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120 000 young people neither in education nor employment

More and more NEETs have migration background or low educational attainment

2026-03-11 – 121 930 young people in Austria between the ages of 15 and 24 were neither in education nor in training with the public employment service (AMS) nor in employment. The proportion of NEETs (not in employment, education or training) among all persons in this age group was 12.9% in 2023, slightly above the 2022 figure (12.8%). These are the results of an analysis by Statistics Austria based on the education-related career monitoring (bildungsbezogenes Erwerbskarrierenmonitoring – BibEr).

“The proportion of young people not in education, employment or training – so-called NEETs – has hardly changed in the last 15 years, but the composition of this group has changed significantly. Today, NEETs are more likely to have a migration background or, at most, a compulsory school degree. The gender ratio is now almost balanced, whereas the proportion of NEETs used to be higher among women,” says Manuela Lenk, Director General Statistics of Statistics Austria. However, in general, 6 out of 10 NEETs are back in education, employment or registered with the AMS within 2 years.

Every second NEET has a migration background

As of 31 October 2023, a total of 121 930 young people aged 15 to 24 in Austria were classified as NEETs according to BibEr – they were neither in school nor vocational training nor attending an AMS training programme and were also not employed. This corresponds to 12.9% of all individuals in this age group. In 2016, the NEET rate peaked at 14.5% and has been declining ever since. By 2023, it had returned to roughly the same level as in 2009 (12.8%).

However, the composition of NEETs has shifted over time. In 2009, young women were more frequently classified as NEETs (13.8%) than young men (11.8%), but by 2023 the gender balance was nearly equal (women: 12.9%; men: 12.8%). In addition, the proportion of NEET youth with a migration background has increased significantly. While 39.2% of all NEETs in 2009 had a migration background, this applied to every second NEET in 2023 (51.8%).

The educational background within the NEET group has also changed: The proportion of young NEETs with at most compulsory schooling rose from 51.9% in 2009 to 54.7% in 2023, while the proportion of NEET youth with completed apprenticeship training decreased by 6.1 percentage points to 15.1%.

Looking at the federal provinces, Vienna recorded the highest NEET rate among the total 15- to 24-year-old population in 2023 (17.7%), followed by Vorarlberg (14.9%). The lowest proportion was observed in Upper Austria (10.5%). Compared to 2009, the NEET rate declined most strongly in Vienna (–2.1 percentage points) and Tyrol (–1.2 percentage points), while it increased in Burgenland (+1.5 percentage points) and Upper Austria (+0.9 percentage points).

6 out of 10 NEETs are in education, employment or AMS registration two years later

An analysis of the further educational and employment careers of the young people concerned shows that currently about 1 in 10 NEETs no longer has their main residence in Austria 2 years after being recorded. Among those who have not moved abroad, around 6 out of 10 were again in education, employed or registered with the AMS two years later. At the same time, a persistence in NEET status can be observed: Individuals who were classified as NEET in 2 consecutive years were significantly less likely to be in education or employment in the subsequent years.

The full report in German, including further detailed results, is available on our [website](#) (in German only).

Informations on methodology, definitions:

Monitoring of education-related employment behaviour (bildungsbezogenes Erwerbskarrierenmonitoring – BibEr): The project contains structured administrative data on the transition from education to the labour market. BibEr enables statistical analysis of the employment and education trajectories of all individuals residing in Austria after leaving a formal educational institution. The project is conducted by Statistics Austria together with and on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection and the Public Employment Service (AMS) Austria. The main results of the project are available on the Statistics Austria website.

NEETs: NEETs are young people who are neither in employment nor in education or training. Following national and international definitions, BibEr classifies persons as NEET if they are older than 15, have their main residence in Austria on the reference date 31 October of the respective year, are not employed, not in formal education, not attending AMS training, and are not receiving a pension. The project currently calculates NEET figures for the years 2009 to 2023. [Internationally comparable NEET statistics](#) from the Microcensus Labour Force Survey are also produced and published by Statistics Austria.

Migration background: Persons for whom at least one parent was born in Austria are considered to have no migration background. Persons whose parents were both born abroad are considered to have a migration background. Individuals born abroad whose one parent was born abroad and the other parent's country of birth is unknown, or whose parents' birthplaces are both unknown, are also classified as having a migration background.

Labour market status: The assignment of a mutually exclusive labour market status is done using dominance rules, ensuring each individual is assigned a unique status for the reference date. In the BibEr project, participation in formal education always takes precedence over employment, AMS registration or other statuses.

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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