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## 33 % less unemployed than in first quarter 2021

**In the first quarter of 2022 4.4 million people were employed in Austria according to the EU definition, 241 400 were unemployed**

Vienna, 2022-06-09 – In the first quarter of 2022, according to Statistics Austria's micro-census labour force survey, a total of 4 374 100 persons aged 15 and over were employed according to the new EU definition, while 241 400 were unemployed. With 202 700 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 first quarter of 2022.

“The Austrian labour market experienced another strong upswing at the beginning of 2022: Compared to the first quarter of the previous year, which was affected by severe restrictions due to the Corona pandemic, the number of employed persons rose by 4.4% and the number of unemployed fell by one third. In addition, the number of vacancies reached another record high. At 202 700, more job vacancies were recorded than ever before since Statistics Austria started its job vacancy survey,” says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

### 50 % more people employed in accommodation and catering than in the previous year

In the first quarter of 2022, an average of 4 374 100 persons aged 15 and over were in employment, 184 200 or 4.4 % more than in the first quarter of 2021 (see table 1). A large part of this increase is attributable to the “accommodation and gastronomy” sector, with an increase of 82 500 or +49.8 % compared to the first quarter of 2021, since in 2021 the Corona restrictions were still in force here until 19 May 2021.

The employment rate, as the share of employed persons in all persons aged 15 to 64, was 77.0 % for men and 69.6 % for women (total: 73.3 %). Compared to the first quarter 2021, the employment rate increased by 2.8 percentage points overall. Compared to the previous quarter, there was a slight, seasonal decline of 16 000 employed persons.

Some social groups who were particularly affected by the Corona impact have recovered most significantly between first quarter 2021 and first quarter 2022. For example, the employment rate of non-Austrians increased by 4.8 percentage points, while the employment rate of Austrian nationals increased by 2.3 percentage points.

**Table 1: Main results on employment (international definitions), 1st quarter 2022**

Employment (ILO concept)	Unit	1st quarter 2022	Changes compared to...	
			4th quarter 2021	1st quarter 2021
Employed (15 years and over)	1 000	4 374.1	-12.7*	184.2
Employed (15 to 64 years)	1 000	4 290.1	-16.0*	171.2
Employment rate <sup>1)</sup> (15 to 64 years)	%	73.3	-0.2*	2.8
Men	%	77.0	-0.7	2.5
Women	%	69.6	0.3*	3.0
Young persons (15 to 24 years)	%	50.0	-0.3*	2.6

Employment (ILO concept)	Unit	1st quarter 2022	Changes compared to... (absolute or in % points)	
			4th quarter 2021	1st quarter 2021
Elder persons (55 to 64 years)	%	56.0	-0.6*	2.5
Austrian nationality	%	74.6	-0.2*	2.3
Foreign nationality	%	68.1	-0.1*	4.8

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Labour Force Survey (Microcensus) – International definition according to ILO concept. Non-significant changes are marked with \*. Break in time series due to changes in survey in 2021. Direct comparison with results before 2021 is only possible to a limited extent.

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

### 33% less unemployed than in the first quarter of 2021

Since the first quarter of 2021, when unemployment was still very high due to corona, the labour market has recovered significantly. Unemployment according to the new ILO definition fell from 360 400 persons in the first quarter of the previous year to 241 400 persons in the first quarter of 2022 (see table 2). This is a decrease of 33.0 % or 119 000 persons. The overall non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.2 % (men: 5.7 %; women: 4.7 %). Compared to the fourth quarter of 2021, the unemployment rate for men increased by 0.9 percentage points due to seasonal developments in the construction sector.

A particularly strong decrease in the unemployment rate compared to the same quarter of the previous year was recorded in the 15-24 age group, with a drop of 4.3 percentage points. Overall, however, unemployment in this age group was still the highest of all age groups at 8.9 %. Unemployment also fell massively among foreign nationals, with a drop of 6.1 percentage points compared to the first quarter of 2021.

The lower the level of education, the higher the unemployment rate. For example, persons with a minimum of compulsory schooling had an unemployment rate four times higher (13.0 %) than those with an academic degree (3.2 %). Compared to the first quarter of 2021, there was a decrease in unemployment at all levels of education. The most significant decrease was for persons with a compulsory school leaving certificate or less (-4.1 percentage points).

**Table 2: Main results on unemployment (international definitions), 1st quarter 2022**

Unemployment (ILO concept)	Unit	1st quarter 2022	Changes compared to... (absolute or in % points)	
			4th quarter 2021	1st quarter 2021
Unemployed	1 000	241.4	8.3*	-119.0
Unemployment rate <sup>1)</sup>	%	5.2	0.2*	-2.7
Men	%	5.7	0.9	-2.7
Women	%	4.7	-0.6	-2.7
Young persons (15 to 24 years)	%	8.9	0.1*	-4.3
Elder persons (55 to 64 years)	%	4.6	0.9*	-2.4
Austrian nationality	%	4.1	0.1*	-1.9
Foreign nationality	%	10.2	0.4*	-6.1

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Labour Force Survey (Microcensus) – International definition according to ILO concept. Non-significant changes are marked with \*. Break in time series due to changes in survey in 2021. Direct comparison with results before 2021 is only possible to a limited extent.

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

### 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 first quarter of 2022 with a total of 202 700 vacancies (see table 3). Compared to the previous year's quarter, which was still affected by the pandemic-related slump

in the job market (first quarter 2021: 111 800 vacancies), an increase of 81.3 % was recorded. But even compared to the pre-crisis level (first quarter 2019: 128 200 vacancies), there were significantly more vacancies advertised, with an increase of 58.1 %.

All economic sectors covered by the job vacancy survey (manufacturing, services and public sector) recorded significantly more job vacancies in the first 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), 55 600 jobs were vacant, in the services sector (ÖNACE G-N) there were 118 000 and in the public sector (ÖNACE O-S) 29 100 vacancies.

**Table 3: Main results of the Job Vacancy Survey, 1st quarter 2022**

Job vacancies	Unit	1st quarter 2022	Changes compared to... (absolute or in % points)	
			4th quarter 2021	1st quarter 2021
Job vacancies (ÖNACE 2008 B-S)	1 000	202.7	31.3	90.9
Job vacancy rate <sup>1)</sup>	%	4.7	0.7	1.9

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Job Vacancy Survey.

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

### Gradually returning to the workplace from the home office

In the first quarter of 2022, 18.8 % of the employed persons worked from home (see table 4). This corresponds to a decrease of 7.8 percentage points compared to the first quarter of 2021 (26.6%). At the same time, 10.6 % stated that they had worked from home because of Corona. This share has also decreased compared to the previous year (-7.9 percentage points). 18.4 % 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 26.1 %. Compared to the previous quarter, there were only minor changes in the data on home office in the first quarter of 2022.

There were slight differences in the teleworking shares of men (17.7 %) and women (19.2 %). There was also little change in the level of education and professional qualifications. The higher the level of education and the higher the professional qualification, the more often people worked from home. The sectors with the highest proportion of teleworkers continued to be "information and communication" (54.9 %) and "financial and insurance services" (44.3 %). Telework was also carried out with above-average frequency in the sector "freelance technical services" (35.0 %).

**Table 4: Employed persons by telework and sex, 1st 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	3 883.5	72.5	18.8	10.6	18.4	8.7
Men	2 099.3	73.1	18.1	10.3	17.7	8.8
Women	1 784.3	71.8	19.6	11.0	19.2	8.5

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Labour Force Survey (Microcensus) – Population in private households without compulsory military or civilian service. – Break in time series due to changes in survey in 2021. Direct comparison with results before 2021 is only possible to a limited extent. International definition according to ILO concept.

Detailed results and further information on the labour market of the first quarter can be found in the "Statistik im Fokus" report 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 ILO concept, 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 first 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:**

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