten individuals use other online health services instead of going to a doctor or to the hospital (7%).

Higher health-related internet use among younger people, women and the highly educated

The Austrian population differs in its health-related internet use primarily according to age, gender and education. Employment status plays a subordinate role. Women (72%) are more likely to search for health-related information on the internet than men (58%). Furthermore, the higher a person’s educational attainment is, the more likely the person is to use the internet for health-related activities. Individuals with a university degree (78%) or Matura (Austrian qualification for university entrance; 75%) are more likely to use the internet to search for health-related information than individuals who completed an apprenticeship/school for intermediate vocational education (61%) or compulsory schooling (49%). Online search for health-related information is also associated with age. The share tends to be higher among younger individuals. 16- to 24-year-olds (64%) are more likely to inform themselves about health topics online than 55- to 64-year-olds (56%) and 65- to 74-year-olds (51%). Nonetheless, the highest shares were found among people in the middle age groups 25 to 34 (76%), 35 to 44 (74%) and 45 to 54 years of age (66%).

For detailed results and further information please refer to our [website](#).

Health-related online activities 2024

| Characteristic | Persons who used the internet in the last three months to... | | | |
|---|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| | search for health-related information online | make medical appointments online | access personal health records online | use other online health services instead of going to a doctor or to the hospital |
| | in % of all persons | | | |
| Total | 65,0 | 27,5 | 23,0 | 7,3 |
| Age | | | | |
| 16 to 24 years | 63,9 | 16,5 | 14,0 | 5,6 |
| 25 to 34 years | 76,2 | 37,3 | 26,0 | 10,3 |
| 35 to 44 years | 74,4 | 35,7 | 27,2 | 12,2 |
| 45 to 54 years | 66,3 | 29,6 | 24,6 | 8,0 |
| 55 to 64 years | 55,9 | 22,6 | 22,8 | 3,8 |
| 65 to 74 years | 50,5 | 18,2 | 19,4 | 2,4 |
| Sex | | | | |
| Male | 57,7 | 21,5 | 20,4 | 6,4 |
| Female | 72,2 | 33,5 | 25,5 | 8,1 |
| Education level | | | | |
| Compulsory schooling | 49,0 | 17,2 | 11,6 | 5,0 |
| Apprenticeship/school for intermediate vocational education | 60,7 | 21,6 | 20,7 | 7,0 |
| Matura (Austrian qualification for university entrance) | 74,8 | 30,4 | 23,6 | 7,5 |
| University | 77,7 | 45,5 | 35,9 | 9,5 |
| Employment status | | | | |
| Employees, self-employed | 68,2 | 30,3 | 24,2 | 7,9 |
| Unemployed | 69,7 | 27,7 | 22,2 | 11,1 |
| Not in the labour force | 54,2 | 20,6 | 21,5 | 4,1 |
| Pupils, students | 65,7 | 23,7 | 16,9 | 8,0 |

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Survey on ICT usage in households 2024.

Information on methodology: These are the extrapolated results of the survey on ICT usage in households and by individuals in Austria in 2024. The survey is based on an EU regulation (Regulation (EC) No 2019/1700) which obliges Austria and all other EU member states to deliver specified data, as well as on a Commission Implementing regulation (Regulation (EC) No 2023/1484) and a Commission Delegated Regulation (Regulation (EC) No 2023/1797). Statistics Austria conducted the Austrian survey as a sample survey. The questionnaire, definitions and methodology were standardised across the EU. EU-wide results are expected to be published by Eurostat in January 2025.

Following the regulations, Austrian households with at least one household member between the ages of 16 and 74 years and household members within this age bracket were surveyed. From April to July 2024, approximately 4 400 households and approximately 5 800 individuals took part in the survey via telephone interviews or web-based questionnaires. For households, the reference period was the time of the survey, and for individuals, it was either the time of the survey or the last three or twelve months prior to the survey.

Statistics Austria is the central organisation for official data and statistics on society, the economy, the state and the environment. As a national statistical institute, it is committed to the statutory principles of independence, impartiality and objectivity. Statistics Austria is headed by Tobias Thomas, Director General Statistics, and Franz Haslauer, Director General Finance.

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