

Press release: 13 521-015/25

Good opportunities on the labour market with a BMS qualification

Quick job entry after graduating from a vocational middle school

Vienna, 2025-01-28 – Almost one in eight people attend a vocational middle school (BMS) after compulsory schooling. Completion of a BMS is associated with a quick job entry and a stable employment history. This is shown by the update of the education-related employment career monitoring (Bildungsbezogenes Erwerbskarrierenmonitoring – BibEr), an analysis carried out by Statistics Austria together with and on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Economy and the Public Employment Service Austria.

“Graduating from a vocational middle school is associated with significantly better opportunities on the labour market than graduating from a school without vocational training. On average, it takes less than three months to get a first job after graduating from a vocational middle school. This means that the transition to the labour market is quicker than after completing a vocational secondary school or a general secondary school,” says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

Quick and sustainable entry into working life

People who complete a vocational middle school (BMS) enter working life quickly: On average, it takes 2.8 months after graduation before they take up their first job. This means that BMS graduates are only slightly behind those who have completed an apprenticeship (1.9 months). At 4.2 months, graduates of a vocational secondary school (BHS) take slightly longer to gain a foothold in the labour market. Graduates of general secondary schools (AHS) without formal vocational training represent the rear: they need 7.2 months.

After taking up their first job, more than two thirds (68.8%) of BMS graduates keep this job for at least one year. In comparison, this figure is 64.4% after completing an apprenticeship and 72.0% after completing a BHS. Among AHS graduates, 50.3% are in their first job for at least one year.

If people drop out of school, their career entry is delayed significantly in most cases (BHS dropouts: 4.4 months; BMS dropouts: 4.5 months; apprenticeship dropouts: 6.1 months). Only AHS dropouts (4.6 months) gain a foothold in the labour market significantly faster than AHS graduates.

Stable employment careers after graduating from BMS

Around half of all BMS graduates who do not go on to further education are continuously employed in the second year after graduation, with women (54.0%) having a more stable employment career during this period than men (45.4%). This means that the labour market situation after completing a BMS roughly corresponds to that after an apprenticeship (50.7%). Only after completing a BHS are more people in continuous employment in the second year thereafter (59.0%), whereas the proportion of AHS graduates is only 17.9%.

The comparable labour market situation of BMS and apprenticeship graduates is also reflected in the proportion of people registered with the Public Employment Service Austria (AMS) and not attending further training: 18 months after graduation in the 2020/21 school year, this proportion is 7.9% for BMS graduates and 7.8% after completing an apprenticeship. The picture is similar for AHS graduates, the proportion of people registered with the AMS is 7.4%. The fact that career entry after completing a BHS is particularly

successful is also reflected in this figure: only 3.3% of graduates are registered with the AMS 18 months later.

After one and a half years in the job, BMS graduates earn EUR 2 389 gross per month

People with a BMS qualification have good earning potential, with women in particular earning higher incomes on average than after completing an apprenticeship or AHS. Over the entire observation period, the gross median income from employment 18 months after completing a BMS is EUR 2 389 per month, with women earning an average of EUR 2 201 and men an average of EUR 2 669. Graduates of an apprenticeship (EUR 2 615) or BHS (EUR 2 579) earn slightly more at this point. However, if we only look at the income of women, it is EUR 2 161 after completing an apprenticeship and therefore slightly lower than after completing a BMS, and EUR 2 384 after completing a BHS. The slightly higher average income of women after completing a BMS compared to an apprenticeship is mainly due to the large number of female BMS graduates in the field of health and social services (EUR 2 591).

In terms of earning potential, it can also be seen that employment after completing an AHS without subsequent training is associated with a comparatively lower income: 18 months after graduation, the gross median income amounts to EUR 2 057 (women: EUR 1 984; men: EUR 2 103). Formal vocational training therefore increases income opportunities on the one hand and reduces the time it takes to take up a first job on the other.

Detailed results and further information on the education-related employment career monitoring (BibEr) can be found on our [website](#).

Overview of selected indicators on employment careers by educational qualification

Indicators of employment careers	Compul- sory school	Appren- ticeship	BMS	AHS	BHS
Men and women					
Percentage in further training after 18 months	92%	5%	41%	81%	45%
Time period until the first employment (in months)	6.9	1.9	2.8	7.2	4.2
Percentage of first employments lasting at least 1 year	62%	64%	69%	50%	72%
Gross monthly income after 18 months (in euro)	995	2 615	2 389	2 057	2 579
Percentage of days in employment in the second year	15%	79%	74%	36%	83%
Percentage with continuous employment in the second year	8%	51%	50%	18%	59%
Public employment service registration rate after 18 months	57.7%	7.8%	7.9%	7.4%	3.3%
Men					
Percentage in further training after 18 months	92%	4%	39%	76%	43%
Time period until the first employment (in months)	10.7	3.9	4.1	9.9	8.9
Percentage of first employments lasting at least 1 year	53%	61%	65%	49%	71%
Gross monthly income after 18 months (in euro)	1 400	2 851	2 669	2 103	2 847
Percentage of days in employment in the second year	10%	79%	72%	38%	82%
Percentage with continuous employment in the second year	5%	47%	45%	15%	52%
Public employment service registration rate after 18 months	71.7%	7.5%	8.5%	6.3%	3.2%
Women					
Percentage in further training after 18 months	92%	5%	43%	84%	47%
Time period until the first employment (in months)	4.2	0.3	2.2	4.6	2.8
Percentage of first employments lasting at least 1 year	68%	71%	72%	52%	73%
Gross monthly income after 18 months (in euro)	942	2 161	2 201	1 984	2 384
Percentage of days in employment in the second year	19%	79%	75%	35%	84%
Percentage with continuous employment in the second year	13%	56%	54%	21%	65%
Public employment service registration rate after 18 months	45.9%	8.3%	7.5%	8.9%	3.5%

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, education-related employment career monitoring (Bildungsbezogenes Erwerbskarrieremonitoring – BibEr) on behalf of BMAW and AMS. School years 2008/09 to 2020/21. – For data protection reasons, some of the data was altered using the “record swapping” method. In particular, no reliable statements are possible for cell occupations <= 30. – In order to calculate the indicators “Percentage in further training after 18 months”, “Time period until the first employment (in months)”, “Percentage of days in employment in the second year” and “Percentage with continuous employment in the second year”, the population was limited to persons who did not attend any further education within the first two years after completing their education. – For the calculation of gross monthly income, see method box. Also here, the population was limited to persons who have not attended any further training within two years of graduation. – For the calculation of the Public employment service registration rate after 18 months, also see method box. – Compulsory school includes lower/new secondary schools, academic secondary schools, lower level special schools and pre-vocational schools.

Information on methodology, definitions: The education-related employment career monitoring (BibEr) contains structured administrative data on education and the labour market. For this purpose, Statistics Austria has linked data from several registers and processed them for further use while strictly ensuring data protection. The compilation of register-based career paths of all persons living in Austria after leaving a formal educational institution makes it possible to analyse career entry, employment and income opportunities.

All formal education programmes completed in the school years 2008/09 to 2020/21 are currently integrated into the data set. In principle, only graduates or dropouts of persons who had their main residence in Austria on 31 October of the respective school year are considered.

To create the data set, the data from several registers are merged and processed anonymously. In order to make individuals unrecognisable in the results, the “record swapping” procedure was used for a fixed percentage of the data.

Discontinuation of training and changes in training: Discontinuation of training without a positive qualification is formed from the information on current training and the reported qualifications. If a person who was in training in the school year in question does not continue this training in the following year and has not completed this training, this is defined as a dropout (if no training is attended at all in the following year) or change of training (if a different training programme is attended in the following year). The discontinuation date is set on the basis of the person’s employment career in the year of the discontinuation or change of training.

Labour market status: To determine the labour market status, non-overlapping and uninterrupted episodes are formed for each person, with training dominating employment or AMS registration in the hierarchy. These uninterrupted episodes can then be used, for example, to calculate the proportion of days in employment in any given period.

First employment: The duration between the educational qualification and the start date of the first employment is determined to the exact day. This is based on graduates from the school years 2008/09 to 2020/21. The first employment is selected as the first employment that is still ongoing on the reference date six months after graduation or drop-out or that only begins after this point in time. In addition, only jobs with a duration of more than 91 days are considered as the first gainful employment.

Inflation-adjusted dependent gross income on the reference date: The reported income is calculated from the annual gross income from dependent employment excluding special payments according to the annual payslip for the year in which the reference date falls. A daily income is calculated from this on the basis of the days actually worked in the year. A monthly income is extrapolated thereof by multiplying by 365/12. To adjust for inflation, the published CPI (2005) annual average is used and weighted to the year 2023.

Public employment service registration rate after 18 months: The public employment service (AMS) registration rate after 18 months refers to graduates from the 2020/21 school year and is calculated as the proportion of persons in Public Employment Service pre-registration in the sum of employed persons and AMS pre-registrants on the reference date 18 months after graduation.

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.

Further enquiries:

For information on results and methodology, please contact the team of the department Labour Market & Education, e-mail: arbeitsmarkt-bildung@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