

# The Austrian Federal Civil Service

Facts and Figures 2024



## Key figures 2023

### Population and labour market

Inhabitants (in thousands)	9,089
Employees (in thousands)	3,941
Unemployment (source: EUROSTAT)	5.1 %

### Economy and public sector

Gross domestic product (GDP, in € bn.)	478.2
Tax ratio (as a percentage of GDP)	43.1 %
Public expenditure (as a percentage of GDP)	52.1 %
Public sector staff and non-staff costs (as a percentage of GDP)	17.9 %
Public sector employees* (in thousands)	797

\* 2022 data

Source: Statistik Austria

## Public administration in Austria

Public administration in Austria is carried out on three levels: the Federal level, the level of the nine regions (called *Länder* in German), and that of the 2,093 municipalities (i. e. local). In addition, social insurance funds, statutory representative bodies (called “Chambers”, e. g. the Chamber of Labour and the Chamber of Commerce), and other legal entities involved in providing public services are sometimes included in the definition of the public sector.

Level of government*	Staffing level
Federal	135,497
Regional	147,712
Local	85,501
<b>Total</b>	<b>368,710</b>

\*Staffing levels in full-time equivalents, excluding agencies and institutions outside the Civil Service. Data for the federal level last updated 31 December 2023; regional level: 2022; local level 2022.

Sources: Federal Level – Federal Civil Service Management Information System (MIS); regional level – regions’ own data, based on the Austrian Stability Pact, excluding regional hospitals; local level – Statistics Austria

By delivering a wide range of services to the people of Austria, public servants provide important impulses for the country’s society and economy.

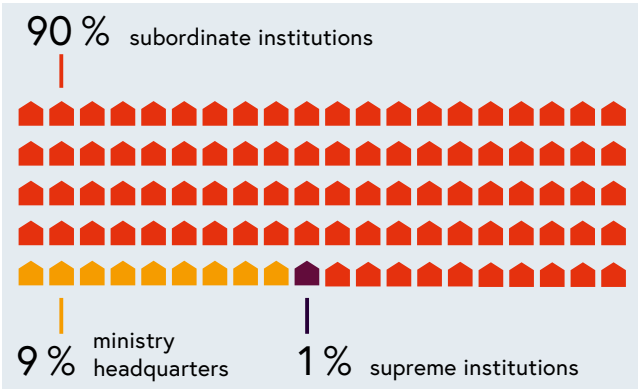
A large proportion of them work in well-known occupations, e.g. as teachers, police officers, soldiers or tax inspectors; others deliver services such as welfare benefits, infrastructure maintenance and improvement, food and medicine safety, environmental protection, and public health.

## The Federal Civil Service

It is the Federal Ministries – their headquarters as well as their subordinate institutions – which are responsible for carrying out the administrative tasks of the Federation (or *Bund*, as it is called in Austria).

Only 9% of Federal civil servants work in the Federal Ministries themselves, while 90% work in their numerous subordinate institutions, such as schools, courts, tax offices and police stations.











Finally, 1% of all Federal civil servants work for the Federal President's Office, the Parliamentary Administration, the Constitutional Court, the Supreme Administrative Court, the Ombudsman Board and the Court of Audit, which are collectively known as the “supreme institutions” of the Republic.



In addition to these, more than 3,400 civil servants (FTE) still work for agencies and other institutions that no longer form part of the Federal Civil Service, e. g. Statistics Austria, the Austrian Federal Museums, the Public Employment Service, public universities and the Probation Service; another 6,000 or so work in the successor companies of the Austrian Post Office and Telegraph Administration.

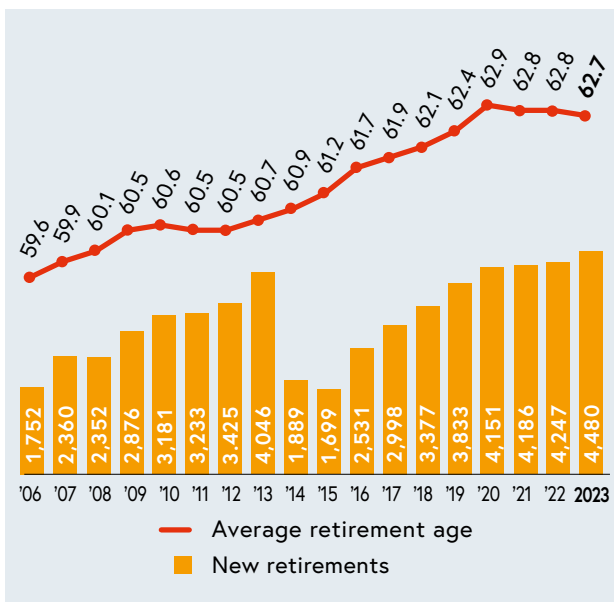
## Occupational groups in the Federal Civil Service

There are eight different occupational groups within the Federal Civil Service, including the six listed below, as well as nurses and school supervision. While there are clear job profiles for most of these occupations, members of the administrative service can be involved in a wide range of different activities, which is why they are to be found in practically all parts of the Federal Civil Service. In addition to administrative officers, this group includes experts such as lawyers, engineers, economists, psychologists and business administration specialists, to name just a few.

	 Staffing level	 Average age	 Proportion of women	 Annual income (median)
 Administrative service	45,913 FTE	46.4 years	54.2 %	46,109 Euro
 Law enforcement	34,211 FTE	40.6 years	23.1 %	57,195 Euro
 Judges and prosecutors	3,048 FTE	47.2 years	58.6 %	101,654 Euro
 Schoolteachers	38,100 FTE	47.2 years	59.7 %	53,458 Euro
 Teachers at colleges of education	1,138 FTE	49.6 years	61.8 %	71,175 Euro
 Military	12,565 FTE	42.5 years	4.1 %	54,204 Euro

## Retirements

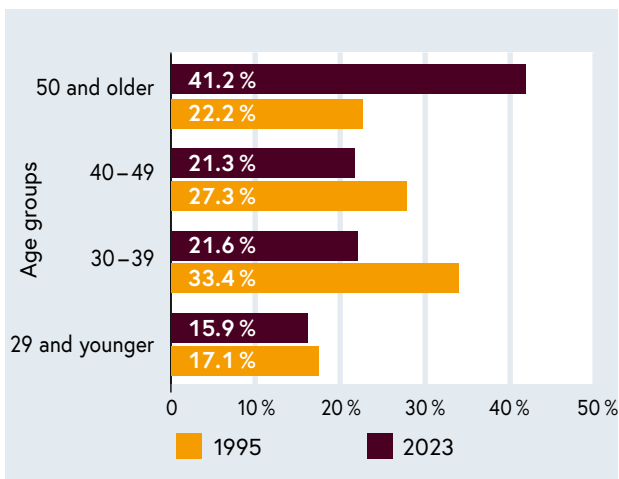
In 2023, the average retirement age of Federal civil servants decreased by 0.04 years to 62.7 years. This slight reduction can be explained by two main factors: On the one hand, the number of early retirements rose by 367 whereas retirements with the statutory retirement age fell by 105. On the other hand, retirements significantly increased among law enforcement, which is the occupational group with the youngest retirees, and decreased among school teachers, which is the occupational group with the oldest retirees. Law enforcement officers and school teachers amounted to half of all retirees of 2023, thereby considerably impacting the average retirement age.



## Age structure of the Federal Civil Service

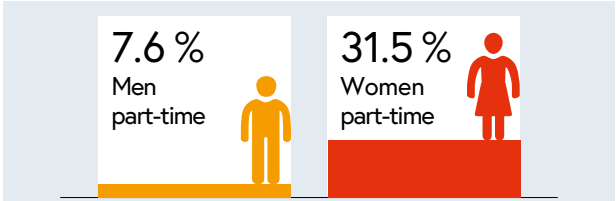
In 2023, the average age of staff members was 44.6 years (2022: 45.0). The continuous long-term rise in average age can mainly be explained by a restrictive recruitment policy. The slight decline since 2017 is especially due to recruitment in law enforcement. Staff today tend to be more highly qualified, and therefore older upon recruitment and to retire at a later age than they did some years ago.

## Age groups 1995 and 2023



## Part-time employment in the Federal Civil Service

2023 the proportion of part-time staff was 18.2%. Among permanent civil servants and those on private-law employment contracts alike, women made more use of this opportunity than men.



## Qualification levels of Federal Civil Service staff

The proportion of highly qualified staff has traditionally been high in the Federal Civil Service. The recent process of refocusing on the core tasks of public administration has led to operative units being hived off and turned into separate legal entities such as agencies, as well as certain services being outsourced to private providers. This has caused the percentage of university graduates and those having completed upper secondary education (so-called *Matura*) to rise even further, to 50.9%. By comparison, the proportion is only 41.1% in the private sector.

University graduates and staff having completed upper secondary education 2023			
Federal Civil Service		Private sector	
Men	Women	Men	Women
41.5%	64.0%	37.6%	45.0%

## Initial and in-service training

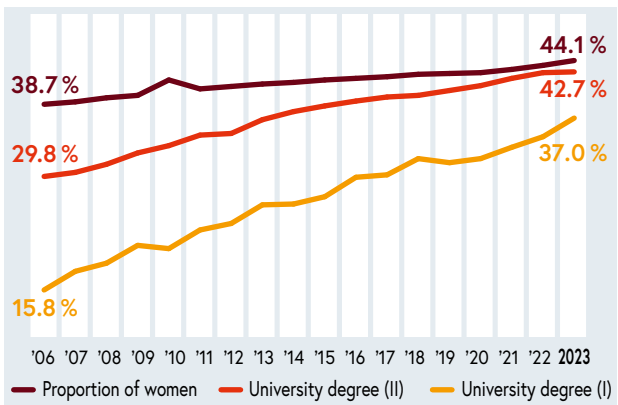
Working in the Federal Civil Service can require highly specialised know-how, depending on the respective occupational group and specific post. All new recruits therefore undergo a comprehensive initial training program, which builds on their previous qualifications. There are also different types of internship available within the Federal Civil Service, such as public administration internships, or court internships for law graduates, which provide skills that are in demand in the private sector, too.

Furthermore, the Federal Civil Service is currently training 1,464 apprentices, making it one of the largest

providers of apprenticeship training in the country. Another 2,903 apprentices are being trained in various public enterprises and agencies. As of 31 December 2023, a total of 706 employees are being trained as commissioned or non-commissioned officers of the Austrian Armed Forces.

## Women and men in the Federal Civil Service

The proportion of women in the entire Federal Civil Service is 44.1%. This percentage has been rising for several years, particularly in areas where women are underrepresented (e.g. law enforcement and military). Austria-wide, the proportion of women among all employees is 48.5%, a level exceeded by 8 of the 12 Federal Ministries. However, in two of these, namely the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Defence, the percentage is markedly lower than the Austrian average. This is because a high proportion of these ministries' staff belong to the occupational groups of law enforcement and the military, where women are in a minority for historical reasons.



Women in leadership positions is an important indicator when it comes to gender equality. Leadership positions not only come with decision-making powers, they also correlate with higher income levels. To demonstrate the share of women in leadership positions over time, the indicator “Women in the highest pay grades” was developed, including four levels. The two highest levels comprise the groups University degree (I) (e.g. Secretaries-General, Directors-General and Directors) and University Degree (II) (e.g. Heads of Division, Heads of Unit, etc.). Since 2006, the share of women in leadership positions has increased at all levels. With 21.2 percentage points, the share of women in group 1 increased significantly more than the overall share of women in the Federal Civil Service.

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For further details, please see  
our full report on “The Austrian  
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