Vienna, 2021-06-28 – Since mid-March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic had a negative impact on the Austrian labour market. The first quarter of 2021 was still strongly affected by Corona, among other things due to the closed gastronomy and hotel industry. According to Statistics Austria's labour force survey, 4 118 900 persons aged 15-64 were employed, according to the new definition 83 400 persons or 2.0% less were employed compared to the fourth quarter of 2020. The unemployment rate according to the new EU definition was 7.9%, 2.0 percentage points higher than in the previous quarter. This change is, besides Corona, mainly explained by the seasonal effect in the construction sector. The first positive, seasonal signals can be seen in the number of job vacancies, which rose slightly by 5% up to 111 800 in the first quarter of 2021 compared to the previous quarter. Also home office remained an important factor, nearly every fourth employed person worked from home, most of them due to Corona.

For more detailed information please refer to the German version.