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Strong increase in internet usage of the elderly

Education level remains critical factor for digital inclusion in old age

Vienna, 2025-10-23 – Almost the entire Austrian working-age population uses the internet. The age group 65+ may be significantly behind but is increasingly catching up, as shown by Statistics Austria's latest results of the household survey on the usage of information and communication technologies (ICT). Internet usage of the elderly remains strongly dependant on their education level.

"The digital divide between young and old is closing", says Manuela Lenk, Director General Statistics of Statistics Austria. "While the proportion of internet users among 16- to 64-year-olds has exceeded 95% for years, it has risen from 69% to 75% in the 65- to 84-year-old age group within two years. We are seeing a significant increase in usage rates, especially among baby boomers, who are now gradually entering senior years, but 75- to 84-year-olds are also catching up significantly in internet usage."

Age group 65+ is catching up rapidly on the internet

The ICT survey demonstrates nearly ubiquitous use of the internet among 16- to 64-year-olds: In the last three years the proportion remained consistently at around 97%. Furthermore, the internet is firmly embedded in their everyday life: Nine out of ten 16- to 64-year-olds use it several times a day.

A dynamic upward trend is evident among the age group of 65- to 84-year-olds. Their internet usage rate increased from 69% in 2023 to currently 75%, an increase by 6 percentage points.

Increased internet usage of the elderly primarily driven by women

The increase among 65- to 84-year-olds is primarily driven by the increased internet usage of women. While the proportion of men increased ever so slightly from 77% to 79% between 2023 and 2025, the women's proportion rose significantly from 62% to 72%. Thus, the gender gap declined from 15 to 8 percentage points within the last two years.

Digital inclusion in old age: education level makes all the difference

Socio-demographic differences tend to play a lesser role in the internet usage of older people, but education remains a decisive influencing factor. Internet usage rates of the elderly with a university degree or Matura higher school certificate nearly match the levels observed in the working-age population at 96% and 95%, respectively. Significantly lower at 73% are the usage rates of the elderly with an apprenticeship or those who went to school for intermediate vocational education. The lowest internet usage of 58% was observed amongst persons whose highest educational attainment is compulsory schooling.

For detailed results and further information please refer to our website.

Internet usage of the elderly in Austria 2023 and 2025

Characteristics	Elderly who used the internet in the last three months prior to the survey	
	2023	2025
	%	
Total (aged 65 to 84 years)	**68,5**	**75,0**
Of which, aged 65 to 74 years	78,7	82,0
Of which, aged 75 to 84 years	53,8	65,1
Sex		
Male	77,0	79,2
Female	61,5	71,5
Education level		
Compulsory schooling	46,7	58,4
Apprenticeship/school for intermediate vocational education	69,7	73,3
Matura (Austrian qualification for university entrance)	83,1	94,5
University	92,3	96,4
Degree of urbanisation		
Cities	70,7	82,3
Towns and suburbs	69,1	75,9
Rural areas	66,6	68,6
Household type		
Single-person household	57,2	69,1
Multi-person household	73,5	77,6

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Survey on the use of ICT in households and by individuals 2023 and 2025.

Information on methodology, definitions: These are the extrapolated results of the survey on ICT usage in households and by individuals in Austria in 2025. 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 2024/2182) and a Commission Delegated Regulation (Regulation (EC) No 2024/2515). Statistics Austria conducted the Austrian survey as a sample survey. The questionnaire, definitions and methodology were standardised across the EU.

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. In 2023 and in 2025, the age range was extended to 16- to 84-year-olds and to 16- to 89-year-olds, respectively. In 2025, a total of 4 741 households und 6 214 persons were surveyed. Data was collected via web-based questionnaires or telephone interviews between April and July 2025. 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.

Unless specified otherwise, the figures in the press release refer to internet usage of the 65- to 84-year-old population in the last three months prior to the survey; the sample includes 1 617 persons.

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 Manuela Lenk, Director General Statistics, and Franz Haslauer, Director General Finance.

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