

# **Standard-documentation Meta information**

**(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)**

on

## **Fundamental Rights Survey (FRS)**

This documentation is valid for the reference period:

**2019**

Status: **22.06.2020**



STATISTICS AUSTRIA  
Bundesanstalt Statistik Österreich  
A-1110 Vienna, Guglgasse 13  
Phone: +43-1-71128-0  
[www.statistik.at](http://www.statistik.at)

---

**Directorate Social Statistics**  
**Organizational unit Analysis and Projections**

Contact person:  
Dr. Matthias Till  
Phone +43-1-71128-7106  
E-Mail: [matthias.till@statistik.gv.at](mailto:matthias.till@statistik.gv.at)

## English Summary

The survey has been commissioned by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and was fielded by Statistics Austria between April and May 2019 as an online survey under the name "Sicherheit und Grundrechte in Österreich 2019". The main questionnaire focused on personal security and safety (Part A) and personal discrimination (Part F). To keep response burden low a split questionnaire design was used. Some questions were randomly assigned to two groups. Group 1 received questions on tolerance and equality (B) and everyday life experiences (D). Group 2 received questions on Rights awareness & equality (C) and Technology (E). Additional questions included socio-economic variables for disaggregation and general feedback.

### Sample Design

The reference population is persons in the age group 16-74 years with their main residence in private households (excluding any individuals currently participating in any of Statistics Austria's surveys). This definition covered 6 619 263 individuals on 1.1.2019.

3 500 individuals have been selected from the central population registry (ZMR) in 30 sample strata defined by age group, degree of urbanisation and education. Individuals with only compulsory schooling were sampled with approximately twice the selection probability to compensate for expected lower response rates that were observed for this group in earlier online surveys.

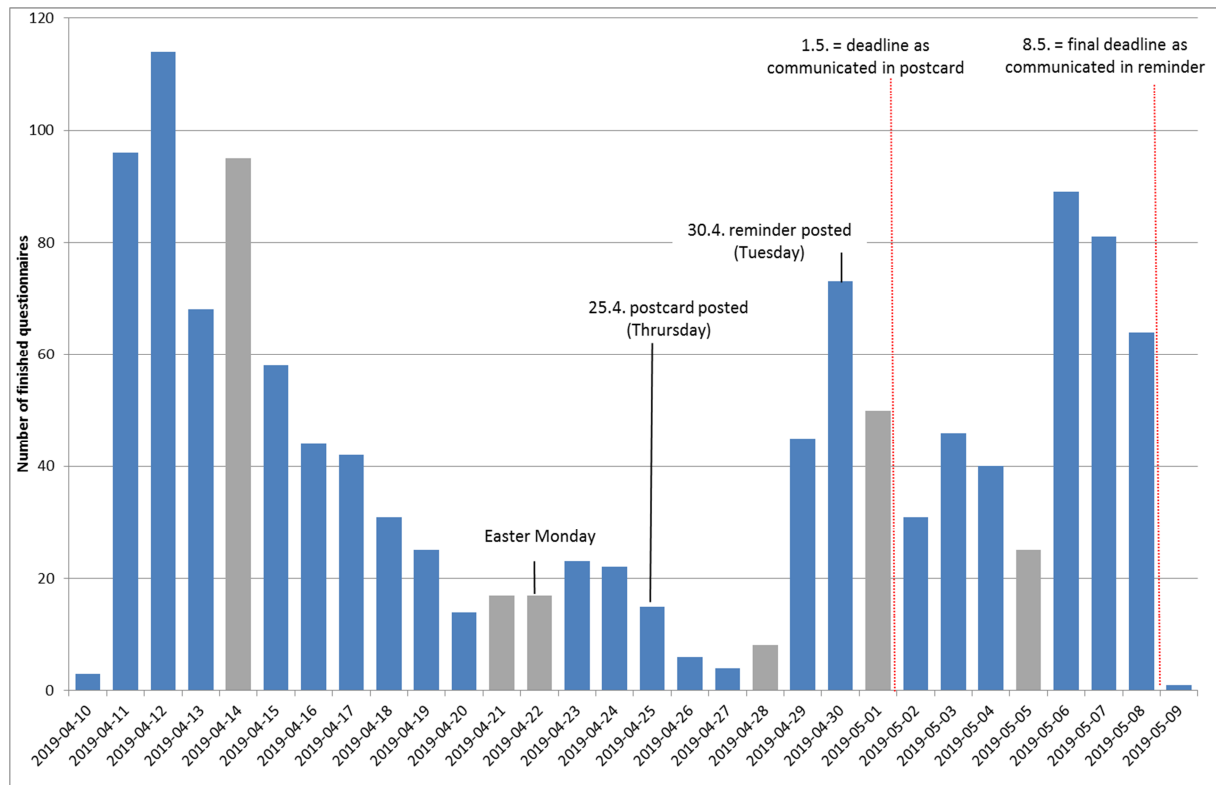
**Table 1. Sample strata and allocation**

	Sample	Population
<b>Compulsory schooling only</b>	<b>1 249</b>	<b>1 455 023</b>
Cities (densely populated areas)	<b>432</b>	<b>500 961</b>
16-29 years	151	175 457
30-44 years	107	124 671
45-54 years	71	81 848
55+ years	103	118 985
Towns and suburbs (intermediate density areas)	<b>391</b>	<b>455 368</b>
16-29 years	140	163 969
30-44 years	77	89 948
45-54 years	62	71 913
55+ years	112	129 537
Rural areas (thinly populated areas)	<b>426</b>	<b>498 694</b>
16-29 years	142	166 442
30-44 years	55	64 817
45-54 years	66	76 826
55+ years	163	190 609
<b>Any further Education (including unknown)</b>	<b>2 251</b>	<b>5 164 240</b>
Cities (densely populated areas)	<b>700</b>	<b>1 604 661</b>
16-29 years	172	394 370
30-44 years	210	482 920
45-54 years	138	316 280
55+ years	180	411 091
Towns and suburbs (intermediate density areas)	<b>681</b>	<b>1 564 752</b>
16-29 years	131	302 960
30-44 years	190	436 773
45-54 years	157	359 228
55+ years	203	465 791
Rural areas (thinly populated areas)	<b>870</b>	<b>1 994 827</b>
16-29 years	163	373 832
30-44 years	247	565 561
45-54 years	204	466 558
55+ years	256	588 876
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 500</b>	<b>6 619 263</b>

## Fieldwork

The survey was announced with a prenotification letter sent on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The invitation which included a 2 Euro coin was sent on April 9<sup>th</sup>. The invitation promised respondents an 8 Euro voucher upon completion of the questionnaire as an incentive. For the oversampled group of persons who have completed only compulsory education the promised incentive was 15 Euro. The return within the first three days contributed about one fifth of the final outcome result, the first week contributed approximately 40%. About half of the final number of completed questionnaires was received only after the reminder postcard, which has been sent two days after the end of Easter school holidays on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Shortly before the deadline expired, which has been communicated in this postcard, a second reminder letter was sent on April 30<sup>th</sup>. A third reminder letter which had originally been planned was not administered because the response had already exceeded expected response rates and available budget for incentives. The online survey was shut down in the early hours of May 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Figure 1. Total Response**



**Final Participation in the Survey**

The eligibility of returned invitation letters was partly estimated using rules which are commonly by the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR). In total 21 addresses were considered ineligible, yielding an adjusted gross-sample of 3 479 individuals. 36 invitation letters were returned for which eligibility may be assumed. For the majority of remaining cases (n = 2 022) their status remains unknown, as there was no response or refusal recorded during the time the survey was open for completion. 74 respondents refused actively- for example declaring they had no access to internet. 114 provided only an incomplete questionnaire. Finally, a data file with 1233 valid records was achieved. This amounts to a response rate of 35.4 percent of the eligible sample. The response rate reflects also the specific sampling design which deliberately included an overproportionate number of respondents with compulsory schooling. The achieved sample represents 37.4 percent of the design weights. This figure reflects expected response rates if no oversample would have been used and should be used for comparisons with other designs.

**Table 2. Total Response**

	Number of Persons	Percent
Gross-sample	3500	
Non eligibles (NE)	9	
Estimated noneligibles (NE*)	12	
Eligibles	3479	100.0%
Not contacted (NC)	36	1.0%
Unknown status (UN*)	2022	58.1%
Refusal (RF)	74	2.1%
Partial complete interview (PC)	114	3.3%
Complete Interview (CO)	1233	35.4%

\*after considering estimated eligibility of respondents with unknown status

**Variation of Nonresponse Rates**

The sampling frame used by Statistics Austria contains extremely rich information on nonrespondents. The analysis reveals substantial variation of response rates across social groups. Highest response rates are observed among academics and persons with higher incomes. By contrast, response rates for foreign citizens, low income groups and persons whose highest completed education does not go beyond compulsory schooling is far below average. The resulting limitation of the representativity is expressed in the R-Indicator which amounts to .75 when all the characteristics in table 3 are considered together. If only age, sex and region were considered, the R indicator reaches .96.

**Table 3 Differences in Response-Rates by Characteristics of the Sampling Frame**

Register characteristics		Gross sample	Net sample	Response Rate
Total		3479	1233	35.4
Sex	Men	1734	633	36.5
	Women	1745	600	34.4
Age	16-30	892	329	36.9
	31-45	883	298	33.7
	46-55	692	270	39.0
	55-74	1012	336	33.2
Education	Unknown	131	35	26.7
	Primary	1239	326	26.3
	Voc. Training	1311	459	35.0
	Matura	420	216	51.4
	University	378	197	52.1
Degree of Urbanisation	High	1123	369	32.9
	Intermediate	1067	366	34.3
	Low	1289	498	38.6
Citizenship	Austria	2815	1090	38.7
	Germany	75	28	37.3
	Romania	49	5	10.2
	Croatia	37	6	16.2
	Poland	36	3	8.3
	Hungary	34	9	26.5
	Other EU	97	30	30.9
	Turkey	72	14	19.4
	Other non-EU	264	48	18.2
Employment Status	Employee I	1770	678	38.3
	Employee II	173	73	42.2
	Self-employed	197	74	37.6
	Unemployed	154	37	24.0
	Inactive	1145	363	31.7
Equivalentised household income	1. Quintile	725	176	24.3
	2. Quintile	762	220	28.9
	3. Quintile	700	243	34.7
	4. Quintile	642	258	40.2
	5. Quintile	650	336	51.7
Household size	1	586	172	29.4
	2	1031	379	36.8
	3	709	256	36.1
	4	636	257	40.4
	5+	517	169	32.7

## Calibration

Weights are used to compensate for the increased sampling rate among persons with only compulsory schooling as well as random variation and systematic nonresponse patterns. The design weights are adjusted in an iterative procedure that enforces coherence with selected control distributions from external data. The procedure is similar to that used for the Austrian Microcensus.<sup>1</sup>

Control distributions on age, sex, degree of urbanisation, employment status and citizenship are derived from registers. In addition one variable on highest degree of completed education is adjusted to the distribution on a variable in the Austrian Microcensus which is based on identical questions. After calibration, the marginal distributions on these variables are almost perfectly aligned with external data.

<sup>1</sup>[https://www.statistik.at/wcm/idc/idcplg?IdcService=GET\\_PDF\\_FILE&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&docName=081240](https://www.statistik.at/wcm/idc/idcplg?IdcService=GET_PDF_FILE&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&docName=081240)

**Table 4. Marginal Distribution for Degree of Urbanisation, Sex and Age (It. Register) vor/After Calibration**

Degree of Urbanisation	Sex	Age	n	Before Calibration (w0)	After Calibration (w)	Target	Difference
High	Male	<=25	32	154552	166141	166328	187
		26-35	49	291511	234304	234297	-7
		36-45	27	198190	191859	191854	-5
		46-55	32	154373	197039	197034	-5
		56-65	31	176482	153863	153857	-6
		>65	15	84407	93917	93902	-15
	Female	<=25	31	151107	165682	165664	-18
		26-35	29	174316	228538	228533	-5
		36-45	28	208066	191192	191186	-6
		46-55	50	243864	201342	201329	-13
		56-65	31	182814	167455	167438	-17
		>65	15	86518	118649	118625	-24
Intermediate	Male	<=25	39	184190	151414	151400	-14
		26-35	23	132580	173548	173542	-6
		36-45	30	170107	173282	173277	-5
		46-55	36	196814	213595	213584	-11
		56-65	36	210238	176468	176598	130
		>65	16	92049	107661	107642	-19
	Female	<=25	29	139334	142258	142243	-15
		26-35	25	146806	170109	170105	-4
		36-45	39	220906	177785	177775	-10
		46-55	44	234445	219913	220034	121
		56-65	34	200012	188437	188408	-29
		>65	15	93193	126459	126434	-25
Low	Male	<=25	48	192258	182023	182013	-10
		26-35	31	156739	201935	201928	-7
		36-45	51	265847	215673	215669	-4
		46-55	55	276417	274665	274654	-11
		56-65	58	327071	244144	244126	-18
		>65	24	127351	142032	142007	-25
	Female	<=25	42	171812	167298	167291	-7
		26-35	34	184878	194381	194364	-17
		36-45	40	199438	211666	211653	-13
		46-55	53	267116	266439	266429	-10
		56-65	44	234977	240366	240340	-26
		>65	17	90301	149547	149517	-30
Total			1233	6621080	6621080	6621080	0

**Table 5. Marginal Distribution for Highest Completed Education (Questionnaire) Before /After Calibration\***

	n	Before Calibration (w0)	After Calibration (w)	Target	Difference
Pflichtschule/keine Pflichtschule	175	845349	1197123	1199519	2396
Lehrabschluss (Berufsschule)	343	1859464	2312300	2316928	4628
Berufsbild. High Schule (ohne Berufsschule)	173	937028	803874	805483	1609
Allgemeinbildende höhere Schule	252	1289615	1145127	1147419	2292
Berufsbildende höhere Schule	246	1442179	1006109	1008123	2014
BHS, Kolleg, Hochschulverw. L.A., Universitätslehrgang, Universität, FH	41	231441	143321	143608	287
Missing	3	16003	13225	0	-13225
Total	1233	6621080	6621080	6621080	0

**Table 6. Marginal Distribution for Employment Status (Register) Before/After Calibration**

	n	Before Calibration (w0)	After Calibration (w)	Target	Difference
Work	829	4493472	4207069	4207069	0
Unemployment	37	191335	281478	281478	0
Inactive	367	1936273	2132533	2132533	0
Total	1233	6621080	6621080	6621080	0

**Table 7. Marginal Distribution for Citizenship (Register) Before/After Calibration**

	n	Before Calibration (w0)	After Calibration (w)	Target	Difference
Austria	1090	5847488	5474605	5475369	764
Germany	28	147552	162719	162515	-204
EU without Germany	53	305576	440676	440009	-667
Other	62	320464	543080	543187	107
Total	1233	6621080	6621080	6621080	0

The dataset includes two weighting factors. Variable „w0“ represents the design weight (calculated as the inverse selection propensity and rescaled to the frame population). Variable „w“ contains the final calibrated weights.

**Table 8. Variation of Weights Before and After Calibration**

	Before (w0)	Adjustment factor (g-weight)	After (w)
Minimum	2973	0.4	2049
Maximum	7668	3.5	21344
Mean	5370	1.0	5370
Standard Deviation	978	0.4	2266
Coefficient of Variation (CV)	0.18	0.39	0.42

### Sampling Errors of Selected Indicators

Due to the split questionnaire designs some questions were only addressed to half of the sample. Consequently, sampling errors vary strongly across questions. For example margins of error ranged between  $\pm 2$  und  $\pm 4$  percentage points for those characteristics presented below.

**Table 1. Exemplary standard errors for proportions based on 1000 bootstrap replicates<sup>2</sup>**

Item	(n =)	Percentage	95% Confidence Interval		Standard Error	Coefficient of Variation
			lower	upper		
a04 <sup>1</sup>	1231	39%	36.3%	42.2%	1.5%	4%
a06 <sup>2</sup>	1231	10%	8.5%	12.2%	1.0%	9%
b08a <sup>3</sup>	612	22%	18.4%	25.6%	1.8%	8%
c09a <sup>4</sup>	621	58%	53.2%	61.7%	2.2%	4%

<sup>1</sup> Percentage stating they are very or somewhat worried to experience burglary at their home during the next 12 months.

<sup>2</sup> Percentage reporting an experience of burglary during the last 5 years.

<sup>3</sup> Percentage who report they fully agree that immigrants increase crime rates.

<sup>4</sup> Percentage who report they would be willing or very willing to go over and intervene/say something if they witnessed a man or women being beaten on the street.

## Response Times

Response times indicate potential sources of non-sampling errors such as by satisficing or straight lining which are typically observed in self-administered questionnaires. Preliminary analysis does however suggest that respondents took sufficient time to complete the questionnaire. The actual number of questions asked depends on the routing, as certain questions were not relevant (e.g. no details are asked on perpetrators when no incidents of violence were reported). The median number of questions to be answered was 194. Half of respondents took more than 35 minutes to fill in these questions. The questionnaire for group 2 was however considerably longer. The median number of questions in group 1 was 180 questions whereas group 2 had to answer 208 questions. Accordingly, the median response time was about 30 minutes for group 1 and almost 39 minutes for group 2. No respondent was able to complete the questionnaire in less than 12 minutes. About 10% of respondents took more than one hour to fill in the questionnaire.

**Table 102. Distribution of Response Times**

Sample	Questions (Median)	Min	5%	10%	median	90%	95%
Full	194	12.1	18.7	21.1	34.5	61.6	76.6
Group 1	180	12.3	16.9	19.2	30.0	57.0	70.9
Group 2	208	12.1	21.5	23.1	38.9	66.0	88.2

Generally, response times also seem to vary consistently with the amount of text to read. For example the following questions were shown on the same page.

**Figure 2. Questions on Worries for Safety in the Next 12 Months (A04)**

**Wie besorgt sind Sie, dass Sie in den nächsten 12 Monaten von einem der folgenden Ereignisse betroffen sein könnten?**

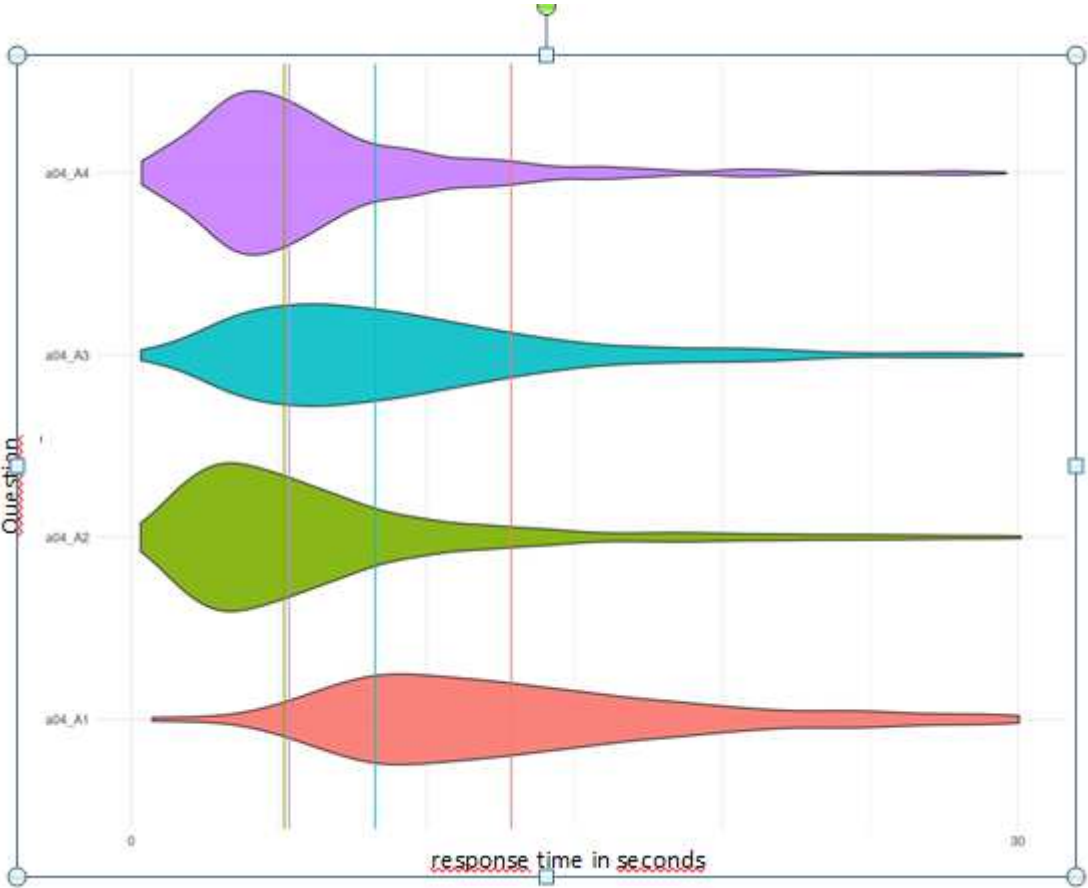
	Sehr besorgt	Etwas besorgt	Nicht sehr besorgt	Überhaupt nicht besorgt	Trifft auf mich nicht zu
Einbruch in Ihr Zuhause	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Terroranschlag	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Missbrauch Ihres Onlinebanking-Kontos oder Kredit- oder EC- oder Bankkundenkartendaten, z.B. dass jemand ohne Ihre Erlaubnis mit Ihren Karten- oder Bankkontodaten Onlineeinkäufe tätigt.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Diebstahl Ihres Mobiltelefons, Ihrer Geldbörse oder Ihrer Handtasche	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

The response time for the first (A04\_A1) and third item (A04\_A3) clearly stand out. While the first item involves reading the introduction, the third item has the longest text. If response times correspond to the length of text we can have confidence that text has actually been read.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated using the R-package 'SurveySD'.



Figure 3 Response Time for items in figure 2



<b>Fundamental Rights Survey 2019 – Main Features</b>	
<b>Subject Matter</b>	Security and Fundamental Rights
<b>Population</b>	Adults aged 16-74
<b>Type of statistics</b>	Primary
<b>Data sources/Survey techniques</b>	Online questionnaire
<b>Reference period or due day</b>	April/May 2019
<b>Periodicity</b>	Survey is currently not scheduled to be repeated
<b>Survey participation (in case of a survey)</b>	Voluntary
<b>Main legal acts</b>	Contract
<b>Most detailed regional breakdown</b>	None
<b>Availability of results</b>	<a href="https://fra.europa.eu/en">https://fra.europa.eu/en</a>
<b>Other</b>	