

## **Austria**

**Distinctive Features:** Emphasis on value of family work; generous child allowance.

### **Maternity / Parental Leave**

Benefit	Cash benefit and job-protected leave
Eligibility Criteria	Working mother; working parents
Duration of Leave	Maternity Leave: 16 weeks (8 before and 8 after birth) compulsory; Parental Leave: Up to 3 years
Compensation Rate	Maternity Leave: 100% wage replacement. Parental Leave: Flat rate

### **Early Childhood Education and Care**

Age Group Served	0-6
Eligibility Criteria	Working Parents
Locus of Care	0-3 (centers), 3-6 (preschools)
Fees	Parents pay income-related fees
Funding Strategies	State and local govt., parent fees
Access/Coverage (%)	0-3 (3%), 3-6 (80%)

### **Family and Child Allowances**

Benefit & Eligibility	Universal cash benefit for families w/ children under age 19 (or 27 if students).
Benefit Levels	Varies by age and number of children. Very generous benefits, higher for very young children and children aged 10 and older, and for disabled children.

### **Child Support**

Benefit	Maintenance payments guaranteed if absent parent fails to pay.
Maintenance	Formula: 16% of earnings for children ages 0-5, 18% 6-10, 20% 11-15, 22% 15+

### **Child and Family Tax Benefits**

Tax Deductions/Relief	Refundable child tax credit that is higher for each subsequent child.
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### **Other Child-Conditioned Income Transfers**

Benefits	Survivor's Benefits, social assistance
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### **Child and Adolescent Health**

Access to Coverage	National health insurance program covers virtually entire population
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### **School-Age Children Policies**

Compulsory School	Ages 6 – 15
School Hours	8:00 – 12:00 or 13:00

### **Youth Policies**

Distinctive Features	Concern about youth risk-taking behaviors (e.g. smoking, alcohol, drugs); sex education as an explicit federal policy goal.
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