Paid Leave following childbirth in Austria

### History of leave policy and recent changes

- **1957**: Parental leave for employed mothers, paid for 4 months
- **1990**: Parental leave for both parents when employed, paid for 2 years if father takes half a year
- **2002**: Childcare allowance (Kinderbetreuungsgeld) for all parents for 30 months (+ additional 6 months if both parents share); until today: 2 years parental leave for both employed parents
- **2008**: Childcare allowance for 30(+6), 20(+4) and 15(+3) months
- **2010**: additional short option 12(+), additional income-based Childcare allowance for 12 months (+additional 2 months if shared)
- **2017**: flat-rate 12-35 months (higher allowance if shared at least 80/20), income-based 12-14 months (if shared), ‘family time’ for fathers

### Introducing the network on leave policies and research

The international network on leave policies and research, consists of over 60 members, all of whom are experts on leave issues and who come from 43 countries across the world. Members bring not only expertise to the network, but great commitment and enthusiasm, enabling the group to grow and flourish without any regular source of external funding and to provide a unique forum for exchange, dialogue and collaboration on issues of care, employment and gender.

Detailed Country Notes, Cross-country tables and definitions of leave policies are available at

[www.leavenetwork.org/leave-policies-research/](http://www.leavenetwork.org/leave-policies-research/)

### Recent publications


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### Definitions

#### Maternity Leave

Leave generally available to mothers only. It is usually understood to be a health and welfare measure, intended to protect the health of the mother and newborn child, to be taken just before, during and immediately after childbirth.

#### Paternity Leave

Leave generally available to fathers only. It is usually taken soon after the birth of a child, and intended to enable the father to spend time with his partner, new child and older children.

#### Parental leave

Leave available equally to mothers and fathers, either as a non-transferable individual right, an individual right that can be transferred to the other parent, or a family right that parents can divide between themselves as they choose.