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Unemployment up slightly in Q1 2023

Employment also increased compared to first quarter of previous year

Vienna, 2023-06-07 – According to Statistics Austria’s Microcensus Labour Force Survey, there were 4 420 300 more employed persons in the first quarter of 2023 than in the same quarter of the previous year, an increase of 46 300. However, the number of unemployed persons according to the international definition also increased slightly year-on-year to a total of 257 600. The majority of unemployed men were looking for full-time employment, while many women wanted a part-time job.

“The upswing on the Austrian labour market weakened at the beginning of 2023. Although the number of people in work rose by 46 300 compared to the first quarter of 2022, unemployment also picked up slightly for the first time, having fallen year-on-year in each quarter since the third quarter of 2021. At the same time, the economy is unable to fill many vacancies: The number of vacancies remains at a very high level,” says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

More people in employment than in the same quarter of the previous year ...

In the first quarter of 2023, a total of 4 420 300 persons aged 15 and older were employed, 46 300 or 1.1% more than in the year-ago quarter (see table 1). The employment rate, as the share of employed persons in all persons aged 15 to 64, was 76.6% for men and 69.8% for women (total: 73.2%).

Compared to the fourth quarter of 2022, there was a decrease in the employment rate of 0.8 percentage points. Among men in particular, the employment rate fell by 1.2 percentage points, mainly due to the seasonal trend in construction. That of women only fell by 0.3 percentage points.

As many as one in two employed women (50.7%) and just over one in eight employed men (13.0%) reported working on a part-time basis in the first quarter of 2023. According to the new Eurostat definition, a total of 113 400 or 8.3% of the part-time workers stated that they would like to work more hours and could start doing so within two weeks. A total of 80 900 women and 32 500 men were thus involuntarily underemployed.

Table 1: Main results of the labour market statistics (international definition) Q1 2023

Employed and unemployed (ILO concept)	Unit	Q1 2023	Changes compared to... (absolute or in % points)	
			Q4 2022	Q1 2022
Employed (15 years and over)	1 000	4 420.3	-45.5	46.3
Employment rate ¹ (15 to 64 years)	%	73.2	-0.8	-0.1*
Men	%	76.6	-1.2	-0.3*
Women	%	69.8	-0.3*	0.2*
Part-time rate ²	%	30.9	0.5	0.2*
Men	%	13.0	0.3*	0.5*
Women	%	50.7	0.4*	-0.3*
Unemployed	1 000	257.6	34.2	16.2*

Employed and unemployed (ILO concept)	Unit	Q1 2023	Changes compared to... (absolute or in % points)	
			Q4 2022	Q1 2022
Unemployment rate ³	%	5.5	0.7	0.3*
Men	%	6.1	1.2	0.4*
Women	%	4.9	0.2*	0.2*

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. – 2) Part-time employed (self-assignment) as a percentage of employed persons aged 15 years and over. – 3) Unemployed as a percentage of the labour force (employed and unemployed) aged 15 to 74.

... but also slightly more unemployed

Since the third quarter of 2021, the number of unemployed (international definition) has steadily decreased compared to the previous year. This trend is no longer continuing: despite a peak in job vacancies, a total of 257 600 unemployed persons were looking for work in the first quarter of 2023, 16 200 more than the year before. The non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.5% overall (men: 6.1%; women: 4.9%), up 0.3 percentage points year-on-year.

Overall, the majority of the unemployed (61.6%) decidedly want full-time employment. However, the gender-specific differences with regard to the amount of working time sought are large: three quarters of unemployed men (77.0%) were looking exclusively for full-time work. Part-time work, on the other hand, is primarily sought by women: 41.5% were looking exclusively for a part-time job in the first quarter of 2023.

Table 2: Unemployed persons according to the extent of working time sought Q1 2023

Sex	Unemployed in 1 000	Only full-time employment sought in %	Full- or part-time employment sought in %	Only part-time employment sought in %
Total	257.6	61.6	16.2	22.2
Men	150.8	77.0	14.4	(8.6)
Women	106.8	39.9	18.7	41.5

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Labour Force Survey (Microcensus) – International definition according to ILO concept. –

() = Values in brackets are highly randomized due to low number of cases.

Detailed results and further information on the labour market of the first quarter of 2023 can be found in the report “Statistik im Fokus – Arbeitsmarktstatistik 1. Quartal 2023, Mikrozensus-Arbeitskräfte-Erhebung (SB 5.8)” on our [website](#) (available in German only).

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.

Employed persons: According to the international definition (ILO concept), persons are considered to be employed if they have worked at least one hour in the reference week or if they have not worked due to vacation, illness, etc., but are normally employed. Military and civilian servants are excluded.

Results on **part-time** work are based on the direct question of employed persons aged 15 and over about full-time or part-time employment.

Part-time underemployed: According to the new Eurostat definition, these are part-time employed persons (from 2022 onwards: by self-assignment, aged 15 to 74; until 2021: <40 normal hours of work, aged 15 and over) who want to work more hours and are available to work additional hours even within two weeks.

Unemployed persons: According to the international definition (ILO concept), persons are considered to be unemployed if they are not employed (see above) and have actively sought work during the reference week

or the three preceding weeks. Also considered as 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.

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

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