

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