



LABOUR MARKET INTELLIGENCE SOURCES

Country fiche - AUSTRIA

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Innovating the use of Labour Market Intelligence
within European Universities - LMI-EUniv



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

BACKGROUND	4
LMI-EUniv project	4
Consortium	4
Aims	4
Objectives	4
INTRODUCTION	5
GENERAL INFORMATION	6
Demography	6
Labour market	7
Higher education market	11
LMI SOURCES AT NATIONAL LEVEL	12
LMI providers	12
<i>The Viennese Institute for Labour Market and Education Research (WIAB)</i>	12
<i>Labour Market Databases</i>	13
Assessing the sources of LMI at national level	13
REFERENCES	15

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CEDEFOP	European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training
EU	European Union
HEI	Higher Education Institution
ILO	International Labour Organisation
LMI	Labour Market Intelligence
LMI-EUniv	Innovating the use of Labour Market Intelligence within European Universities
LMO	Labour Market Observatory
NIS	National Institute of Statistics
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OJA	Online Job Advertisement
OVATE	Skills Online Vacancy Analysis Tool for Europe (Skills OVATE)

BACKGROUND

LMI-EUniv project

“Innovating the use of Labour Market Intelligence within European Universities - LMI-EUniv”, the project was the subject of a successful application to Key Action 2 - Cooperation among organisations and institutions - of the Erasmus+ programme.

Consortium

The consortium is composed of West University of Timisoara (project leader), University of Milano-Bicocca (Italy), University of Tallinn (Estonia), Prospektiker - (Spain) and Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (Luxembourg).

Aims

The primary focus of the project is to understand how are European Universities using labour market information and labour market intelligence in the planning and delivery of their provision and how can this be improved. Therefore, the project aims to help HEI to develop appropriate skills and competencies through better matching of education supply to demand through innovative learning and teaching practices.

Objectives

The LMI-EUniv project has three main objectives: (1) to map essential LMI sources at national level, (2) to explore how HEI in Europe are using LMI, and (3) to produce a training course, guide and a Labour Market Intelligence Hub. This will be an online platform, aggregating LMI sources and information, and aims to become a reference point for all HEI.

INTRODUCTION

This country fiche provides information concerning the essential LMI sources at national level with a particular focus on LMI sources used by HEI. It was developed within the Intellectual Output 1 of the LMI-EUniv project - Mapping essential LMI sources at national level. The role of the country fiches is to systemize information related to LMI sources and gather them into a LMI Hub. The country fiches will form the basis for the Data (Evidence) Report and in turn, will inform the production of the Final Report.

During the inception phase of the project, we have noticed the existence of a large number of LMI sources but also a lack of information about them. We consider that having access to a single point of information with LMI sources will enable HEI to better use this for their activities. Thus, this research represents the first step in this direction through mapping the LMI sources at the European level.

We believe that this study is the first of its kind focused on LMI sources across Europe and is in itself a considerable innovation. Through this activity, we are seeking to influence how universities in Europe view, analyse, utilise and produce their own LMI to aid with their decision-making. Further, we aim to make this available to help stakeholders such as policymakers in national and regional governments, employers, and regional development agencies to be better able to bring their demand-side knowledge to support universities and ensure higher education supply fits to current and future labour market need.

The Final Report Recommendations given the project's geographical coverage and the pressing need for action on using labour market intelligence should have considerable transferability potential.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Demography

According to the latest data¹, Austria has 9,061,800 inhabitants (as of 1.7.2022, source: Statistics Austria: Population statistics). The largest metropolitan areas with the most inhabitants are Vienna, Graz, Linz and Salzburg. The federal capital Vienna is the only city in Austria with more than one million inhabitants. Currently, around 1.96 million people live there (as of 1.7.2022, source: Statistics Austria: Population statistics, visited 31.08.2022). Measured by the number of its inhabitants, Lower Austria is the second and Upper Austria the third largest federal province (see figure 1). The share of women in the population is 51% (as of 1.1.2021, source: Statistics Austria: Population by sex and age groups, Demographic Yearbook 2020).

As in other industrialized countries, increasing life expectancy and declining birth rates are leading to a growth of older population groups also in Austria. On 1.1.2022, the average age of the population was 43.2 years, which corresponds to an increase of 6 years of life since 1980 (source: Statistics Austria: Population by sex and age groups, Demographic Yearbook 2020, visited 31.08.2022). In 2020, the life expectancy of women was 84 years and that of men 79 years (source: Statistics Austria: Population by demographic characteristics). Figure 2 shows the change in the age pyramid over time: Since 1980, the age group 0-19 years has shrunk by 10%, the age group 20-64 years (prime working age) has grown by 7% and that of the elderly (65+) has increased by 3%.

The population in Austria is steadily growing. This is due on the one hand to the rising birth rate - whereby in 2020, due to the Corona pandemic, the number of deaths (91,599) exceeded the birth rate (83,603) for the first time in years - and on the other hand to increasing migration. Due to a massive influx of refugees especially from Syria, Afghanistan and, since 2022, from

¹ <https://it.tradingeconomics.com/austria/population>, <https://www.worldometers.info/demographics/austria-demographics/>, <https://www.austria.org/population>, and <https://eurydice.eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-education-systems/austria/population-demographic-situation-languages-and-religions>

Ukraine due to the war), the share of people with non-Austrian citizenship has increased considerably.

Labour market

There are 8 932 664 people living in Austria (as of 2021), and in the first quarters of 2021, 3 770 600 people were employed, including 677 500 foreign workers and 408 900 workers from the EU/EEA and Switzerland. A total of 12.6% of Austrian workers commute to another province, and 0.8% of workers commute abroad.

In 2021, the labour market recovered significantly and unemployment fell significantly compared to 2020. An average of 331 741 people (down 77 898 compared to the previous year) were registered as unemployed with the Austrian Public Employment Service (Arbeitsmarktservice Österreich, AMS) in 2021. In 2021, the unemployment rate stood at 8% according to the national calculation. According to the international definition, the (estimated) unemployment rate for 2021 was approximately 5%.

The labour market recovery of the first three quarters of 2021 has surpassed even the most optimistic assessments. However, in the last quarter of 2021, Covid-19 overshadowed the outlook for the development of pandemic-sensitive sectors, in particular the tourism winter season 2021/2022.

Nevertheless, the potential for a continued recovery of the economy and the labour market in 2022 remains. In the medium term, the Austrian economy will grow faster over the next five years than in the last five-year period (which was marked by the massive declines in growth in 2020). Real GDP is set to grow by 1.9% per year on average by 2025.

By 2025, employment will increase in all regions of Austria. Initially, this increase will be concentrated more in male-dominated industries, but the services sector is also expected to recover in the medium term.

There will be an above-average increase in staff numbers in those regions that suffered above-average job losses in 2020 (Tyrol, Salzburg, Vorarlberg). Unemployment in the eastern region (Vienna, Lower Austria and Burgenland) will also fall within the next 5 years (3%).

In 2022, the number of people actively employed will increase less strongly (+ 52 100) than in the previous year, an increase of 1.4%. The labour market recovery was also reflected in 2021 by a decrease in unemployment of 17.6% compared to 2020. A further decrease in the number of registered unemployed persons (-6%) is expected in 2022. On average, labour supply increased by + 9 500 persons (+ 0.2%) in 2021 compared to 2020, and a further increase of 0.8% (+ 31 900 people) is expected in 2022.

The unemployment rate in Austria is lower than in other European countries. Even after the economic and financial crisis in 2008, it rose minimally. From 2013 onwards, however, it became apparent that unemployment increasingly posed a challenge for the Austrian labour market. In 2020, the unemployment rate jumped to 10% due to the Corona pandemic. In 2021, the economic development picked up again, which means that the employment situation is expected to ease for the time being (2021: unemployment rate of 8%) and labour force participation rates will remain high (2021: 77%). The future development is strongly dependent on various factors (e.g. Ukraine war, energy and raw material supply, inflation, global economic climate).

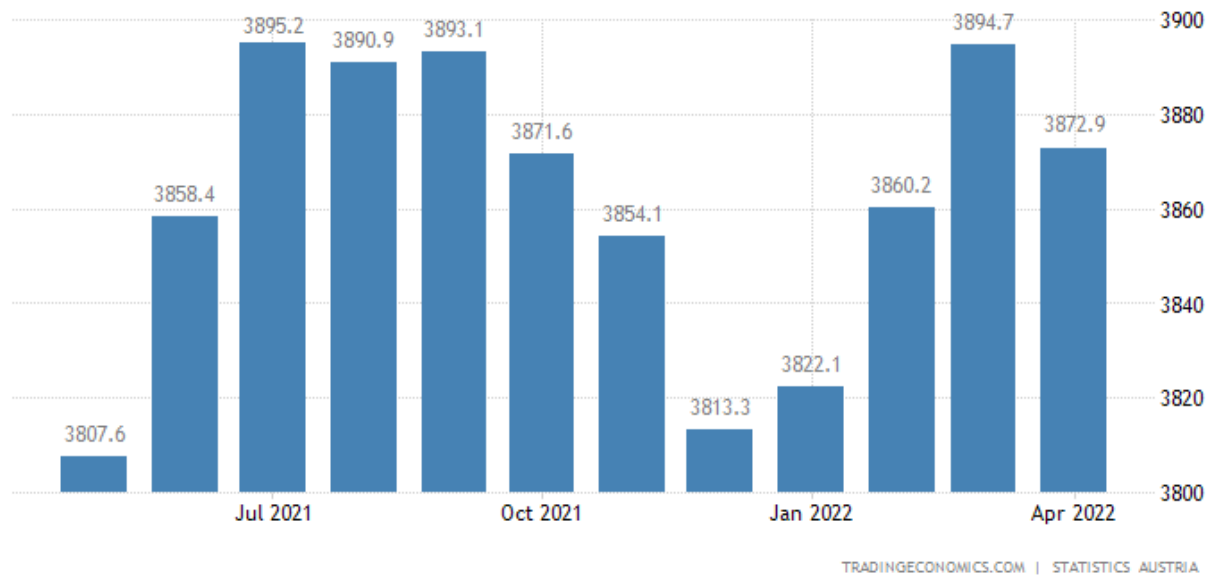
On average in 2022, based on the low level of the previous year, staffing levels are also expected to increase in the accommodation and restaurant sector. There is also increasing demand for human resources in the health and social work sector and in other economic services (e.g. temporary employment). This development is supported by an increasing need for many companies to be able to respond as flexibly as possible to short-term fluctuations in utilisation with staff adjustments.

In 2022 or in the following years, the building sector is also expected to face increasing staffing needs. In the coming years, the growth momentum of export-orientated enterprises in the goods production sector will also increase. Job losses have to be expected in 2022 within the financial and insurance services sector, but also in transport and logistics.

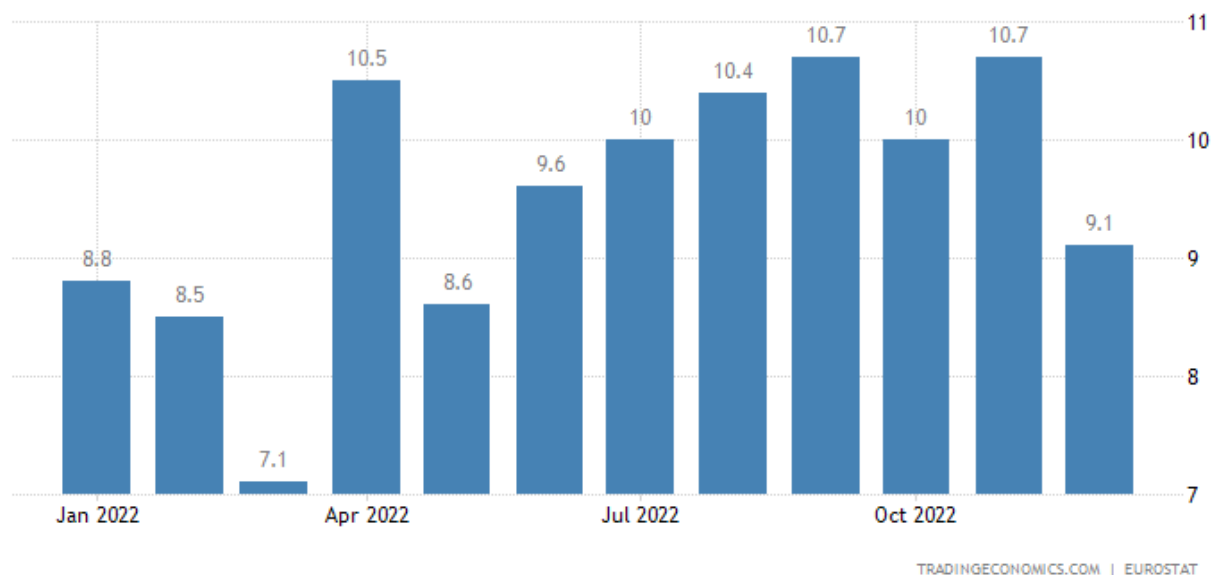
While in the medium term there will be a reduction in unemployment among young people and people of prime working age, unemployment among people over the age of 50 is expected to increase by 2025. The reduction in unemployment by 2025 will include people at all levels of education. The situation will ease most markedly for those with low and intermediate educational attainment, where unemployment has increased massively due to

the Covid-19 crisis. In the medium term, unemployment will decline among both domestic workers (-5.4%) and foreign workers (-4.3%).

Tab. 1 Employment Rate



Tab.2 Unemployment Rate

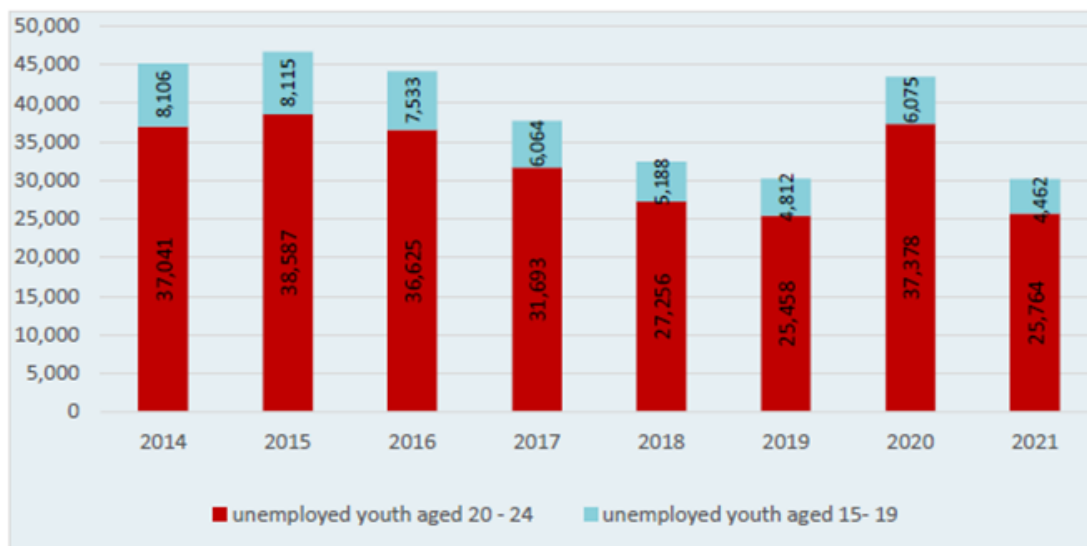


The unemployment rate for young people (up to 25 years old) also decreased to 6.5% on average in 2021 (down 2.8% compared to the previous year). Over the same period, unemployment in Austria among the older generation (55+) stood at 10.6% and remained

approximately the same compared with the previous year. The unemployment rate for foreign nationals (11.9%) is significantly higher than the Austrian average (8%), whereas the number of registered unemployed persons from the EU/EEA/Switzerland (8.3%) hardly differs from the unemployment rate in Austria as a whole.

Focus on age 15-24. The stock of dependent employment of young people (15 to 24 years) increased by 1.9% in 2021 compared to the previous year (+7,928). Of these, 131,831 were under 20 and 301,179 were 20 to 24 years old. Both age groups recorded increases: +1.5% among under 20-year-olds and +2.0% among 20- to 24-year-olds. Unemployment among young people aged 15-24 dropped by 30.4% (-13,227 young people) year-on-year to 30,226 on average in the second pandemic year of 2021. For those aged under 20, unemployment declined by 26.6% (-1,613), and for those aged 20-24, the reduction in unemployment was even more significant (-31.1% or -11,614) - see Figure 1. Differentiated by gender, unemployment among young males (15- to 24-year-olds) decreased by 30.3% (-7,516) to 17,321 and among young females by 30.7% (-5,711) to 12,905. In comparison, total unemployment also decreased by 19% or 77,898 to 331,741 registered job-seekers on average in 2021.

Figure 1. Unemployed youth aged 15 to 19 yrs old and 20 to 24 yrs old 2014-2021



Source: PES (national data); BMAW/AMIS, retrieved on 11 July 2022.

Higher education market

Austria boasts a diversified range of higher education programs, most of which are offered by universities. In the past years, a large number of coordinating measures regarding the four higher education types in the whole HE sector were introduced in terms of strategy, until in the beginning of 2023 a higher education plan (Hochschulplan (HoP) 2030) was issued. The higher education plan pursues a comprehensive systemic claim within Austria's higher education system. In the context of the existing strategic documents for the four higher education sectors, it acts as an umbrella strategy that addresses the 76 Austrian higher education institutions as a whole. The higher education plan aims to promote the existing strengths of the higher education system and to make greater use of existing development potential and, above all, to bring about a long-term, joint development of the Austrian higher education sectors:

Quantitative targets for 2030: By improving the four quantitative indicators, the quality of teaching should be increased in the long term and at the same time more equality in teaching, research and development and exploration of the arts (Entwicklung und Erschließung der Künste (EEK) should be sought. Specifically, this involves improving the student-teacher ratios, increasing the number of degrees, especially first MINT degrees, increasing the proportion of graduates who are mobile and, above all, increasing the proportion of women in top positions in the areas of teaching, research and EEK.

Qualitative lines of development up to 2030: Five lines of qualitative development are described, in order to strengthen Austria as a higher education location internationally on the one hand, and on the other hand to create framework conditions that make it possible to respond to changed educational biographies and to increase the proportion of still underrepresented groups of students. In addition, the contribution of teaching, research and the development and exploration of the arts to overcome current societal challenges is also addressed. Here, particular attention is paid to digital transformation, sustainability and teacher training, as these topics will be formative for the coming years.

LMI SOURCES AT NATIONAL LEVEL

LMI providers

LMI comprises any information and knowledge about labour market dynamics. It covers topics such as labour demand and supply, unemployment, employment and earnings, emergence of new occupations, new skills required on labour market, post-graduate path, career expectations, etc.

List of potential providers:

- National institute of statistics
- Public employment service
- Ministry of labour
- Ministry of education
- Employer organizations, employees organizations (Chamber of employees), trade unions and professional associations
- Academic and research institute
- Private and public centres of lifelong learning
- Private providers (e.g. job portal, Inomics, AKADEUS)

The Viennese Institute for Labour Market and Education Research (WIAB)

The Viennese Institute for Labour Market and Education Research (<https://www.wiab.at/index.en.html>), is a private organisation providing research and consultancy to public institutions, enterprises and (international) organisations in the field of labour market, gender and education research. WIAB provides outstanding know-how and expertise in the development of taxonomies and competence descriptions. WIAB combines the scientific expertise and knowledge in the field of labour market, education and gender research with the service quality of a business consultancy.

Labour Market Databases

The online labour market information system (AMIS - https://www.dnet.at/amis/Datenbank/DB_IndexEN.aspx) of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Economy contains information on unemployed people, training attendances at the Public Employment Service (AMS), employment, job market, apprenticeship, international unemployment rates, and population statistics. Online database - Labour market information.

In addition to queries on registered unemployment based on the data of the Public Employment Service and on employment based on the published data of the Federation of Social Insurance Institutions, the database also offers the possibility of combining these two data sources. Therefore, in addition to queries on employment and unemployment, the corresponding information on the labour force potential and the unemployment rates (according to national definition) broken down by gender, age and sectors is also available. Furthermore, data on self-employment, on employment and unemployment of foreign workers and on training participation within the framework of the measures of the Public Employment Service can be queried.

Assessing the sources of LMI at national level

Once the sources of LMI have been identified, their quality is needed to be assessed. There are many organisations that produce LMI but only through a standardized evaluation process they can be considered as being qualitative. The quality of LMI sources is sustained by their representativeness, validity and reliability. Table 1 below contains a list of LMI sources identified at national level and their rating in accordance with LMI-EUniv methodology.

Table 1: LMI Sources at national level

[SEE THE LMI SOURCES HERE](#)

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