

Regional information Steiermark (Styria) / Austria

Styria is the second biggest state of Austria. To the south it shares a 145 km long border with Slovenia. It is characterized by a slight increase of population (on the whole and regarding women) for which Graz (approx. 270,000 inhabitants) as point of attraction is responsible for. Conversely, especially the north-western parts of Styria are characterized by negative migration balances. Economically, Styria has undergone a significant structural change from a mainly agriculturally characterised economy towards an economy more focused on diversified industries and services. But still, the shares of employees in the services and industrial sectors are below the national average while the agricultural sector shows a significantly higher share (8.1 % in Styria compared to 5.3 % in Austria). Until the end of the 1980's the iron and steel as well as the automotive industry were the dominant economic branches. Only the automotive suppliers industry has fully recovered and gained international visibility. Despite the mentioned structural change, the region is still characterized by a rather high concentration of primary industries and a structurally weak periphery. With an unemployment rate of 3.3 % (2011)¹ Styria nearly equals the Austrian average. The unemployment rate for women ranged around the mean unemployment rate in the last decade (3.2 % for women compared to 3.3 % in 2011).

Sources

Eurostat

IfL – Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography

<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/policy/regional-innovation/monitor/index.cfm?q=p.regionalProfile&r=AT22>

¹ 8.1 % in 2013 according to Austrian calculation (Arbeitsmarktdaten online, <http://iambweb.ams.or.at/ambweb/> (08.05.2013))