

Press release: 12 883-181/22

Significant increase of driving licences in 2021

In the second Corona year, more B licences were issued than at any time since digital recording began 16 years ago

Vienna, 2022-08-30 – 167 032 driving licences were issued in Austria in 2021, according to Statistics Austria. This represents an increase of 18 % and is not only considerable more than in 2020, but also an increase of 10 % compared to the time period before the start of the Corona pandemic in 2019. Significant increases were recorded for almost all driving licence classes in 2021.

91 973 persons acquired the **B class** in 2021, which represented an increase of 20 % compared to 2020 (+15 173 authorisations) and of 12 % compared to 2019 (+10 030 authorisations). This was the highest value since Statistics Austria began with the digital recording of driving licence data in 2006.

Substantial increases were observed both in the B class (18 years and older) and in the number of **L17** driving licences. The B class increased by 22 % to 61 112 driving authorisations issued compared to 2020, while L17 licences increased by 15 % to 30 861 (see Table 1). Thus, 34 % acquired the B class in the form of an L17 licence, the share was slightly lower than in 2020 (35 %), but higher than in previous years (2019: 32 %, 2011: 25 %). The share of the L17 within the B class varied depending on the **federal province** of the issuing authority. In Burgenland, more than half (54 %) already acquired the B class in 2021 as part of an L17, followed by Lower Austria (47 %) and Carinthia (44 %). In Vienna, however, the share was only 11 % and in Vorarlberg 14 % (see Table 2).

One of three 17-year-olds acquired a car license

One out of three 17-year-olds in Austria acquired the B class (L17) at this age, whereby a clear difference was registered between urban and rural areas. The highest percentages were recorded in the districts of Murau and Tamsweg (65 % each), where almost two thirds of the 17-year-olds acquired the B licence. The lowest percentages were registered in Vienna's districts (e.g. Rudolfsheim-Fünfhaus: 3 %, Donaustadt: 9 %) and Dornbirn (11 %, detailed results of the districts are available on a new map in the [STATAtlas](#)).

Significant increase in truck and motorbike classes, all-time low in bus classes

Within the driving licence classes, the **C classes** (trucks and truck trailers) recorded the highest increase with an increase of 35 % compared to 2020: With 10 963 driving licences issued for the C classes, the highest value of the past twelve years was reached. The increases were registered both for the truck class (C and C1) with +36 % and for the truck trailer class (C1E and CE) with +34 % compared to 2020. Particularly noticeable was the increasing proportion of **women** in truck driving licences, which reached a peak in 2021. One in ten C authorisations (C and C1) were obtained by women in 2021 (594 out of 5 880), which is the highest proportion since digital recording began in 2006. The proportion was 4.6 % in 2015 and 8.5 % in 2020.

The number of **A classes** (motorbike: A, A1, A2) also increased significantly in 2021 compared to 2020 (+19 %) and to 2019 (+30 %): With 23 108 driving authorisations issued for the A classes, the highest value of the past nine years was reached.

Only **bus driving authorisations** recorded a decrease to an all-time low of -18 %. In 2021, 1 072 driving licences were issued for the D classes (bus and bus trailers).

More detailed results and further tables are available on our [website](#).

Table 1: Driving authorisations issued by vehicle class 2019-2021

| Vehicle class | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | Change 2020/2021 |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| AM - Moped | 28 438 | 28 330 | 29 435 | 4 % |
| A1, A2, A - Motorcycles | 17 844 | 19 392 | 23 108 | 19 % |
| B - Passenger cars regular | 55 492 | 49 933 | 61 112 | 22 % |
| BV - Passenger cars L17 | 26 451 | 26 867 | 30 861 | 15 % |
| C1, C, C1E und CE - Trucks incl. trailer | 10 525 | 8 105 | 10 963 | 35 % |
| D1, D, D1E und DE - Buses incl. trailer | 1 532 | 1 305 | 1 072 | -18 % |
| BE - Passenger cars with trailer | 12 042 | 9 807 | 12 591 | 28 % |
| F - Tractor, motor cart etc. | 14 069 | 10 229 | 12 690 | 24 % |
| Vehicle classes total | 166 393 | 153 968 | 181 832 | 18 % |

Q: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Driver's licences and driving authorisations.

Table 2: Share of BV (L17) of overall B class by federal province of the issuing authority 2011, 2020 and 2021

| Year | Burgenland | Carinthia | Lower Austria | Upper Austria | Salzburg | Styria | Tyrol | Vorarlberg | Vienna | Austria |
|------|------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|----------|--------|-------|------------|--------|-------------|
| 2011 | 36 % | 29 % | 36 % | 29 % | 24 % | 26 % | 19 % | 8 % | 12 % | 25 % |
| 2020 | 54 % | 44 % | 48 % | 39 % | 35 % | 41 % | 28 % | 16 % | 12 % | 35 % |
| 2021 | 54 % | 44 % | 47 % | 38 % | 35 % | 42 % | 29 % | 14 % | 11 % | 34 % |

Q: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Driver's licences and driving authorisations.

Information on methods, definitions:

Driving licence register: Central IT application and database for the registration and administration of all information relevant to driving licences.

Driving licence: Document on the issue of one or more driving authorisations.

Driving authorisation: Official licence to drive vehicles on public roads. It is tied to a certain motor vehicle class.

Granting a driving licence: The prerequisite for granting a driving licence is a successfully passed theoretical and practical driver's licence test and reaching the minimum age for the respective motor vehicle class.

AM class: The AM class is only shown if it was issued alone, not in the course of grantings of other classes.

BE class: Class is only shown if it was not obtained in connection with the acquisition C1E, CE, D1E or DE.

BV (L17, driving licence for cars granted at the age of 17): Since March 1999, driving licence for class B (car) can be granted at the age of 17: After verifiably 3,000 kilometres driven with an accompanying person and a perfection drive in the driving school. The regular age for driving licences for cars is at the age of 18.

C classes: Include the authorisations to drive motor vehicles (large goods vehicles) with a total mass over 3.5t (C1: up to 7.5t; C: over 7.5t); with trailer (C1E, CE).

D classes: Include the right to drive buses for the transport of more than 8 people (D1: up to 16 people; D: more than 16 people); with trailer (D1E, DE).

F class: Includes authorisation to steer tractors, motor carts, self-propelled work machines, etc.

Population: The population stock at 01/01/2021 was used to calculate the proportion of 17-year-olds who acquired a BV-authorisation per district.

If you have any questions on this topic, please contact:

Brigitte Allex, phone: +43 1 711 28-7553 | e-mail: brigitte.allex@statistik.gv.at

Stefan Ortner, phone: +43 1 711 28-8037 | e-mail: stefan.ortner@statistik.gv.at

Media owner, producer and publisher:

STATISTICS AUSTRIA | Federal Institution under Public Law | Guglgasse 13 | 1110 Vienna | www.statistik.at

Press: phone: +43 1 711 28-7777 | e-mail: presse@statistik.gv.at

© STATISTICS AUSTRIA