

## **IPUMS-Europe Country Report: Austria**

### **DRAFT VERSION**

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## **1. History of census taking**

In Austria, census taking has a long tradition. In the 18<sup>th</sup> and in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century censuses predominantly served military and fiscal purposes. The enumerations (the first in 1695) were carried out by the authorities of the provinces and for control purposes by the church authorities. Because tax burden and the number of recruits depended on the number of inhabitants of a territorial unit, the local sovereigns were interested in lower population figures. The results of the enumeration carried out by the church proved to be more reliable therefore.

In the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century resistance against censuses by the local sovereigns and also by the church was growing. From 1770 to 1850 military authorities participated in census taking, the objectives changed to predominantly military ones.

In the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century census taking was subject to a major change. The census should not only serve one purpose (until now mostly military) but should serve the needs of the administration of the state. Data should be collected with reference to a census day and enumeration should enclose the whole territory of the monarchy. Following the discussions at international statistical conferences in 1869 a census law was issued which is seen as the starting point of modern census taking in Austria.

What was new? For the first time characteristics were covered for the total of the present population (i.e. age, sex, religion, marital status, occupation/activity). For each community the present and the absent population was determined as well as the native population and foreigners.

From 1869 on population censuses were carried out in regular intervals (1869, 1880, 1890, 1900 and 1910). The number of variables increased. In the 1890 census Hollerith equipment was used for the first time.

The first census after World War I (1920) was not very successful. Due to the absence of war prisoners and many children who were abroad on holidays for convalescence the population was underestimated. The next census was carried out in 1923 but due to lack of financial resources the very ambitious plans regarding processing and dissemination of results could not be realised.

The next census (1934) was the first one since 1910 with complete results. The definition of population was changed to usual resident population. In 1939 a census was carried out in the whole German Reich of which Austria was a part then. Because of completely different regional and economic classifications the results are not comparable.

The first census after World War II in 1951 was conducted on basis of a new census law (1950). This law only provided regulations for the population census. Building and housing censuses became subject of a separate law, but were always conducted together with the population census. In 1961, the tabulation programme was enlarged, particularly in the field of households and families. For the first time results on commuting (place of work) were available. In 1971, household lists were replaced by machine-readable individual forms and data were processed and stored electronically. In 1980 again a census law passed parliament, which was the basis of the population censuses since 1981. The law is a development of the 1950-census-act, an adaptation to new requirements (for example residence issues).

Since 1981 not only buildings, dwelling and individuals have been enumerated but also local units of employment (first census in 1973; based on a separate law).

In the last years census taking became increasingly controversial. High costs, time-lag between census day and results and resistance against filling in forms. When the Austrian government approved the budget for the 2001 census it was stated that this enumeration should be the last traditional one (using forms etc.). A working group was set up to work out a concept for a register-based census in Austria. Austria has a central population register (run by the Ministry of the Interior), which is maintained by the local population registers (at the municipalities), a building and dwelling register which was built up by Statistics Austria using data of the 2001 building and housing census and which is serviced by the local authorities. A second register is run by the Statistical Office, the register of educational attainments. Information on employment is available from administrative data hold by the Social Security Agencies, by the Employment Agency and by financial authorities (tax register). Last but not least there is a third register run by Statistics Austria, the Business Register, which is the backbone for the census of local units of employment.

According to the plans of Statistics Austria, the next Austrian census completely will do without census forms. Of course, some of the characteristics census users are familiar with will not be available in future, for example colloquial language, religion, occupation, mode of transport to work. Household and family statistics will be less elaborate. But the advantages are also evident: lower costs, censuses could be carried out more often, with results which are more up-to-date than in the past.

#### Availability of census data for users

In Austria, public use sample files of censuses have not been issued in the past. As mentioned before, the 1971 census data were the first which were captured, processed and stored electronically. A very important medium of dissemination of data and tabulation is the database ISIS which was implemented in 1973 and started with the 1971 census results.

The complete data files are not accessible for users from behind the walls of the office. In the 1990's so called aggregated files were produced containing the variables needed by the user. The user was obliged to accept certain conditions for example not to pass on the files

to other institutions, to use the data only for academic research etc. Files were issued on tape; the data were stored in binary format. Restricted access to individual data was granted for certain projects like linking the census data with data of deaths. Since 2002 aggregated files have been available as ASCII-delimited files on CD Rom or DVD. Besides that the database ISIS remained the most important medium. At the beginning only printouts of the requested tables were available. In the early 1990's tables could be transferred from the database to the PC in ASCII-delimited format. At the end of the 1990's a graphical user interface was installed and access through internet for external users made possible. The amount of tables from the censuses stored in the database has been steadily growing and in most cases users find their needs satisfied.

## **2. Census documentation (table 1)**

### **2.1 Enumeration forms**

Since 1971 individual forms for each person in the household have been used. Persons living in the household have to be listed in the census list giving their residence status (main or second residence). A questionnaire only has to be filled in at the place of main residence. The census list serves as an instrument for controlling completeness of enumeration. Additionally, a form for the dwelling and a form for the building have to be filled in. With the exception of the census list the questionnaires are processed electronically.

All questionnaires and explanation forms are part of the documentation but only those of 1991 and 2001 in English translation.

### **2.2 Instructions to enumerators**

Instructions to enumerators are part of the documentation. The size of the booklets was growing from census to census. In 2001, also a handbook for the local census manager was issued.

### **2.3 Codebooks for microdata**

In Austria, so called "Handbooks for Data-Users" are being produced. These handbooks serve as a tool for database users. They are part of the documentation but only in German language. Therefore the list of variables and their categories has been provided in German and English (Excel-file).

### **2.4. Technical reports, data processing documentation**

The most elaborate report was issued after the 1971 census (part of the documentation but only in German). In 1981, the report (two volumes) contains (coding) instructions for the clerical stages of data processing but no documentation of data editing and imputation. Such documentation is not available for the 1991 and 2001 census. There are only single reports such as data editing programmes, a report on the final data checks, instructions for manual processing, for clerical coding, but they have not been published.

### **2.5 Other documentation**

1971 to 2001: codebook for field of education attained and the handbook for data-users (population census)

1991 and 2001: handbook for data-users (building and housing census)

1991: coding lists for occupation and branch of economic activity

### **3. History of census microdata (table 2)**

#### **3.1 Census characteristics**

The 1971 to 2001 population, building and housing censuses were carried out in May by the National Statistical Agency (Central Statistical Office, Statistics Austria). The scope of the enumeration is 100 per cent. People are counted in the territory where they have their usual ("main") residence ("de jure" population). Units of enumeration are buildings, dwellings and households. The same form is used for all buildings, dwellings and individuals. In Austria, field work period extends up to a month around census day (questionnaires could be distributed some days before census day and collected two to three weeks after census day. The enumeration is carried out by local authorities representing the statistical agency. They have the possibility to choose the enumeration method. Municipalities with 5,000 or more inhabitants usually employ enumerators who distribute and collect the questionnaires. These are normally filled in by the respondents (self completion), but enumerators help if asked. Very small municipalities do not employ enumerators but invite one household representative to the local office in order to fill in the questionnaires. Another possibility is to distribute the forms (by mail or employee of the local authority) and to ask the household to bring back the forms to the office of the local census organisation.

#### **3.2 Microdata sample**

The data in question are a systematic sample of every 10<sup>th</sup> private household after a random start drawn by Statistics Austria. Population of institutional households was not sampled. The units identified in the data are buildings, dwellings, households, individuals and group quarters.

From 1981 onwards a **dwelling** is defined as a room or suite of rooms and its accessories (with a kitchen or a kitchenette).

The definition of **private household** changed considerably in 2001 when the household-dwelling concept was applied (before: housekeeping unit concept). It changed slightly from 1981 to 1991 when people living in group quarters such as hotels, accommodations for workers etc. were counted as living in a communal establishment and not in a private household like in 1971 and 1981. And it changed again slightly when those groups were again counted as living in private households in 2001 and staff members of establishments having their usual residence in the institution were counted as living in a private household and not in an institutional household as before 2001.

### **4. Contents of microdata files**

#### **4.1 Population census**

Microdata files contain nearly all variables available from the population censuses. Variables which are not mentioned in the following section were not part of the Austrian census programme.

Geography and internal migration: only place of usual residence (NUTS 3) provided. Place of previous residence was not asked in the 2001 census. Variable is available for 1971 to 1991 but omitted.

Household and family structure: Relationship to the household reference person and inmate of communal or institutional establishment provided.

Demographic and social variables: Sex, age, marital status, de-facto marital status, citizenship and religion provided. Language (colloquial language) asked but omitted.

Fertility and mortality: Number of children born alive (not asked in 1971)

Education: School attendance, location of school or university (NUTS 3), travel mode, travel duration, educational attainment and field of study provided.

Economic variables: Current activity status (reference period some weeks before census day), occupation (current), industry (current), status in employment, place of work (NUTS 3), mode of transport to work, length and frequency of journey to work included in every file. Only 2001: time worked (full-time, long part-time, short part-time). Information on full-time and long part-time work is available for 1981 and 1991 but variable omitted.

International migration: country of citizenship (1971 to 2001) and country of birth (only 2001)

Disability: not asked in Austria

Other variables (person): year of current marriage, duration of current marriage, age at current marriage, year of birth (in addition to age at census day), country of place of work or school if abroad, type of school attending (primary, secondary, university); ID-number of person.

Household variables: type of household, household status, size of household; ID-number of household

Other household variables: number of persons of a certain age in the household, number of economically active persons in the household; characteristics of household reference person

Family variables: family status and type of family nucleus; ID-number of family within the household

Other family variables: age of children; number of children in the family, characteristics of the family reference person, characteristics of the wife/female partner (1971 to 1991); characteristics of the husband/male partner, male lone parent (2001); characteristics of the wife/female partner, female lone parent (2001).

## **4.2 Building and housing census**

The microdata do not contain all variables available from the building and housing censuses. The selection was mainly based on the core variable programme of the ECE-Recommendations and on comparability. The variable programme often was adapted to user needs with the consequence that a certain number of them are not comparable over decades. Those have not been selected for the microdata files.

Dwelling variables, facilities: location of dwelling (ground floor, first floor etc.), number of occupants, number of rooms, useful floor space (1991 and 2001), standard of equipment, water, toilet (only 2001), type of heating,

Other dwelling variables: energy for heating, ID-number of dwelling

Building variables: period of construction and number of dwellings in the building

Other building variables: owner of building, ID-number of building

## **5. Harmonisation (1971 to 2001)**

### **5.1 General remarks**

International recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses play an important role when developing questionnaires and determining variables and their categories, for example the ECE-Recommendations or the guidelines for the Community programme (Eurostat) and international classifications. The characteristics asked meet the scope of the core variable programme of the ECE, national classifications are convertible into international ones.

Comparability of data from one census to another has been not so bad. There are of course exceptions, for example in the field of occupational classification, geography, current activity status and definition of households.

In 1991 there were three censuses in the database with different numbers of municipalities, different occupational classifications and other items influencing comparability. It was decided to make the 1971 and 1981 results comparable to 1991, in regional aspect and according to classifications. This project was carried out in 1994/95 in two steps: first the 1981-data were harmonised as good as possible and stored in the database, then the data of the 1971 census which was more difficult but also because of technical reasons.

In 2001 many census operations were new compared to the censuses before. During enumeration a new instrument was used by the municipalities in order to control completeness of the units enumerated. It is the so called "Gemeinde-Software Großzählung 2001" (GSG 2001) which was supplied by Statistics Austria with the addresses from the address-register and completed by the municipalities with data from the local population registers (registered persons were matched with the address of the building, and by using a key for a dwelling assigned to a dwelling in the building). Data of the GSG were also transferred to Statistics Austria and played an important role during the first stages of data-processing.

Coding of text entries was supported by EDP (automatic coding and coding on screen). Before, coding was done manually either directly on the form (1971; demographic variables, household and family structures in 1981) or on machine-readable coding forms (economic variables in 1981 and 1991) or already on screen (some demographic characteristics in 1991).

In 2001, the information on "industry" was not derived from the answers on the questionnaires but from a register on local units of employments by matching the address of the place of work and name of the employer/employing company given by the respondent

with data of the register. If the result of the match presented more than one company, data were presented on screen and had to be assigned by coders. Thus not only the address of the place of work was coded but also industry (by taking over the NACE-code of the company).

If and how the new operations influence comparability of census data is very difficult to determine. Certainly the different method of coding industry (answers of the respondents versus register data) is a break and must be taken into consideration when analysing the data.

Now data of three population censuses have to be made comparable to 2001 classifications and definitions. Up to now the “new” 1991 and 1981 census data are available, 1971 will be ready in autumn 2005. In case of the building and housing census the harmonisation project 2001 has been finished (without 1971). Because the variable programme of the 2001 building and housing census was shorter than in the census years before, the “new” 1981 and 1991 files do not contain variables which are not available for 2001.

## **5.2 Variables**

### **a) Social variables**

Marital status: is defined as the legal (de jure) marital status (single [never married], married, divorced, widowed). The definition and the number of categories are the same for the four censuses in discussion and meet international standards.

Relationship to household reference person (HRP):

The files contain two variables: the 2001 relationship to household reference person (also for 1991) and the variable for 1971 to 1991.

In all four censuses the household reference person (“head of household”) was determined by the household. In 1991 and 2001, the question on status in household was placed on the individual form with boxes to be ticked, for example “head of household”, “wife of head of household”, “unmarried partner of head of household” etc. In 1971 and 1981 the relationship had to be stated in the household list and was coded.

The major comparability problem is that the number of categories was extended after the 1971 census. In 1971, “son/daughter” and “son/daughter in law” of the household reference person were not coded as separate categories. Furthermore, “grandchild” was included into the category “other related person”. In the converted version of the 1971 information on relationship to HRP, the two categories (son/daughter in law and grandchild) remain empty.

Family status: Definition of child changed slightly.

Private household: 1971 to 1991 housekeeping unit concept, 2001: household-dwelling concept as recommended by Eurostat. The difference between those two concepts is not significant because second and third households within a dwelling are rare and above all their number have been decreasing over time. Another comparability problem is the differentiation between private and institutional household.

Institutional household: There are differences between the censuses regarding the question of which household should be treated as private one and which as institutional one.

1971, 1981 and 2001: households of persons living in hotels, boarding houses and other similar group quarters are treated as private households (mostly one-person-households)

2001: households of staff members who live alone or with their family at an institution, are treated as private households (according to ECE-recommendation for the 2000 censuses)

1991: Tourist homes, hotels, boarding houses and other similar group quarters without institutional character are treated as institutional households.

The number of categories of institutional households has increased from census to census. In 1971 and 1981 there were very few types and conversion to the 1991 variable was only possible by accepting gaps. In 2001 the classification of institutional households changed again considerably.

Family: is defined in the narrow sense as a (married) couple with or without child or as parent and child living in the same household (ECE-recommendations). Up to 1991 grandchildren and grandparents also constituted a family if the parents were not living in the same household.

Child: is defined as any person with no partner and no child who has usual residence in the household of at least one of the parents. "Child" also includes stepchildren and adopted children, but no foster children (ECE-Recommendations 2000). Before 2001 a grown-up person, living in the household of at least one of the parents, only was child, if he/she was never-married (ECE-Recommendations 1990). The same applies to the censuses before 1991.

In Austria, households and families are also tabulated by characteristics of the household reference person and the family reference person. Until 1991 the family reference person in couple-families was the husband or male partner. Some variables were also offered for the wife/female partner. In 2001 another way was chosen. Couples can be tabulated either by the characteristics of the husband/male partner or by the characteristics of the wife/female partner or by a combination of both.

## **b) Administrative geography and migration**

Regional comparability is influenced by the fact that the number of municipalities changes between the censuses or that boundaries between municipalities are moved. Because of the address register which is maintained at Statistics Austria (it contains the building number of the census) territorial changes can be reconstructed even if the boundary of a municipality was moved some metres and thus only very few buildings were concerned. These changes in geography on the level of municipalities are met by converting geography of the old files to the latest geography.

The microdata sample files are not affected by the problem of regional incomparability because they only contain NUTS 3 level as deepest regional division of the country.

## **c) Educational variables**

Data of 2001 and 1991 have been recoded to ISCED-97 levels. ISCED 5B is underestimated for 1991 because very important information for ISCED 5B is not available in 1991. The national classification of education attained is comparable over time, also "field of study".



“Type of school attended” has a lot more categories in 2001 than before. Full comparability can be reached only if some 2001 categories are summarized according to the former classification.

Place of school/university, means of transport to school, duration of transport: full comparability given with one exception concerning means of transport. In 1981 the category “bicycle” also contains “other means of transport” because bicycle and “other” could not be separated. The same applies also to 1971 but the variable has another defect which could not be corrected in time.<sup>1</sup>

#### **d) Economic variables**

##### Activity status

Between 1991 and 2001 a major change occurred in the field of current activity status. The definition of “**employed**” was extended to “working at least one hour in the reference period” what is recommended by ECE and Eurostat. The reference period is not one week before census day but “several” weeks. Before 2001 the one-hour criterion was not considered to be useful for the census. Employed was defined as having performed some work for at least one third of the normal (legal) working hours.

In 1981, 1991 and 2001 working time was asked as follows:

- Full time: at least 35 hours per week (1981), at least 33 hours per week (1991), at least 32 hours per week (2001).
- Long part time: between 13 and 34 hours per week (1981), between 12 and 32 hours per week (1991), between 12 and 31 hours per week (2001)
- Short part time: between 1 and 11 hours per week (2001)

In 1971 there was no question on time worked. “Employed” was defined as having performed work of at least 14 hours per week.

**Unemployed** persons comprise all persons who during the reference period are without work and who are seeking work, regardless of whether they receive unemployment benefits or not (1991 and 2001). First-time job-seekers are also regarded as unemployed. The definition of unemployed is not quite comparable to international standards because the criteria “currently available for work” and “actively seeking work” are not considered.

In order to compare the current activity status over time there is also a variable for 2001 according to the former restricted concept.

##### Status in employment

Extended classification in 2001: the group “employee-non manual” is divided into two categories, “civil servants (Beamte)” and “employee-non manual”. In 1971 no difference was made between semi-skilled manual worker and unskilled manual worker. Unskilled workers are included in the category semi-skilled workers of the variable “status in employment”.

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<sup>1</sup> The category “changing destination” is filled with data which should only be the case in 2001. After some investigations and comparing the variable with the original 1971 files it was evident that this group consists of 1) non-commuters (people working at home) and 2) commuters with unknown means of transport.

It is not only possible to tabulate economically active persons (unemployed were asked to give information on their previous job) by economic variables but also the whole population. Persons in the household who are not economically active (children, homemakers) are given the characteristics of the active person in the household. If two or more household members are economically active, the household reference person is chosen as donor of economic characteristics.

#### Socio-economic status in employment

This variable (not available for 1971) is a combination of status in employment, occupation and highest education attained. Employers, self-employed and contributing family workers are distinguished by occupation (agriculture and forestry, professionals, other occupations), non-manual employees are distinguished by highest education attained and manual workers by their skill level (skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled).

The 2001 socio-economic status in employment-data cannot be compared to the 1991 and 1981 data if the whole population is tabulated. The reason is that in 2001 retired persons were not classified by their former status in employment, because they did not have to answer those questions. The category “economically inactive” consists of all retired persons whereas in 1981 and 1991 only those without having responded to the questions on their former employment are assigned this group.

#### Industry

In 2001, the branch of economic activity was coded by NACE Rev. 1 (class level). The NACE classification replaced the national classification of economic activity dating from 1968 (BS 1968), which was used as industry classification in 1971, 1981 and 1991. Thus 1971 to 1991 data on industry are comparable without restrictions. For 1991 information on industry also is available for NACE-divisions (conversion from BS 1968 into NACE-divisions). On the other hand the 2001 data were converted into the old BS 1968 variable but with a lot of inaccuracies. Comparisons should only be made on the division-level (10 groups).

#### Occupation

Occupational classification was changed from census to census. In 1971, occupation was coded on the basis of the Austrian Classification of Occupations (1971). There were 351 unit groups (“Berufsart”). Ten years later 634 occupations were coded which were summarized to 159 sub-groups. These 159 sub-groups only could be compared to the 1971 data with some inaccuracy. The reason given for this change was that managerial and supervising activities should be worked out. Between 1981 and 1991 the classification was again changed although it still referred to the 1971 Classification of Occupation. Coding was organised on the level of 175 sub-groups and not beyond. The modified version was chosen in order to produce the ISCO sub-major group-level for international comparability. When harmonising the 1971 and 1981 data according to the 1991 classification this was done only on the level of sub-major groups of 1991 (57 categories).

Now the Austrian Classification of Occupations dating from 1971 has been replaced by ISCO 88 (COM) and comparability over time is distorted more than ever.

### Place of work, mode of transport to work, duration of transport to work

Place of work is NUTS 3 region. Means of transport to work and duration of journey to work are comparable with the exception described in the section “educational variables” (means of transport to work).

#### **e) Demographic variables**

Age is defined as completed years of age at census day and comparable over time. Comparability of definition also applies to sex and citizenship. 1971 to 1991 the variable “country of citizenship” only consisted of 80 categories, in 2001 every single country was coded. The variable provided for 2001 consists of 98 countries or groups of countries. Not every non-European country is listed separately but added to a residual category.

Religion has been asked in every census and although the characteristic is a very sensible one, there was an obligation to answer the question. From 1971 to 1991 there were only a few categories to be ticked on the questionnaire. In 2001 religion was asked and coded in much more detail, but in order to compare data over time the number of dimensions has to be reduced. The characteristic is one of very few with a category “unkown” which can be interpreted as indicator for refusal of giving an answer.

Country of birth was for the first time asked in 2001. The classification is the same as for country of citizenship.

Number of children born alive and year of current marriage are characteristics which are available from 1981 onwards. The variable “number of children born alive” slightly differs between 2001 and former censuses but only with reference of the number of categories.

#### **f) Dwelling variables**

The 1981 and 1991 microdata on dwellings were drawn from the harmonised files. So the variables are comparable over time.

##### Standard of equipment:

Best (1; bathroom at least shower stand and central heating)

Well (2; bathroom at least shower stand)

Basic (3; flush toilet and piped water within dwelling)

Poor (4; no flush toilet within dwelling, but piped water)

Worst (5; no flush toilet, no piped water within dwelling)

The definition of the categories 1 and 2 does not assume the equipment of the dwelling with a toilet. Therefore the variable “availability of a toilet within the dwelling” cannot be derived from the “standard of equipment”-variable. The information on the availability of a toilet in the dwelling is part of the 2001 sample file but was not programmed for 1981 and 1991.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Using the available information from the original files it can be said that 86 per cent of the dwellings in 1981 and 89 per cent of the dwellings in 1991 were equipped with a toilet.

## Bathing facilities

The standard of equipment categories 1 and 2 indicate the existence of bathing facilities. For 1991 and 2001 the availability of hot water can also be supposed by using the “standard of equipment” variable but only for the categories 1 and 2.

## **6. Completeness of enumeration**

A large part of the federal taxes are redistributed to provinces (“Bundesländer”) and municipalities by a key in which the number of inhabitants according to the result of the population census plays an important role. This is the reason why municipalities who carry out the enumeration are interested in high population numbers and the statistical office has to implement tools for residence-controls. In 1971 individual checks were made if double-counting was suspected. Some thousand double-counts were eliminated. In 1981 and 1991 the municipalities were entitled to make a complaint if they suspected that persons with a residence in the municipality were counted elsewhere. In 1981 there were about 50,000 complaints, in 1991 120,000 which had to be dealt with by the Statistical Office. In both censuses about 50 per cent of the complaints were decided in favour of the complaining municipality. Additionally double-counts were checked when suspected and eliminated. Despite these measures from 1971 to 1991 a slight overestimation of the population has to be taken into account.

In 2001, a slight underestimation is likely because of more severe regulations. A person could only be counted if his/her existence could be proved (if he/she was registered in the population register of the municipality). In the first months which passed census day 175,000 persons counted had to be checked: 20,000 suspected double-counts (of which 16,700 were eliminated); 46,000 persons with differing residence statuses according to census and local population register; 40,000 persons of whom it was not clear if they really belong to the population (Austrians living abroad, foreigners temporarily present or households whose questionnaires were filled in by the local enumeration manager “Ersatzausfüllung”<sup>3</sup>); and last but not least 69,000 persons who according to a municipality were living in the municipality but counted elsewhere.

## **7. Publications**

The results of the population and housing censuses are published in a series of publications. First of all main results for Länder, which contain tables on the level of municipalities, then results on groups of characteristics, for example education, households and families etc. and an analytical volume.

1971: 23 volumes with results of the population census and 12 volumes with results of the building and housing census were published.

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<sup>3</sup> The municipality was entitled to fill in the forms for persons who were not at home during the census period but only if the persons had their usual residence in the municipality (local population register). If there were too many of such cases the Statistics Austria made checks.

1981: The number of population census volumes increased to 30 (two of them also with results on buildings and dwellings), those of the building and housing census increased to 14 volumes.

1991: The results of the population census were published in 32 volumes (four of them also with data on buildings and dwellings). From the building and housing census 10 volumes were issued.

2001: Until now 29 booklets with results of the population census (one of them also with dwelling and building data) have been published, two volumes will be issued by the end of 2005. From the building and housing census 10 volumes have been issued, one booklet is planned to be published by the end of 2005.

Additionally, census results are presented in the monthly journal "Statistische Nachrichten", in the Statistical Yearbook, in the Yearbook of Austrian Cities and in the so called "Ortsverzeichnis" (Index of municipalities, villages other administrative units).

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