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Students more successful in school-leaving examinations than before the Corona pandemic

Positive ratio in 2022 5.4 percentage points higher than in 2019, but 3 percentage points lower than in 2021

Vienna, 2023-04-04 – Since the 2020 exam main date of the standardised skills-oriented diploma examination and Reifeprüfung (sRDP) that qualifies graduates for university (“Matura”), the positive rate is significantly higher to pre-Corona levels. According to Statistics Austria, about 90.5% of the students passed the final exam at the main date of 2022. Thus, the positive rate increased compared to the pre-pandemic year 2019 (85.1%), but is still below the previous year’s result (2021: 93.5%).

“Since the procedure of the standardised final exam was changed due to the Corona pandemic, the results have improved significantly. Only 6.4% of the candidates who took the exam were negative in at least one subject in the main examination of 2022. In 2019, this figure was twice as high,” says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

Results worse than in previous year, but significantly better than before Corona pandemic

At the 2022 exam main date, 38 959 candidates sat for the sRDP, of which around 90.5% or 35 258 completed positively. Thus, in line with the changes of examination rules due to Corona, the positive rate at the 2022 main date decreased compared to previous years (2020: 94.3%; 2021: 93.5%), but was still significantly higher than before the Corona pandemic (2018: 84.5%; 2019: 85.1%). This trend is also reflected in the number of negatively completed final exams: About 6.4% of the candidates were negative in at least one subject at the main date in 2022. In 2019, and thus before the Corona pandemic, the number was about twice as high, at 12.7%. 3.1% of the candidates did not pass the 2022 main date exam, because they only sat part of the examination areas.

At the main date 2022, around 21.4% of the candidates achieved an “excellent success” and around 19.4% a “good success”. This represents a slight decrease from the previous year, but also an improvement from before the pandemic. As in previous years, there were significantly more “excellent successes” at general secondary schools (26.0%) than at vocational secondary schools (17.4%).

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

Information on methodology, definitions: The results of the standardised final exam (sRDP) for the main date (= summer) and the secondary dates (= autumn and winter) were collected and processed throughout Austria by Statistics Austria on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF). For the main date in 2022, the written exams took place in May 2022 and oral exams in June and July 2022. The secondary dates of the school year 2021/22 took place in autumn 2022 (September and October) and in winter 2022/23 (January and February); results will be published on 30 November 2023.

Positive rate: Proportion of candidates who successfully passed the standardised final exam as a percentage of all candidates who sat the standardised final exam.

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