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One in five people reported in Q1 2026 a loss of income in the last year

11% experienced financial difficulties in Q1 2026

Vienna, 2026-06-25 – In the first quarter of 2026, more than one in five people aged 18 to 74 reported income losses over the past 12 months in the Statistics Austria survey on the social impact of crisis. At the same time, around 11% said they were struggling to make ends meet with their current income, indicating financial strain in everyday life.

“For 23% of adults in Austria, their income situation deteriorated between the first quarter of 2025 and the start of 2026. At the same time, a third of 18- to 74-year-olds stated that their income had improved. Regardless of this, the proportion of those who had difficulty covering their running costs with their income in the first quarter of 2026 remained virtually unchanged at 11%,” says Manuela Lenk, Director General Statistics at Statistics Austria.

Income losses remain stable, vulnerable groups continue to be more affected

In the first quarter of 2026, 23% of people aged 18 to 74 reported having experienced income losses over the past 12 months. This proportion remained largely unchanged compared to the previous year (Q1/2025: 22%, see table 1). Income losses continue to be most common among people living in households affected by unemployment (44%), those with low income (35%), and individuals in single-parent households (31%).

Every third person reports being worse off in managing their current income compared to the previous year

Around 11% of the population had difficulties making ends meet with their current income in the first quarter of 2026, a proportion that remained unchanged compared to the previous year. At the same time, 34% reported being (much) worse off in managing their household income than a year earlier.

Housing costs continue to represent a key burden: 16% of people aged 18 to 74 felt heavily financially burdened by housing costs (see table 1). These proportions are considerably higher in vulnerable groups, particularly in single-parent (32%) and households with 3 or more children (30%).

Uncertain outlook for the future

The outlook for the future remains cautious: 35% plan to reduce their spending on major purchases. At the same time, expectations regarding the overall economic situation remain largely pessimistic, with 57% anticipating a deterioration in Austria’s economic conditions over the next 12 months.

Budget deficit a concern for the majority of the population

The 18th survey on the social impact of the crisis, which was carried out in February and March 2026, also asked how the public perceives the fiscal consolidation of the government budget. More than 90% of the population stated that the government deficit causes them at least some concern, while around one quarter expressed major concerns.

Table 1: Financial situation

Attribute		Q1/2025	Q2/2025	Q3/2025	Q4/2025	Q1/2026	
		in %				in %	in 1 000
Perceived change in income (last 12 months)	Increase	43.3	37.8	34.1	31.3	32.9	2 180
	Unchanged	35.2	39.5	40.9	42.3	44.6	2 953
	Decrease	21.5	22.7	25.0	26.4	22.5	1 486
Expected change in income (next 12 months)	Increase	17.5	16.5	20.5	20.4	16.9	1 122
	Unchanged	63.6	60.3	57.7	59.9	63.0	4 172
	Decrease	18.9	23.2	21.8	19.7	20.0	1 326
Making ends meet with the house-hold income	With great difficulty	4.1	4.5	4.2	4.9	3.7	246
	With difficulty	7.0	5.8	6.5	6.9	6.9	457
	With slight difficulty	27.0	26.3	27.3	27.2	28.1	1 861
	With slight ease	37.2	38.6	37.7	38.7	38.7	2 561
	With ease	15.4	16.3	16.3	14.5	14.6	966
	With great ease	9.3	8.5	7.9	7.8	8.0	527
Burden of housing cost	Heavy burden	14.5	15.1	15.1	15.6	15.7	1 037
	Some burden	64.3	63.4	61.7	62.7	62.6	4 146
	No burden	21.2	21.5	23.2	21.7	21.7	1 436
Total		**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA. Survey “So geht’s uns heute”. – Data as of 25.06.2026.

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 1. Quartal“ (in German language). issued jointly by IHS and Statistics Austria. The report is available on our website along with other detailed results.

Information on methods. definitions: The 18th wave of the survey “So geht’s uns heute” took place in February and March 2026. Approximately 3 500 respondents between 18 and 74 years participated in the survey. Between 2021 and 2023 Austria carried out the project with ten 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 first quarter of 2026. Between 2021 and 2025, the survey was conducted on a quarterly basis; since the beginning of 2026, it has been continued on a semi-annual basis. 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 here.

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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