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Naturalisations in 2022 increased by 27 %

Almost 50 % of newly naturalised are descendants of Nazi victims

Vienna, 2023-02-16 – In 2022, Austrian citizenship was granted to 20 606 persons, including 9 707 (47.1 %) persons residing abroad. Thus, according to Statistics Austria, there were 27.4 % more naturalisations than in 2021 (16 171 naturalisations) or almost twice as many naturalisations as in the comparable period before the start of the COVID 19 pandemic in 2019 (10 606 naturalisations or +94.3 %).

“The significant increase in naturalisation of 27.4 % compared to 2021 is mainly due to the naturalisation of politically persecuted persons of the Nazi regime and their descendants, who account for almost half of the newly naturalised persons in 2022”, says Tobias Thomas, Director General of Statistics Austria.

Based on the preliminary population figures, this results in a **provisional naturalisation rate** of 0.7 % for 2022, slightly higher than the 2021 and 2020 rates of 0.6 % each.

Under the legal title §58c StbG, politically persecuted persons of the Nazi regime and their descendants have the possibility of naturalisation without having to give up their previous citizenship in return since 1 September 2020. In 2022, 9 696 persons (of whom 9 647 live abroad) were granted Austrian citizenship under §58c, which corresponds to 47.1 % of all naturalisations in 2022. Persons naturalised under this title most frequently have the following three nationalities: Israel (4 985 or 24.2 % of all naturalised in 2022), United States of America (1 895 or 9.2 %), and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (1 555 or 7.5 %). People naturalised for other reasons (a total of 10 910 persons in 2022) were previously most often nationals of Syria (1 165 or 5.7 %), Turkey (1 087 or 5.3 %), and Bosnia and Herzegovina (800 or 3.9 %). Half of the naturalisations in 2022 were among **women** (10 273 or 49.9 %), and about one-sixth each were **minors** under 18 (3 610 or 17.5 %) or **born in Austria** (3 618 or 17.6 %).

In eight **federal provinces**, more persons were naturalised in 2022 than in the previous year. The relative increases were highest in Carinthia (+41.9 % to 552 naturalisations), followed by Vorarlberg (+39.1 % to 647). In Salzburg (-0.6 % to 487), there were fewer naturalisations compared to the previous year. Compared to 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic, there were more naturalisations in five provinces, led by Carinthia (+62.4 % to 552 naturalisations) and Vorarlberg (+41.6 % to 647). There were fewer naturalisations in Salzburg (-16.5 % to 487), Styria (-10.5 % to 910), Upper Austria (-4.2 % to 1 328) and Vienna (-1.9 % to 4 478) compared to 2019.

Almost four-fifths of all naturalisations in 2022 took place on the basis of a **legal entitlement** (16 423 persons or 79.7 %). Among them, 5 229 persons were naturalised after at least six years of residence in Austria and for reasons worthy of special consideration (e.g., proven knowledge of German and sustained integration, birth in Austria, EEA citizenship or eligible for asylum – §11a, para. 4, para. 6 and para. 7), 9 696 politically persecuted persons and their descendants (§58c, paras. 1 to 6), 651 persons on the basis of marriage to an Austrian (§11a, paras. 1 and 2) and 496 persons on the basis of residence in Austria for at least 15 years and sustained integration (§12, para. 1, line 1). Further 955 persons were granted citizenship by **discretion** (4.6 %), including 911 persons after at least ten years of residence (Section 10, para. 1). A total of 3 228 persons, or 15.7 %, were naturalised under the title of **extension** of conferral, including 405 spouses (§16) and 2 823 children (§17).

For detailed results and further information please refer to our [website](#).

Table 1: Naturalisations 2019 to 2022

Place of residence	2019	2022	Change in %		Q4 2019	Q4 2022	Change in %	
			2019–2022	2021–2022			Q4 2019–Q4 2022	Q4 2021–Q4 2022
Austria incl. abroad	10 606	20 606	94.3	27.4	2 996	9 455	215.6	11.2
Burgenland	202	205	1.5	15.8	92	84	-8.7	82.6
Carinthia	340	552	62.4	41.9	115	133	15.7	30.4
Lower Austria	1 354	1 522	12.4	12.7	370	385	4.1	4.6
Upper Austria	1 386	1 328	-4.2	5.4	342	335	-2.0	5.0
Salzburg	583	487	-16.5	-0.6	242	107	-55.8	-18.3
Styria	1 017	910	-10.5	18.3	297	170	-42.8	-16.7
Tyrol	598	770	28.8	12.6	131	138	5.3	-11.5
Vorarlberg	457	647	41.6	39.1	147	221	50.3	22.8
Vienna	4 563	4 478	-1.9	8.2	1 199	1 192	-0.6	-28.9
Abroad ¹	106	9 707	9 057.5	50.5	61	6 690	10 867.2	25.8

Q: STATISTIK AUSTRIA, Statistics on Naturalisations.

1) The possibility of naturalisation of descendants of politically persecuted persons, which has existed since 1.9.2020, has caused a very strong increase in naturalisations of persons living abroad.

Table 2: Naturalisations 2022 by country of birth, residence, age and previous citizenship

Previous citizenship	Naturalisations absolute				Naturalisations in %			
	total	thereof:			total	thereof:		
		born in Austria	residing abroad	under 18 years		born in Austria	residing abroad	under 18 years
Total	20 606	3 618	9 707	3 610	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
EU states	1 722	538	120	273	8.4	14.9	1.2	7.6
Other European countries (incl. Turkey)	6 322	1 905	1 646	694	30.7	52.7	17.0	19.2
thereof:								
Turkey	1 087	594	3	99	5.3	16.4	0.0	2.7
Bosnia and Herzegovina	800	371	1	54	3.9	10.3	0.0	1.5
Serbia	667	322	11	62	3.2	8.9	0.1	1.7
Africa	799	249	16	63	3.9	6.9	0.2	1.7
Asia	8 510	837	5 008	1 898	41.3	23.1	51.6	52.6
Other non-European countries, unknown	3 253	89	2 917	682	15.8	2.5	30.1	18.9

S: STATISTIK AUSTRIA, Statistics on Naturalisations.

Information on methodology, definitions: The statistics on naturalisations are based on the information from the legally binding decisions of the offices of the provincial governments of Austria on the granting of citizenship and are carried out on behalf of the Federal Ministry of the Interior. The statistics on naturalisations document all types of acquisition of citizenship under the Naturalisation Act 1985, as amended in 2022 (sections 10 to 17, 25, 57, 58c and 64a), which are effected by a declaration of intent by the acquirer and a subsequent official act, but not automatic types of acquisition such as birth or legitimation of an illegitimate child. The naturalisation statistics include both naturalisations of persons residing in Austria and of persons residing abroad. In the case of naturalisations pursuant to Section 58c (politically persecuted persons and their descendants), the "statistical effective date of naturalisation" is the date of issuance of the decision and not the date of receipt of the notification by the authorities. These naturalisations mainly concern persons residing abroad.

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

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