

Press release: 12.963-261/22

## 3 095 high growth enterprises in 2021

**Around 10 % of these are young high growth enterprises, so-called gazelles, which are not more than five years on the market**

Vienna, 2022-12-15 – In 2021, according to preliminary data from Statistics Austria, there were 3 095 enterprises in Austria with ten or more employees and an average annual increase in the number of employees of at least 10 % within three years. Thus, the number of high growth enterprises has remained almost the same compared to 2020 (+0.7 %, 2020: 3 075). Around one tenth of these are “gazelles”.

In 2021, the largest increases in high growth enterprises compared with 2020 were in the areas human health and social work activities (+26.4 %), wholesale and retail trade (+13.2 %) and construction (+10.2 %), while significant decreases occurred in the areas water supply and waste management (-37.9 %), education (-34.0 %), mining and quarrying (-25.0 %) as well as in other service activities (-21.7 %). In these sectors, however, the number of high growth enterprises is also rather low in absolute values (see Table 1).

### **Most high growth enterprises in wholesale and retail trade and construction**

70.2 % of the high growth enterprises were located in 2021 in the services sector. Most of them in wholesale and retail trade (625), construction (528), professional, scientific and technical activities (377) and manufacturing (361). There were rather few high growth enterprises in the economic branches of mining and quarrying (3), electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (12), other service activities as well as water supply and waste management (each 18; see Table 1).

### **Many gazelles-enterprises in construction, accommodation and food service activities as well as wholesale and retail trade**

For the first time, Statistics Austria also publishes figures on young high growth enterprises, so-called gazelles, for the year 2021. These high growth enterprises, which have been active on the market for a maximum of five years, accounted for around 10 % of all high growth enterprises in 2021 (see Table 2). The largest shares of gazelles were in the areas of arts, entertainment and recreation (29.7 %), accommodation and food service activities (22.2 %) as well as administrative and support service activities (16.7 %). In absolute values, the most gazelles were in the areas of construction (54), accommodation and food service activities (42) and wholesale and retail trade (40).

### **Vienna, Lower Austria and Styria with most young high growth enterprises**

There were particularly large numbers of young high growth enterprises in 2021 in Vienna (116), Lower Austria (43) and Styria (40; see Table 3), with Vienna alone accounting 39.1 % of all gazelles-enterprises. The highest shares of gazelles in all high growth enterprises were identified in Vienna (13.7 %), in Burgenland (10.3 %) and in Vorarlberg (9.4 %). In contrast, the rates of gazelles were lowest in Salzburg (4.8 %), Upper Austria (7.6 %) and Carinthia (7.7 %).

For detailed results or further information on high growth enterprises, please refer to our [website](#).

**Table 1: High growth enterprises 2020 to 2021 by economic branches**

Section (ÖNACE 2008)		2021	2020	Change in % 2020– 2021
<b>Total</b>		<b>3 095</b>	<b>3 075</b>	<b>0.7</b>
B	Mining and quarrying	3	4	-25.0
C	Manufacturing	361	366	-1.4
D	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	12	12	0.0
E	Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	18	29	-37.9
F	Construction	528	479	10.2
<b>B–F</b>	<b>Industry and construction</b>	<b>922</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>3.6</b>
G	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	625	552	13.2
H	Transportation and storage	190	203	-6.4
I	Accommodation and food service activities	189	178	6.2
J	Information und communication	288	324	-11.1
K	Financial and insurance activities	23	24	-4.2
L	Real estate activities	52	50	4.0
M	Professional, scientific and technical activities	377	410	-8.0
N	Administrative and support service activities	228	249	-8.4
P	Education	31	47	-34.0
Q	Human health and social work activities	115	91	26.4
R	Arts, entertainment and recreation	37	34	8.8
S	Other service activities <sup>1</sup>	18	23	-21.7
<b>G–S</b>	<b>Services sector<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2 173</b>	<b>2 185</b>	<b>-0.5</b>

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Statistics on high growth enterprises 2021. Preliminary data.

1) Excl. division 94 "Activities of membership organizations".

**Table 2: Young high growth enterprises (gazelles) 2021 by economic branches**

Section (ÖNACE 2008)		Young high growth enterprises (gazelles) 2021	Share on all high growth enterprises in %
<b>Total</b>		<b>297</b>	<b>9.6</b>
B	Mining and quarrying	0	0.0
C	Manufacturing	19	5.3
D	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	1	8.3
E	Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	0	0.0
F	Construction	54	10.2
<b>B–F</b>	<b>Industry and construction</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>8.0</b>
G	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	40	6.4
H	Transportation and storage	26	13.7
I	Accommodation and food service activities	42	22.2
J	Information und communication	11	3.8
K	Financial and insurance activities	2	8.7
L	Real estate activities	5	9.6
M	Professional, scientific and technical activities	36	9.5
N	Administrative and support service activities	38	16.7
P	Education	2	6.5
Q	Human health and social work activities	10	8.7

Section (ÖNACE 2008)		Young high growth enterprises (gazelles) 2021	Share on all high growth enterprises in %
R	Arts, entertainment and recreation	11	29.7
S	Other service activities <sup>1</sup>	0	0.0
<b>G-S</b>	<b>Services sector<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>223</b>	<b>10.3</b>

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Statistics on high growth enterprises 2021. Preliminary data.

1) Excl. division 94 "Activities of membership organizations".

**Table 3: Young high growth enterprises (gazelles) 2021 by federal provinces**

Federal province	Young high growth enterprises (gazelles) 2021	Share on all high growth enterprises in %
<b>Total</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>9.6</b>
Burgenland	11	10.3
Carinthia	12	7.7
Lower Austria	43	8.8
Upper Austria	35	7.6
Salzburg	10	4.8
Styria	40	8.4
Tyrol	18	8.1
Vorarlberg	12	9.4
Vienna	116	13.7

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Statistics on high growth enterprises 2021. Preliminary data.

**Information on methodology, definitions:** The statistics on high growth enterprises are compiled on the basis of register and administrative data. High growth enterprises are those **employer enterprises** that show an average **annual growth of at least 10 %** in the number of **employees** over a three-year-period (e.g. 2018 to 2021). All employer enterprises with fewer than ten employees at the beginning of the observation period are eliminated. Similarly, enterprises that were enterprise births in the starting year (t-3) are not taken into account in the reporting year (t). The growth of an enterprise does not have to be continuous over the entire period, but is measured over the entire period. "False" growth is excluded and occurs when the increase in the number of employees of a company was primarily due to acquisitions of enterprises or mergers. Cases of "false" growth must therefore be excluded from the population of high growth enterprises.

The statistics on high growth enterprises on the **reporting year 2021** were compiled according to the **new EU requirements** as the first business demography statistics. The main changes were the switch to the new relevant statistical unit "statistical enterprise" (instead of the previous "legal unit"), an extensive harmonization with the Structural Business Statistics (SBS), and the use of the Statistical Business Register as the main data basis. In addition, as of the 2021 reporting year, **young high growth enterprises** (so-called **gazelles**) are also compiled and published. These are a sub-population of high growth enterprises with the additional restriction of a maximum age of five years.

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

Valerie Mayr-Birklbauer, phone: +43 1 711 28-7448 | e-mail: [Valerie.Mayr-Birklbauer@statistik.gv.at](mailto:Valerie.Mayr-Birklbauer@statistik.gv.at)

Hanna Freundl, phone: +43 1 711 28-7992 | e-mail: [Hanna.Freundl@statistik.gv.at](mailto:Hanna.Freundl@statistik.gv.at)

**Media owner, producer and publisher:**

STATISTICS AUSTRIA | Federal Institution under Public Law | Guglgasse 13 | 1110 Vienna | [www.statistik.at](http://www.statistik.at)

Press: phone: +43 1 711 28-7777 | e-mail: [presse@statistik.gv.at](mailto:presse@statistik.gv.at)

© STATISTICS AUSTRIA