

## Austria 1995: Survey Information

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### A. General Characteristics

Name of the survey: Austrian Mikrozensus (microcensus)

Administrative unit responsible for survey:

#### Statistics Austria

Unit Microcensus (Directorate Population Statistics, Statistics Austria)

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The survey is conducted quarterly and for income questions information is obtained every second year.

The Microcensus was conducted for the first time in 1967 (1981 for income) and became available as microdata in 1967 as well.

The survey is publicly funded and has several purposes (for example: labor force status)  
Principle users of the survey are the statistical office and researchers.

### B. Population, Sampling size and sampling methods

The sample of the Austrian Microcensus is a sample of dwellings. The sampling frame consists of all dwellings of the Austrian Housing Census, which is performed (together with the population census) every 10 years. The actual sample is designed for the period 1994-2003. To ensure representativity of the sample over time every year a certain amount of dwellings from the annual dwelling construction statistics is added. To have a compromise between the wish of the interviewer that the sample should not change and to reduce the burden for the respondent on the other side one eighth of the sample is rotating for every Microcensus survey.

The sample of the dwellings is divided in two domains. The first domain contains all large communes. In all these communes a stratified sample of dwellings is drawn. The second domain is a two-staged sample, which contains all small communes. As a first step communes are selected randomly within strata. Then in these selected communes a certain amount of dwellings (dependent to which federal province the community belongs) are selected. That means we have communes as Primary Sampling Units (PSU) in most of the cases. In the case of a very small community two or more adjacent units are combined to one PSU. To decide if one community falls in the one- or two-staged domain you have to obey the following criterion: if a community would deliver less than 15 dwellings under the assumption that it belongs to the one-staged domain it should enter the two-staged domain. As a result of this design the threshold for the amount of dwellings in a certain community, which are necessary to enter the one-staged sample domain is different in the federal provinces.

The structure between the one- and the two-staged domain differs very strongly between the federal provinces. Vienna and Vorarlberg belongs totally to the one-staged domain. On the other hand the percentage of dwellings in the two-staged domain goes up to 56 % in Lower-Austria.

Both the one-staged and the two-staged domain are stratified. In the one-staged domain the stratification is done by federal province, number of persons in the dwelling and four dwelling-specific items. That would result in a total number of 4.320 strata per federal province. It turned out to be necessary to combine many of these strata because for the purpose of grossing up at least one unit in each stratum is needed and so it was decided to have at least 10 units per stratum because the effects of non-response can decrease the gross sample size. This combinations yielded a total number of 100 to 150 strata per federal province.

In the two-staged domain the communes were stratified by the variable "number of dwellings". Again there were the same conditions, which must be fulfilled so that the result was 5 to 16 strata per federal province.

The overall sample delivers approximately 1% of the entire Austrian population.

The sampling frame included the total population of household heads? (For example, a sample of tax returns might exclude household heads not filing tax returns.)

Excluded from the sample are:

- about 10.000 homeless people,
- 70.000 people in hospital, care or nursing homes,
- 15.000 people in hostels (students, nurses, etc.)
- 2.000 children in children's homes
- 3.000 prisoners
- 35.000 people in other "institutional" households (Hotels, bed and breakfast accommodations, cloisters, special quarters for immigrant workers;
- and self-employed: about 480.000 self-employed (incl. family workers), who are included in the survey, but are not asked about their income

Some population groups had a higher probability of selection than others  
Because the sample size depends on the size of the Bundesländer (NUTS 2 regions).

The total number of units in the population from which the sample was selected was  
about 3.400.000 (dwellings)

The total number of respondents who were actually surveyed (the number for which at least the minimum amount of data were obtained)?

Unweighted N= about 68.800

Weighted N= about 7.900.000

The sampling frame includes all geographic areas in the country surveyed?

### **Weighting procedures used for the Mikrozensus**

The weights are calculated in two steps. In the first step for each record a basic weight which depends on the stratum and the domain (one- or two-staged ) is calculated. In the second step the weights are adjusted in such a manner that the resulting distribution is in accordance to the population within the federal provinces. These distributions are given by the projections of the population in every federal province of the Austrian Statistical Office. The variables which are used for adjusting the data are age in 5-year bands and sex on the one side and nationality on the other side.

## **C. Data Collection and Acquisition**

The Data collection for the 1995 survey started in June 1995 and was completed in the same month.

The access to the data is restricted and only available for specific projects and to researchers.

The data is obtained through a personal interview and the interview is organized in the following way: A household questionnaire for each household and a personal questionnaire for each individual are filled out during the personal visit.

Participation in the survey is mandatory for the basic programme but voluntary for the others (i.e. income questions). Privacy was assured.

In principle, each respondent had to answer him/herself but in practice other household members could answer the questions.

Respondents were not asked to consult tax or pay records.

## **D. Definition of the survey units**

### Observation Unit

The unit of observation is the household and it is possible to detect the relations between the household members.

### Children

Pre-school children; pupils and students younger than 27 years, apprentices and other supported family members younger than 25 years; and unemployed younger than 21 years (orientated on the conditions for receiving family allowances - "Familienbeihilfe").

## **E. Quality of the data**

Up to now only rough comparisons with other tax, demographic, etc. were undertaken. They show problems at the bottom and upper end of the distribution.

The Hot deck technique was used to deal with non-response but no further information about non response problems was provided.