

Press release: 13 072-100/23

Naturalisations decreased by 32% in Q1 2023

Decline in naturalisation of persecutees of the Nazi regime and descendants

Vienna, 2023-05-16 – In the first quarter of 2023, Austrian citizenship was granted to 3 292 persons, including 486 persons residing abroad (14.8%). According to Statistics Austria, there were 32.3% fewer naturalisations than in the first quarter of 2022 (4 861).

“The number of naturalisations has decreased by one third in the first three months of 2023 compared to the first quarter of 2022. After the great momentum of naturalisations of persecutees of the Nazi regime and their descendants last year, these have now fallen by three quarters,” explains Tobias Thomas, Director General of Statistics Austria.

Under the legal title §58c StbG, politically persecuted persons of the Nazi regime and their descendants have had the possibility of naturalisation since 1 September 2020, without having to give up their previous citizenship in return. From January to March 2023, 482 persons (of whom 475 live abroad) were granted Austrian citizenship under §58c, which corresponds to 14.6% of all naturalisations in these three months. Compared to the first quarter of 2022 (1 927 persons) naturalisations under this title decreased by 75.0% during the first quarter of 2023. Persons naturalised under this title were most frequently nationals of the following three states: Israel (160 or 4.9% of all naturalised persons in the first quarter of 2023), United States (128 or 3.9%) and United Kingdom (115 or 3.5%). Naturalised persons for other reasons (a total of 2 810 persons from January to March 2023) previously most frequently held citizenship of Syria (373 or 11.3%), Türkiye (262 or 8.0%) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (192 or 5.8%). Women accounted for half of the naturalisations in the first quarter of 2023 (1 670 or 50.7%), while around a third were minors under 18 (1 051 or 31.9%). More than a quarter of the newly naturalised persons were born in Austria (919 or 27.9%).

In six federal provinces, fewer persons were naturalised in the first quarter of 2023 than in the same period of the previous year. The relative decline in naturalisations was most pronounced in Tyrol (–33.1% to 190 naturalisations), followed by Vorarlberg (–30.0% to 140), Salzburg (–28.3% to 86), Styria (–19.3% to 201), Carinthia (–14.3% to 114) and Vienna (–6.0% to 1 063). In Lower Austria (+29.9% to 499) as well as in Upper Austria (+20% to 456) and in Burgenland (+3.6% to 57) there were more naturalisations compared to the first quarter of the previous year.

About two thirds of all naturalisations in the first three months of 2023 took place on the basis of a legal entitlement (2 212 persons or 67.2%). Among them, 1 365 persons were naturalised after at least six years of residence in Austria and for reasons particularly worthy of consideration (e.g. proven knowledge of German and sustainable integration or entitled to asylum - §11a, para. 4, para. 6 as well as para. 7), 482 politically persecuted persons and their descendants (§58c, para. 1 to para. 6), 176 persons on the basis of marriage to an Austrian (§11a, para. 1 and para. 2) and 110 persons on the basis of residence in Austria for at least 15 years and sustainable integration (§12, para. 1, line 1). A further 215 persons were granted citizenship on a discretionary basis (6.5%), including 195 persons after at least ten years of residence (§10, para. 1) and 16 persons on the basis of extraordinary achievements in the interest of the state (10, para. 6). A total of 865 persons, or 26.3 %, were naturalised under the title of extension of naturalisation, of whom 117 were spouses (section 16) and 748 were children (section 17).

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

Naturalisations in the first quarter of 2023

Place of residence	Q1 2023 total	Change Q1 2022 – Q1 2023 in %	Of which:			Legal ground ¹		
			born in Austria	under 18 years	women	discretion	entitlement	extension
Austria incl. abroad	3 292	-32.3	919	1 051	1 670	215	2 212	865
Burgenland	57	3.6	14	20	31	3	39	15
Carinthia	114	-14.3	40	36	55	15	70	29
Lower Austria	499	29.9	157	165	262	42	303	154
Upper Austria	456	20.0	152	161	229	37	278	141
Salzburg	86	-28.3	38	35	50	10	44	32
Styria	201	-19.3	56	59	114	20	128	53
Tyrol	190	-33.1	67	64	86	24	107	59
Vorarlberg	140	-30.0	54	57	62	7	74	59
Vienna	1 063	-6.0	332	338	561	55	685	323
Abroad	486	-74.8	9	116	220	2	484	-

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Statistics on Naturalisations. Preliminary results.

1) Paragraph of the StbG 1985 as amended 2022 in force from 01.05.2022; discretion: §10 – entitlement: §§ 11a, 12-14, 25, 57, 58c, 64a – extension: §§ 16, 17. All paragraphs are only applied if all other requirements for naturalisation are met.

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 affected 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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