

Press release: 13 427-193/24

Every second person aged 75 and over takes part in digital life

Internet use among older people influenced by education

Vienna, 2024-09-25 – Just over half of 75 to 84-year-olds in Austria stated that they had used the internet in the three months prior to the survey, which was conducted from April to July 2023. In the 16 to 74 age group, this figure was 95%. An analysis by Statistics Austria on behalf of the Federal Chancellery also shows that internet use among older people is strongly linked to education, gender and type of household.

“The digital gap between the 75+ age group and younger people remains wide. In Austria, every second person between the ages of 75 and 84 uses the internet, while at 95% almost all 16- to 74-year-olds do so. Among 75 to 84-year-olds, people with higher educational qualifications are more likely to be online, and men more likely than women,” says Tobias Thomas, Director General Statistics at Statistics Austria.

Narrow majority of the elderly uses the internet

In Austria, there is a strong correlation between internet use and age. 95% of 16 to 74-year-olds stated that they had used the internet in the three months prior to the survey in the period from April to July 2023. In the 16 to 44 age group, all or almost all people used the World Wide Web (between 98% and 100%). With increasing age, however, Internet use fell to 93% among 55 to 64-year-olds and to 79% among 65 to 74-year-olds. In the 75 to 84 age group, 54% were online.

Internet use of the elderly influenced by education, gender and type of household

The sociodemographic analysis of the data shows that the internet use of the elderly depends primarily on their educational attainment (see table). The higher a person’s level of formal education, the more likely they were to use the internet. While nine out of ten older people with a university degree (88%) were online, the use of the Internet was significantly lower among older people with “Matura” (an entitlement to take up studies at universities or other higher education institutions; 68%) or with an apprenticeship/graduation from a school for intermediate vocational education (56%). Internet use was lowest among people with at most a compulsory school leaving certificate (33%).

Broken down into more detailed age groups, it can be seen that 75- to 79-year-olds (64%) used the internet more frequently than 80- to 84-year-olds (43%). Older men (67%) used the internet more frequently than older women (44%), and older people living in multi-person households (61%) more frequently than those living alone (40%).

For more detailed information and the report “Internet use by the elderly in Austria” (available only in German) please refer to our [website](#).

Internet use by the elderly in Austria 2023

Characteristics	Elderly individuals who used the internet in the last three months prior to the survey, in %
Total (aged 75–84)	53.8
Of which aged 75–79	63.8
Of which aged 80–84	42.8
Gender	
Male	67.4
Female	43.5
Education level	
Compulsory school	32.6
Apprenticeship/school for intermediate vocational education	56.0
Matura (qualification for university entrance)	67.9
University	87.7
Degree of urbanisation	
Cities	56.2
Towns and suburbs	56.3
Rural areas	49.7
Household type	
One-person household	40.4
Multi-person household	60.5

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Survey on ICT usage in households 2023.

Information on methodology: These are the extrapolated results of the survey on ICT usage in households and by individuals in Austria in 2023. The survey is based on an EU regulation (Regulation (EC) No 2019/1700) which obliges Austria and all other EU member states to deliver specified data, as well as on a Commission Implementing regulation (Regulation (EC) No 2022/1399) and a Commission Delegated Regulation (Regulation (EC) No 2022/2279). Statistics Austria conducted the Austrian survey as a sample survey. The questionnaire, definitions and methodology were standardised across the EU.

Following the regulations, households with at least one household member between the ages of 16 and 74 years and household members within this age bracket were surveyed. Due to a national expansion, people between the ages of 75 and 84 years were also surveyed in Austria for the first time, and further data on non-use of the internet was collected. From April to July 2023, approximately 4 400 households and approximately 6 400 individuals took part in the survey via telephone interviews or web-based questionnaires. For households, the reference period was the time of the survey, and for individuals, it was either the time of the survey or the last three or twelve months prior to the survey.

Unless stated otherwise, the data in the press release refers to the use of the internet by the 74- to 85-year-old population in the last three months prior to the survey; the sample includes around 700 people.

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Media owner, producer and publisher:

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