

# Country Information: AUSTRIA

<b>Country Information: AUSTRIA</b>	<b>1</b>
I worked in AUSTRIA and paid taxes. Should I file a tax return?	2
What does a “tax refund” mean?	2
Why do some agencies claim that they will refund MORE tax overpayment for you than the others?	2
How much taxes are paid from your income?	2
What documents do you need for your tax refund?	3
What is a Lohnzettel form?	3
What if you do not have all the necessary documents?	4
How many years back can I file my tax refund?	4
How long does it take to receive my tax refund?	4
When is the deadline for filing the tax return?	4
Why is your tax calculation different from the actual Tax Office calculation?	4

## 1. I worked in AUSTRIA and paid taxes. Should I file a tax return?

Everybody who works abroad has to pay income tax. Under certain conditions, you can refund some of the taxes you (your employer) paid. We refund **tax** from Austria and we can also help you get **child benefit** support for your children if they are younger than 18 (or 24 in the case of university students). More about our child benefit service **here!**

## 2. What does a “tax refund” mean?

A **refund** means that your employer paid on your behalf more taxes than was necessary, and you can claim the excess money back. **By filing a tax return, you are actually reporting** to the Austrian Tax Office how much you earned as gross income and how much you paid in taxes while you stayed in Austria.

## 3. Why do some agencies claim that they will refund MORE tax overpayment for you than the others?

There is **no such a thing as “more refund”** for your taxes. Be careful, because this might be a marketing trick to attract you to sign a contract.

If a tax specialist does your tax return properly, according to the Austrian tax law, the **refund can be calculated in only one possible way!** If an agency applies tax deductions that you are NOT entitled to, your refund will increase on one hand, but you are at a very high risk that you will have to pay it back to the Tax Office.

## 4. How much taxes are paid from your income?

**Taxation is progressive on the individual's income in Austria.** In other words, the more you earn, the more you pay. Under the Austrian Income Tax Act each individual is taxable on his/her own income and there is no joint taxation for married couples or households.

**Austrian tax rates for individuals are between 25% and 55% from 2016 to 2019:**

Yearly income	Tax
0-11,000 €	0%
11,000 - 18,000 €	25 %
18,000 - 31,000 €	35 %
31,000 - 60,000 €	42 %
60,000 - 90,000 €	48 %
90,000 - 1,000,000 €	50%
1,000,001 € or more	55%

## 5. What documents do you need for your tax refund?

In order to get your income tax refund as quickly as possible and to apply for the highest amount, you need to have:

- A copy of your **Lohnzettel** form from each of your employers;
- A **Lfi form** if you worked less than 6 months in Austria
- A certified **E9 - EU/EWR Bescheinigung** form which proves your local income from your home country

## 6. What is a Lohnzettel form?

**Lohnzettel** is a summary of earnings and deducted taxes by an employer during a calendar year. All employers are legally obliged to issue the form by the end of February of the following year (for example, by the end of February 2020 for fiscal year 2019).

## 7. What if you do not have all the necessary documents?

**Even if you do not have all the above mentioned documents, you can still apply for your tax refund.** We offer a “replacement” service - we will contact your former employers and will claim copies of your payment documents as your certified tax agent.

## 8. How many years back can I file my tax refund?

According to the Austrian tax office, you can go back as far as **5 years** from the year in which you apply.

## 9. How long does it take to receive my tax refund?

**It may take up to 5 - 7 months until you receive your income tax refund.** This is counted from the time your documents are received by the tax authorities. The actual time may vary from case to case.

## 10. When is the deadline for filing the tax return?

Tax returns are due by the **end of April of the following year!** Please note that you may need to pay a penalty or late filing fee if you forget to file your tax return, but it may vary from case to case.

## 11. Why is your tax calculation different from the actual Tax Office calculation?

In some cases, tax official employees calculate the **tax on your Tax Return higher or lower than the Tax Office shows in the final calculation.**

What are the most frequent causes?

- The Tax Office had different data on your record (your employer reported different data than you have on your Lohnzettel)
- Your employer wrongly paid more/less than was necessary
- You may have some **debt/overpayment from the previous year**