

Austria

Exchange rate: US\$1.00 = 0.92 euro (€).

Old Age, Disability, and Survivors

Regulatory Framework

First laws: 1906 (pensions), implemented in 1909; and 1938 (insurance), implemented in 1939.

Current laws: 1955 (social insurance), implemented in 1956; 1978 (self employed), implemented in 1979; 1978 (farmers); 1978 (professional persons); and 2004 (pension harmonization), implemented in 2005.

Note: The 1955 law applies to insured persons aged 50 or older on January 1, 2005. The 2004 law applies to insured persons younger than age 50 on January 1, 2005. Under the 2004 law, all special systems provide similar benefits.

Type of program: Social insurance system.

Coverage

Wage earners and salaried employees earning at least €415.72 a month and apprentices.

Special systems for miners; notaries; public-sector employees; and self-employed persons, including those in industry and trade, and agriculture.

Source of Funds

Insured person: 10.25% of covered earnings.

The minimum monthly earnings used to calculate contributions are €415.72.

The maximum monthly earnings used to calculate contributions are €4,860.

Self-employed person: Not applicable.

Employer: 12.55% of covered payroll.

The minimum monthly earnings used to calculate contributions are €415.72.

The maximum monthly earnings used to calculate contributions are €4,860.

Government: A subsidy; the cost of the care benefit and income-tested allowance.

Qualifying Conditions

Old-age pension: Age 65 (men) or age 60 (women, gradually rising to age 65 from 2024 to 2033) with at least 180 months of coverage in the last 30 years; a total of at least 300 months of coverage; or a total of at least

180 months of contributions, including at least 84 paid contributions.

Contributions may be credited under certain circumstances, such as for periods spent caregiving, in military service, or receiving sickness, maternity, or unemployment benefits.

Early pension: The early pension is being phased out by 2017. Age 64 (men, gradually rising to age 65 by 2017) or age 59 (women, gradually rising to 60 by 2017) with at least 474 months of coverage or 444 months of contributions.

Special conditions for workers in physically demanding jobs and for the long-term insured.

Corridor pension: Age 62 with at least 462 months of coverage and with monthly earnings of at least €415.72. (The corridor pension for women is effective in 2028. Until then, women can claim the statutory old-age pension at age 60 or the early pension.)

Child's supplement: Paid for each child younger than age 18 (age 27 if a student or in training, no limit if disabled).

Income-tested allowance: Paid for pensioners with an income below the income-tested allowance standard rate.

Care benefit (old age): Paid to old-age pensioners who require personal care.

Personal care is classified according to seven levels of care. Benefits are payable abroad.

Disability pension: Paid for an assessed loss of more than 50% of earning capacity. The insured must have at least 60 months of contributions (plus one month for each month from age 50) in the last 10 years (plus two months for each month from age 50), 300 months of coverage, or a total of 180 months of contributions. The qualifying conditions are reduced for persons aged 58 or older.

Reduced pension: The full pension is reduced if monthly earnings exceed €1,167.91.

Child's supplement: Paid for each child younger than age 18 (age 27 if a student or in training, no limit if disabled).

Income-tested allowance: Paid for low-income pensioners.

Care benefit (disability): Paid to disability pensioners who require personal care.

Personal care is classified according to seven levels of care. Benefits are payable abroad.

Survivor pension: The deceased received or was entitled to receive an old-age or disability pension at the time of death.

Income-tested allowance: Paid for low-income pensioners.

Care benefit (survivors): Paid to survivors who require personal care.

Personal care is classified according to seven levels of care. Benefits are payable abroad.

Old-Age Benefits

Old-age pension: 1.78% of the assessment base for each year of coverage is paid.

The assessment base is the insured's adjusted average earnings in the best 28 years up to €4,121.13. (The assessment period is gradually increasing by 12 months a year until it reaches 40 years in 2028.)

For insured persons born after January 1, 1955, the pension is based on the sum of contributions for each calendar year plus the sum of the adjusted annual lifetime contributions divided by 14.

Early pension: The early pension is being phased out by 2017. The pension is reduced by 0.35% each month it is taken before age 65 (men) or age 60 (women).

Corridor pension: The pension is reduced by 0.425% for each month it is taken before the normal retirement age.

Child's supplement: €29.07 is paid for each eligible child.

Income-tested allowance: An amount is paid to increase the pension for one person to €882.78 a month; to €1,323.58 for a married couple; plus €136.21 for each eligible child.

Schedule of payments: Fourteen payments a year.

Benefit adjustment: Benefits are adjusted annually.

Care benefit: €157.30 to €1,688.90 a month is paid, depending on the amount of care required.

Permanent Disability Benefits

Disability pension: 1.78% of the assessment base for each year of coverage is paid.

If the insured is younger than age 60, the coverage period is projected to age 60.

The assessment base is the insured's adjusted average earnings in the best 28 years, up to €4,121.13. (The assessment period is increasing gradually by 12 months a year until it reaches 40 years in 2028.)

The maximum pension is 60% of the assessment base.

For insured persons born after January 1, 1955 the pension is based on the sum of contributions for each calendar year plus the sum of the adjusted annual lifetime contributions divided by 14.

Reduced pension: The full pension is reduced by 30% for monthly earnings from €1,167.91 to €1,751.91, by 40% for monthly earnings from €1,751.92 to €2,335.81, and by 50% for monthly earnings above €2,335.81.

Child's supplement: €29.07 a month is paid for each child younger than age 18 (age 27 if a student or in training, no limit if disabled).

Income-tested allowance: An amount is paid to increase the pension for one person to €882.78 a month; to €1,323.58 for a married couple; plus €136.21 for each child for whom a child's supplement is paid.

Schedule of payments: Fourteen payments a year.

Benefit adjustment: Benefits are adjusted annually.

Care benefit: €157.30 to €1,688.90 a month is paid, depending on the amount of care required.

Survivor Benefits

Spouse's pension: Up to 60% of the deceased's old-age pension is paid to a widow(er), depending on the ratio of the widow(er)'s income to the deceased's income.

Income-tested allowance: An allowance is paid to increase the survivor pension to €882.78 a month.

Orphan's pension: 40% of the spouse's pension is paid to each orphan younger than age 18 (age 27 if a student or in training, no limit if disabled); 60% for a full orphan.

Income-tested allowance: An allowance is paid to increase the orphan's pension to €324.69 a month (€487.53 for a full orphan); after age 24, the allowance increases the orphan's pension to €576.98 a month (€882.78 for a full orphan).

Schedule of payments: Fourteen payments a year.

Benefit adjustment: Benefits are adjusted annually.

Care benefit: €157.30 to €1,688.90 a month is paid, depending on the amount of care required.

Administrative Organization

Federal Ministry for Labor, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection (<http://www.bmask.gv.at>), the Federal Ministry for Health, Family, and Youth (<http://www.bmgfj.gv.at>), and the Federal Ministry of Finance (<http://www.bmf.gv.at>) provide general supervision.

Federation of Austrian Social Insurance Institutions (<http://www.sozialversicherung.at>), made up of self-governing pension institutions with elected representatives of insured persons and employers, coordinates the program.

Pension Insurance Institution (<http://www.pensionsversicherung.at>) administers 85% of all pensions.

Sickness funds collect contributions and transfer them to pension insurance institutions and maintain contribution records for individual workers.

Sickness and Maternity

Regulatory Framework

First law: 1888 (sickness insurance), implemented in 1889.

Current laws: 1955 (social insurance), implemented in 1956; 1974 (employees); 1978 (self employed), implemented in 1979; 1978 (farmers); 1978 (professional persons); and 2004 (pensions harmonization).

Type of program: Social insurance system.

Coverage

Wage earners and salaried employees earning at least €415.72 a month, apprentices, and pensioners (medical benefits only).

Special systems for public-sector and railway employees and self-employed persons in agriculture and trade.

Source of Funds

Insured person: 3.78% of covered wages (wage earners and salaried employees) or 5.10% of the pension (pensioners).

The minimum monthly earnings used to calculate contributions are €415.72.

The maximum monthly earnings used to calculate contributions are €4,860.

Self-employed person: Not applicable.

Employer: 3.87% of covered payroll (wage earners and salaried employees).

The minimum monthly earnings used to calculate contributions are €415.72.

The maximum monthly earnings used to calculate contributions are €4,860.

Government: 70% of cash maternity benefits.

Qualifying Conditions

Cash sickness and maternity benefits: Must be in covered employment.

Rehabilitation benefit: Must be assessed as needing rehabilitation.

The pension fund assesses the need for rehabilitation.

Medical benefits: Must be in covered employment.

Sickness and Maternity Benefits

Sickness benefit: 50% of the insured's assessment base is paid; 60% after six weeks. (The employer pays up to 100% of the insured's earnings for up to 12 weeks (plus an additional four weeks at 50%), depending on the insured's length of service period; the sickness fund benefit begins after the right to full employer benefits ceases).

The assessment base is the average amount of daily earnings (25% to those receiving 50% of earnings from the employer) plus family supplements (depending on the sickness fund regulations) for 26 to 52 weeks, depending on the length of the coverage period.

The maximum benefit is 75% of covered earnings, depending on the number of dependents.

Rehabilitation benefit: The sickness benefit is paid in most circumstances. The benefit is paid for the duration of the temporary incapacity until the person returns to work.

Maternity benefit: 100% of the insured's average earnings is paid for eight weeks before and eight weeks (12 to 16 weeks in special cases) after the expected date of childbirth.

Workers' Medical Benefits

Benefits are ordinarily provided by doctors, hospitals, and pharmacists under contract with sickness funds; some funds operate their own clinics or hospitals. Benefits include medical, mental health, maternity, and dental care; hospitalization; medicine; appliances; home care; preventive examinations; and transportation.

Cost sharing: The insured pays €5.70 for each prescription, part of the cost of dental care, and at least €32.40, up to 20% of the cost of appliances; waived for patients with limited means.

There is no limit to duration.

Dependents' Medical Benefits

Medical benefits for dependents are the same as those for the insured.

Administrative Organization

Federal Ministry of Health (<http://www.bmg.gv.at>) provides general supervision.

Nine district and seven occupational sickness funds, managed by elected representatives of insured persons and employers, administer contributions and benefits.

Work Injury

Regulatory Framework

First law: 1887 (accident insurance), implemented in 1889.

Current laws: 1955 (social insurance), implemented in 1956; 1978 (professional persons); and 2004 (pension harmonization).

Type of program: Social insurance system.

Coverage

Employed persons, apprentices, and students.

Special systems for miners; notaries; public-sector employees; and self-employed persons, including those in trade and industry, and agriculture.

Source of Funds

Insured person: None.

Self-employed person: Not applicable.

Employer: 1.3% of covered payroll.

The maximum monthly earnings used to calculate contributions are €4,860.

Government: None.

Qualifying Conditions

Work injury benefits: There is no minimum qualifying period.

Temporary Disability Benefits

The benefit is the same as the cash sickness benefit (see Sickness and Maternity) and is paid until the insured is assessed with a permanent disability.

Permanent Disability Benefits

Permanent disability pension: 66.6% of the assessment base is paid for a 100% loss of earning capacity.

The assessment base is the insured's average covered earnings in the last year before the disability began.

Partial pension: A proportionately reduced pension is paid with at least a 20% loss of earning capacity.

Supplementary pension: 20% of the permanent disability pension is paid for a loss of earning capacity from 50% to 70%; 50% if the loss of earning capacity is greater than 70%.

Child's supplement: If the insured has at least a 50% loss of earning capacity, 10% of the disability pension is paid for each child younger than age 18 (age 27 if a student or in training, no limit if disabled).

The total combined disability pension, supplementary pension, and supplements for children must not exceed 100% of the assessment base.

Schedule of payments: Fourteen payments a year.

Benefit adjustment: Benefits are adjusted annually according to the rules of the accident insurance institution.

Care benefit: €157.30 to €1,688.90 a month is paid, depending on the amount of care required.

Workers' Medical Benefits

Comprehensive care, including rehabilitation (the first four weeks are provided under Sickness and Maternity) and allowances for training and relocation.

Survivor Benefits

Spouse's pension: 40% of the assessment base is paid to a widow aged 60 or older or a widower aged 65 or older. Other widow(er)s receive 20% of the assessment base.

The assessment base is the deceased's average earnings in the last year before death.

Orphan's pension: 20% of the assessment base is paid to each orphan younger than age 18 (age 27 if a student or in training, no limit if disabled); 30% for a full orphan.

The assessment base is the deceased's average earnings in the last year before death.

Other dependent's pension: Up to 20% of the assessment base is paid for all other dependents, including parents, grandparents, and brothers and sisters younger than age 18 (age 27 if a student or in training, no limit if disabled).

The assessment base is the deceased's average earnings in the last year before death.

All survivor benefits combined must not exceed 80% of the assessment base.

Spouse's allowance: A flat-rate payment of 40% of the assessment base is paid to a widow(er) who is not eligible to receive the spouse's pension.

The assessment base is the deceased's average earnings in the last year before death.

Schedule of payments: Fourteen payments a year.

Benefit adjustment: Benefits are adjusted annually according to the rules of the accident insurance institution.

Funeral grant: Up to 6.7% of the assessment base is paid for funeral and transportation costs.

The assessment base is the deceased's average earnings in the last year before death.

Administrative Organization

Federal Ministry of Health (<http://www.bmg.gv.at>) provides general supervision.

General Accident Insurance Institution (<http://www.auva.at>) administers long-term benefits.

Sickness funds collect contributions and transfer them to accident insurance institutions.

Accident insurance institutions provide benefits.

Unemployment

Regulatory Framework

First law: 1920 (unemployment insurance).

Current laws: 1977 (unemployment insurance) and 1994 (labor market).

Type of program: Social insurance system.

Coverage

Employed persons earning at least €415.72 a month and apprentices.

Exclusions: Public-sector employees.

Voluntary coverage is possible for self-employed persons.

Source of Funds

Insured person: 3% of covered earnings. The contribution is reduced for low-income persons.

The minimum monthly earnings used to calculate contributions are €415.72.

The maximum monthly earnings used to calculate contributions are €4,860 a month.

Self-employed person: Not applicable.

Employer: 3% of covered payroll.

The minimum monthly earnings used to calculate contributions are €415.72.

The maximum monthly earnings used to calculate contributions are €4,860.

Government: Any deficit.

Qualifying Conditions

Unemployment benefit: Must have at least 28 weeks of contributions in the last 12 months; 52 weeks in the last 24 months for a first-time claim. For a first-time claim made before age 25, at least 26 weeks of contributions in the last 12 months. The insured must be registered at an employment office and be capable of and willing to work.

If unemployment is due to voluntary leaving without good reason, misconduct, or work stoppage, a four-week waiting period is applied; six weeks for refusal of a suitable job offer (eight weeks for recurrence).

Family supplement: Paid for each child.

Supplementary benefit (income tested): Paid for an unmarried person with low income.

Vocational retraining allowance: Assessed with a temporary disability that will last for at least six months and requires vocational training to reintegrate into working life. The insurance provider assesses the disability.

Emergency assistance (income tested): Must be unemployed, capable of and willing to work, and assessed as requiring emergency assistance. The benefit is paid after the right to unemployment benefits ceases.

Unemployment Benefits

Unemployment benefit: 55% of the insured's net earnings in the last year (or the previous calendar year, depending on the month in which the claim is filed) is paid for up to 20 weeks; may be extended to 30 weeks with at least 156 weeks of coverage in the last five years; 39 weeks if aged 40 or older with at least 312 weeks of coverage in the last 10 years; or 52 weeks if aged 50 or older with at least 468 weeks of coverage in the last 15 years. The duration of payment is extended by periods of participation in training provided by the Labor Market Service. Recipients that have completed a rehabilitation program receive benefits for up to 78 weeks.

Family supplement: €0.97 a day is paid for each dependent. The total benefit including the family supplement must not be more than 80% of the insured's net earnings.

Supplementary benefit (income tested): The supplementary benefit raises the unemployment benefit to €882.78 a month.

The maximum benefit is 60% of the insured's net earnings (80% including family allowances).

The maximum earnings used to calculate benefits are €4,440 a month.

Vocational retraining allowance: The unemployment benefit is paid until the first day of rehabilitation and then increased by 22%.

The minimum daily allowance is €34.30.

Emergency assistance (income tested): 95% of the insured's unemployment benefit is paid if the unemployment benefit is €882.78 a month or less; 92% to 95% if the benefit is greater than €882.78 a month. Emergency assistance benefits vary according to the number of dependents and income of the unemployed person, spouse, or cohabiting partner. There is no limit to duration.

Family supplements are also paid for each dependent.

Administrative Organization

Federal Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection (<http://www.bmask.gv.at>) provides general supervision.

Regional offices of the Labor Market Service (<http://www.ams.at>) administer benefits and offer job seeking services.

Sickness funds collect contributions from employers.

Family Allowances

Regulatory Framework

First law: 1948.

Current law: 1967.

Type of program: Universal system.

Coverage

Permanent resident citizens of Austria and noncitizens with a resident permit with one or more children.

Source of Funds

Insured person: None.

Self-employed: None.

Employer: 4.5% of payroll.

Government: Contributes a certain percentage from tax revenues.

Qualifying Conditions

Family allowances: The child must be younger than age 18 (age 24 if a student, in training, or severely disabled).

Severely disabled child supplement: Paid for a child with a severe disability.

Family Allowance Benefits

Family allowances: €111.80 a month is paid for a child younger than age 3; €119.60 for a child aged 3 to 9; €138.80 for a child aged 10 to 18; and €162 for a child from age 19.

The total benefit for the child allowance is increased by €6.90 a month for each child up to two children, thereafter €17 for each child up to three children, €26 for each child up to four children, €31.40 for each child up to five children, €35 for each child up to six children, and continues to gradually increase for each subsequent child, up to €50 until the 16th child.

Severely disabled child supplement: A supplement of €152.90 a month is paid for an assessed degree of disability of at least 50% or if the child is permanently unable to support her/himself.

Child care allowance: Parents have a choice of benefit amounts for varying periods of time: €33 a day until the child reaches 14 months of age (12 months if the allowance is granted to only one parent); €26.60 a day until aged

18 months (15 months if granted to only one parent), €20.80 a day until aged 24 months (20 months if granted to only one parent); €14.53 a day until aged 36 months (30 months if granted to only one parent); or an income-tested benefit of 80% of last income, up to €66 a day until aged 14 months (12 months if granted to only one parent).

Supplement (income tested): The daily amount is increased by €6.06 for single parents with annual earnings up to €6,400; for a parent whose spouse or partner has income up to €16,200.

Large family supplement: €20 a month is paid for the third and each subsequent child up to a certain family income.

Administrative Organization

Family Allowances Equalization Fund of the Federal Ministry of Economics, Family and Youth (<http://www.bmwfj.gv.at>) administers the program and the family benefits fund.