

SPRING 2010 REFORM BAROMETER - AUSTRIA

1. SUMMARY TABLE

Austria				Rank among 29 **			Relative Gap	
	2008	2009	Change	2008	2009	Change	EU 5 top performers 2009	Gap to EU 5 top performers 2009
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity - PPP)	31409	29740	-5.3%	6	6	0	LU, IE, NL, AT, BE	-13%
GDP per capita (€ at 2000 prices)	29424	28239	-4.0%	10	9	1	LU, DK, SE, IE, UK	-17%
Labour Utilisation (Annual hours worked per capita)	818	780	-4.7%	12	10	2	CY, SI, GR, CZ, PL	-12%
Annual hours worked per person employed	1681	1630	-3.0%	17	21	-4	GR, HU, PL, SI, CZ	-19%
Employment as % of labour force (100-unemployment rate)	96.2	94.5	-1.7	6	5	1	NL, DK, AT, CY, LU	0
Labour participation (labour force as % of active population)	75.0	74.9	-0.1	9	9	0	NL, DK, SE, DE, UK	-4
Dependency ratio (working age population as % of total population)	67.5	67.5	0.1	17	17	0	SK, PL, CY, CZ, RO	-5
Labour Productivity (GDP per hour worked, in PPP)	37.9	37.6	-0.6%	8	9	-1	LU, BE, NL, FR, DE	-13%
Labour Productivity (GDP per hour worked, € at 2000 prices)	35.5	35.7	0.7%	13	13	0	LU, SE, BE, DK, FR	-24%
Capital deepening (capital stock per hour worked)*	5.5	5.6	2.1%	7	6	1	IE, FR, LU, AT, SE	-4%
Total Factor Productivity (level of economic efficiency per hour worked)*	6.5	6.4	-1.4%	13	13	0	LU, UK, DK, SE, BE	-26%
Corporate Investment (private investment excluding non-residential, % GDP)	13.7	12.7	-1.0	8	5	3	BE, RO, AT, DK, SK	-0.4
Current Account Balance (as % GDP)	3.6	1.4	-2.2	6	10	-4	LU, SE, LV, DE, EE	-4.9
Export market share measured in volume relative to main 35 trading partners (from 2000)	5.3	4.5	-0.8	13	14	-1	RO, LT, HU, CZ, PL	-50.2
Unit labour Costs relative to main 35 trading partners (from 2000)	-7.4	-5.6	1.8	3	3	0	DE, PL, AT, SE, GR	1.5
Government gross debt (as % GDP)	62.6	69.1	6.5	21	22	-1	EE, LU, BG, RO, LT	51.2
Net lending/net borrowing of general government (as % GDP)	-0.4	-4.3	-3.9	11	12	-1	BG, DK, SE, LU, FI	-2.4
Required budgetary adjustment related to ageing (as % GDP)	N/A	2.2	N/A	N/A	16	N/A	PL, EE, HU, BG, SE	2.1
Public Investment (as % total public expenditure)	2.4	2.4	0.0	29	29	0	BG, RO, EE, CZ, PL	-14.0
Tax burden (as % GDP)	42.9	42.4	-0.5	25	25	0	LV, RO, IE, SK, LT	14.5

Note: Labour utilisation and productivity are a product of its sub-components.

* Rank refers to EU15 ** EU 27, Norway and Switzerland

2. PRIORITIES FOR REFORM: ANSWERS FROM IV (AUSTRIA)

	1. Priority areas	2. Concrete Recommendations	3. Are the proposed recommendations already in the agenda of your Government?	
			Yes	No
Priority 1	Specific labour supply measures for older workers	- Terminate early retirement schemes as soon as possible	yes, but much to slow	
Priority 2	Education and Life Long Learning	- (i) pupils should enter decisive selection phase at an older age; (ii) teachers should devote more working hours to teaching (work in the class room) and spend less hours with administrative duties	(i) yes; (ii) was on the agenda but govt gave in to union pressure and finally put it of the agenda again	
Priority 3	Making work pay: interlpay of tax and benefit system	-Introduce social accounting		no
Priority 4	Competiion of policy framework	- Enforce competition law rigorously		no
Priority 5	ICT	- Accelerate broadband diffusion	yes, but to slow	