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Number of cars slightly increased in 2023

More cars with electric and hybrid drives on Austria's roads; car density unchanged at 566 cars per 1 000 inhabitants

Vienna, 2024-02-22 – According to Statistics Austria, 5.19 million passenger cars were registered in Austria as of 31 December 2023. This is 0.7% or 34 116 passenger cars more than in 2022. The level of motorisation remained constant year-on-year with 566 passenger cars per 1 000 inhabitants. The total number of motor vehicles increased by 1.0% to 7.34 million.

“More than five million cars were registered in Austria at the end of 2023, 0.7% more than in 2022; most of them diesel and petrol cars. However, the proportion of combustion engines has been declining for years in favour of cars with alternative drive systems. We see major regional differences in car density: the highest was in Burgenland with 683 cars per 1 000 inhabitants, the lowest in urban areas, particularly in Vienna. Here, the car density is only about half as high as in Burgenland”, says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

Increase in hybrid and electric drives, diesel and petrol passenger cars continue to decline

The number of diesel-powered passenger cars decreased by 2.5% to 2.58 million (2022: -2.4%), that of petrol-powered cars (incl. flex-fuel) remained almost unchanged but showed a slight decrease as well (-0.3%; 2.19 million, 2022: -0.1%). Electric passenger cars (BEV – Battery Electric Vehicle) recorded an increase of 41.1% with 155 490 vehicles (2022: +44.0%). Passenger cars with combined operation (hybrid) also increased (petrol/electric: +31.8%; diesel/electric: +34.2%), as did passenger cars with hydrogen drive (fuel cell; +8.1%). Declines were observed for natural gas passenger cars (petrol/natural gas bivalent -6.8%, natural gas monovalent -8.7%; see table 2).

As in the previous year, the share of diesel-powered passenger cars in the total passenger car population of the respective federal provinces was highest in Carinthia and Upper Austria (52.6% and 52.3%; 2022: 54.0% and 53.8%, respectively), while Vorarlberg registered the highest number of petrol-powered passenger cars (45.3%) and electric passenger cars (4.0%). Vienna had the highest share of hybrid cars (7.2%) and was also at the top of the Austrian rankings in terms of absolute numbers (52 268 cars).

Car density highest in Burgenland, lowest in Vienna

Despite a significant increase in the number of new registrations (+11.2%), the population has grown exactly to the extent (+0.6%, preliminary population figures as of 1 January 2024) that the overall level of motorisation remained unchanged year-on-year. As of 31 December 2023, there were 566 cars per 1 000 inhabitants. Burgenland had the highest number of passenger cars per 1 000 inhabitants (683 per 1 000 inhabitants), followed by Lower Austria (657), Carinthia (656), Upper Austria (641), Styria (622) and Salzburg (569). The federal provinces of Tyrol (548), Vorarlberg (540) and Vienna (364) were below the Austrian average.

Lower Austria recorded the highest number of passenger cars (1 132 215; share: 21.8%), followed by Upper Austria (980 342; share: 18.9%), Styria (789 289; share: 15.2%) and Vienna (730 947; share: 14.1%). Increases between +0.5% and +0.8% were observed in all federal provinces.

Burgenland, with 206 200 passenger cars (share: 4.0%), had the smallest stock, but together with the federal province of Upper Austria showed the highest proportional increase (+0.8%). The smallest increase in the number of passenger cars was observed in Styria (+0.5%).

VW remains Austria's most common car make; Tesla leads the way in electric cars

The top ten passenger car makes had a share of 68.9%. VW remained the most common car make in Austria with a share of 19.9%, ahead of Audi (7.6%), BMW and Skoda (each 6.7%), Mercedes (5.8%), Ford (5.6%), Opel (5.0%), Seat (4.4%), Renault (3.9%) and Peugeot (3.2%).

Compared to the previous year, Skoda (+4.2%), BMW (+3.1%), Mercedes and Seat (each +1.9%), as well as Audi (+0.6%) recorded increases. Declines were observed for Peugeot (-3.5%), Opel (-3.2%), Ford (-1.2%), Renault (-0.9%) and VW (-0.1%).

Among electric passenger cars, the five most common makes were Tesla (27 004; share: 17.4%), VW (22 137; share: 14.2%), BMW (14 963; share: 9.6%), Renault (13 513; share: 8.7%) and Hyundai (8 459; share: 5.4%).

Growth in commercial vehicles and two-wheelers

Among commercial vehicles, 507 996 lorries class N1 (lorries; up to 3.5 t maximum permissible weight) were registered (+1.9%), 488 990 tractors used for agriculture and forestry (tractors and two-axle mowers) (+0.9%), 45 357 class N3 lorries (over 12 t maximum permissible weight; +0.3%), 20 170 articulated lorries (-0.4%) and 9 428 class N2 lorries (over 3.5 t up to 12 t maximum permissible weight; -2.7%). An increase of 6.7% to 42 307 was observed for motor caravans (see table 1).

Among single-track vehicles, which increased by 2.1% overall, 633 481 motorcycles (+3.2%), 274 270 mopeds (-0.5%) and 3 305 small motorcycles (+4.4%) were admitted to traffic.

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

Table 1: Motor vehicle stock

Vehicle type	2023	% share	2022	% share	% change vs. 2022
Passenger cars category M1	5 185 006	70,6	5 150 890	70,9	0,7
Motorcycles category L3e	636 786	8,7	617 188	8,5	3,2
Mopeds category L1e	274 270	3,7	275 523	3,8	-0,5
Lorries category N1	507 996	6,9	498 325	6,9	1,9
Lorries category N2	9 428	0,1	9 690	0,1	-2,7
Lorries category N3	45 357	0,6	45 234	0,6	0,3
Tractors (agricul., forestry)	488 990	6,7	484 506	6,7	0,9
Articulated lorries	20 170	0,3	20 247	0,3	-0,4
Motor caravans	42 307	0,6	39 638	0,5	6,7
Other motor vehicles	129 840	1,8	128 173	1,8	1,3
Total motor vehicles	7 340 150	100,0	7 269 414	100,0	1,0

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Motor vehicle statistics. – Rounding differences not balanced.

Table 2: Stock of passenger cars by fuel type or power source

Fuel type or power source	2023	% share	2022	% share	% change vs. 2022
Petrol incl. flex-fuel	2 188 368	42,2	2 194 125	42,6	-0,3
Diesel	2 584 985	49,9	2 651 280	51,5	-2,5
Electric	155 490	3,0	110 225	2,1	41,1
Petrol/electric (hybrid)	195 439	3,8	148 284	2,9	31,8
Diesel/electric (hybrid)	55 543	1,1	41 402	0,8	34,2
Other alternative drives	5 181	0,1	5 574	0,1	-7,1
Total passenger cars	5 185 006	100,0	5 150 890	100,0	0,7
Petrol and diesel cars	4 773 353	92,1	4 845 405	94,1	-1,5
Cars with alternative drives	411 653	7,9	305 485	5,9	34,8

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Motor vehicle statistics. – Rounding differences not balanced.

Information on methodology, definitions: Motor vehicle stock statistics is a secondary statistic, compiled on the basis of data files sent to Statistics Austria by Austria's association of insurance companies (VVO). VVO, in turn, receives data by the insurances' registrations offices, responsible for registrations, de-registrations and rectifications of motor vehicles and trailers. Based on the motor vehicle stock of the previous year, all registered vehicles of the year – old and new – are added and de-registrations are deducted, resulting in the annual stock.

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