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Around 48% of the population in Austria participate in voluntary activities

Significant differences according to gender and age

Vienna, 2025-12-04 – Almost half of the Austrian resident population aged 15 and over (48.2%) engages in voluntary activities. These are the results of the 2025 survey on volunteering conducted by Statistics Austria at the beginning of the year on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection.

“Around 3.7 million people in Austria volunteer their time and energy free of charge to social causes and other people – whether in associations or organisations or by providing informal support to others. Around one fifth of volunteers are active exclusively within the institutional framework of a association or organisation, around 50% help others informally and 30% are active both formally and informally,” says Manuela Lenk, Director General Statistics of Statistics Austria.

Helping others as a key motivation

The reasons for volunteering are diverse and reflect a strong sense of social responsibility. For the majority of volunteers, the most important motivation is helping other people (93.0% agreement). Enjoyment of the activity (91.5%) and the desire to contribute something useful to the common good (85.5%) are also highly relevant. In contrast, work-related reasons play a minor role: 5.4% hope to find a job through volunteering, and 16.7% see benefits for their professional life (see table 1).

Clear gender differences in tasks within associations

Around 24.1% of people in Austria are actively involved in associations or organisations, which corresponds to about 1.9 million individuals. With regards to activities within associations, most people engage in personal assistance tasks (27.1%), followed by organising and conducting meetings (26.2%). The least common tasks are networking or fundraising and collecting donations, each at 3.2%.

The distribution of tasks in formal voluntary work shows clear gender-specific differences. Men more frequently take on leadership and management roles (68.6%) and are more active in advocacy and decision-making (64.8%). Women, on the other hand, are relatively more involved in information and public relations (56.8%), group instruction and educational support (54.4%), as well as organising and implementing (aid) projects (51.1%, see table 3).

38.7% of Austria’s population also engages in informal volunteering (see table 2). These activities mostly include household chores (43.9%) or repairs and manual work (41.9%) for people from another household.

People aged 60 and above volunteer less often, yet dedicate more hours

Participation in formal or informal voluntary activities tends to decline with age. Nevertheless, the participation rate among 60- to 69-year-olds is 47.8%, only slightly below average. Among 70- to 79-year-olds, 40.0% are active, and among those 80 and older, 24.2% participate in voluntary activities.

However, when looking at time spent, older volunteers dedicate significantly more hours. People aged 60 and over volunteer for a median of 3.46 hours per week, while those aged up to 40 volunteer for a median of 2.31 hours per week and those aged 40 to 59 volunteer for around 2.44 hours per week.

Table 1: Agreement to motives for voluntary activities, persons aged 15 years and older

Motives	Fully agreeing in %	Mostly agreeing in %	Mostly not agreeing in %	Not agreeing at all in %
I enjoy the activity.	58.4	33.2	5.5	2.8
I want to contribute something useful to the common good.	48.0	37.5	8.9	5.5
I want to help others through it.	64.4	28.7	4.3	2.6
The activity helps me in my profession.	6.7	10.0	22.2	61.1
I can use my skills and knowledge.	35.3	39.0	12.1	13.7
I meet people and make friends.	30.5	32.8	20.1	16.6
I gain social recognition.	19.5	30.8	26.2	23.5
It helps me stay physically and mentally active.	31.8	36.6	16.4	15.2
I can share my experience.	33.1	39.9	15.0	12.0
I have the opportunity to learn and further my education.	21.8	28.5	24.7	25.0
I hope to find a job through it.	2.1	3.3	13.1	81.5
I want to receive help myself when I need it.	38.7	34.7	14.2	12.4

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Survey on volunteering 2025.

Table 2: Participation in voluntary activities by gender and age, persons aged 15 years and older

Gender, Age	All persons in 1 000	Active in voluntary work in the last 12 months in %	Active in formal voluntary work in the last 12 months in %	Active in informal voluntary work in the last 12 months in %
Gender				
Men and women	7 732.8	48.2	24.1	38.7
Men	3 785.4	50.7	28.2	39.3
Women	3 947.5	45.8	20.1	38.2
Age				
Younger than 30 years	1 463.8	50.4	25.0	39.8
30-39 years	1 280.4	50.8	25.4	42.4
40-49 years	1 209.7	52.6	27.2	42.0
50-59 years	1 305.9	53.1	26.7	43.0
60-69 years	1 225.8	47.8	22.6	39.4
70-79 years	755.1	40.0	21.7	30.6
80 years or older	492.3	24.2	10.5	17.3

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Survey on volunteering 2025.

Table 3: Participation rate in formal voluntary tasks by gender, persons aged 15 years and older

Tasks in the organisation	Total in 1 000	Men in %	Women in %
Personal assistance	505.2	60.8	39.2
Organisation and implementation of (aid) projects	131.2	48.9	51.1
Organisation and execution of meetings and events	488.6	57.1	42.9
Counselling	99.0	62.8	37.2
Leading a group and educational supervision	129.5	45.6	54.4
Advocacy and participation in decision-making	123.8	64.8	35.2
Information and public relations	114.1	43.2	56.8
Administrative and office tasks	143.8	59.1	40.9
Networking	59.0	58.5	41.5
Fundraising and collecting donations	59.9	51.5	48.5
Leadership and management tasks	141.2	68.6	31.4
Others	391.2	55.2	44.8

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Survey on volunteering 2025.

Table 4: Weekly time used for voluntary activities, persons aged 15 years and older

Age	Voluntary active in 1 000	Median weekly hours
Younger than 40 years	1 388.3	2.31
40-59 Jahre	1 329.9	2.44
60 years or older	1 007.4	3.46

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Survey on volunteering 2025.

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

Information on methodology and definitions:

Volunteering encompasses voluntary and unpaid activities and services performed by private individuals outside their own households for the purpose of promoting the common good or for predominantly social reasons, without these being performed for financial gain on the basis of an employment relationship or as part of vocational training. These can be both formal services within an association and informal, privately performed services.

Formal voluntary work refers to unpaid activities carried out within an organisation or association, such as the fire brigade, rescue services or cultural associations. These may be management functions, participation in core tasks such as operations, or support activities such as fundraising.

Informal voluntary work is privately organised work without an association or organisation in the background for people who do not live in the same household, such as friends, neighbours and relatives.

Sample and data collection: For the survey on volunteering, a subsample of the Microcensus follow-up survey was used. The sample base comprised around 24,000 individuals aged 15 years and older. Participation in the survey was voluntary. After weighting and extrapolation, as well as the analyses based on this, 11 445 individual interviews remained.

Weighting: The extrapolation of the results was carried out similarly to that of the Microcensus core program. Using an iterative procedure (iterative proportional fitting), the data were adjusted to match the population figures according to the population register of Statistics Austria at the beginning of each quarter (excluding the population in institutional households) and to the employment status based on administrative data.

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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