Further information and data

Publications of the Municipal Department 23 – Economic Affairs, Labour and Statistics – as well as statistical data are available for download at the Statistics Vienna website www.statistik.wien.at.

Small-Scale Population Projection Vienna 2018 Result Tables
Projection results for Vienna (until 2048) as well as for the 23 municipal districts (until 2038) and the 250 census tracts of Vienna (until 2028) can be downloaded from the Statistics Vienna website as well as from the Open Government Vienna website (www.open.wien.at).

Demographic and Economic Developments in Central and Eastern European Countries
This study by the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw), commissioned by Municipal Department 23 to assess the migration potential to Vienna (Austria) from Central and Eastern European countries as well as from Serbia and Bosnia Herzegovina, can be found on the Statistics Vienna website.

The cover illustration was developed by the Department of Visual Communication at the University of Art and Design Linz based on rules of “Conditional Design”. Dots symbolise people who live in Vienna. Rings around the points highlight certain phases in the life cycle (education, labour, and family life). Lines represent spatial mobility and networks.
Summary

The aim of this small-scale population projection for the city of Vienna is to provide a sound basis for planning policies that meet the demands of the city’s future population. Anticipatory policies require evidence of the current situation and how essential urban parameters might change in the future. For this reason, Statistics Vienna (MA 23) develops a new population projection for the city approximately every five years.

The underlying assumptions for this projection have been elaborated after conducting a series of demographic and spatial analyses and several workshops with experts in the field of demography and urban planning. Subsequently, the population development by age, sex, and country of birth has been projected for the entire city (until 2048) as well as for the 23 municipal districts (until 2038) and the 250 census districts of Vienna (until 2028).

Population development in Vienna 2018 to 2048

According to the projection, the total population of Vienna will increase by 289,000 (+15.5%) during the period 2018 to 2048. The corresponding number of residents with a primary residence in the city will amount to 2,178,000 on January 1st, 2048. The projected change in the population size over the coming 30 years roughly corresponds to the population growth that Vienna experienced during the previous 15 years. Despite the relatively moderate projected future growth, the city’s population might pass the two million mark as early as 2027 and could exceed the historical population peak of 2,083,630 inhabitants (set in 1910) as early as 2036.

The projection assumes that the influx of migrants from abroad will further decrease during the coming years. Nevertheless, it is expected that Vienna will still receive a net migration surplus of foreign-born population, which will more than compensate the city’s ongoing negative net migration of Austrian-born population. The 36.0% share of Vienna’s foreign-born inhabitants at the start of the year 2018 will increase slightly to 38.6% by 2048.

Population increases in the recent past were mainly the result of migration gains. Vienna’s future population growth, in contrast, will be driven increasingly by an excess of births over deaths. It is assumed that life expectancy at birth will further increase over the course of the coming three decades to 88.5 years for women and 84.6 years for
Population development by country of birth in Vienna — 2002 to 2048

Components of population change in Vienna — 2002 to 2047

Population by age and sex in Vienna — 2018 and 2048

Source: Statistics Austria, City of Vienna (MA 23)
men. The relatively low number of deaths recorded in recent years (around 16,000 per year) will increase during the 2020s, when the strong cohorts that were born during and after World War II will be at least 80 years old.

The average number of children per foreign-born woman will continue to slowly converge with that of Austrian-born women, while Vienna's total fertility rate is expected to remain at 1.4 children per woman throughout the projection period, well below the demographic replacement level. Due to Vienna's young population, which has a high share in the reproductive age (in 2018), the record number of 20,804 births from 2016 could be surpassed over the course of the early 2020s.

Vienna has evolved from an aging, shrinking city to a young, growing metropolis during the past decades because of the influx of migrants. Despite the assumption of further migration gains and the city's relatively young structure (in 2018), it must be assumed that demographic aging will gather some pace in the coming years and decades. According to the projection, the proportion of children below 15 years will remain almost constant during the period 2018–2048. The share of working age population between 15 and 64 years will decrease, while the share of persons 65 years and older – which fell as low as 16.5% in 2018 – will rise to 21.6% over the next 30 years. More than half of that assumed increase will be among those aged 80 years and older. This group will grow by 50% during the next ten years and is expected to double by 2048.

Vienna's elderly population will not only change in absolute numbers, its demographic structure will also be different in 2048. The share of men will increase in the higher age groups because of the catching-up effect in male life expectancy at older ages. Considering country of birth, the number of the foreign-born population 65 years and older will increase steadily during the next 30 years. By 2048, foreign-born inhabitants of Vienna will represent almost half of the city’s senior population between 65 and 79 years and more than a third of the population 80 years and older.

Population development in the municipal districts: 2018 to 2038
The results of this small-scale population projection suggest a further increase in the city's number of inhabitants. However, the 23 municipal districts of Vienna will not be affected equally.

The inner-city districts will experience only small changes in population size during the coming 20 years.
After years of growth (until 2018), the 1st district (Innere Stadt) and the 9th district (Alsergrund) are expected to further increase their number of inhabitants, while minor to moderate decreases are anticipated in the 4th through 8th districts. Only the 3rd district (Landstraße) will see stronger population gains, although the district's relative growth until 2038 (+8.3%) will still be below the projected overall increases at the city-level (+11.5%).

The more populous municipal districts of Vienna will experience relative population increases surpassing the projected growth at the city-level for the next 20 years. The strongest increases (+16% and more) are expected in the 11th district (Simmering), the 14th district (Penzing), the 20th district (Brigittenau), and the 22nd district (Donaustadt). The 10th district (Favoriten), the 12th district (Meidling), and the 21st district will also see above-average population growth rates during the coming two decades, while the projected relative population growth of the other municipal districts (2nd, 13th, 15th to 19th, and 23rd) will be close to the city's overall rate of change.

Small-scale population development in census districts 2018 to 2028

The projected overall population growth of Vienna will impact many census districts outside the city centre and in dedicated residential development areas through strong population gains of 10% and more during the next ten years. By contrast, population change in the more densely populated inner-city neighbourhoods will be only slightly positive or even negative during the same period, 2018 to 2028.

Vienna’s Austrian-born population is expected to increase in areas with residential housing developments and in inner-city neighbourhoods outside of Vienna’s Gürtel ring road, the 13-kilometre-long city road that borders the inner districts. The size of Vienna’s foreign-born population will generally increase in census districts featuring lower proportions of populations born outside of Austria in 2018. Additionally, some of the inner-city census districts within Vienna’s Gürtel – those with a projected negative population development until 2028 due to negative net migration of Austrian-born population – are expected to experience increases in the share of foreign-born population.

Since newly built flats are triggering the influx of families and young adults, the number of infants and school-age children younger than 15 years will increase in the coming ten years, especially in neighbourhoods with new housing
developments that have been completed in the recent past or will be completed in the near future. A sharp rise in the number of residents between 65 and 79 years of age can be expected in many areas of the larger districts (i.e. 10th, 11th, 21st, and 22nd). By 2028, the number of people aged 80 years and older will have doubled in many census districts in the outer areas of Vienna.
Population change in municipal districts of Vienna — 2018 to 2038

Population change in census districts of Vienna — 2018 to 2028

Source: Statistics Austria, City of Vienna (MA 18, MA 21, MA 23, MA 41)
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Statistical analyses focusing on the city of Vienna.

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