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# Neighbourhood as support: 72% feel comfortable in their living environment

## Financially burdened population groups show less trust in their neighbourhood

Vienna, 2026-03-30 – In the fourth quarter of 2025, the majority of 18- to 74-year-olds in Austria said they felt at home in their neighbourhood. Further findings from the Statistics Austria survey on the social consequences of the crisis show that, by the end of 2025, more than a third of the population were finding it harder to make ends meet than they had a year earlier.

“In the fourth quarter of 2025, 72% of 18- to 74-year-olds in Austria said they felt at home in their neighbourhood – 76% in rural areas and 65% in towns and cities. Neighbourly relationships also play a part in this: while three-quarters of people in rural areas know most of their neighbours, this applies to only one-fifth in urban areas. People in households affected by unemployment or on low incomes benefit less from their neighbourhood than the average population,” says Manuela Lenk, Director General Statistics at Statistics Austria.

### Higher neighbourhood satisfaction in rural areas than in cities

The majority of 18- to 74-year-olds in Austria feel comfortable in their neighbourhood. 72% rated their well-being in the neighbourhood as 7 or higher on a scale of 0 to 10 (<https://www.deepl.com/de/translator> - ftn1 (0 = I feel very uncomfortable, 10 = I feel very comfortable). While 76% in rural areas reported a high level of well-being in their neighbourhood, this proportion is significantly lower at 65% in towns and cities. Neighbourly connections are also particularly strong in rural regions – 74% there know most or all of their neighbours, compared with just 20% in cities.

Vulnerable groups – that is, people in households at increased risk of social or economic disadvantage – less frequently reported a high sense of well-being in their neighbourhood overall than the population average. Among people on low incomes, the proportion was 51%, and among those in households affected by unemployment, at 53% (see table 1). Trust and mutual support are also less pronounced in these groups. While 85% of the population on average stated that they could spontaneously ask their neighbours for help, this was less common among vulnerable groups. Around 71% of people from low-income households reported having this option. Some of these differences can be explained by the fact that vulnerable population groups are more likely to live in rented accommodation and thus more frequently in multi-occupancy buildings than the average. These types of housing are particularly common in urban areas – and it is precisely in cities that neighbourly relationships tend to play a lesser role.

### More than 1 in 3 is finding it harder to make ends meet than in the previous year

The financial situation of many households remained strained in the fourth quarter of 2025. 37% stated that they were finding it (much) harder to make ends meet than a year earlier – an increase compared with the fourth quarter of 2024 (33%). The main reason cited for the reduced ability to make ends meet was, above all, increased spending on food. Furthermore, higher energy and housing costs played a central role.

26% of the population reported a loss of income compared with the previous year – an increase compared with the fourth quarter of 2024 (21%, see table 2). Those on low incomes and households affected by unemployment are particularly hard hit.

16% of people aged 18 to 74 in Austria stated in the fourth quarter of 2025 that they were under significant financial strain due to housing costs. People from single-parent households are particularly hard hit, with 36% reporting a significant financial burden due to housing costs. Overall, the results underscore that rising living costs continue to have a significant impact on the financial well-being of households.

### The future remains uncertain: 1 in 5 expects incomes to fall

The population’s expectations for the future remain characterised by uncertainty even at the end of 2025. 1 in 5 of respondents expects the household income to fall over the coming twelve months – a figure on a par with the previous year. At the same time, 60% assumed that their income would remain stable, while 20% expected an improvement (see table 2).

Those who had suffered income losses in the past year were particularly pessimistic: 40% of them also expect further declines in the future. In households affected by unemployment, the proportion of negative expectations has recently risen again.

With regard to major purchases, consumer sentiment remains cautious. 34% planned to reduce their spending over the next 12 months; only 16% intended to spend more. Scepticism also prevails regarding general economic developments: 61% anticipated a deterioration in the economic situation.

**Table 1: Well-being in the neighbourhood, Q4/2025**

Group	in %		
	Low (0–3)	Medium (4–6)	High (7–10)
Single-parent household <sup>1</sup>	12.6	24.0	63.5
Low household income <sup>2</sup>	15.0	33.9	51.1
Multi-child household <sup>3</sup>	(7.2)	24.0	68.8
Household affected by unemployment	9.4	38.1	52.5
<b>Total population (18–74 years)</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>72.0</b>

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Survey on the social consequences of the crisis (“How we are today – So geht’s uns heute”). – Data as of 17.02.2026.

The figures in brackets are based on small sample sizes: if there are fewer than 50 cases in a cell, they are shown in brackets ( ); figures based on fewer than 20 cases are not reported (x).

1) Single-parent household (= single parent): Household with only one parent and at least one child under 25 years of age. – 2) Low household income: monthly disposable standardised household income of less than 1 200 euros per month. – 3) Multi-child household: couple household with at least three dependent children in the household; dependent children: child is under 18 years of age or between 18 and 24 years of age and not in employment or unemployed.

**Table 2: Financial situation, Q4/2024 to Q4/2025**

Attribute		Q4/2024	Q1/2025	Q2/2025	Q3/2025	Q4/2025	
		in %				in %	in 1 000
Perceived change in income (last 12 months)	Increase	40.7	43.3	37.8	34.1	31.3	2 068
	Unchanged	38.2	35.2	39.5	40.9	42.3	2 800
	Decrease	21.2	21.5	22.7	25.0	26.4	1 745
Expected change in income (next 12 months)	Increase	24.0	17.5	16.5	20.5	20.4	1 348
	Unchanged	55.8	63.6	60.3	57.7	59.9	3 961
	Decrease	20.2	18.9	23.2	21.8	19.7	1 303
Burden of housing cost	Heavy burden	15.4	14.5	15.1	15.1	15.6	1 031
	Some burden	63.5	64.3	63.4	61.7	62.7	4 149
	No burden	21.0	21.2	21.5	23.2	21.7	1 432
<b>Total</b>			<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA. Survey on the social consequences of the crisis (“How we are today – So geht’s uns heute”). – Data as of 17.02.2026.

Detailed results and in-depth analyses on perceived differences of opportunities between generations can be found in the report “So geht’s uns heute: Die sozialen Krisenfolgen im 4. Quartal 2025 – Schwerpunkt: Wohlbefinden in der Nachbarschaft” (in German language only), issued jointly by IHS and Statistics Austria. The report is available on our [website](#) along with other detailed results.

**Information on methods, definitions:** The 17<sup>th</sup> wave of the survey “How we are today – So geht's uns heute” took place in November and December 2025. Approximately 3 800 respondents between 18 and 74 years participated in the survey. Between 2021 and 2023, Austria carried out the project with 10 other EU countries and was funded by Eurostat and the Ministry of Social Affairs. From the survey in the first quarter of 2024 onwards, “So geht's uns heute” is fully funded by the Ministry of Social Affairs. The current results in Austria show the subjective public opinion of the third quarter of 2025. The study focuses on personally experienced income losses, the subjective coping with the cost of life, personal well-being, and happiness. The quarterly study aims to identify the social effects of developments in the current crisis as early as possible. The sample was drawn from the Austrian civil register. Register data was not used in order to depict changes in the public opinion in a timely manner. The questionnaire can be found on our [website](#) (available in German only).

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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