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33% less unemployed than in second quarter 2021

In the second quarter of 2022 4.4 million people were employed in Austria according to the EU definition, 198 000 were unemployed

Vienna, 2022-09-08 – In the second quarter of 2022, according to Statistics Austria’s microcensus labour force survey, a total of 4 438 900 persons aged 15 and over were employed according to the new EU definition, while 197 900 were unemployed. With 206 300 job vacancies, another all-time high in job supply was recorded. Compared to the same quarter of the previous year, fewer people worked from home in the second quarter of 2022.

“The upswing on the domestic labour market continues and is not yet affected by the Ukraine war and its consequences for the global economy: In this year’s second quarter, the number of employed persons rose by 4.5 % compared to the same quarter of the previous year, and the number of unemployed fell by one third. Nevertheless, the labour market is facing great challenges: At 206 300, the number of job vacancies in the second quarter once again reached a record level, exceeding the number of jobseekers for the first time, which stood at 197 900. This is a clear signal of the increasing shortage of skilled workers and labour,” says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

4.5 % more employed persons than in the same quarter of the previous year

In the second quarter of 2022, an average of 4 438 900 persons aged 15 and over were in employment, which is 191 800 or 4.5 % more than in the second quarter of 2021 (see Table 1). The number of employed non-Austrians even increased by 15.7 %, that of Austrian citizens by 2.2 %. Strong increases were recorded in the sectors accommodation and catering (+24.4 %), information and communication (+22.3 %) and in the construction sector (+15.8 %).

The employment rate, as the share of employed persons in all persons aged 15 to 64, was 78.2 % for men and 69.9 % for women (total: 74.1 %). Compared to the second quarter 2021, the employment rate increased by 2.5 percentage points overall. Compared to the previous quarter, there was a slight, seasonal increase of 0.8 percentage points.

Table 1: Main results on employment (international definitions), 2nd quarter 2022

Employment (ILO concept)	Unit	2nd quarter 2022	Changes compared to... (absolute or in % points)	
			1st quarter 2022	2nd quarter 2021
Employed (15 years and over)	1 000	4 438,9	64,8	191,8
Employed (15 to 64 years)	1 000	4 355,9	65,8	176,6
Employment rate ¹ (15 to 64 years)	%	74,1	0,8	2,5
Men	%	78,2	1,2	2,3
Women	%	69,9	0,3*	2,7

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Labour Force Survey (Microcensus) – International definition according to ILO concept. Non-significant changes are marked with *.

1) Employed persons as a percentage of the population of the respective age group.

33 % less unemployed than in the second quarter of 2021

Since the second quarter of 2021, when unemployment was still high due to corona, the labour market has recovered steadily. Unemployment according to the new ILO definition fell from 296 400 persons in the previous year to 197 900 persons in the second quarter of 2022 (see table 2). This is a decrease of 33.2 % or 98 500 persons. The overall non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.3 % in the second quarter 2022 (men: 4.4 %; women: 4.1 %). Compared to the previous quarter, the unemployment rate for men fell by 1.3 percentage points due to the seasonal development in the construction sector.

Significant decreases in unemployment rates were recorded in all age groups compared to the previous year. The most significant declines were among 25 to 34 year olds (-3.1 percentage points to 4.1 %) and 55 to 64 year olds (-2.5 percentage points to 3.3 %). Unemployment also fell very sharply among foreign nationals, with a drop of 5.0 percentage points compared to the second quarter of 2021.

Table 2: Main results on unemployment (international definitions), 2nd quarter 2022

Unemployment (ILO concept)	Unit	2nd quarter 2022	Changes compared to... (absolute or in % points)	
			1st quarter 2022	2nd quarter 2021
Unemployed	1 000	197,9	-43,5	-98,5
Unemployment rate ¹	%	4,3	-1,0	-2,3
Men	%	4,4	-1,3	-2,2
Women	%	4,1	-0,6	-2,3
Young persons (15 to 24 years)	%	9,2	0,3*	-2,4
Elder persons (55 to 64 years)	%	3,3	-1,3	-2,5
Austrian nationality	%	3,3	-0,8	-1,7
Foreign nationality	%	8,2	-2,0	-5,0

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Labour Force Survey (Microcensus) – International definition according to ILO concept. Non-significant changes are marked with *.

1) Unemployed as a percentage of the labour force (employed and unemployed) aged 15 to 74.

Job vacancies at a new high

According to the job vacancy survey, the number of job vacancies in Austria reached its highest level since the beginning of the time series in 2009 in the second quarter of 2022 with a total of 206 300 vacancies (see table 3). Compared to the previous year's quarter, (2nd quarter 2021: 138 600 vacancies), an increase of 48.9 % was recorded and even compared to the pre-crisis level (2nd quarter 2019: 129 100 vacancies), there were 59.8 % more vacancies advertised.

All economic sectors covered by the job vacancy survey (manufacturing, services and public sector) recorded significantly more job vacancies in the second quarter of 2022, both compared to the same quarter of the previous year and compared to the pre-crisis level. In the manufacturing sector (ÖNACE B–F) there were 52 400 vacancies, in the services sector (ÖNACE G–N) 124 800 and in the public sector (ÖNACE O–S) 29 100.

Table 3: Main results of the Job Vacancy Survey, 2nd quarter 2022

Job vacancies	Unit	2nd quarter 2022	Changes compared to... (absolute or in % points)	
			1st quarter 2022	2nd quarter 2022
Job vacancies (ÖNACE 2008 B–S)	1 000	206,3	3,6*	67,7
Job vacancy rate ¹	%	4,8	0,0*	1,4

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Job Vacancy Survey. Non-significant changes are marked with *.

1) Job vacancy rate = (vacancies*100/(vacancies+employees)).

Home office still in decline

In the second quarter of 2022, only 15.5 % of those in employment still worked from home at the time of the survey. This corresponds to a decline of 4.4 percentage points compared to the same quarter of the previous year (19.9 %). At the same time, only 4.5 % stated that they had worked from home because of Corona. This share has dropped compared to the previous year (-7.9 percentage points). 15.2 % of those in employment carried out their activities in the form of teleworking, i.e. using a PC and/or smartphone. In the previous year, this share was still 19.5 %.

There were again slight differences in the teleworking shares of men (14.7 %) and women (15.9 %). Furthermore, the higher the level of education and the higher the professional qualification, the more often telework was performed. In the second quarter of 2022, despite the general decline in telework, 33.9 % of employed persons with a tertiary degree reported teleworking. The sectors with the highest telework shares were information and communication (50.0 %) and financial and insurance services (39.9 %).

Table 4: Employed persons by telework and sex, 2nd quarter 2022

Sex	Worked in the reference week in 1 000	Not working from home in %	Working from home in %	Of which: because of Corona in %	Telework (with PC or smartphone) in %	No answer to the question about working from home in %
Men and women	4 049,1	75,2	15,5	4,5	15,2	9,2
Men	2 200,1	75,8	15,0	4,3	14,7	9,3
Women	1 849,0	74,6	16,2	4,7	15,9	9,2

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Labour Force Survey (Microcensus) – Population in private households without compulsory military or civilian service. International definition according to ILO concept.

Detailed results and further information on the labour market of the 2nd quarter can be found in the report Statistik im Fokus on our [website](#).

Information on methodology, definitions:

The European Labour Force Survey (LFS), which takes place in all EU Member States, collects information on employment and job search in a standardised form from randomly selected private households. In Austria, the LFS is conducted as part of the Microcensus – a sample survey in which about 1 500 households are interviewed weekly. These data are extrapolated to the population.

Since 2021, the following concepts apply:

Employed persons according to the international definition: According to the concepts of the International Labour Organization (ILO), persons are considered to be employed if they have worked at least one hour in the reference week as self-employed persons, self-employed persons or assisting family members. If they have not worked due to holidays, compensatory time off, part-time work for older employees, other working time arrangements, illness, vocational training or maternity/paternity leave, but are otherwise in work, they are considered to be in employment. Persons in employment also include: Persons who are absent from work for any other reason for a maximum of three months; persons on parental leave (with childcare allowance and a right to return to the employer or a leave of up to three months); apprentices; seasonal workers who have not worked in the reference week due to seasonal reasons, but who work regularly for the enterprise in the off-season. Military and civilian servants are excluded. From 2021, persons who are absent from work for more than three months for other reasons (e.g. short-time work) are counted as non-employed persons. This definitional change is reflected in a slight decline in employment.

Unemployed according to the international definition: Persons who are not employed (see above) and have actively sought work during the reference week or the three preceding weeks. Also considered unemployed are persons who already have a job offer and start this job within three months. In addition, they must be able to start work within the next two weeks after the reference week. From 2021 onwards, the majority of people with a re-employment commitment are considered unemployed (e.g. seasonal workers in the low season). Until 2020, most of these persons were still part of the “labour reserve“ of non-employed persons. This change in definition causes a methodical increase in unemployment.

Due to the changes in the Microcensus Labour Force Survey in the course of the new EU Social Statistics Regulation 2021, a comparison with results before 2021 is only possible to a limited extent.

Teleworking: Persons who have worked from home with a PC and/or smartphone at least on a case-by-case basis. Since the beginning of the second quarter of 2020, four additional questions on the work situation in times of the COVID 19 pandemic were asked voluntarily as part of the LFS. The questions were addressed to all persons who had worked in the reference week and had also worked from home in the last four weeks. Persons who never worked from home in the last four weeks were assigned to the group “no work from home”.

Job vacancies: The Job Vacancy Survey of Statistics Austria has been carried out continuously since the 1st quarter of 2009 for the economic sections B to S of ÖNACE 2008. A total of around 6 000 enterprises are surveyed each quarter.

If you have any questions on this topic, please contact:

If you have any questions, please contact the Labour Force Survey team ake@statistik.gv.at

Media owner, producer and publisher:

STATISTICS AUSTRIA | Federal Institution under Public Law | Guglgasse 13 | 1110 Vienna | www.statistik.at

Press: phone: +43 1 711 28-7777 | e-mail: presse@statistik.gv.at

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