

STATISTICS AUSTRIA

So geht's uns heute

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Executive Summary

The crisis impact survey "So geht's und heute" ("How we are today") is a quarterly survey to monitor social developments in a timely manner. The survey focuses on personally experienced income losses; the subjective coping with the cost of life, personal well-being, and happiness.

The Covid 19 pandemic showed that rapid reporting is particularly important in times of crisis in order to inform the population and enable decision-makers to act promptly. For this reason, the IALC (Intra-annual data collection on living conditions) program was adopted at the European level in 2021. IALC is considered a pilot survey under Article 14 of the EU Regulation on household and personal surveys (Regulation (EU) 2019/1700) with extensive flexibility and design options for member states. Between 2021 and 2023 Austria carried out the project under the name "So geht's uns heute" with ten other EU countries and was financially supported by Eurostat and the Federal Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (BMSGPK, formerly BMSGPK). From 2024 onwards, "How we are today" will be fully funded by the BMSGPK.

The main EU indicators are changes in household income and the share of the population having difficulties to cope with the cost of living with current income. In addition to the main indicators, indicators such as consumption restrictions (deprivation), housing cost burdens and payment difficulties have been added at the national level in order to be able to observe the impact of the Corona crisis (or the currently very high inflation) on the quality of life of different population groups.

"So geht's uns heute" surveys persons aged 16-69 up to wave 5 and people aged 18-74 from wave 6 onwards in private households in Austria on these indicators every three months. The survey is conducted as an online questionnaire, which is completed by the respondents themselves.

The initial sample was drawn in as a probability sample from the central population register and comprised 7 500 individuals aiming for a net sample of at least 3 000 individuals. Allocation was designed such that a useful disaggregation of results would be possible for vulnerable groups such as lone parents, families with three or more children or unemployed according to prior register information. Respondents were recruited to be followed up as panellists in subsequent waves. Each quarter, a booster sample of between 1 800 and 2 500 individuals was drawn from the register sampling frame to stabilise sample size and compensate for attrition over time. Except for the drawing of the sample from the central civil register, register data was not used in order to depict changes in the public opinion in a timely manner. Participation in the survey is voluntary. Respondents receive an incentive for participation.

National results are published quarterly as a report and tables. In addition, the micro data of the Austrian datasets are made available.

So geht's uns heute – Main Key Points	
Subject matter	Intra-annual survey of living conditions according to Eurostat specifications and indicators supplemented at national level
Population	Persons aged 18-74 (wave 1 to 5: persons aged 16-69) in private households in Austria
Type of statistics	Primary statistical survey
Data sources/Survey techniques	Sample survey of about 3 000 persons/quarter; CAWI-Interviews carried out by the survey infrastructure of Statistics Austria; Integrated cross-sectional and longitudinal survey with quarterly booster samples
Reference period or due day	Quarter
Periodicity	Quarterly
Survey participation (in case of a survey)	Voluntary
Main legal acts	For wave 1 to 9: Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 October 2019 establishing a common framework for European statistics relating to persons and households, based on data at individual level collected from samples (IESS regulation)
	Federal Statistics Act 2000, Federal Law Gazette I No. 163/1999
Most detailed regional breakdown	Austria – With limitations Austrian provinces (NUTS 2)
Availability of results	Final results: quartal t + 3 months
Other	In accordance with Regulation 2019/1700, Art. 14, Eurostat launched the Intra Annual data collection on Living Conditions (IALC) pilot survey on social inclusion, living conditions and well-being in 2021.