

Standard documentation Meta information

(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

Register-based Census 2021

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Executive Summary

Since 2011, the decennial census has been carried out as a register census and has thus successfully replaced the traditional census. The register census is legally based on the Register Census Act. This regulates both the method and the characteristics to be collected, as well as the deadlines for providing the results.

As in the previous census rounds, the 2021 Census consists of the population census, the census of local units of employment and the housing census. The basis for all individual, household and family characteristics is the central residence register (CRR). All individuals registered in Austria are recorded in this registry with their main and secondary residences. In addition, data from the civil status authorities (CCSR, CSR), data from the central social security register, the federal states and municipal health insurance (MHI), the chamber for liberal professions (CLP), the tax register, the unemployment register as well as the register of educational attainment, school and university statistics serve as basic registers. The basic registers for the census of local units of employment are the business register including the agriculture and forestry register, and for the housing census it is the buildings and dwellings register. All characteristics to be collected for the register-based census can be obtained from these basic registers.

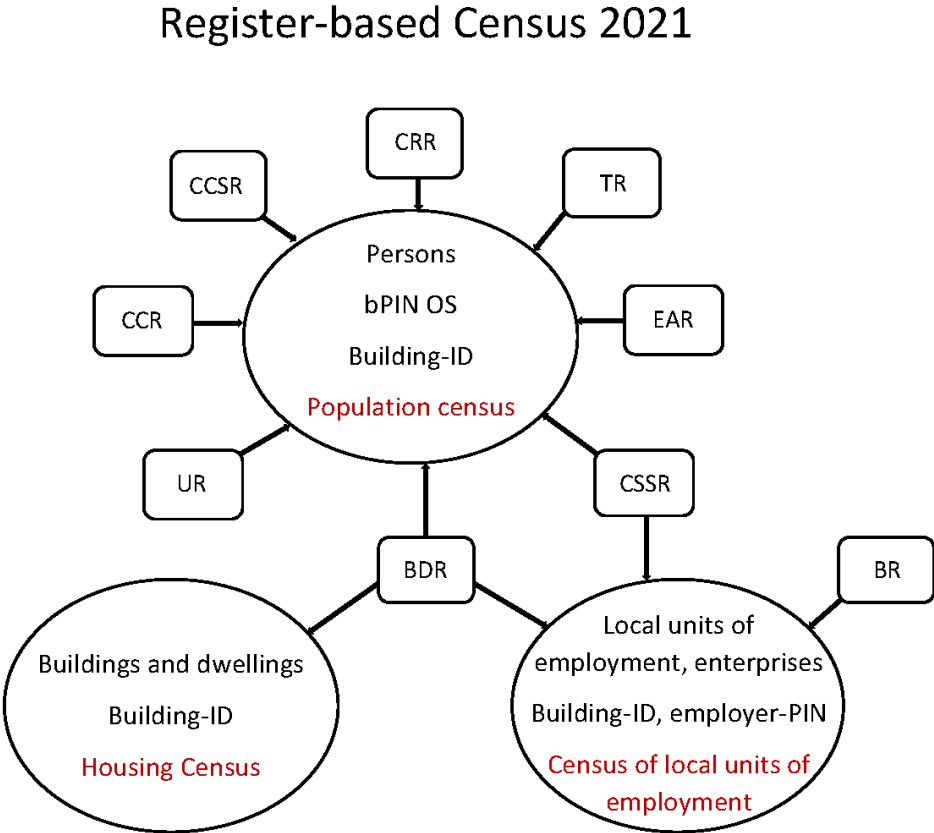
For quality assurance purposes, data is checked for accuracy and completeness using comparison registers. If information from different data sources is redundant, rules, which were set up after detailed analysis, determine the final value and help to improve quality even further. The comparison registers include the register of foreigners, employer data from the federal republic of Austria and its federal provinces, the register of social welfare recipients, the family allowance register, the register of alternative civilian service, the conscription register and the central vehicle licensing records. The figures obtained contribute to the equitable allocation of tax revenues to the federal provinces and municipalities (fiscal equalisation) and are used to allocate National Assembly seats to the constituencies. Thanks to the eGovernment Act, registers can be linked while fully maintaining the protection of data. This is done by using the branch-specific personal identification number for official statistics (bPIN OS), which is generated by the Austrian Data Protection Authority and does not allow any conclusions to be drawn about individuals. Hence, this data is linked without names.

The stock of the CRR at the census date 31.10.2021 serves as the basic population. To determine the real population figure, the afore mentioned registers are used to search for signs of life for every person. If a person is registered in the CRR with their main residence and an additional sign of life is found in at least one other register then the CRR entry is considered verified and the person is counted as part of the population. Additionally, historical data from the CRR is used to delete or supplement entries by using predetermined procedures. Persons who are so-called clarification-cases are checked through the legally prescribed residence analysis. Only after all those procedures are done the population base at the census day can be determined for each municipality.

The population count for 31 October 2021 for fiscal equalisation year 2023 in accordance with Section 7 of the Register Census Act is 8,969,068 citizens.

The list of topics and their concepts, definitions and classifications are based on the Recommendations for the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses of the Conference of European Statisticians. Further methodological explanations, which go beyond the scope of this documentation, are linked to the [inventory of methods of the Register-based Census](#) (German only).

Figure 1 - Linking the Survey Subjects



BDR	Buildings and dwellings register	CRR	Central residence register
bPIN OS	Branch-specific personal identification number for official statistics	CSSR	Central social security register
BR	Business register of enterprises and their local units including agriculture and forestry register	EAR	Register of educational attainment including school and university statistics
CCR	Central citizenship register	TR	Tax register
CCSR	Central civil status register	UR	Unemployment register

Population Census 2021 – Main Key Points

Subject matter	Population, households, families, enterprises and local units of employment, buildings and dwellings on reference day 31 October 2021
Population	Population (about 9.0 million); Local units of employment (about 812,000), enterprises (about 723,000); Buildings (about 2.4 million), dwellings (about 4.9 million);
Type of statistics	Secondary Statistics (based on administrative data sources and statistical registers)
Data sources/Survey techniques	Register-based enumeration Base registers: Central residence register (CRR), central civil status register (CCSR), central citizenship register (CSR), central social security register (CSSR), tax register (TR), unemployment register (UR), register on educational attainment including school and university statistics (EAR), buildings and dwellings register (BDR), municipal health insurances (MHI), chambers of liberal professions (CLP), business register of enterprises and their local units including the farm register (BR); other so called “comparison” registers for data validation
Reference period or due day	Reference day 31 October 2021
Periodicity	Every 10 years
Survey participation (in case of a survey)	-
Main legal acts	Register Census Act, Federal Law Gazette I No. 33/2006 as amended; Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008 on population and housing censuses
Most detailed regional breakdown	Municipalities; statistical enumeration districts, localities and statistical grids for user-defined tabulations
Availability of results	Preliminary population number: 30 Nov. 2022 Population number, number of citizens: 30 April 2023 Public announcement of the population number and number of citizens: 8 May 2023 Results of the Population Census: 17 July 2023 Results of the Census of Enterprises and their Local Units of Employment: 14 August 2023 Results of the Buildings and Dwellings Census: 19 September 2023 Eurostat Census Hub: 31 March 2024
Other	The concepts, classifications and definitions of the topics are based on the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) Recommendations for the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses . The EU Census Hub provides the results of the 2011 and 2021 Population and Housing Censuses of EU and EFTA countries.