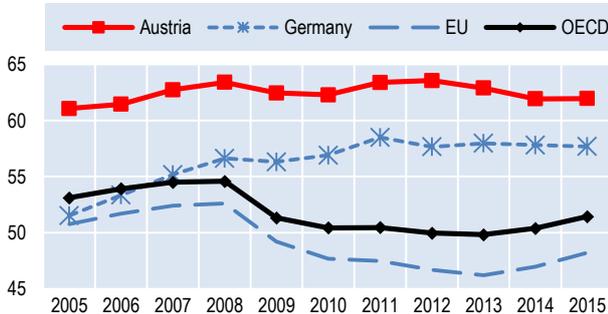


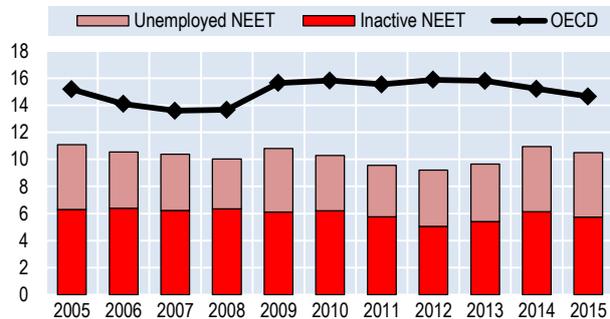
The 2016 edition of *Society at a Glance* examines social well-being and its trends across the OECD. The number of young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs) remains elevated in many countries since the crisis; the report therefore focusses on this group of young people examining the characteristics of those at risk of being NEET along with policies to help meet the challenge. This edition also includes many new youth-specific indicators on family formation, self-sufficiency, income and poverty, health and social cohesion.

Youth employment and the NEET rate remained stable throughout the Great Recession
Employment rate of 15-29 year-olds, in Austria and OECD2005-2015



[Figure 1.2]

NEET rate by activity status, in Austria and OECD2005-2015



[Figure 1.5]

Note: The NEET rate is the share of 15-29-year-olds who are not in employment, education or training.

THE NEET SITUATION IN AUSTRIA

The share of young people aged 15-29 who are employed is high in Austria – at 62% in 2015, it was significantly above the OECD (51%) and EU (48%) averages, and above peer countries such as Germany [Figure 1.2]. Only Iceland and Switzerland have a noticeably higher youth employment rate.

Still, in 2015, 162 000 or 10.5% of all young people aged 15-29 were Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) in Austria, generating an estimated cost of 1% of GDP [Figure 1.8]. About half of them were inactive, i.e. they were not actively looking for work. While this places Austria well below the OECD average of 15% in 2015, several Nordic countries including Iceland (6%), but also Switzerland and Germany (9%) achieve significantly lower NEET rates [Figure 1.5]. The number of NEETs in Austria rose by 20 000 between 2012 and 2015 [Figure 1].

Between 2011 and 2014, more than half of all young Austrians aged 15-29 were NEET at some point in time, and nearly a third of all youth were NEET for six months or longer over the 4-year period [Figure 1.18]. Only about a third of them were women with young children.

Low education is the main risk factor for NEET status. 43% of all young people aged 25-29 with at most lower secondary education are NEET, six times as many as university graduates of the same age [Figure 1.9]. On the OECD average, low educated young people are only 1.5 times as likely to be NEET than their peers with university degrees.

Also young people born abroad are at a high risk of becoming NEET in Austria: they are 2.4 times as likely to be NEET, compared to 1.5 times as likely on the OECD average [Figure 1.16]. This underlines the importance of programs targeted at young migrants.

Low socio-economic status is also a strong predictor of NEET status. Young people whose parents do not have upper secondary education are over three times as likely to become NEETs as other youth in Austria, compared to only 1.8 times as likely on the OECD average [Figure 1.16].

Bumpy Labour Market Entry

While overall youth unemployment is low in Austria – about 10% of all active young people in 2014 – over a quarter of all young people who entered the labour market in 2014 were looking for

a job [Figure 4.13]. This is one of the largest gaps between labour market entrants and more established youth in the 27 countries studied.

The Great Recession has not affected the long-term employment rates of young Austrians – those who entered the labour market at the height of the crisis in 2009 were just as likely (young women even more likely) to be employed after five years as young people who left education in 2004.

However, it has affected their earnings progression. Those who entered the labour market in 2004 saw their earnings grow by over a third within 5 years, while 2009 labour market entrants only gained about a quarter of their starting salaries within the same period of time [Figure 4.15]. On the OECD average, this early earnings progression dropped from 27 to just 3% of the starting salary.

OVERVIEW OF OTHER SOCIAL INDICATORS

Declining teenage motherhood

In 2014, fertility was well below the replacement level in most countries, averaging 1.7 across the OECD [Figure 3.4]. **Austria's fertility rate was lower still at 1.47 children per woman, although it did increase slightly from its 1995 level of 1.42.** During the past two decades, fertility fell among women in their twenties and increased for women in their thirties.

The fall in the incidence of teen motherhood is particularly striking in Austria. Since 1996, the number of girls and young women aged 15-19 giving birth fell by nearly 60%, compared to a 36% fall on the OECD average. At 7.4 per 1 000 girls and young women under the age of 20, this incidence is only half as high as on the OECD average.

High wealth inequality

With a Gini coefficient of 0.28, Austria takes a mid-table position in the OECD in terms of income inequality (OECD average: 0.32) [Figure 5.1]. **Household wealth is much more unequally distributed than income,** however. In 2012, the richest 10% of Austrian households owned 62% of overall household wealth, the second highest share of the 17 countries studied. High wealth concentration in Austria is driven by two main factors: low levels of wealth taxation and a low share of homeownership. As the share of renters is comparatively high, wealth in the form of homes, the major asset type for private households, is more concentrated.

Inequalities in perceived health

In almost all OECD countries, a majority of the adult population reports their health as good as or better than good [Figure 6.4] – in Austria it is 69% of the population, compared to the OECD average of 68%. **The gap in reported good health between the top and bottom 20% of the income distribution is especially large in Austria.** Over four fifths of all Austrians in the top 20% reported good or excellent health, compared to only around half of those in the bottom 20%. This gap is significantly higher than on the OECD average (18%).

Highest alcohol consumption

Austria has the highest per capita consumption of alcohol in the OECD. At 12.2 liters per person, consumption is significantly higher than the OECD average of 8.9 liters, and above countries such as France (11.5) and Ireland (11). A number of high-alcohol use countries have reduced their consumption considerably since 2000 – Ireland and Denmark by roughly a quarter, France by a sixth – **whereas in Austria, consumption only declined by 10%, leaving it at the top of the list** [Figure 6.11].

Austria is also the only country where the share of the population who smoke daily remained stable at 24% since 2000, while on the OECD average it fell by 7% to 19% in 2014. Only Latvia and the Slovak Republic reported increases in the share of smokers.

Trust in government higher among young people

Trust in public institutions is essential for public support of and compliance with government policies and regulations. **In Austria, only 43% of the population report having confidence in the national government, in line with the OECD average** [Figure 7.5]. In Switzerland, by contrast, nearly three quarters of the population do. **Trust in the national government is significantly higher among young people under 30,** however, 50% of whom state to have confidence in the national government. On the OECD average, young people report similar levels of trust as the general population.

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