

ADULT LITERACY

Situation in Austria

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International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC)

- PIAAC is called in the media also 'PISA Study for Adults'. The OECD tested more than 150.000 adults.
- The Survey of Adult Skills has so far been implemented in 24 countries, and the Education and Skills Online Assessment for individuals are part of the package of tools available to support countries.
- The OECD collects and analyses data related to the distribution of skills among adult populations as well as the utilisation of skills in different contexts. The **Skills Outlook (2013 edition)** provides a summary of the first results and key findings of PIAAC.

Source: OECD (2013), *OECD Skills Outlook 2013: First Results from the Survey of Adult Skills*, OECD Publishing.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264204256-en>

ISBN 978-92-64-20398-3 (print)

ISBN 978-92-64-20425-6 (PDF)

Source: OECD (2012), *Literacy, Numeracy and Problem Solving in Technology-Rich Environments: Framework for the OECD Survey of Adult Skills*, OECD Publishing.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264128859-en>

Source: OECD Website, <http://www.oecd.org/site/piaac/>, as accessed on 27/10/2013

PIAAC- Austria

- PIAAC has been carried out in 2011/12 in Austria by Statistik Austria, co-financed by the two Ministries BMASK and BMUKK
- The **background questionnaire** was offered in Austria in different languages: German, Turkish, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian. Due to lack of reading skills, part of persons could not fill in the background questionnaire (also no competencies test)
- **Lack of reading and writing skills** is especially high in the age group between 55-65 years (28,9%).
- 17,1% of the population between 16 and 65 years in Austria, which is around 970.000 people, have low reading skills. Reading skills in Austria are below the international average.

Source: STATISTIK AUSTRIA (2013). Schlüsselkompetenzen von Erwachsenen – Erste Ergebnisse der PIAAC-Erhebung 2011/12.
Wien: STATISTIK AUSTRIA.

Source: Website of STATISTIK AUSTRIA: http://www.statistik.at/web_de/services/publikationen/index.html.

Source: www.piaac.statistik.at.

PIAAC- Austria – Low Reading skills

Anteil der Personen mit niedriger Lesekompetenz (unter 1 und 1) anhand ausgewählter soziodemographischer Merkmale

Gliederungsmerkmale	Niedrige Lesekompetenz (Stufen unter 1 und 1)	
	in %	SE
Geschlecht		
Weiblich	16,1	1,0
Männlich	15,0	0,9
Alter in Jahren		
16-24	12,0	1,3
25-34	10,7	1,3
35-44	14,4	1,4
45-54	15,8	1,3
55-65	24,8	1,8
Geburtsland und Muttersprache		
Ausland und Nicht-Deutsch	39,2	2,5
Österreich und Nicht-Deutsch	28,6	6,0
Ausland und Deutsch	13,9	3,4
Österreich und Deutsch	11,8	0,7
Bildungsabschluss		
Maximal Pflichtschule	31,0	1,9
BMS, DKPS, Lehre	16,0	1,0
Meister	9,0	3,4
AHS, BHS	4,7	1,0
Tertiär	2,8	0,7

Female
Male

Age

Place of birth and mother tongue:
Migrant and non-German mother tongue
Austrian and non-German mother tongue
Migrant and German mother tongue
Austria and German mother tongue

Type of education (finished)

Q: STATISTIK AUSTRIA, PIAAC 2011/12. Erstellt am 07.10.2013. Bevölkerungsanteile ohne MLSF.

PIAAC - Reading skills – international comparison (15-65 year old)



Lesekompetenzstufen im internationalen Vergleich (16- bis 65-Jährige)

Länder	Kompetenzstufen													
	MLSF		Unter 1		1		2		3		4		5	
	%	SE	%	SE	%	SE	%	SE	%	SE	%	SE	%	SE
Australien	1,9	0,21	3,1	0,26	9,4	0,54	29,2	0,65	39,4	0,89	15,7	0,74	1,3	0,21
Belgien (Flandern)	5,2	0,24	2,7	0,27	11,3	0,54	29,6	0,79	38,8	0,93	11,9	0,55	0,4	0,18
Dänemark	0,4	0,06	3,8	0,29	11,9	0,59	34,0	0,85	39,9	0,83	9,6	0,52	0,4	0,11
Deutschland	1,5	0,16	3,3	0,38	14,2	0,71	33,9	1,02	36,4	0,94	10,2	0,61	0,5	0,16
Estland	0,4	0,06	2,0	0,19	11,0	0,52	34,3	0,65	40,6	0,85	11,0	0,51	0,8	0,16
Finnland	0,0	0,00	2,7	0,23	8,0	0,48	26,5	0,87	40,7	0,79	20,0	0,57	2,2	0,28
Frankreich	0,8	0,09	5,3	0,31	16,2	0,51	35,9	0,78	34,0	0,70	7,4	0,35	0,3	0,08
Irland	0,5	0,11	4,3	0,42	13,2	0,84	37,6	0,85	36,0	0,91	8,1	0,50	0,4	0,11
Italien	0,7	0,16	5,5	0,56	22,2	0,97	42,0	0,97	26,4	1,04	3,3	0,38	0,1	0,05
Japan	1,2	0,12	0,6	0,15	4,3	0,41	22,8	0,75	48,6	0,98	21,4	0,68	1,2	0,22
Kanada	0,9	0,08	3,8	0,24	12,6	0,45	31,7	0,67	37,3	0,69	12,8	0,49	0,9	0,14
Korea	0,3	0,07	2,2	0,20	10,6	0,53	37,0	0,86	41,7	0,91	7,9	0,51	0,2	0,07
Niederlande	2,3	0,17	2,6	0,27	9,1	0,52	26,4	0,70	41,5	0,76	16,8	0,60	1,3	0,21
Norwegen	2,2	0,15	3,0	0,30	9,3	0,57	30,2	0,78	41,6	0,83	13,1	0,60	0,6	0,14
Österreich	1,8	0,16	2,5	0,32	12,8	0,66	37,2	0,87	37,3	0,88	8,2	0,45	0,3	0,09
Polen	0,0	0,00	3,9	0,32	14,8	0,63	36,5	0,90	35,0	0,87	9,0	0,53	0,7	0,14
Schweden	0,0	0,00	3,7	0,33	9,6	0,61	29,1	1,02	41,6	0,90	14,9	0,57	1,2	0,22
Slowakische Republik	0,3	0,07	1,9	0,24	9,7	0,54	36,2	0,99	44,4	0,93	7,3	0,50	0,2	0,08
Spanien	0,8	0,12	7,2	0,47	20,3	0,85	39,1	0,75	27,8	0,71	4,6	0,39	0,1	0,09
Tschechische Republik	0,6	0,19	1,5	0,31	10,3	0,73	37,5	1,63	41,4	1,44	8,3	0,80	0,4	0,22
USA	4,2	0,59	3,9	0,46	13,6	0,68	32,6	1,17	34,2	0,97	10,9	0,67	0,6	0,18
Vereinigtes Königreich (England, Nordirland)	1,4	0,16	3,3	0,37	13,1	0,67	33,2	0,96	35,9	0,97	12,3	0,67	0,8	0,17
Zypern	17,7	0,38	1,6	0,23	10,3	0,48	33,0	0,94	32,1	0,90	5,2	0,44	0,2	0,08
OECD-Durchschnitt	1,2	0,04	3,3	0,07	12,2	0,13	33,3	0,19	38,2	0,19	11,1	0,12	0,7	0,03

Examples of initiatives and literacy projects in Austria

- **IMST** is a flexible support system. It aims at creating an innovation culture in Austrian schools by focusing on the so-called MINDT education (mathematics, informatics, natural sciences, German, technology). IMST is a project carried out by a broad network where schools, school administrations, pedagogic high schools and universities collaborate.
- The Competence Centre for Didactics of German (Österreichisches Kompetenzzentrum für Deutschdidaktik (AECC Deutsch) was set up at the University of Klagenfurt. The aim of the research and development centre is to raise the quality of the German language teaching.
- LITERACY.AT (www.literacy.at) is an internet platform for the promotion of reading financed by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education (BMUKK).
- There is a specific study at Austrian universities ‚German for Foreigners‘



Levels of the Common **European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)**

The six reference levels are becoming widely accepted as the European standard for grading an individual's language proficiency. The CEFR describes what a learner is supposed to be able to perform related to

✓ reading, listening, speaking and writing

A1 and A2: basic language skills

B1 and B2: independent use of language

C1 und C2: proficient use of language

There are different types of tests provided by various examination providers.

European Qualification Framework (EQF)

The EQF aims to overcome the different countries' national qualifications systems into a common European reference framework. The *eight reference levels ranging from basic (Level 1) to advanced (Level 8)* describe as *learning outcomes*

✓ what a learner knows, understands and is able to do

Austria: citizenship and German language skills

Language skills required in Austria - Levels of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)

- **Since 2011 candidates who want to apply for the Austrian citizenship need to have a certificate B1 for German.**
- **In addition, they have to pass a citizenship test about Austrian history, democratic values and about the region/province where the applicant lives.**
- +** **Adult education providers offer preparation and educational courses.**
- +** **Integration courses are offered as well.**

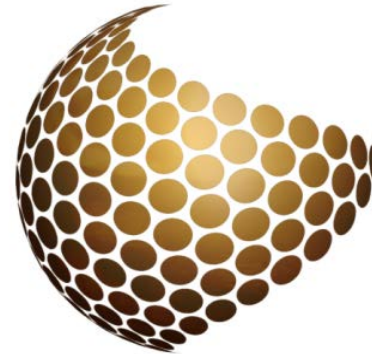
Overview on German language test levels required for Austrian citizenship or access to universities in Austria:

- A1 Tests for the first visum
- A2 Tests for prolongation of the visum
- B1 Tests for the Austrian citizenship
- B2 Tests to study at Austrian universities
- C1 Tests for some Austrian universities





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Innovation