

# Standard documentation Meta information

(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

## Statistics on religious affiliation

This documentation is valid for the due days:

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## Executive Summary

The characteristic religion was collected in a long tradition within the framework of the 1951 to 2001 censuses via self-reporting by the population. Since the switch to a register-based survey in 2011, this characteristic – often also referred to as religious belief – is no longer recorded in the census.

For this reason, the Federal Ministry for Women and Integration commissioned Statistics Austria to conduct a survey on the "Religious Affiliation of the Population aged 16 and older". The survey took place in the 1st to 4th quarters of 2021 as an additional module in the Microcensus Labour Force Survey. Participation in the survey was voluntary. The interviews were conducted through a personal conversation between the target person and the survey person (face-to-face interview). Supplemental questions were asked of all persons 16 years of age and older living in the household. Proxy interviews (answering the questions by another household member) were allowed. The survey tool was only available in German and contained two questions (one question on religion and one question on membership of a legally recognized church or religious society).

A total of 28 900 people in private households were asked whether they participated in the survey on the topic of "religious affiliation". 27 656 persons (13 251 men and 14 405 women) answered the voluntary questions, which corresponds to a response rate of 95.7 % (men: 95.5 %, women: 95.8 %). The proxy rate was 20.7 %.

In order to obtain results for all persons in private households, the information on the question "religion" and "religious society" was imputed for children under 16 years of age on the basis of the information provided by their parents. In total, information on 5 106 children was added.

In contrast to the previous census survey, which included persons in private and institutional households, the survey was limited to persons in private households. For the continuation of the time series, therefore, the religious characteristics were estimated for the institutional population. In the annual average of 2021, a total of 129 314 persons lived in institutions. For this group of persons, the religious characteristics "Roman Catholic," "Protestant A. B. and H. B.," "Old Catholic," "Orthodox," "Israelite," "Islamic," "Other religion, denomination or religious community," "Not affiliated with any religion, denomination or religious community," and "Unknown" were estimated on the basis of the marginal distributions of the population in private households.

A separate extrapolation was carried out for the additional questions on religious affiliation. Due to the survey logic of the Microcensus Labour Force Survey (private households only), the extrapolation was linked to the resident population in private households as an annual average in 2021. The characteristics "age," "state," "gender," "citizenship," and "country of birth" were also included.

The results were published in an article in Statistische Nachrichten (issue 01/2023) and are available as tables on the Statistics Austria website.

## Statistics on religious affiliation – Main Key Points

<b>Subject matter</b>	Religious affiliation of the Austrian population
<b>Population</b>	Survey: Austrian resident population in private households aged 16 and over; estimate: Austrian resident population in institutions and children under 16 by province
<b>Type of statistics</b>	Primary statistical survey
<b>Data sources/Survey techniques</b>	Sample survey of 27 656 people CAPI interviews
<b>Reference period or due day</b>	Field phase: January to December 2021 Reporting period: Current situation related to the interview date
<b>Periodicity</b>	One time
<b>Survey participation (in case of a survey)</b>	Voluntary
<b>Main legal acts</b>	Contract with the Federal Ministry for Women and Integration for the "Survey on Religious Affiliation" within the Framework of the Micro-census
<b>Most detailed regional breakdown</b>	Federal provinces
<b>Availability of results</b>	Final data: t + 5 months
<b>Other</b>	All information collected was self-reported by respondents.