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The Austrian labour market during the corona crisis – labour market data of May 2020

Vienna, 2020-07-01 – The measures and restrictions due to the corona pandemic and the gradual loosening show clear effects on the Austrian labour market for the months of March, April and May 2020, which partly differ from sector to sector. According to Statistics Austria, 434 000 cases of dependent employment ended in this period, and in 358 000 cases new employment was taken up.

The number of **persons in employment** according to the international definition was 4 132 700 for May 2020, still 135 800 below May 2019, but already 50 300 higher than in April 2020. Actual **working hours** also grew significantly in May, averaging 28.9 hours, 3.3 hours more than in April 2020. However, it was still 3.3 hours per week less than in the same month last year.

Out of 238 000 persons, who had terminated their employment in the period 15 to 31 March 2020, 43% had found employment again by the end of May 2020 – in six out of ten cases with the same employer with whom they were previously employed. Nonetheless, **unemployment** remained high in May at 264 600 unemployed persons (according to the international definition). The scale of the decline in employment is more visible in the "**labour reserve**", which grew from 128 800 persons in February 2020 to 213 800 in May 2020.

For more detailed information please refer to the [German version](#).