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Part-time work has increased by more than 30% since 2013

Overall, more than a third work in atypical employment relationships

Vienna, 2024-12-11 – According to Statistics Austria, the number of so-called atypical employment relationships rose by more than a quarter (+26.6%) between 2013 and 2023. The proportion of part-time work, marginal employment, fixed-term contracts (excluding apprenticeships), temporary work and freelance contracts increased to roughly the same extent for men and women. Part-time work was the most widespread form of atypical employment.

“More and more people in Austria are working part-time, on a temporary or marginal basis or in temporary employment. In 2013, less than a third of the employed labour force was in such employment relationships; in 2023, the figure was 36.7%. In a ten-year comparison, part-time work is the leader with an increase from 26.7% to 31.6% or 1 247 000 part-time employees in 2023. Only the Netherlands has an even higher part-time employment rate in the EU. This strong increase is partly due to the increased labour market participation of women, but also to the general trend towards more part-time work for women and men,” says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

A quarter more non self-employed in atypical jobs

The number of salaried employees increased by 378 200 over the ten-year period from 2013 to 2023, which corresponds to an increase of around 10%. Over the same period, the proportion of atypical employees increased from 32.1% to 36.7%. Accordingly, the proportion of employees in standard employment fell to less than two thirds (63.3%).

Men were more likely than women to be in standard employment. In 2023, one in two women in employment was in atypical employment (55.5%), compared with almost one in five men (19.0%). However, atypical employment has increased over the last ten years for both men (+4.0 percentage points) and women (+5.1 percentage points).

Strongest growth in part-time work

However, the forms of atypical employment overlap. For example, a person may have a part-time job and a temporary job at the same time.

Looking at these individual forms, **part-time work** has shown the strongest growth over the last ten years (+30.9%). For men, this increase amounts to 99 900, which corresponds to a growth rate of 62.0%. For women, the increase is 194 400 part-time employees (+24.6%). This increase is due to structural changes in labour market participation, in particular the expansion of female employment combined with a reduction in working hours.

Temporary jobs also grew strongly over the ten-year period. Excluding apprenticeships, there was an increase of +20.1% or 40 700 fixed-term contracts. Women are generally more likely to have fixed-term contracts. The increase in fixed-term contracts is almost the same for both sexes (women: +21 800 or +20.4%, men: +18 900 or +19.7%).

On the other hand, **freelance work** belongs to the category of atypical employment, which has even decreased over the last ten years (–20.5% or –7 700 freelance contracts), which is linked to the changes in

social legislation – since 2008 employers have had to pay unemployment and insolvency insurance contributions. At the same time, freelance work is the form of employment that is most often associated with another characteristic of atypical employment: around half of freelance contracts were marginal employment relationships (49.3%) and around one in four freelance contracts was fixed-term (23.7%).

The entire report “Labour Market in Focus – Atypical Employment 2023” can be found on our [website](#).

Information on methodology, definitions: The Microcensus is a sample survey of households. It collects information on the labour market situation in Austria from randomly selected private households in a standardised form.

Standard employment: Permanent employment on a full-time basis without the existence of an agency or temporary employment relationship, without a freelance contract, including apprenticeship. Permanent full-time employment without a temporary contract, without a freelance contract, including apprenticeship.

Atypical Employment: In contrast to the standard employment relationship, this includes: fixed-term contracts without apprenticeship, temporary work, freelance work, part-time work. A further distinction is made between part-time work of twelve hours or more per week and part-time work of less than twelve hours per week (marginal employment), see [IOL definition](#).

Part-time work: Based on the direct question on part-time work.

Marginal employment: A subform of part-time work. In the microcensus it is not approximated by the marginal earnings threshold (monthly income according to the Federation of Social Insurance Institutions 2023: 500.91 euro), but by a normal working week of less than twelve hours.

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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