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Number of pupils continued to rise in 2024/25 due to immigration

Record high of pupils in lower secondary academic school (AHS)

Vienna, 2025-12-11 – At the beginning of the 2024/25 school year, there were 1 185 525 pupils in Austrian schools at the start of the 2024/25 school year. This is around 13 100 or 1.1% more than in the previous school year. This growth is mainly attributable to the rising number of schoolchildren who are not Austrian nationals.

“In the 2024/25 school year, 376 203 children attended primary school in Austria, around 7 100 more than in the previous year. In secondary schools, the number of pupils grew by around 3 200 during the same period. These increases are mainly due to the rise in the number of schoolchildren who are not Austrian nationals. We are also continuing to see rising pupil numbers in lower secondary academic school. With around 125 400 pupils, a new record high was reached here,” says Manuela Lenk, Director General Statistics at Statistics Austria.

Continued growth in primary school enrolment due to migration

After a sharp decline in primary school enrolment figures since the turn of the millennium, growth has been recorded again since the 2016/17 school year, mainly driven by migration flows since 2015. In 2024/25, a total of 376 203 pupils attended primary schools in Austria, an increase of 7 096 (+1.9%) compared to 2023/24. Over the past decade, enrolment rose by 48 060 (+14.6%), entirely due to pupils with foreign citizenship. Their number has almost doubled since 2014/15, from 44 802 to 89 460 most recently. Compared to the previous school year, the number of primary school pupils with non-Austrian citizenship rose by 5 921.

Slightly more elementary school children receiving German language support

Children without sufficient knowledge of the German language of instruction are classified as extraordinary pupils and receive German language support. At the start of 2024/25, 40 698 primary school pupils fell into this category, representing 10.8% of all primary pupils (2023/24: 39 651; 10.7%). Despite the increase in pupils with foreign citizenship, the year-on-year comparison shows only a marginal rise in those classified as extraordinary. Nationwide, nearly half (49.8%) of those primary pupils requiring German language support were taught in dedicated German support classes, while 50.2% attended German support courses due to inadequate German language skills (see info box). By federal province, Vienna had the highest proportion of extraordinary pupils at 19.6%, followed by Upper Austria (10.9%) and Vorarlberg (9.5%), while Burgenland had the lowest share at 4.9%.

Growth in middle schools, new peak in lower level of academic secondary schools

Middle schools show a similar trend. After years of decline, enrolment began to rise noticeably in 2022/23 (+3.5% compared to 2021/22) and continued in 2023/24 (+1.3%) and 2024/25, reaching 219 185 pupils (+3 241; +1.5% year-on-year). This increase was mainly driven by pupils without Austrian citizenship, whose proportion reached 24.7%, up 10 percentage points from 14.7% in 2014/15.

Decline in secondary school students with insufficient German language skills

At the start of the 2024/25 school year, 6 531 pupils in secondary schools were classified as extraordinary pupils due to insufficient German language skills (3.0%), down from 3.8% in 2023/24. Of these, nearly three

quarters (74.3%) had insufficient knowledge of German and were taught in German support classes (2023/24: 67.5%), while about one quarter attended a German support course.

The lower level of academic secondary schools has seen steady growth since the 2013/14 school year. In 2024/25, enrolment reached a new peak of 125 375 pupils (2023/24: 125 009), representing an increase of 11.1% over the past decade.

Upper secondary level: Different developments in enrolment numbers

In academic secondary schools upper level, enrolment slightly declined in 2024/25 to 91 696 pupils (2023/24: 91 981; −0.3%), but rose by 0.5% over the past decade. Conversely, enrolment in colleges for higher vocational education increased slightly in 2024/25 for the first time in years to 140 458 pupils (+0.7% year-on-year), though it fell by 4.5% over ten years. Among colleges for higher vocational education, only higher colleges for agriculture and forestry (+3.9%) and higher colleges for early childhood resp. social pedagogy (+3.7%) recorded growth over the decade. Enrolment declined in higher colleges of business administration (−1.9%), higher crafts, technical and arts colleges (−6.4%), and higher colleges of management and the service industries (−8.5%). Similar downward trends were observed in schools for intermediate vocational education (−6.3%) and vocational schools for apprentices (−5.8%).

For detailed results and further information please refer to website.

Number of pupils in the 2024/25 school year in comparison to 2023/24 and 2014/15

Type of school	School Year			Change in % 2024/25 to ...	
	2024/25	2023/24	2014/15	2023/24	2014/15
Total for all types of schools	**1 185 525**	**1 172 406**	**1 129 046**	**1,1**	**5,0**
Primary schools	376 203	369 107	328 143	1,9	14,6
New secondary schools[1]	219 185	215 944	208 136	1,5	5,3
Special (SEN) schools[2]	15 688	15 050	14 247	4,2	10,1
Pre-vocational schools	15 166	14 616	15 816	3,8	−4,1
Academic secondary schools, lower level[3]	125 375	125 009	112 802	0,3	11,1
Academic secondary schools, upper level	91 696	91 981	91 222	−0,3	0,5
Other general schools (statutes)[4]	12 159	11 785	9 490	3,2	28,1
Vocational schools for apprentices	116 047	117 402	123 232	−1,2	−5,8
Schools for intermediate vocational education	42 644	42 310	45 523	0,8	−6,3
Other technical and vocational schools (statutes)	8 491	8 486	8 240	0,1	3,0
Colleges for higher vocational education	140 458	139 517	147 019	0,7	−4,5
Higher crafts, technical and arts colleges	59 913	60 210	63 996	−0,5	−6,4
Higher colleges of business administration	38 892	38 070	39 650	2,2	−1,9
Higher colleges of management and the service industries	24 914	24 825	27 243	0,4	−8,5
Higher colleges of agriculture and forestry	4 064	3 920	3 913	3,7	3,9
Higher colleges for early childhood resp. social pedagogy	12 675	12 492	12 217	1,5	3,7
Federal sports academies	2 946	2 718	3 919	8,4	−24,8
Schools and academies for the medical services	19 467	18 481	21 257	5,3	−8,4

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, School Statistics. Data at the beginning of the school year as of 1 October or, if classes are organized during the year, on the second Monday after the start of the course.
1) New secondary schools at former general secondary school locations, excluding students of the pilot secondary school at academic secondary schools, lower level. – 2) Including pupils who are taught in other schools according to the special school curriculum. – 3) Including students of the pilot secondary school at academic secondary schools, lower level. – 4) Schools with organisational statute including schools with foreign curriculum.

Information on German support in German support classes and German support courses: The type of German support is regulated in § 8h of the School Organisation Act (see: School Organisation Act). Pupils with inadequate German language skills are taught either in pure German support classes or in their regular class in an integrative manner according to the curriculum of the German support class. Pupils with inadequate German language skills receive six hours of German language support per week in parallel to lessons in their mainstream class.

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.

Further enquiries:
For information on results and methodology, please contact:
Harald Gumpoldsberger, phone: +43 1 711 28-7216 | e-mail: harald.gumpoldsberger@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
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