The changing religious landscape of Vienna 1971–2011

The city of Vienna had a large Catholic majority until the 1970s. Since then, secularisation and a strong influx of international migrants diversified the religious landscape. Fertility and marriage behaviour are other major forces shaping the religious composition of Vienna.

**Forces shaping the religious composition**

**SECULARISATION**

Religious net mortality (differences of births and deaths per 1,000 residents)

Catholic and Protestant Churches have been losing members in a similar way, but at a different scale. Most of the Catholic parish losses were compensated by church-related schools. Those with resulted in an increasing share of people with no religious denomination. Students on religious studies for Orthodox and Muslims are not available.

**MIGRATION**

Net migration by religion (final number of long-term residents per 1,000 residents)

Net migration of Catholics, Protestants, and people without a religious denomination followed a trajectory between 1991 and 2011. Migrants from Orthodox, Muslim, and other religions reflected the diversification of the religious landscape of Vienna. Since around 2000, Orthodox and Muslim net migration decreased while there was a further increase in immigration from other religions.

**FERTILITY**

Total fertility rate by religion (births per woman)

In Vienna, the general level of fertility is still quite high and rather evenly distributed by religion, with Muslims being the only group showing significantly lower fertility than other religious groups. Against the general trend, the fertility of women with other or no religion increased slightly.

**INTERRELIGIOUS MARRIAGE**

Share of native and foreign marriages by religion (per 100,000 residents)

The religious diversity within interfaith families is an important factor of the future religious composition of Vienna. Protestants have the highest rates of interreligious marriages, while there was an increase of intermarriage among Catholics, the share of interfaith marriages among Muslims and secular people decreased. Status on marriages of Orthodox and other religions are not available.

**About the data**

Catholic, religious denominations in Austria were surveyed at four decennial census rounds between 1971 and 2011. The shares of religious denominations within the religious population are available for secular people and for fertility rates, but it has to be noted that due to cohabitation, the implied numbers are lower than total religious denominations.

**About the methodology**

The population of Vienna by religion was reconstructed in ten steps. Data from 1971 to 2011 was surveyed by applying detailed intercensal estimates for each religion category within demography, fertility, and marriage rates, intercensal data (1981–2011) for religious denominations were reconstructed based on the annually estimated number of religious denominations. Due to data limitations, the religious denominations are not possible to provide data for all religious denominations and other religions are not available.

**About Wirel**

www.wirel-project.at

Interdisciplinary research project examining the role of religion in shaping the societal demographic structure of the population of Vienna, Wiener, Austria, including age, gender, and other religious denominations.