

Press release: 13 144-172/23

Fewer driving licences issued in 2022

Substantial decline in B-class-licences, highest value for L17

Vienna, 2023-08-30 – 154 974 driving licences were issued in Austria in 2022, according to Statistics Austria. That is 7% fewer than in 2021, but still more than in the years before the pandemic (2019: 151 477 driving licences). A sharp decline was recorded for the “regular” B class (–15%), but there was an increase in L17 driving authorisations, as well as for C and D classes.

The “regular” acquiring of the passenger car class (B, 18 years and older) declined significantly in 2022: 51 819 B class driving licences were issued. This represents a drop of 15% or 9 293 driving authorisations compared to 2021 and is the second lowest result since digital records began in 2006. The lowest value was recorded in 2020 with 49 933 driving authorisations (see table 1).

In contrast, the trend towards the L17 driving licence (class BV, driving licence for cars granted at the age of 17) continues. The number of L17 licences increased slightly in 2022 compared to 2021 (30 916, +0.2%), rising to the highest level since 2006. Thus, 37% of new car licence holders already acquired the B class in the form of an L17 driving licence in 2022, compared with only 26% 10 years ago (see table 2). The share of the L17 licences within the B class varied greatly depending on the province of the issuing authority. In Burgenland, 57% already acquired the B-class as part of an L17 in 2022, followed by Lower Austria (50%) and Carinthia (48%). In contrast, the share was only 12% in Vienna and 17% in Vorarlberg.

By districts, the highest shares were registered in Zwettl (Lower Austria) and Hartberg-Fürstenfeld (Styria): Almost two-thirds (64%) of all 17-year-olds acquired an L17 driving authorisation (detailed district results can be found on an interactive [STATatlas map](#)).

31% of all 15-year-olds take moped driving licence

The number of moped (AM) driving licences acquired decreased by 5% to 27 876 compared to 2021. This is the lowest number since this class was introduced in 2013. In 2022, 31% of all 15-year-olds acquired the AM class, with the highest proportion in Styria (43%) and the lowest in Vienna (2%).

Increase in truck and bus classes, decrease in motorcycle licences

An increase of 4% was recorded for C classes (trucks and truck trailers) in 2022 compared to 2021: With 11 359 driving authorisations issued, this was the highest figure in the past twelve years. At 10%, the share of women in truck driving authorisations (C and C1) was the second highest since 2006. Similarly, an increase was registered in D classes (buses and bus trailers): In 2022, 1 419 driving authorisations were issued for D classes, an increase of 32% compared to the previous year (2021: 1 072).

In contrast, the number of A classes (motorcycle: A, A1, A2) decreased in 2022. With 21 315 driving authorisations for A classes, 8% fewer were issued than in 2021, but still significantly more (+22%) than in the years before the pandemic (average 2017–2019: 17 427 driving authorisations per year).

More detailed results are available on our [website](#) or in the report [„Statistik im Fokus – Führerscheine und Lenkberechtigungen 2022“](#) (available in German only).

Table 1: Driving authorisations issued by vehicle class 2019–2022

Vehicle class	2019	2020	2021	2022	Change 2021/2022 in %
AM – Moped	28 438	28 330	29 435	27 876	–5.3
A1, A2, A – Motorcycles	17 844	19 392	23 108	21 315	–7.8
B – Passenger cars regular	55 492	49 933	61 112	51 819	–15.2
BV – Passenger cars L17	26 451	26 867	30 861	30 916	0.2
C1, C, C1E und CE – Trucks incl. trailer	10 525	8 105	10 963	11 359	3.6
D1, D, D1E und DE – Buses incl. trailer	1 532	1 305	1 072	1 419	32.4
BE – Passenger cars with trailer	12 042	9 807	12 591	12 250	–2.7
F – Tractor, motor cart etc.	14 069	10 229	12 690	12 381	–2.4
Vehicle class total	166 393	153 968	181 832	169 335	–6.9

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Driving licences and driving authorisations.

Table 2: Share of BV (L17) of overall B class by federal province of the issuing authority 2012, 2021 and 2022

Year	Burgenland	Carinthia	Lower Austria	Upper Austria	Salzburg	Styria	Tyrol	Vorarlberg	Vienna	Austria
2012	38%	33%	37%	30%	25%	27%	20%	9%	12%	26%
2021	54%	44%	47%	38%	35%	42%	29%	14%	11%	34%
2022	57%	48%	50%	43%	40%	45%	33%	17%	12%	37%

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Driving 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 of C1E, CE, D1E or DE.

BV (L17, driving licence for cars granted at the age of 17): Since March 1999, a 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 3.5 t (C1: up to 7.5 t; C: over 7.5 t); 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 1 January 2022 was used to calculate the proportion of 17-year-olds who acquired a BV-authorisation per district. The same stock was used for the calculation of the share of 15-year-olds acquiring an AM driving authorisation.

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Media owner, producer and publisher:

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