341 068 new passenger car registrations in 2018; petrol cars significantly ahead of diesel; registrations of new lorries continue to increase; less registrations of two-wheelers

Vienna, 2019-01-09 – In 2018, registrations of new passenger cars decreased by 3.5% to 341 068, as Statistics Austria reports. Nevertheless, after 2017 (353 320) and 2011 (356 145), this is the third highest result ever recorded. As in previous years, registrations of new lorries documented increases, reaching a new all-time high of 47 947 (+8.7%). Two-wheelers recorded a decrease of 6.4% to 38 142.

Again more petrol-driven passenger cars, a fifth fewer diesel cars; alternative drives on the rise

Passenger car registrations (341 068) were by 12 252 lower than 2017 (353 320), but still significantly above the twenty-year average of 315 573. Petrol-driven passenger cars (share: 54.0%) reported an increase of 12.5%, those with diesel drive (share: 41.1%) faced a decline of 20.1%. The share of alternative drives – electric drive, natural gas, bivalent engine and hybrid drive – was still low with 4.9% of all new registrations or 16 807 (2017: 4.0% or 14 161) but nonetheless showed an increase of 18.7% compared to the previous year (2017: +56.9%). The number of registrations of new passenger cars with a petrol-hybrid drive – the most important engine type among the passenger cars powered by alternative fuels – increased by 2.4% to 8 353.

Newly registered private e-cars increased by one quarter

The number of newly registered electrically powered passenger cars increased by 24.4% to 6 757, the share related to all new registered passenger cars rose from 1.5% to 2.0%. Electric cars were mostly registered in Lower Austria (share: 20.5%), followed by Styria (20.0%), Upper Austria (15.7%) and Vienna (13.7%). Their registrations were predominantly undertaken by legal persons, companies and regional authorities (80.1% of new electric passenger car registrations), the share of private registrations declined from 21.4% in 2017 to currently 19.9%.

Top 10 passenger car makes represent about two thirds of new car registrations

A comparison of the ten most important passenger car makes 2018, representing about two thirds of all new car registrations, shows that VW remained market leader with a share of 16.7%, although registration numbers decreased by 3.0%. Skoda, 2016 in third place, could improve its ranking with an increase of 2.1% and a market share of 7.5%. New registrations of Ford and Opel cars declined (-4.0% and -9.7%, respectively). With a market share of 5.8%, Ford came third in the ranking and put Opel in fourth place (share 5.6%). Furthermore, only Seat (+7.0%) could increase its registration numbers, whereas Hyundai (-6.5%), Renault (-6.7%), BMW (-1.8%), Mercedes (-8.6%) and Fiat (-5.6%) reported decreases.

Decreasing one-day registrations of passenger cars in 2018

One-day registrations of passenger cars decreased by 3.7% (2017: +17.3%; 2016: -14.3%; 2015: -8.7%). The share related to new passenger car registrations in total amounted to 6.8% (2017: 6.9%). Due to early registrations associated to the new measurement method WLTP (Worldwide Harmonised Light-Duty Vehicles Test Procedure) starting with 1 September 2018, particularly the one-day registrations in August 2018 documented a significant increase (+220.3%). The number of short-term registrations of passenger cars up to seven days decreased by 0.1%, those up to 30 days and 60 days declined by 1.3% and 1.8%, respectively. Short-term registrations up to 90 days and those up to 120 days showed decreases as well (each -1.2%).
Average CO₂ emission of passenger cars reaches 126 g/km

In 2018, CO₂ emissions for newly registered passenger cars documented an average of 126 g/km (2000: 169 g/km). For petrol-powered passenger cars, the value rose from 122 g/km to 125 g/km (2000: 176 g/km). Diesel cars recorded an increase in CO₂ emissions from 125 g/km in 2017 to 129 g/km in 2018 (2000: 162 g/km).

As in the previous two years, vehicles in the most common CO₂ class 111 to 120 g/km (share: 23.2%) increased again (+6.9%). In this class, the passenger cars multiplied seven-fold from 2006 until now, whereas passenger cars in the CO₂ class above 170 g/km showed decreases by more than three quarters (-78.5%).

Lorries accomplish highest registration number ever recorded; less tractors

In 2018, registrations of new lorries developed positively (+8.7%) reaching a new high of 47 947; this value exceeds the previous peak of 2017 (44 127) by 3 820 registrations. Light commercial vehicles (lorries up to 3.5 t gross vehicle weight (gvw); cat. N1; +8.6%) as well as those above 12 t gvw (cat. N3; +11.0%) increased, whereas lorries from 3.5 t to 12 t gvw (cat. N2; -4.3%) showed decreases. Tractors used for agriculture and forestry (-19.3%) and articulated lorries (-7.9%) documented negative results, as well as buses (-9.6%).

Less registrations for two-wheelers

The number of newly registered two-wheelers showed – just as in the previous year (-6.6% compared to 2016) – an overall decrease (-6.4%) in comparison to 2017. The number of new scooters decreased by 23.7% (2017: +14.8%), while motorcycles rose by 4.7% (2017: -16.5%). The highest value was reached in 2008 with a total of 53 255 registrations.

More used motor vehicle registrations in 2018, all-time high of used diesel passenger cars

In 2018, a total of 1 069 490 used motor vehicles was registered in Austria. This represents an increase of 2.4% compared to 2017. An increase was also reported for registrations of used passenger cars (874 827; +2.5%). Used passenger cars with diesel drive (+2.5%) showed increases and reached an all-time high of 530 072 vehicles. Used cars with petrol drive (incl. flex-fuel; +2.1%) documented increases as well. On the market for commercial vehicles, lorries (+4.0%) and tractors for agriculture and forestry (+0.7%) reported increases whereas articulated lorries (-3.5%) decreased. For two-wheelers, scooters (+4.5%) showed increases, while motorcycles declined (-0.5%).

Provisional stock 2018: 6.90 million motor vehicles, thereof 4.98 million passenger cars

According to provisional figures, for the reference day 31 December 2018 the stock of motor vehicles registered in Austria amounted to about 6.90 million, by 1.8% more than in 2017. Passenger cars, the most important type of vehicle (share: 72.2%), showed an increase by 1.6% to 4.98 million vehicles. The number of tractors used for agriculture and forestry amounted to 464 428 (+0.9%), lorries recorded 476 329 vehicles in total (+4.3%) and articulated lorries increased as well (18 904; +5.8%). For two-wheelers, 534 643 motorcycles (+3.1%) and 274 394 scooters (-0.6%) were recorded.

For more detailed results and further information concerning registration statistics of new vehicles, used vehicles and the stock of vehicles, please refer to our website.

Information on methods, definitions: Motor vehicle statistics (registrations of new and used vehicles as well as the stock of vehicles) are secondary statistics, compiled on the basis of daily data files sent to Statistics Austria by Austria’s association of insurance companies (VVO). VVO, in turn, receives data by the insurances’ registrations offices, responsible for registrations, de-registrations and rectifications of motor vehicles and trailers.
Within motor vehicle statistics, all motor vehicles, once nationally or internationally registered, are levied, irrespective of the registration’s duration.