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Labour Force Projection 2020: share of the labour force in the total population declines

Vienna, 2021-03-02 – The labour force in Austria should remain relatively constant in the future, according to the available forecast by Statistics Austria. According to the trend variant of the forecast, the demographic supply of the labour force, i.e. the sum of the self-employed and family workers, employees and the unemployed, as well as military and civilian servants, will only be 1.1% lower in 2050 than in 2019 (4.60 million) and will then amount to 4.55 million. However, if age- and gender-specific labour force participation remained constant at the 2019 level, a decline of 5.4% to 4.35 million will be expected by then. If the labour force potential were exploited to a slightly greater extent (activation variant), a slight increase of 1.8% to 4.68 million would be possible by 2050.

"The labour market is becoming increasingly older and more female. Rising labour force participation of women and people on the threshold of retirement age is responsible for this, counteracting the decline in the 15- to 64-year-old population. However, the share of the labour force in the total population is declining from 51.8% in 2019 to 47.3% in 2050. In addition, the ratio of the labour force to those of retirement age is changing significantly: while there are three people in the labour force for every retired person today, there will be only two by 2040. This will put funding pressure on pay-as-you-go systems such as pensions and health care," explains Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

Strong growth in labour force in Vienna, declines expected in Carinthia

Vienna, the federal capital, can expect the strongest population growth of all federal states. Unlike in the other federal provinces, the Viennese working-age population will increase significantly as a result of immigration. Accordingly, the labour force will increase by 8.7% until 2050 and by 11.8% until 2080. From 2022 onwards, Vienna's labour force will amount to more than 1 million people. In all other federal states, the labour force will decline or stagnate in the future.

Carinthia has to reckon with a shrinking population, especially of working age. The increasing labour force participation cannot compensate for the declines in the Carinthian basic population. Accordingly, in Austria's southernmost province the labour force will decline the most, by 14.4% by 2050 and finally by 17.7% by 2080. In **Styria**, the labour force will decrease by 7.1% by 2050 and by 8.4% by 2080. The province of **Salzburg** has to expect a decline of 4.5% by 2050 and 5.5% by 2080. In **Burgenland** the decline is projected to be 3.5% by 2050, and in 2080 the labour force will be 2.2% lower than in 2019, the base year of this forecast.

After slight short-term increases, the labour force in **Vorarlberg** will be 2.8% lower in 2050 and 3.7% lower in 2080 than in 2019. In **Tyrol**, the labour force will first remain constant, but will decline by 2.3% by 2050 and by 3.0% by 2080. The decline in **Upper Austria** will be 2.1% by 2050 and 2.2% by 2080. In **Lower Austria**, the projected labour force remains relatively constant over the entire projection period (2050: -0.2%; 2080: +1.5%).

For more detailed information please refer to the German press release on the [labour force projection](#).

Labour force projection by NUTS 2-Regions

NUTS 2 Region	2019	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060	2070	2080
Burgenland	145 718	144 891	143 286	141 468	140 674	140 015	141 165	142 493
Carinthia	279 044	276 608	260 193	247 904	238 836	232 035	230 119	229 681
Lower Austria	868 919	866 218	865 240	865 472	867 093	864 952	872 921	881 629
Upper Austria	785 737	783 230	774 808	773 729	769 449	760 405	763 716	768 613
Salzburg	295 261	294 510	289 051	285 370	281 906	278 032	278 062	278 973
Styria	640 221	636 748	619 328	606 081	595 039	584 753	584 584	586 220
Tyrol	397 888	396 982	394 165	391 749	388 677	383 822	384 451	386 014
Vorarlberg	207 892	207 656	206 704	204 533	202 105	199 368	199 468	200 164
Vienna	979 114	982 945	1 027 761	1 050 730	1 064 331	1 070 881	1 082 675	1 094 552
Austria	4 599 794	4 589 788	4 580 536	4 567 036	4 548 110	4 514 263	4 537 161	4 568 339

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