

Migration and the labour market

Among the key prerequisites for successful integration are education and qualifications. With the information brochure “migration & integration – Schwerpunkt: Arbeit und Beruf” (Migration & Integration – Focus: Work and Employment”), the Austrian Integration Fund (ÖIF) in cooperation with the Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs (BMEIA) supplies facts and figures on the topics of education, employment, unemployment and qualifications of people with a migration or refugee background.

- In early 2016 around 1,287,800 people of working age with a place of birth abroad lived in Austria, this corresponded to some 22% of the total population of working age (15 to 64 years). Some 42% of the migrants of working age were born in EU/EEA states (mainly in Germany, Romania and Hungary) or Switzerland. Slightly less than 58% were born in third countries, such as Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Due to the refugee movements in recent years, immigration of people of working age from third countries, especially from Syria and Afghanistan, has risen strongly.
- In terms of their education level, migrants were clearly overrepresented in 2015 both in the highest and in the lowest educational categories. The share of the low-qualified, but also the proportion of higher education graduates, was clearly higher than among Austrians. Among second-generation migrants, the education level approximated the level of people without a migration background.
- Of the around 4.2 million strong workforce in Austria, a total of some 21% had a migration background in 2015. Compared to Austrians of working age (15 to 64 years) without a migration background, people with a migration background are less frequently employed however: only 63% of them were employed on an annual average for 2015, among Austrians without a migration background the employment rate was almost 74%. But the group of migrants is very heterogeneous: whereas the share of the workforce from EU/EEA states is, at 77%, even higher than among Austrians, the share of the workforce with roots in Turkey is clearly lower (at 54%). Especially women with roots in Turkey and countries of the former Yugoslavia are considerably less frequently employed (42% and 59% respectively) than Austrian women (70%).
- Foreigners were by two thirds more frequently unemployed than Austrians in 2015 (14% and 8% respectively). Refugees were most frequently unemployed: roughly three quarters of the Syrians (75%) and almost half of all Afghans (46%) of working age were unemployed in 2015. Turkish immigrants were more than two times as frequently affected by unemployment (slightly less than 20%) as Austrians.

More information:

Statistics Austria (2016): Migration und Integration. Zahlen. Daten. Indikatoren [Migration and Integration. Figures. Data. Indicators]. Vienna. Download:

http://www.statistik.at/wcm/idc/idcplg?IdcService=GET_NATIVE_FILE&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=108484 (retrieved on 28.07.2017)

ÖIF (2016): migration & integration – Schwerpunkt: Arbeit & Beruf [Migration & Integration - Focus: Work & Employment]. Vienna. Download:

http://www.integrationsfonds.at/fileadmin/content/AT/Downloads/Publikationen/Statistik_Arbeit_und_Beruf_2016_Web.pdf (retrieved on 28.07.2017)