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Living arrangements 2020: One third of population aged 65 and older lives alone

Vienna, 2021-03-19 – The Austrian Labour Force Survey registered in 2020 3 988 000 private households. Among them, there were 2 346 000 single family households, 56 000 multi-family households and 80 000 non-family multi-person households, as Statistics Austria reports. 1 506 000 Austrian residents were living alone. Out of the total population in private households, 79.4% were living in a nuclear family, 17.2% were living alone and only 3.4% chose other living arrangements.

Between 1985 and 2020, the number of private households increased by 42.4%, from 2 801 000 to 3 988 000. Over the same period, the population in private households only grew by 17.2% (1985: 7 481 000; 2020: 8 766 000). Hence, the rising number of households can only partly be explained by population growth. A large part of this development was caused by the rapid growth of single person households, which increased by 96.0% from 768 000 in 1985 to 1 506 000 in 2020, representing 17.2% of the total population in private households. This increase also had an effect on household size: In 1985, there were on average 2.67 people living in a household, while in 2020, the average household size was only 2.20.

For more detailed information please refer to the [German version](#).