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## **ECONOMIC WELL-BEING**

### **Paper submitted by the Austrian Central Statistical Office**

This short paper presents information on earnings disparities between women and men in Austria (1) as well as a summary on poverty statistics.

#### **(1) Earnings Disparities Between Women and Men in Austria**

1. In Austria at present the most important statistical sources for the earnings disparities between men and women are the Earnings Statistics of the Austrian Association of Social Insurance Funds and the Microcensus, a survey of the Austrian Central Statistical Office (ÖSTAT). Both sources are subsequently discussed in more detail.
2. The Earnings Statistics of the **Austrian Association of Social Insurance Funds** cover annual earnings by person (including special payments such as holiday and Christmas remunerations) and the related days of insurance contribution. The published data show the distribution of gross monthly earnings, defined as one twelfth of the annual earnings, standardised to the days of insurance contributions (the calculation is carried out by dividing the annual earnings by the number of days of insurance contributions and multiplying this value by 30). Since the relating weekly hours of work (part-time work /overtime) are not known, it is not possible to derive a standardised evaluation according to the weekly number of hours of work.
3. Covered are all insured wage earners, salaried employees, civil servants employed by the government authorities, the federal railway and the post & telecommunication systems, and some 80% if the civil servants employed by the provincial and the local authorities. "Marginal earnings" (1996: less than ATS 3.600 monthly) as well as compensations of apprentices are not covered. Earnings above the ceiling of the contribution base (for sickness insurance - 1996: ATS 45.500, including special payments) are only included by the amount of the maximum contribution base.
4. In the varying special programme of the **Microcensus surveys of the Austrian Central Statistical Office** (ÖSTAT) all individuals (except the self-employed) have been asked about their net-incomes every two years since 1981; the latest data were gathered in September 1997.

5. The particular importance of Microcensus income data is due to the equal availability both of information on weekly hours of work, and the large amount of additional socio-statistical information from both the basic Microcensus programme and from the (variable) special programme of surveys. In addition, it is possible to calculate household incomes on the basis of the Microcensus. Monthly net income is defined as one fourteenth of annual earned income, excluding family benefits, single-earner tax deductions and allowances for dependent children, without additional pensions. Working time is adjusted using a ratio of 40 / individual working time.
6. The enclosed tables present (the so defined) monthly median net income of employees with a weekly working time of at least 12 hours by occupational qualification and gender (Table 1) and by the (highest completed) level of school education and gender (Table 2).
7. Occupational qualifications and working time being equal (Table 1), there are still considerable net earning advantages for men. Skilled male blue-collar workers earn almost 30% more than skilled female blue-collar workers. Top-level male white collar workers earn one fourth more than their female counterparts.
8. Given equal level of (highest completed) school education (Table 2), substantial differences between women and men can be found. The (standardised) net income of men is between 18% (university graduates) and 31% (graduates of a school offering higher vocational training) higher than that of women.

## (2) Poverty Statistics

9. In Austria the public interest on poverty and social exclusion has gotten stronger during the last years. Thus two "National Conferences on Poverty" took place and an Austrian Network against Poverty and Social Exclusion<sup>1</sup> was established, both mixed private and government initiatives. By the end of 1996 members of the Austrian Parliament addressed 40 questions on poverty and poverty statistics to the Federal Chancellor of Austria.<sup>2</sup> In 1997 the Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs included a chapter on poverty and the fight against poverty in its annual Social Report.<sup>3</sup>
10. In October 1997 the Austrian Central Statistical Office (ÖSTAT) published an exemplary article<sup>4</sup> dealing with poverty related statistics, first discussing the definitions of poverty and then presenting a variety of empirical results based on the Austrian Microcensus, the European Community Household Panel and the Austrian Household Budget Survey. Depending on the equivalence-scale method used - between 10% and 16.5% of the private households in Austria have a total income or expenditures beneath the line of poverty-risk.

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<sup>1</sup> "Österreichisches Netzwerk gegen Armut und soziale Ausgrenzung".

<sup>2</sup> "Dringliche parlamentarische Anfrage an den Bundeskanzler betreffend Armut in Österreich"; Nr. 1603 J, dated 11 December 1996, advanced by the Green Party; answered by the Federal Chancellor, letter 1671/AB dated 12 February 1997, and discussed on 27 February 1997 in the 64th session of the Parliament (20th period of legislation).

<sup>3</sup> Steiner, H./Giorgi, L., Armut und Armutsbekämpfung in Österreich, in: Bericht über die soziale Lage 1996, S. 177-205, Wien 1997.

<sup>4</sup> Bauer, M./Kronsteiner, C., Statistische Beiträge zu Armut, Armutsgefährdung, und Sozialer Ausgrenzung. Konzept und empirische Analyse am Beispiel des Mikrozensus, des Europäischen Haushaltspanels und der Konsumerhebung, in: Statistische Nachrichten, Heft 10/1997, S. 844ff.

**Median Net Personal Income in 1995  
by Occupational Qualification and Gender**

TABLE 1

Occupational Status	Standardised Median Net Income <sup>1</sup> ) in ATS			Income advantage of men (in %)
	Total	Women	Men	
Unskilled blue-collar workers outside agriculture and forestry	12'000	10'700	13'500	26
Semi-skilled blue-collar workers	13'400	11'300	14'600	29
Skilled blue-collar workers	14'800	11'600	15'100	30
Foremen or master craftsmen	19'000	.	19'200	.
<b>Blue-collar workers, total</b>	<b>13'800</b>	<b>11'100</b>	<b>14'900</b>	<b>34</b>
<i>Change 1993/95 in %</i>	<i>13.1</i>	<i>16.8</i>	<i>12.0</i>	
Semi-skilled or unskilled white-collar workers	12'500	11'800	15'000	27
Skilled white-collar workers	13'600	12'700	16'000	26
Medium-level white-collar workers	16'200	15'200	18'100	19
Highly qualified white-collar workers	20'100	17'000	21'700	28
Very highly qualified white-collar workers	23'100	20'900	24'200	16
Top level white-collar workers	25'100	20'500	25'700	25
<b>White-collar workers, total</b>	<b>16'000</b>	<b>14'000</b>	<b>19'700</b>	<b>41</b>
<i>Change 1993/95 in %</i>	<i>6.7</i>	<i>10.2</i>	<i>7.1</i>	
Unskilled or semi-skilled work (blue-collar workers)	13'200	11'900	13'900	17
Skilled work, master craftsman level (blue-collar workers)	15'100	.	15'200	.
Unskilled	13'200	12'900	13'600	5
Simple occupations	13'700	13'700	13'800	1
Medium-level occupations	16'700	15'800	17'300	9
Highly qualified	19'500	18'300	20'700	13
Very highly qualified	24'200	23'300	24'300	4
<b>Civil servants, total</b> <sup>2)</sup>	<b>16'800</b>	<b>16'100</b>	<b>17'200</b>	<b>7</b>
<i>Change 1993/95 in %</i>	<i>11.3</i>	<i>13.4</i>	<i>8.9</i>	
<b>Employees, total</b>	<b>15'000</b>	<b>13'300</b>	<b>16'200</b>	<b>22</b>
<i>Change 1993/95 in %</i>	<i>10.3</i>	<i>11.8</i>	<i>8.7</i>	

Source: ÖSTAT, Microcensus September 1995

1) One fourteenth of annual earned income, excluding family benefits, single-earner tax deductions and allowances for dependent children, without additional pensions. Working time is adjusted using the translation ratio 40/individual working time.

2) Tenured civil servants and Employees under public contract.

**Disparity of Net incomes Between Women and Men  
with the Same Level of Education**

TABLE 2

Highest completed education	Standardised Median Net Incomes 1995 <sup>1)</sup> in ATS			Income advantage of men in %
	Total	Women	Men	
Elementary school without completed apprenticeship	12'900	11'600	14'500	25
Elementary school with completed apprenticeship	14'700	12'400	15'500	25
School offering medium-level vocational training	15'600	14'700	17'500	19
School offering higher general education	16'900	15'400	17'900	16
School offering higher vocational training	17'400	15'300	20'000	31
University equivalent school	19'500	18'000	21'400	19
University	21'800	19'500	23'000	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>15'000</b>	<b>13'300</b>	<b>16'200</b>	<b>22</b>

Source: ÖSTAT, Microcensus September 1995.

<sup>1)</sup> One fourteenth of annual earned income, excluding family benefits, single-earner tax deductions and allowances for dependent children, without additional pensions. Working time is adjusted using the translation ratio 40/individual working time.