

Press release: 12.374-214/20

### **Population forecast 2020: from 2021, more elderly people than children and teenagers**

**Vienna**, 2020-11-19 – The current trend of a growing and ageing population in Austria will continue in the future, as the population forecast published today by Statistics Austria shows. According to the forecast, Austria's population will grow from 8.88 million in 2019 by 6% to 9.45 million by 2040, and finally by 12% to 9.93 million by 2080. From 2021, there will be more people of the generation 65+ than under 20-year-olds.

### **Migration gains exceed projected birth deficits**

The expected increase in population is exclusively due to supposed migration gains of about 30 000 people per year. This continues a long-standing trend: Since the turn of the century, the Austrian population has increased mainly due to migration surpluses. In the 2001 census, Austria counted just over 8 million inhabitants for the first time, the annual average in 2010 was 8.36 million. By 2019, there was a further increase by 6% to 8.88 million. Of the growth since the turn of the century, only just below 5% were due to birth surpluses, while the majority was due to migration gains. As the number of deaths is expected to rise above the number of births in the coming years, the birth balance will thus become negative. Nevertheless, according to current calculations, the population will exceed the nine million mark in 2022. A further increase is also likely for the period thereafter, as the projected migration gains will exceed the losses from natural population change.

### **Strongest population growth at retirement age**

The population aged 65 and over will continue to grow strongly in number and proportion. From 2021, more people aged 65+ will be living in Austria than children and young people under 20. Apart from stagnating birth rates and a presumably continuing increase in life expectancy, this is mainly due to the strong birth cohorts of the 1950s and 1960s, who are gradually moving into retirement age. In 2040, the population aged 65+ should be by 48% (or more than 800 000 persons) larger than in 2019, while at the same time their share in the population will increase from 18.9% to 26.4%. The number of people in working age from 20 to under 65 years will remain slightly above the 2019 level until 2021, but, until 2040, will fall by almost 300 000 people (5%) below the current level (see table 1). After 2040, the number of people of working age is projected to remain largely constant. Although the absolute number of children and young people under the age of 20 will still increase slightly, their share in the total population will decline in the medium term from 19.3% (2019) to 18.8% (2040).

### **Proportion of foreign-born population to increase from 20% to 27% in the long term**

Assuming continued international immigration, the number of foreign-born people in Austria will continue to increase in the future. In 2019, 1.75 million foreign-born people (20% of the total population) were living in Austria (see table 1). According to the forecast, their number will rise to 2.23 million (+28%) by 2040 and finally to 2.67 million by 2080 (+53% compared to the base year 2019). According to the forecast, the share of people not born in Austria will thus increase to 24% by 2040 and to 27% by 2080 (see table 1).

### **Eastern regions of Austria show strongest growth**

The 12% population growth forecast for Austria up to 2080 will be distributed very unevenly across the regions. Above-average increases are expected in Vienna. The federal capital alone attracts almost 40% of the international immigration to Austria. According to the forecast, Vienna will exceed

the two million mark in 2028, as it last did at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In Carinthia, on the other hand, slight population losses are expected, as was already the case between 2010 and 2013 and in 2018, which will cause the population to fall behind Salzburg from 2021 onwards. Salzburg will thus become the sixth largest federal state in terms of population. Besides Vienna, above-average population growth is also forecasted for Lower Austria, while the trend in Salzburg and Styria is below the federal average. The expected population growth in Burgenland as well as in Upper Austria, Tyrol and Vorarlberg is largely in line with the forecasted average for Austria. (see table 2).

For more detailed results or information on the population forecast please refer to our [website](#). An [interactive population pyramid](#) (available in German only) can be found on our website as well.

**Information on methods, definitions:** To calculate the forecast, the population differentiated by age, gender and country of birth is extrapolated into the future as of 1 January 2020. The population ages by one year per calendar year. The new birth cohorts of a forecast year are calculated using age-specific fertility rates (live births by age of mother). Deaths are calculated by multiplying age- and gender-specific mortality rates by population size. While international emigration is calculated from rates in the same way as deaths, immigration is given in absolute figures (also according to age and gender). In the long term, 145 000 immigrants are expected annually. With around 115 000 people moving away, this results in annual migration gains of around 30 000 people. The internal migration between the nine federal states of Austria is modelled by means of age-, gender- and direction-specific migration rates.

When interpreting the results according to the characteristic "born in Austria/abroad", it should be noted that this is not a forecast of the population of Austria according to nationality ("foreigner forecast"). The future development of the population according to citizenship depends not only on international immigration and emigration (and of course also on their fertility and mortality), but in particular on the development of naturalisation rates. These depend largely on future political conditions and are therefore difficult to anticipate. In contrast, the feature chosen here, "country of birth", remains unchanged for the lifetime of the respective person.

**Table 1: Population projection 2019 to 2080 by age and country of birth**

Year	Total population, absolute				In percent			Foreign born	
	Total	0–19 years	20–65 years	65 and more years	0–19 years	20–64 years	65 and more years	total	in percent
2019	8 877 637	1 717 820	5 478 294	1 681 523	19.3	61.7	18.9	1 746 206	19.7
2020	8 921 789	1 723 164	5 490 982	1 707 643	19.3	61.5	19.1	1 781 853	20.0
2030	9 225 271	1 777 747	5 306 807	2 140 717	19.3	57.5	23.2	2 027 017	22.0
2040	9 446 759	1 775 187	5 180 656	2 490 916	18.8	54.8	26.4	2 230 014	23.6
2050	9 605 926	1 778 518	5 173 762	2 653 646	18.5	53.9	27.6	2 394 501	24.9
2060	9 688 072	1 813 092	5 111 733	2 763 247	18.7	52.8	28.5	2 520 692	26.0
2070	9 796 723	1 834 400	5 131 991	2 830 332	18.7	52.4	28.9	2 609 525	26.6
2080	9 929 792	1 844 648	5 171 974	2 913 170	18.6	52.1	29.3	2 666 091	26.8

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Population Projection 2020, medium variant.

**Table 2: Population projection 2019 to 2080 by NUTS 2-Regions**

NUTS2 Region	2019	2020	2030	2040	2050	2060	2070	2080
Burgenland	293 861	295 001	305 992	315 125	320 819	323 946	328 317	333 920
Carinthia	561 062	561 078	555 204	548 034	539 045	528 201	523 449	523 838
Lower Austria	1 680 588	1 688 169	1 757 644	1 816 610	1 865 064	1 895 405	1 930 470	1 970 491
Upper Austria	1 486 141	1 493 590	1 549 696	1 590 598	1 616 373	1 628 054	1 646 825	1 669 460
Salzburg	556 627	559 444	572 864	580 766	585 626	587 116	590 884	596 639
Styria	1 244 474	1 247 840	1 267 024	1 278 306	1 281 466	1 275 511	1 277 266	1 286 180
Tyrol	755 695	759 600	786 706	804 975	816 540	820 437	826 260	834 257
Vorarlberg	395 949	398 186	412 279	421 743	427 821	430 351	433 132	436 884
Vienna	1 903 240	1 918 881	2 017 862	2 090 602	2 153 172	2 199 051	2 240 120	2 278 123
<b>Austria in total</b>	<b>8 877 637</b>	<b>8 921 789</b>	<b>9 225 271</b>	<b>9 446 759</b>	<b>9 605 926</b>	<b>9 688 072</b>	<b>9 796 723</b>	<b>9 929 792</b>

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Population Projection 2020, medium variant.

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