



**Protective
Umbrella
for people**

© regine schöttl - Fotolia.com



<http://www.kpoe-graz.at>

DSA Karin Gruber, Tel.Nr. 0316/877-5101

Standard rates of cash benefits and social security measures for 2013 (Richtsätze)

Retirement pensions – Ausgleichszulagenrichtsatz - equalisation supplement reference rate

If the total pension and other net income are below a certain threshold called equalisation supplement reference rate, an equalisation supplement amounting to the balance is due for those eligible

equalisation supplement reference rate	gross
Single households:	€ 837,63
Married couples (families):	€ 1.255,89
Additional supplement per child	€ 129,24

Orphans' and Half-Orphans' pensions equalisation supplement reference rate

Children are eligible for an orphan's pension if they are below a certain age and are paid for as long as orphans are enrolled in schooling or training or if they are incapable of working. Orphans' pensions amount to 24% of the pension that would have been due to the deceased parent for half-orphans, and 36% for orphans.

Half-orphans' pensions	
below the age of 24	€ 308,09
above the age of 24	€ 547,47
Orphans' pensions	
below the age of 24	€ 462,60
above the age of 24	€ 837,63

Pension supplement for Childcare € 29,07

From the supplements above 5,1 % are deducted to cover for health insurance.

Long-term care allowance (Pflegegeld)

Long-term care allowance is an earmarked benefit exclusively dedicated to additional expenditure due to care needs. There are 7 levels of long-term care allowance as classified in the framework of the Federal Long-Term Care Act

Level of benefit **Amount per month**

Level 1	€ 154,20
Level 2	€ 284,30
Level 3	€ 442,90
Level 4	€ 664,30
Level 5	€ 902,30
Level 6	€ 1.260,00
Level 7	€ 1.655,80

www.mindestsicherungsrechner.at

Useful websites

www.help.gv.at government agency help
www.sws.or.at affordable apartments
 and rooms for rent
www.ams.or.at Public Employment
 Service Austria (AMS)



Created with support from the
 Landtagsklub der KPÖ Steiermark.
 8010 Graz, Landhaus.
 Tel. 0316 / 877 51 01.

The Needs-based minimum benefit calculator helps users to calculate the expected benefit level, based on data they provide. It requires no installation and is completely free. The communist party Austria provides this tool for personal use, without any guarantees or claims to the veracity of the results obtained.

MINDESTSICHERUNG: Needs-based minimum benefit system

The needs-based minimum benefit system is a poverty prevention measure comprising benefits for safeguarding subsistence and accommodation as well as protection in cases of sickness, pregnancy and childbirth. Eligibility applies only if the applicant is neither able to cover costs of subsistence by their own means or capacity (work, use of income, assets and property) nor out of other benefits or social insurance schemes (principle of subsidiarity) which are deducted from the lump sum. The entitlement is linked to the right to permanent residence in Austria.

Overview on minimum levels of benefits for 2012

Single persons and single parents	€ 794,91
Adults in a flat-sharing community with no reciprocal entitlement to maintenance payments	
- per person	€ 596,18
-From the third Adult entitled to the benefit sharing a common household and also entitled to maintenance payments per person	€ 397,46
1st – 4th minor child	€ 151,03
From 5th minor child onwards	€ 182,83

One-time payments

Article 7 of the Styrian Social Care Act provides that persons unable to cover costs of subsistence are eligible for a one-time payment in case of emergency, with the possibility to recourse in case it is denied.

Aid in case of unsuspected hardship

According to Article 15 of the Styrian Social Care Act, persons in pressing circumstances (for example if loss of residence is imminent, death, illness, incapacity to work, accident, natural disaster) may apply for interim aid with the communes. There's no entitlement to hardship compensation, and no possibility to recourse.

Prescription fees exemption

Persons with an income lower than the thresholds given in the table below are exempt from the prescription fee upon application.

Single persons	€ 837,63
Single persons with increased demand (4 prescriptions/month or more)	€ 963,27
Married couples	€ 1.255,89
Married couples with increased demand (4 prescriptions/month or more)	€ 1.444,27
threshold increase per dependant child	€ 129,24

Persons, who already paid fees to the equivalent of 2% of their annual net income, are automatically exempt from further prescription fees' payments for the rest of the remaining year. In this case, an application for exemption is not necessary.

Exemption from fees for radio & televisions and fees for telephone landlines

Persons with an income lower than the thresholds given in the table below are exempt upon application

Single persons	€ 938,15
Married couples	€ 1.406,60
threshold increase for every further adult living in the household	€ 144,75

Family allowance (FAMILIENBEIHILFE)

The family allowance is a universal cash benefit, the amount depends on the number of children in a family and their ages. Applications are processed with the local Tax-Offices. Family allowances are supplemented by a uniform tax credit for children, which may be paid out as a 'negative tax'.

Age	1st child	2nd child	3rd child	4th child
from birth	€ 163,80	€ 176,60	€ 198,80	€ 213,80
children two-years-old and older	€ 171,10	€ 183,90	€ 206,10	€ 221,10
children nine-years-old and older	€ 189,30	€ 202,10	€ 224,30	€ 239,30
children 18 years old and older	€ 211,10	€ 223,90	€ 246,10	€ 261,10

The multiplechild bonus of €20 for a families third and every further child has to be claimed in the course of the annual tax assessment.

For every disabled child with a certified disability above 50 % the standard family allowance rate is raised by the lump sum of € 138,30 per month. The higher rate can be applied for with local Tax-Offices.

An additional supplement to cover for school materials of about € 50,- for children between 6 to 15 years old is paid in September.

Child-care benefit

Claims are filed with the local health insurance funds.

Option 1: One parent is entitled to a sum of € 14,53 child-care allowance per day for a total of 30 months. In case the second parent takes over, the allowance can be received for another 6 months (30+6 option).

Option 2: One parent is entitled to a sum of € 20,80 child-care allowance per day for a total of 24 months. In case the second parent takes over, the allowance can be received for another 4 months (24+4 option).

Option 3: One parent is entitled to a sum of € 26,60 child-care allowance per day for a total of 15 months. In case the second parent takes over, the allowance can be received for another 3 months (15+3 option).

Option 4: One parent is entitled to a sum of € 33 child-care allowance per day for a total of 12 months. In case the second parent takes over, the allowance can be received for another 2 months (12+2 option).

Option 5: One parent is entitled to an income replacement of up to € 66 of per day for a total of 12 months. In case the second parent takes over, the allowance can be received for another 2 months.

Households with a low income are entitled to an increase of child-care allowance of additional € 6.06 per day.

Income Tax and deductions

Tax returns may be filed up to five years back with the local Tax-Office using Form L1 available there. Receiving a tax credit is likely if

Deductible expenses related to a business are or expenses related to non-business income connected with acquiring, securing and maintaining taxable income are claimed periods without taxable income occurred during the year in question.

Paychecks didn't include single-earner or single-parent tax credits Income below the threshold where

Single parents and sole earners are entitled to a tax allowance of EUR 364 per year. If their wage tax is so low that the allowance is not or not fully effective, or if no tax is payable, this amount or the remaining balance is paid out to the tax payer as a negative tax.

The current upper threshold for marginal employment is € 29,70 per day or € 386,80 per month respectively

OTHER SUPPORT FUNDS

Family hardship compensation: is a one-time payment; supporting families in times of hardship for which the family cannot be held responsible. Eligibility criteria are entitlement to family allowance or an existing pregnancy. Recipients of family hardship compensation must hold EU-citizenship, be recognised refugees or stateless. Please send Applications forms to: BM für Wirtschaft, Familie und Jugend, Abteilung II/4, Familienhärteausgleich, Franz-Josefs-Kai 51, 1010 Wien, Tel. Auskünfte: 01/71100

Emergency financial support for old persons: Pension insurance institutions offer financial support outside the legally stipulated system of benefits to old people in financial straits, and are granted once a year..

Josef Krainer-Hilfsfonds: Radetzkystraße 3, 8010 Graz, Tel: 0316/877/2963, Application forms are available with municipal and regional authorities.

Licht ins Dunkel: NGO dedicated to supporting children born with disabilities and low income families with minor children: Kramergasse 1, 1010 Wien, Tel: 01/5338688

Social Services Headquarter: Hofgasse 12, 8010 Graz, **Social Services hotline (toll free): 0800/201010**

Unterstützungsfonds der Krankenkassen – zuständige Krankenkasse