

Standard documentation Meta information

(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

School Statistics

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Executive Summary

In the framework of school statistics, until the survey year 2002/2003 all schools reported aggregated figures on number of pupils, broken down by classes, level, types of school, and figures on staff aggregated by school to Statistics Austria, where the data were cleared and published. Since the survey year 2003/2004, school statistics is conducted based on the education documentation law (“Bildungsdokumentationsgesetz”). Data of pupils is collected on a micro-level with the social security number resp. a “substitute number” as a single identifier. Micro-data sets are also collected about the personnel, but without a single identifier. Private schools, agricultural schools and educational facilities in healthcare must report data to Statistics Austria. Public schools must report data to Statistics Austria only from 2008/2009 onwards (2003/2004 until 2007/08 data transmission from schools to the Ministry of Education, from there forwarded to Statistics Austria).

During the survey about pupils and students’ data in the first three years, substantial problems occurred. These were caused, on the one hand, on a technical level within the schools because of a restructuring (resp. a new implementation) of the pupils’ administration programmes, on the other hand it was not possible for the Ministry of Education to check the datasets reported from school for completeness and to demand complete data delivery. For these reasons there are no full datasets available and, consequently, no final results for the reference years 2003/04, 2004/05 and 2005/06; only estimates for a restricted set of indicators are available. For the reference years 2006/2007 and 2007/08 Statistics Austria was commissioned from the Ministry of Education to subject the data reported from public schools to a quality-based editing process (quality and completeness checks, reminders, corrections); since then complete final datasets are available for detailed analyses. Since the reference year 2008/09 data on pupils of all schools must be reported directly to Statistics Austria; data editing is done on a legal base.

Based on the education documentation law, statistics on schools presents the situation of school education in Austria in a regional breakdown and forms an important decision guidance for education policies. For the first time in Austria, the collection of individual data for each pupil, including a unique individual identifier (social security number), makes analyses of education careers possible, individually and collectively. Thus it is feasible to analyse, e.g., if attending a lower secondary school (“Mittelschule”) in a rural area has more favourable effects on the further educational career than a lower secondary school degree in an urban area, and how this situation relates to attending the lower level of academic secondary schools (“AHS Unterstufe”).

School statistics comprises all formal education which is attained by regular school attendance and the degrees attained – in opposite to non-formal education which does not lead to formal degrees with state approval. Annual statistics about schools, school classes, pupils, teachers, school success, degrees attained and educational career are compiled. Data are collected from all public schools and private schools which are mentioned in § 2 of the education documentation law and

whose training is according to the school organisation law done with a curriculum approved by the Ministry of Education or by a specific organisational form ("Statutsschule"); agricultural schools, vocational schools for apprentices and educational facilities in healthcare are also surveyed.

Additional to the specific publication on school statistics, data are integrated into international educational statistics of OECD, UNESCO and Eurostat. Within Statistics Austria, these are used for the business register and as a basis for calculations in the framework of National Accounts; they also represent the population for sample survey for international surveys on educational achievement (PISA, PIRLS, TIMSS). The individual-related data on attained degrees collected in the framework of school statistics are used to update the register on educational attainment (register on the education of the population for the purpose of the register-based population census).

School Statistics – Main Key Points

Subject matter	Comprises all institutional education in the framework of regular schools in public and private schools; annual statistics on schools, school classes, pupils, teachers, educational attainment, degrees and educational careers are compiled
Population	approx. 1.15 million pupils in approx. 6 000 schools, approx. 120 000 teachers
Type of statistics	Secondary statistics
Data sources/Survey techniques	Survey among the individual schools – Data transmission as an export of the students' data maintained locally in the schools, alternatively via Excel table or paper forms
Reference period or due day	1 October (representative for a school year from September to August)
Periodicity	annual, every half year for schools with half-year organisational form
Survey participation (in case of a survey)	Compulsory
Main legal acts	Educational documentation law ("Bildungsdokumentationsgesetz") Educational documentation regulation ("Bildungsdokumentationsverordnung")
Most detailed regional breakdown	Community (Gemeinde)
Availability of results	Final data: t + 14m
Other	-