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1.9 million people with disabilities in Austria in 2024

21.5% of people with disabilities were at risk of poverty or exclusion

Vienna, 2026-01-22 – In 2024, 24.7% of the resident population aged between 15 and 89 in Austria were restricted in their everyday activities due to health reasons and thus lived with disabilities, as Statistics Austria reports. This corresponds to 1.9 million people, who were also disproportionately affected by poverty and exclusion, as well as by unmet needs for care and everyday assistance.

“In 2024, nearly one quarter of Austria’s adult resident population reported being severely or somewhat limited in everyday activities due to health reasons and, thus, living with disabilities. 1 in 5 of them was at risk of poverty or social exclusion,” says Manuela Lenk, Director General Statistics at Statistics Austria commenting on the latest analyses by Statistics Austria based on various household and personal surveys and commissioned by the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. All these surveys include the Global Activity Limitation Indicator (GALI). Respondents indicate whether and to what extent they are limited in their daily activities due to health reasons, i.e. whether they live with a disability.

24.7% with limitations in everyday activities

Of the 1.9 million people aged 15 to 89 with health-related limitations in everyday activities in 2024, around 595 000 (7.8% of the population) reported severe limitations according to the Microcensus survey 2024, while about 1 297 000 (16.9%) classified themselves as “somewhat limited” (see table 1). Overall, the share of people with disabilities in 2024 was approximately the same as in 2022 (25.0%). The prevalence of disability increases progressively with age: while only about 8% of those aged 15 to 24 lived with disabilities, nearly 6 in 10 people aged 75 to 89 were affected.

As in 2022, more than half of people with disabilities aged 15 to 64 (18.2% of the population of the same age) were employed (2024: 54.1%, 2022: 55.6%), but people with severe limitations in everyday activities were significantly less likely to be employed (27.8%) than people who were only slightly limited (63.9%, see table 2).

People with disabilities continue to be at above-average risk of poverty and exclusion

According to the survey on income and living conditions (EU-SILC), people with disabilities continued to face an above-average risk of poverty or social exclusion. Of all individuals aged 16 and older with health-related activity limitations, more than one fifth (21.5%) were at risk in 2024 (2022: 22.7%), while this risk stood at 16.2% for the population aged 16 and over as a whole in 2024 (2022: 16.8%). The risk of poverty or social exclusion among people with disabilities was particularly high in single-parent households (49.7%) and those living alone (39.5%, see table 3).

Experiences of discrimination were surveyed in 4 areas: contact with authorities, in public spaces, contact with educational institutions, and during the housing search. 17.5% of people with disabilities experienced discrimination in at least one of the 4 areas and an additional 5.5% in two or more areas. Discrimination was most frequently reported in dealing with authorities or public institutions (11.8%).

Unmet need for care and everyday assistance

13.7% of households with at least one household member with disabilities reported a need of care or everyday assistance. For almost 1 in 4 of these households (23.0%), the required care or assistance through mobile services was not available at all or not available to a sufficient extent.

Among households with at least one household member with disabilities and care needs that used mobile care or home help services, nearly half (47.4%) covered the full costs themselves, while another 38.3% paid at least part of the costs. For 27.1% of these households, their own financial contribution for support services was difficult or very difficult to afford.

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

Table 1: Population by health-related limitations in everyday activities and sex 2024

Sex	All individuals	Not limited	Severely & somewhat limited combined	Severely limited	Somewhat limited
Absolute numbers					
Men and women (in 1 000)	7 661.1	5 769.5	1 891.6	594.8	1 296.7
Men (in 1 000)	3 758.4	2 858.5	899.8	286.0	613.9
Women (in 1 000)	3 902.7	2 911.0	991.7	308.8	682.9
In percent					
Men and women (in %)	100.0	75.3	24.7	7.8	16.9
Men (in %)	100.0	76.1	23.9	7.6	16.3
Women (in %)	100.0	74.6	25.4	7.9	17.5

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Microcensus 2024. – Population in private households aged 15 to 89 years.

Table 2: Employment rate by health-related limitations in everyday activities and sex 2024 – in percent

Sex	All individuals	Not limited	Severely & somewhat limited combined	Severely limited	Somewhat limited
Men and women	74.2	78.7	54.1	27.8	63.9
Men	77.7	82.5	56.5	29.4	67.1
Women	70.8	75.0	51.8	26.1	60.8

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Microcensus 2024. – Population in private households aged 15 to 64 years.

Table 3: Persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion by health-related limitations in everyday activities and household type 2024 – in percent

Household type	All individuals	Not limited	Severely & somewhat limited combined	Severely limited	Somewhat limited
All types of households	16.2	13.9	21.5	29.4	18.4
Couples without children	11.0	9.6	13.5	18.9	11.6
Couples with children	13.8	12.6	19.1	(27.0)	17.4
Single-parent households	38.8	34.1	49.7	(83.5)	39.8
One-person household	29.9	23.3	39.5	46.7	35.8
Other multi-person households	9.8	10.8	(7.3)	(14.0)	(4.2)

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, EU-SILC 2024. – Population in private households aged 6 years and above.

Methodology and definitions: With the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2008, Austria committed to ensuring equal access for people with disabilities to all areas of social life. For the report “People with Disabilities in Austria: Survey Data 2024” commissioned by the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (BMSGPK), the following surveys were used: Microcensus 2024, EU-SILC 2024, “So geht’s uns heute” 2024 (Q1–Q4/2024), ICT usage in households survey 2024, Adult Education Survey 2022/23, and Time Use Survey 2021/22.

The characteristic “disability” is collected in these surveys using the so-called **GALI question (Global Activity Limitation Indicator)**, where respondents indicate whether and to what extent they have been limited in typical everyday activities for at least six months due to health reasons. Therefore, this report uses the term “people with health-related limitations in everyday activities” alongside “people with disabilities”.

According to EU definition, people are considered at **risk of poverty or social exclusion** if they live in a household with a comparatively low income or low employment, or if they are significantly materially and socially deprived.

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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