

Press release: 12.793-091/22

Austrian research intensity expected to be 3.26% in 2022

Vienna, 2022-04-22 – According to Statistics Austria's estimate, slightly above €14.1 billion will be spent on Research and Development (R&D) in Austria in 2022, which is an expected increase of 9.3% compared to 2021 and corresponds to 3.26% of the nominal gross domestic product (GDP). In 2021, the **R&D intensity** was estimated at 3.21%. A stronger increase in R&D intensity could be observed between 2019 and 2020 when it increased from 3.13% to 3.22%. This increase was, however, not due to a rise in R&D expenditures, but due to a decrease of economic performance because of the COVID-19 crisis. The nominal GDP suffered from a higher decrease than R&D expenditures. Austria's R&D intensity increased significantly in the last decades. It rose from 1.45% of the GDP in 1993 to 2.07% in 2002 and further to 2.91% in 2012 while still missing the EU target of 3%. The estimate for 2022 is subject to particular uncertainty given the unpredictability of the overall economic development due to COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine.

Half of Austrian R&D expenditure funded by businesses

In 2022, businesses will presumably fund 51% of the total Austrian R&D expenditure (€7.16 bn). R&D funding by enterprises also includes reimbursements of R&D costs via the research premium ("Forschungsprämie") which the Federal Ministry of Finance estimates at €1 billion in 2022. The government sector will fund about €4.7 bn which amounts to approx. 33% of total R&D funding. The largest share comes from the federal government (€3.9 bn). The regional governments ("Bundesländer") will contribute somewhat more than €600 million to R&D funding. €2.2 bn (16%) will be financed from abroad, mostly by enterprises whose affiliates carry out R&D in Austria.

Austrian research intensity third within the EU

Compared to other EU countries, Austria had the third highest R&D expenditure in 2020; it was only surpassed by Sweden (3.53%) and Belgium (3.48%). Only two more countries have met the European target of an R&D intensity of 3%: Germany (3.14%) and Denmark (3.03%). Finland (2.94%) and France (2.35%) are the two other countries whose R&D intensity lies above the EU average. Due to the massive economic crisis in 2020 the R&D intensity of the EU-27 increased significantly from 2.23% to 2.32%, as has happened in Austria. The EU average, however, lies considerably below the research expenditure of other areas. South Korea spent 4.63% of the gross domestic product on research, Japan 3.20%, Switzerland 3.15%, and the USA 3.05% (all 2019). In 2019, China's R&D intensity was equal to the EU-27 at 2.23%.

For more detailed results and further information concerning R&D statistics please refer to our [website](#).

Information on methods: The global estimate of gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD) is based on results from R&D surveys as well as other currently available documents and information, particularly the R&D-relevant budget appropriations and final outlays of the federal government ("Bund") and the regional governments ("Länder"), the latest macro-economic forecasts and estimates of around 150 large R&D performing enterprises on the year 2020. Expenditures on and funding for expenditures on R&D performed in Austria is presented according to the definitions of the Frascati Manual, which is valid world-wide (OECD, EU). Reimbursements from the R&D tax incentive ("research premium") are, in line with the recommendations of the Frascati Manual, considered as funding by the business enterprise sector. Data for the years 2002, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, and 2019 are results from detailed R&D surveys among R&D performing institutions, which are usually carried out every two years. Values for the remaining years are estimates based on information which was available at the time of the respective estimate.

Gross domestic expenditure on R&D in Austria from 2000 to 2022

Year	Gross domestic expenditure on R&D	
	In million €	As percentage of GDP
2000	4 028.67	1.89
2001	4 393.09	1.99
2002	4 684.31	2.07
2003	5 041.98	2.17
2004	5 249.55	2.17
2005	6 029.81	2.37
2006	6 318.59	2.36
2007	6 867.82	2.42
2008	7 548.06	2.57
2009	7 479.75	2.60
2010	8 066.44	2.73
2011	8 276.34	2.67
2012	9 287.84	2.91
2013	9 571.28	2.95
2014	10 275.18	3.08
2015	10 499.15	3.05
2016	11 145.02	3.12
2017	11 289.78	3.06
2018	11 912.00	3.09
2019	12 441.23	3.13
2020	12 199.02	3.22
2021	12 951.77	3.21
2022	14 150.56	3.26

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA. – Gross domestic expenditure on R&D until 2019 final data, from 2020 onwards preliminary data.

For further inquiries please contact Directorate Social Statistics, Statistics Austria:
Andreas SCHIEFER, Tel. +43 1 71128-7162 resp. andreas.schiefer@statistik.gv.at

Media owner, producer and publisher:
STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Federal Institution under Public Law
1110 Vienna, Austria, Guglgasse 13, Tel.: +43 1 71128-7777
presse@statistik.gv.at
© STATISTICS AUSTRIA