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15% of people with a “registered disability” are in employment

70% are pensioners; 2.5% in training or education – of which 30% in special education

Vienna, 2025-02-18 – Just under 70% of people with a ‘registered disability’ were receiving a pension at the end of 2022, while around 15% were in employment. 2.5% were in education, of which not quite 30% were taught in schools for special education or according to a special education curriculum. These are the findings of the first ever analysis conducted by Statistics Austria on the education and employment of people with a ‘registered disability’.

“More than two thirds of the approximately 760 000 people with a ‘registered disability’ in Austria receive a pension, just under 15% or 113 400 are in employment. With the results of the disability and participation statistics, Statistics Austria is closing a major data gap with regard to participation in Austria and thus creating an essential basis for inclusion measures in education and labour market policy,” says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

Lowest proportion of students with “registered disability” in schools for special education in Carinthia

19 337 people with a “registered disability”, i.e. people who either received long-term care allowance and/or with an Austrian disability pass, with the status “registered person with disabilities according to the Disability Employment Act” and with an officially determined degree of disability of less than 50%, were in education or training as at 31 December 2022. 29.7% attended a school for special education, including students who followed a special education curriculum in other school types. A further 16.4% a primary school and 11.0% a lower secondary school. 15.4% were enrolled at a university. By comparison, the proportion of students in schools for special education measured against all persons in education was 0.8%, whereas primary school pupils accounted for 23.1%, university students for 20.9% and pupils in lower secondary schools for 13.8%. On regional level, the lowest proportion of students in schools for special education among persons with “registered disability” in ongoing education was found in Carinthia at 15.3%, followed by Styria at 19.3%. 5 414 of the 5 745 students with “registered disability” attending schools for special education received long-term care allowance, 3 967 had a disability pass.

39% of people with “registered disability” have finished compulsory education at most

38.9% of the 744 887 people aged 15 and over with a “registered disability” at the end of 2022 had finished compulsory education at most, significantly more than among Austria’s general population (23.9%). This group also includes people who have not completed any further education after attending a school for special education. Over a third (34.3%) of people with “registered disability” aged 15 and over had completed an apprenticeship, while 14.1% had completed an intermediate vocational education. The remaining 12.7% had a diploma from a higher secondary school or a higher educational qualification.

There were clear disparities between men and women regarding compulsory education and apprenticeship as highest educational attainment: 27.5% of men compared to 48.1% of women had at most a compulsory school leaving certificate, whereas the proportion of persons with an apprenticeship diploma as highest qualifications was significantly higher among men than among women (46.8% compared to 24.2% for

women). Across the federal provinces, the highest proportion of people with a “registered disability” and no more than a compulsory school leaving certificate was found in Vorarlberg at 49.1%, while Carinthia had the lowest proportion at 33.6%. The share of persons with “registered disability” who had graduated from higher secondary school or had obtained a higher educational degree ranged from 9.1% in Vorarlberg and 20.8% in Vienna.

69.9% of people with “registered disability” were pension recipients

A look at the employment status of the 759 311 people with a “registered disability” shows that the majority were pension recipients as at 31 December 2022 (69.9%), while a further 14.9% were employed. The remainder consisted of people who were either unemployed (2.6%), below the age of 15 (1.9%), students aged 15 and over (0.5%) or other economically inactive persons (10.2%).

Of the 132 809 individuals with “registered disability” who formed part of the labour force at the end of 2022, more than a third (37.3%) were white-collar workers. A further 25.6% were blue-collar workers. Around 8% were self-employed or marginally employed. 14.6% were considered unemployed. Of the 89 806 salaried persons with “registered disability”, 64.8% worked full-time and 33.3% part-time. As in the population as a whole, a significantly higher proportion of women with “registered disability” than men with “registered disability” worked part-time (53.3% compared to 16.9%).

The report “People with disabilities in Austria III” and other data from the pilot project “Establishing a data infrastructure for regular statistics on disability and participation” is available on our [website](#).

Table 1: Persons with ongoing education 2022 by educational institution – in %

Current education	Total population	Persons with “registered disability”
Total	100	100
Not stated ¹	0.9	1.2
Primary schools	23.1	16.4
Lower secondary schools	13.8	11.0
Schools for special education ²	0.8	29.7
Pre-vocational schools	0.9	0.8
Academic secondary schools, lower level	7.9	2.4
Academic secondary schools, upper level	5.9	2.3
Vocational schools for apprentices/ Apprenticeships	7.0	7.1
Intermediate technical and vocational schools	2.6	2.1
Higher technical and vocational schools	8.4	3.0
Schools for nursing and medical services	0.1	0.1
Post-secondary courses	0.4	0.3
Universities/Fachhochschulen (universities of applied sciences)	20.9	15.4
Other formal education	7.1	8.3

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, School and higher education Statistics (reference date 31 October 2022); Population statistics (reference date 31 December 2022); Federation of Social Insurances (reference date 31 December 2022); Service of the Ministry of Social Affairs (“Sozialministeriumservice”; reference date 31 December 2022, with exception of the dataset on persons with a degree of disability below 50%: reference date 14 June 2023). – 1) Persons of compulsory school age with education abroad, home schooling or persons exempt from compulsory schooling as well as persons of compulsory school age whose school attendance is not known (e.g. due to the different reference date). 2) Incl. students who are taught according to a special education curriculum in other schools.

Table 2: Population aged 15 and over 2022 by highest educational attainment – in %

Highest educational attainment	Total population	Persons with “registered disability”
Total	100	100
Compulsory school ¹	23.9	38.9
Apprenticeship diploma	30.3	34.3
Schools for intermediate vocational education	13.6	14.1
Academic secondary school	6.8	3.3
Higher technical and vocational school	8.2	3.6
Post-secondary courses	0.7	0.3
Academy	1.8	1.0
University/Fachhochschule (university of applied sciences)	14.0	4.4
Not stated ²	0.7	0.0

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Register of educational attainment (reference date 31 October 2022); Population statistics (reference date 31 December 2022); Federation of Social Insurances (reference date 31 December 2022); Service of the Ministry of Social Affairs (“Sozialministeriumservice”; reference date 31 December 2022, with exception of the dataset on persons with a degree of disability below 50%: reference date 14 June 2023). – 1) Including persons without a compulsory school leaving certificate. 2) Highest level of education completed unknown due to the different reference date of the register of educational attainment.

Table 3: Population 2022 by labour force status – in %

Employment status	Total population	Persons with “registered disability”
Total	100	100
Employed	48.5	14.9
Unemployed	3.5	2.6
Persons under 15 years	14.4	1.9
Persons receiving a pension	22.0	69.9
Students 15 years and older	3.7	0.5
Other persons outside the labour force	7.8	10.2

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Register-based Labour Market Careers (reference date 31 December 2022); Population statistics (reference date 31 December 2022); Federation of Social Insurances (reference date 31 December 2022); Service of the Ministry of Social Affairs (“Sozialministeriumservice”; reference date 31 December 2022, with exception of the dataset on persons with a degree of disability below 50%: reference date 14 June 2023).

Information on methodology, definitions: For the report “People with disabilities in Austria III: Education, employment and institutional housing of persons with ‘registered disability’ 2022” commissioned by the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (BMSGPK), pseudonymised data sets from the federal administration were linked with data from the Central Residence Register, specialised statistical registers, the register of educational attainment and the school and higher education statistics.

For the data set on people with a degree of disability of less than 50%, the reference date is 14 June 2023, for data from the school and higher education statistics and the register of educational attainment the reference date is 31 October 2022. All other data sources refer to 31 December 2022.

The following groups of people are considered to have a “registered disability”: persons receiving long-term care allowance, persons with an Austrian disability pass, persons with the status “registered person with disabilities according to the Disability Employment Act” and persons with an officially determined degree of disability of less than 50%. Thus, the group referred to here as people with “registered disability” is not the entire population of people with disabilities living in Austria, but rather the subset of people with disabilities that appears in the federal administrative data on which the analyses are based.

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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