

Foreword

The present 2001 issue of the Statistical Yearbook of the City of Vienna includes several modifications to the traditional layout, title and content of this series. The cover layout has been adapted to reflect the new corporate design of the Vienna City Administration developed by PR agency Ecker & Partner, and we hope that the new layout will be to the liking of our readers. Another change concerns the handbook's title, which for the first time includes the year of publication rather than the year for which most new data have been added. The previous system proved somewhat confusing at times, whereas the new solution is in line with the system used for the Statistical Yearbook of Austria.

The contents to be included in this year's issue were largely selected on the basis of customer surveys conducted on a regular basis – the last one was held from December 2000 to February 2001. More specifically, we were able to expand the chapter on prices and incomes since detailed local statistics on wage and salary tax were available to us for the first time. The chapter on international comparative city statistics has been updated and supplemented. Given that these statistics are of particular interest to the customer, the Bureau of Statistics will continue its efforts to publish them on a regular basis and also improve their content. Further, the chapter on social security and services as well as the one on art, culture and the media have been restructured. In parallel to the increased emphasis on specific focus topics, the range of tables included in this volume had to be streamlined further, mainly due to recent cuts and restrictions in the field of federal statistics. Certain data, such as real estate prices, are no longer included in this issue since the financial terms for the publication of these data would have been unacceptable. Unfortunately, this tendency may continue over the next years. At the same time, the Bureau of Statistics of the City of Vienna is trying to find alternative data sources for its publications.

However, the most significant modification in the current issue of the Statistical Yearbook lies in the fact that the Austrian Schilling (ATS) has been replaced by the Euro (EUR) in all tables and diagrams. This was the most straightforward solution given that this volume was scheduled for publication late in 2001, i.e. just before the final change to the Euro. Publishing all figures in both currencies was not feasible due to space limitations. ATS and EUR have formally corresponded to a single currency since 1 January 1999, but for reasons of comparability we have equally converted all figures relating to 1998 and previous years into EUR according to the fixed exchange rate of 1 EUR = 13.7603 ATS. Of course, this conversion is merely fictitious since the Euro did not yet exist at that time. However, as for the alternative of combining both currencies in tables which include data from both before and after 1 January 1999, the editorial team believed that this would hardly be a customer-friendly solution as it would make a direct chronological comparison of corresponding data rather difficult.

The Bureau of Statistics also takes this opportunity to point out that its online service at <http://www.wien.gv.at/ma66> has been expanded significantly, and also comprises many tables published in the Statistical Yearbook. Just as the last issue, the 2001 issue of the Statistical Yearbook or individual parts of the publication can be purchased in the form of MS Excel sheets via the City of Vienna's e-commerce shop.

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Municipal Department 66 –
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