

SALZBURG



EUROPEAN HOMELESSNESS COUNTS 2025

RESEARCHER
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SALZBURG

Inhabitants 158.000

Experience of homelessness counts Yearly extended service-based counts since 1995

How to read this report?**ETHOS Light 1-2-3**

These results on page 2-4 present the ETHOS Light categories that are **comparable** across the cities that participate in the European Homelessness Counts 2025.

ETHOS Light 1-2-3-4-5-6

These results on page 5-7 present all the ETHOS Light categories covered in the city count. For Salzburg this means the results for a **pilot test** for ETHOS Light 4, 5 and 6.

Technical reader

(#) Next to every header, refers to the total number of persons for whom there is a specific answer. It excludes the answer 'unknown' and missing values.

⊛ Refers to the total number of persons who answered the question with 'unknown'.

⚠ Refers to the total number of persons for whom the data is missing.

<10 Refers to a subgroup with numbers smaller than 10. Percentages are then removed.

PEH People Experiencing Homelessness



ETHOS Light 1-2-3

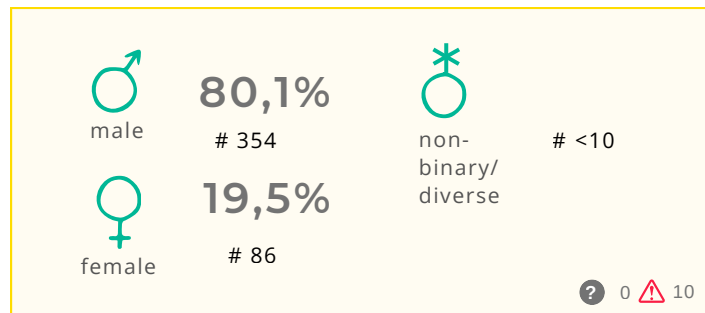
Choices made

October
1

	ETHOS Light 1	ETHOS Light 2-3
methodology	Questionnaires filled by professionals	Questionnaires filled by professionals
geographical area	City centre, surrounding areas, and specific focus points	Entire city
data collection tools	Digital	Digital
type of services included	- Outreach services - Day centres - Advisory and support services - Social welfare services - Hospitals and special care units for persons with substance abuse issues → 14 services	- Night shelters - Emergency shelters - Women's refuges - Day centres - Temporary housing solutions - Transitional and long-term housing solutions - Hospitals and special care units for persons with substance abuse issues - Advisory and support services → 17 services
specific attention to subgroups	No	No

The data for the City of Salzburg was collected and processed by the Forum Wohnungslosenhilfe Salzburg and its members.

ETHOS Light 1-2-3



Living situation on reference date (# 452) ? 0 ⚠ 0

ETHOS Light category		Adults # 452	%
1	in public space	202	44,7
2	in emergency accommodation	121	26,8
3	in accommodation for PEH or temporary housing	129	28,5

Household composition (# 353) ? 29 ⚠ 70

89,0%

Single



314

Lone parent
living with
child(ren)



<10

6,8%

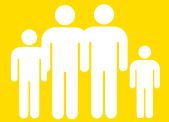
Living with
partner without
child(ren)



24

2,8%

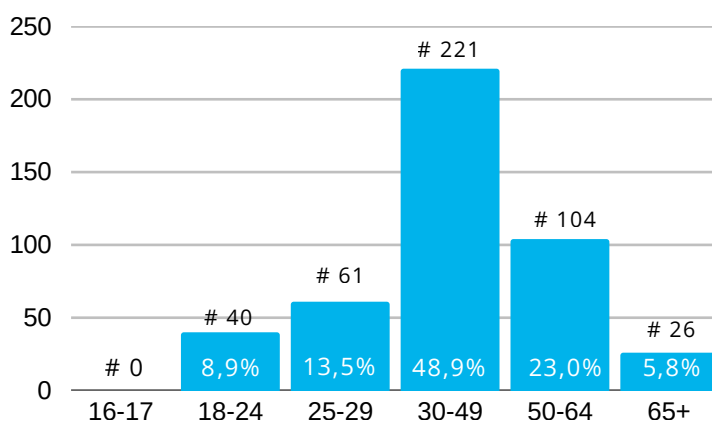
Living with
partner with
child(ren)



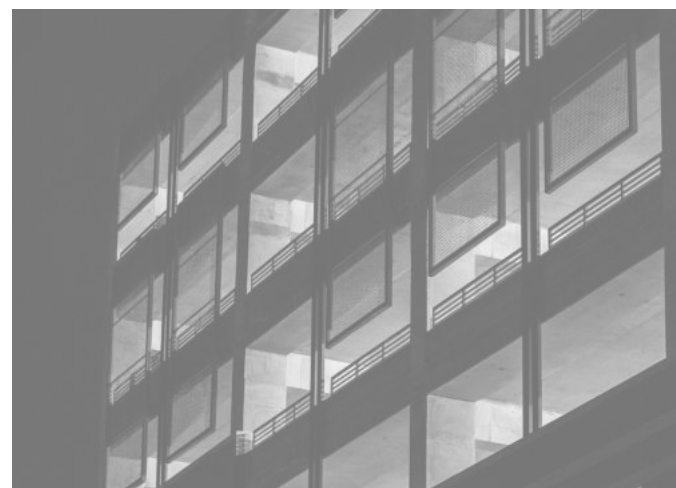
10

Other (# 0)

Age groups (# 452) ? 0 ⚠ 0

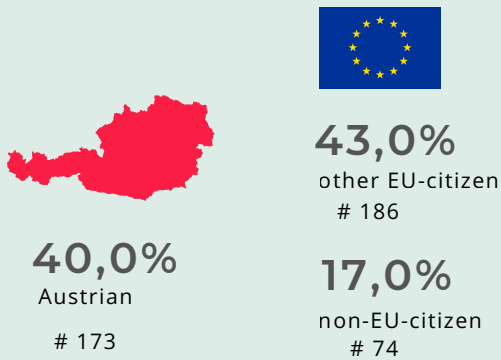


unaccompanied minors (not included)

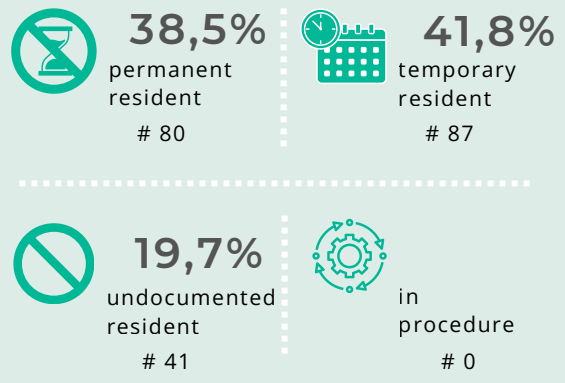


ETHOS Light 1-2-3

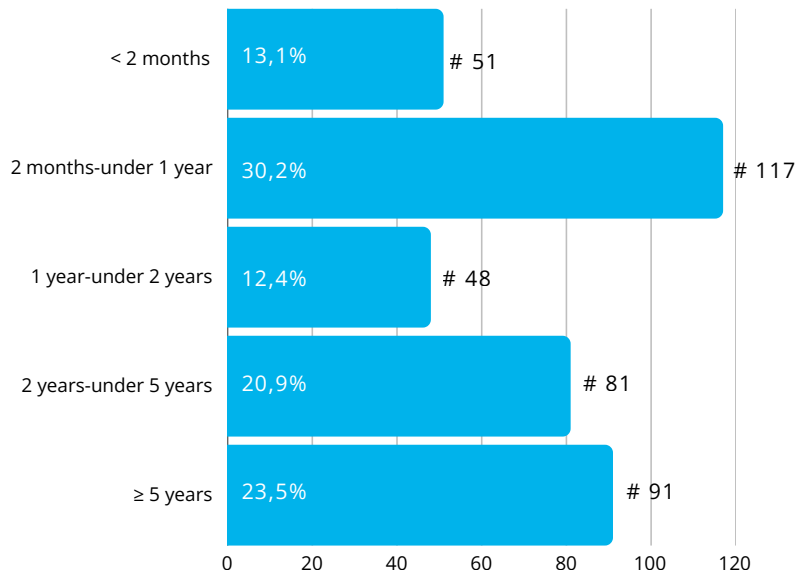
Nationality (# 433) ? 10 ▲ 9



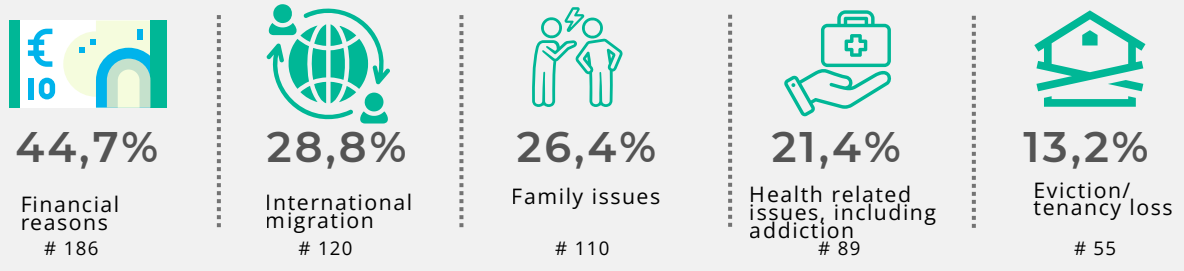
Residence status for non-Austrian (# 208) ? 59 ▲ 10



Duration of homelessness (# 388) ? 54 ▲ 10



Triggers leading to homelessness (# 416) ? 27 ▲ 9



institutional discharge (10,1%), domestic violence (3,8%), other (3,4%)

ETHOS Light 1-2-3-4-5-6

Choices made

ETHOS Light 1-2-3

see page 1



ETHOS Light 4

ETHOS Light 5

ETHOS Light 6

methodology

Questionnaires filled by
• professionals

Questionnaires filled by
• professionals

Questionnaires filled by
• professionals

geographical area

Entire city

Entire city

Entire city

data collection tools

Digital

Digital

Digital

type of services included

- Advisory and support services
- Hospitals and psychiatric care units
- Special support services for asylum seekers to be released from government housing
- Special support service for inmates to be released from prison

→ 27 services

- Outreach services
- Day centres
- Advisory and support services
- Services offering postal addresses and central population registration
- Social welfare services
- Hospitals and special care units for persons with substance abuse issues

→ 26 services

- Outreach services
- Day centres
- Advisory and support services
- Services offering postal addresses and central population registration
- Social welfare services
- Hospitals and special care units for persons with substance abuse issues

→ 26 services

specific attention to subgroups

Asylum seekers, persons to be released from hospitals or prisons

No

No

coverage

Satisfactory; elevated for asylum seekers and persons to be released from hospitals or prisons

Minor; elevated for persons in contact with social advisory / support services and social welfare organisations.

Extensive; elevated for persons in contact with social advisory / support services and social welfare organisations.

children (< 18 y) counted

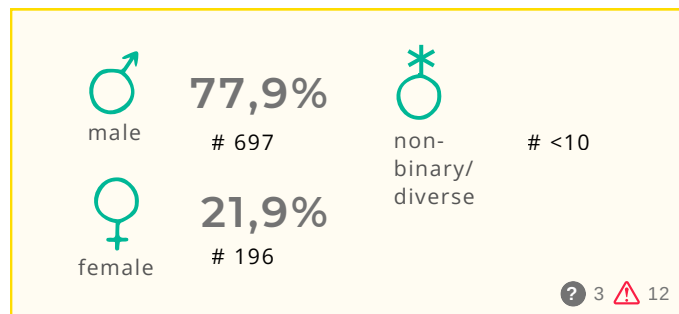
No

No

No

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ETHOS Light 1-2-3-4-5-6



Living situation (# 910) ? 0 ⚠ 0

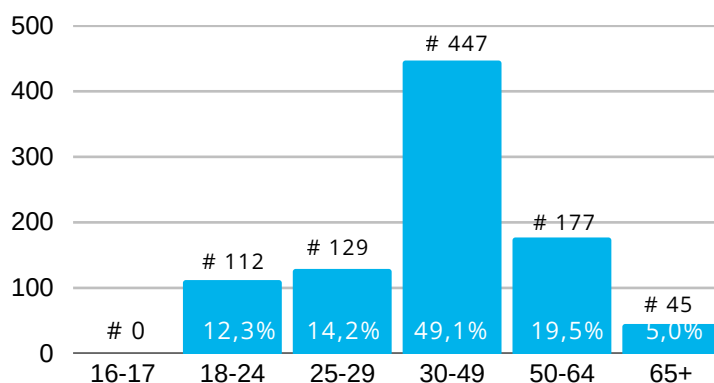
ETHOS Light category	on reference date	Adults # 910	%
1	in public space	202	22,2
2	in emergency accommodation	121	13,3
3	in accommodation for PEH or temporary housing	129	14,2
4	in institution	60	6,6
5	in non-conventional dwelling	57	6,3
6	with family/friends	341	37,5



Household composition (# 771) ? 48 ⚠ 91



Age groups (# 910) ? 0 ⚠ 0

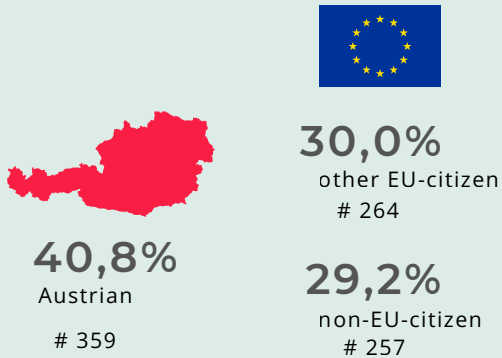


unaccompanied minors excluded

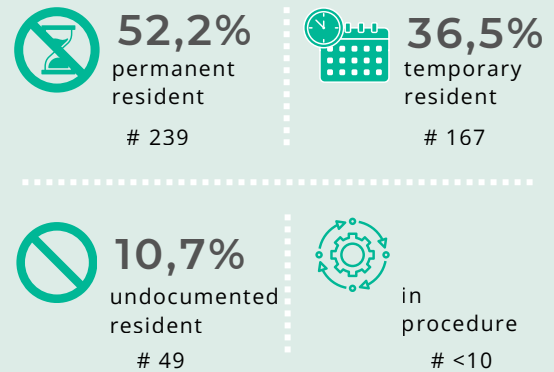


ETHOS Light 1-2-3-4-5-6

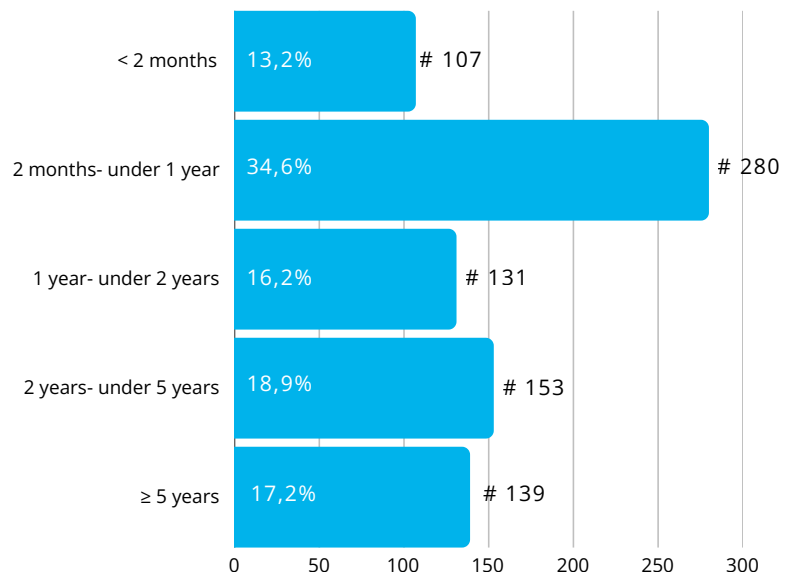
Nationality (# 880) ? 18 ▲ 12



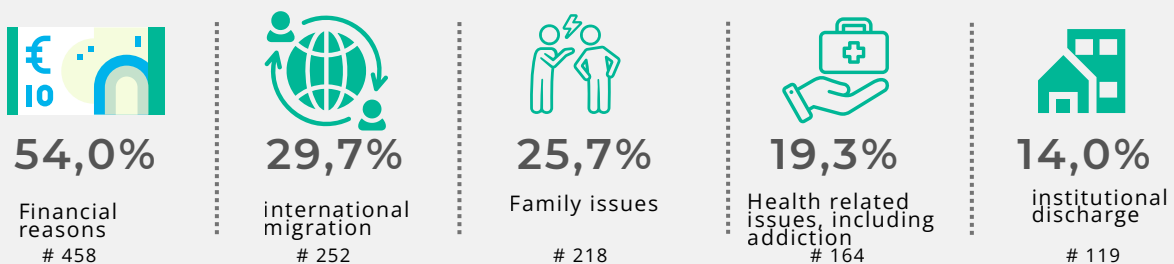
Residence status for non-Austrian (# 458) ? 75 ▲ 13



Duration of homelessness (# 810) ? 85 ▲ 15



Triggers leading to homelessness (# 848) ? 50 ▲ 12



eviction/loss of tenancy (12,7%), domestic violence (4,1%), other (3,1%)

SUMMARY

The province of Salzburg has a long-standing tradition of conducting comprehensive service-based counts among a large network of services for PEH, social welfare and social counselling services, hospitals and psychiatric institutions as well as services for persons to be released from prisons and services for asylum seekers to be released from government-sponsored housing. Yearly service-based counts have been conducted since 1995, and results have been mapped to the ETHOS Typology. Typically, an online survey tool is used, and data is entered by caseworkers alone based on existing client data. In 2025, the City of Salzburg decided to take part in the EU Homelessness Counts project, to include the place of stay according to ETHOS Light as well as the compulsory variables mentioned in the data overview in the online survey, and to evaluate and communicate the results specifically for the city area. This resulted in a detailed overview of the extent and profile of homelessness in the City of Salzburg according to ETHOS Light.

The local network of organisations for PEH – represented in the Forum Wohnungslosenhilfe Salzburg – and the long-standing tradition of conducting extended service-based counts were clear advantages during the preparation phase. Also, a complete online questionnaire using the online survey tool Unipark / Tivian already existed and was adapted to the provisions and goals of the EU Homelessness Counts. Finally, great expertise and experience among the persons central to the organisation of the count in previous years facilitated planning and implementation. Since most of the services involved in the count were familiar with the counting procedure, less training and communication effort had to be undertaken. However, since the housing market in the City of Salzburg is particularly tight, the results for the city will support local housing strategies and inform political decision-making.

Just like the years before, the 2025 comprehensive service-based count relied on a broad network of services for PEH, public institutions and social welfare services, hospitals and psychiatric institutions, institutions for persons with substance abuse issues, services for former inmates and services for asylum seekers to be released from government-sponsored housing. Questionnaires were filled out by caseworkers alone based on existing client data, and results for the City of Salzburg were filtered from the results of the count in the entire province. Questionnaires were only available in German language. The reference date was October 1, and the counting period was October 1 to October 31. As organisations with different backgrounds and clientele were involved, all ETHOS Light categories could be reached. ETHOS Light 1, 2, and 3 could be extensively covered via outreach teams, day centres, night and emergency shelters, as well as temporary and transitional housing offers. Persons in ETHOS Light 4 could be reached through a limited number of hospitals, psychiatric institutions, health services for persons with substance abuse issues, services for former inmates and services for asylum seekers to be released from government-sponsored accommodation. Persons in ETHOS Light 5 and 6 could be reached through the services mentioned above as well as a large network of social counselling and support services, job counselling services, social welfare offices, services for persons with psychological support needs, etc.

SUMMARY

Results for the ETHOS Light categories 1-3 indicate that almost 45% of 452 PEH counted could be attributed to ETHOS Light 1, while the rest was distributed almost evenly between ETHOS Light 2 and 3. 80% of PEH were male, and nearly 90% lived alone. Around 40% of persons included in the survey were Austrian citizens, and 43% were EU citizens. 66% had permanent resident status, 22,5% had temporary resident status, and 10% were reported as undocumented residents. Interestingly, over 75% of persons included in the survey were above 30 years of age, with persons between 30-49 years and 50-64 years as the two largest age groups. Financial reasons, family issues, and international migration were reported as the most common reasons for homelessness.

All in all, the comprehensive service-based count in the City of Salzburg can be described as a success that was facilitated by the great expertise and experience among the persons involved in the planning and organisation of the count in previous years. However, integrating the existing survey with the goals of the EU Homelessness Counts and mapping the results to the ETHOS Light framework required substantial effort from all parties involved. The existing network of services for PEH provided a fruitful environment for a consistent rollout in the City of Salzburg and beyond. Comparable results among other cities taking part in the EU Homelessness Counts and reliable numbers on homelessness and precarious housing provide a firm basis for political decision-making and for identifying current housing needs. As Salzburg has one of the tightest and most expensive housing markets in Austria, current numbers can contribute to creating sustainable housing solutions for the most vulnerable social groups.

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