

Global Immigration alert

January 2026

Austria

Austria increases minimum salary requirements for various categories of foreign employees

Executive summary

Effective 1 January 2026, Austria increased the minimum salary requirements for various categories of foreign employees, including EU Blue Card applicants.

Revised salary thresholds

The following individuals will be subject to the revised thresholds below:

- *EU Blue Card applicants:* An annual gross salary of EUR 55,678 (14 payments of approx. EUR 3,977 per year), up from EUR 51,506 (14 payments of approx. EUR 3,679 per year)
- *Red-White-Red Card applicants (key workers):* A monthly gross salary of EUR 3,465 (up from EUR 3,225)

The new salary thresholds do not apply to:

- Red-White-Red Card applicants (highly skilled workers), including Red-White-Red Card holders who are graduates of Austrian universities
- Third-country nationals who hold a job in a shortage occupation and either hold or apply for Short-Term Work Permits, Short-Term Secondment Permits, EU Intra-company Transferee (ICT) Permits or Red-White-Red Cards
- All individuals subject to a collective bargaining agreement

The individuals above must earn the minimum salary defined in their collective bargaining agreement, if applicable. The exact minimum amount will depend on the individual's industry, qualifications and experience.

Under Austrian regulations regarding payroll and salary, employers must:

- Pay employees the monthly salary amount 14 times per year (12 monthly payments plus two additional payments)
- Pay salaries in euros regardless of employees' payroll location and/or the prevailing exchange rate
- Ensure that employees' salaries are sufficient to provide for their family (if their dependents reside in Austria)

Posted worker notification

Under the Wage and Social Dumping Combating Act (LSD-BG), employers based in the EU, EEA or Switzerland will continue to be exempt from posted worker notification requirements in Austria if their employees earn a gross monthly salary of at least EUR 8,085 (up from EUR 7,740) prior to, and during, their posting in Austria. The revised salary threshold to be eligible for this exemption went into effect on 1 January 2026. The minimum monthly salary amount must be paid 14 times a year (12 monthly payments plus two additional payments).

Impact on employers

Employers may review and amend their policies as required to ensure compliance with the revised minimum salary amounts.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.



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EYG no. 000133-26GbI

2101-3682263
ED None

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