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Austrian labour market during the corona crisis: 3% fewer employees in the second quarter 2020, working hours gradually normalising in June

Vienna, 2020-09-09 – In the second quarter of 2020, 4 214 100 employed persons (according to the international definition) were reported by Statistics Austria – thus, 129 200 or 3.0% less than in the second quarter of 2019. The unemployment rate according to EU definition was 5.7%, an increase of 1.2 percentage points.

Men, foreign nationals and the younger age groups were disproportionately affected by the decline in employment and the increase in unemployment. The decline in employment is only partially due to the increase in unemployment – it also strongly reflects in an increased number of people in the "labour reserve" of the labour market. This group has more than doubled compared to the second quarter of the previous year (+116.5% to 202 700 persons). In addition, the actual weekly working hours of 27.8 hours in the second quarter of 2020 were significantly below the previous year's level (31.8 hours). Since June, however, the weekly working hours have almost returned to normal.

The number of job vacancies fell by around a third (-44 300) compared with the previous year and stood at 84 800 in the second quarter of 2020.

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