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R&D expenditures rise to around €15.5 billion 3.22% of Austria's gross domestic product will be spent on R&D this year

Vienna, 2022-04-21 – According to Statistics Austria's estimate, €15.5 bn will be spent in Austria on research and development (R&D). This means that the research intensity, i.e. the share of R&D expenditure in nominal gross domestic product (GDP), is 3.22% this year and thus slightly higher than in the previous year.

For 2022, the research intensity was estimated at 3.20%, for 2021 at 3.17%. From 2019 to 2020 the research intensity increased from 3.13% to 3.20%, which was mostly due to a pandemic-driven decrease of the economic performance and not to an increase of R&D expenditures in Austria. Measured as a share of gross domestic product the research intensity in 2023 remains on the higher level triggered by the Covid crisis since 2020. Austria's R&D intensity increased significantly in the last decades. In 1993, it was 1.45%, in 2003 2.17% and in 2013 2.95% of gross domestic product was spent on research and development. 2014 was the first year when the EU target of 3% was reached. The estimate on 2023 is particularly subject to uncertainty given the overall unpredictability of the world economy due to the war on Ukraine and its economic impacts.

Half of Austrian R&D expenditure funded by enterprises

In 2023, Austrian enterprises are expected to fund 50% of total R&D expenditures in Austria (€7.8 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 €1.1 bn in 2022. The government sector will fund almost €5.1 bn which will amount to approximately 33% of total R&D funding. The largest share comes from the federal government (€4.2 bn). The regional governments (Bundesländer) will contribute around €630 million Euro to R&D funding. €2.6 bn (17 %) will be financed from abroad, often by enterprises whose affiliates carry out R&D in Austria.

Austria had third highest research intensity within the EU

In a European comparison, which is currently available for the year 2021, Austria had the third highest R&D intensity, only surpassed by Sweden (3.35%) and Belgium (3.22%). One more country met the European target of an R&D intensity of 3%, namely Germany (3.13%); Finland is just below (2.99%). The EU average, however, lies considerably below this self-imposed target (2.26%). Compared to other economic areas research expenditures in the EU are still significantly lower. In 2020, South Korea spent 4.80% of the gross domestic product on research, the USA 3.42%, Japan 3.26% and Switzerland 3.15% (2019). China's R&D intensity 2020 amounted to 2.40% and was therefore also higher than in the EU-27.

For detailed results and further information please refer to our [website](#).

Gross domestic expenditures on R&D and research intensity in Austria 1993 to 2023

Year	Gross domestic expenditures on R&D in million Euro	Gross domestic expenditures on R&D as % of GDP
1993	2 303.31	1.45
1998	3 399.84	1.73
2002	4 684.31	2.07
2004	5 249.55	2.17
2006	6 318.59	2.36
2007	6 867.82	2.42
2009	7 479.75	2.60
2011	8 276.34	2.67
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	3.20
2021	12 879.54	3.17
2022	14 313.09	3.20
2023	15 454.95	3.22

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Gross domestic expenditures on R&D: Final figures until 2019, from 2020 estimated values.

Information on methodology, definitions: 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), preliminary trends of the R&D survey 2021, estimates of large R&D firms on their R&D expenditures in 2022, and the latest macro-economic forecasts. Expenditures on and funding for expenditures on R&D performed in Austria is presented according to the definitions of the Frascati Manual of the OECD, which is valid world-wide. 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 1993, 1998, 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.

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

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