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Slightly more newly founded enterprises in 2022

87.9% of overall 36 294 new enterprises in the services sector

Vienna, 2024-06-28 – According to Statistics Austria, 36 294 new enterprises were founded in Austria in 2022. Measured against the total number of enterprises active on the market, this corresponds to an enterprise birth rate of 6.2%. Compared to the previous year, the enterprise birth rate rose thus by 0.2 percentage points (2021: 6.0%). More than a third (38.8%) of the enterprises founded five years earlier (2017) were still active in 2022.

“In 2022, 36 294 new enterprises were founded in Austria, which is around 900 or 2.6% more than in the year of the corona crisis 2021. This corresponds to a share of new enterprises in the total number of enterprises active on the market of 6.2%. This means that the enterprise birth rate is roughly at the pre-pandemic level of 2019 at 6.3%. At just under 88%, the majority of new enterprises in 2022, as in previous years, were founded in the services sector, especially in trade. We see the highest five-year survival rate among enterprises in industry and construction, more than one in two was still active five years after its foundation” says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

On average, 1.3 jobs were created per newly founded enterprise in 2022 (see table 1). More jobs per new enterprise were created in industry and construction (1.6 persons employed) than in the services sector (1.3 persons employed). The vast majority of new enterprises were of a sole proprietorship (74.6%) and without employees (78.5%).

Most new enterprises in wholesale and retail trade

87.9% of the new enterprises were founded in the services sector, most of them in wholesale and retail trade (5 364), in professional, scientific and technical activities (5 002) and in human health and social work activities (3 834). The highest enterprise birth rates were recorded in education (9.6%), administrative and support service activities (8.7%) and other service activities (8.6%), followed by the economic branches electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (7.9%) and transportation and storage (7.8%). The lowest shares of newly created enterprises were in water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (1.4%), mining and quarrying (3.3%) as well as in financial and insurance activities (3.6%; see table 1).

More than one third of new enterprises still active on the market after five years

The survival rates of a cohort of newly founded enterprises are declining year by year: 85.6% of new enterprises in 2017 were still active one year later, compared to 38.8% five years later. At 54.3%, the five-year survival rate from 2017 to 2022 was significantly higher in industry and construction than in the services sector (37.0%). By economic branch, five-year survival rates were highest in mining and quarrying (71.4%), real estate activities (68.5%), water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (63.8%), electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (60.6%) and in manufacturing (55.9%; see table 2).

For detailed results or further information on the statistics on general business demography, please refer to our [website](#).

Table 1: Enterprise birth rates and persons employed per enterprise birth 2022 by economic branches

Section (ÖNACE 2008 ¹)		Enter- prise births	Enterprise birth rate in %	Persons em- ployed per enter- prise birth
Total		36 294	6.2	1.3
B	Mining and quarrying	11	3.3	1.7
C	Manufacturing	1 613	5.1	1.3
D	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	314	7.9	1.1
E	Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	40	1.4	1.2
F	Construction	2 408	5.8	1.8
B– F	Industry and construction	4 386	5.5	1.6
G	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	5 364	5.8	1.3
H	Transportation and storage	1 240	7.8	1.8
I	Accommodation and food service activities	2 540	5.4	2.1
J	Information and communication	2 186	7.3	1.1
K	Financial and insurance activities	461	3.6	1.1
L	Real estate activities	1 556	6.7	0.7
M	Professional, scientific and technical activities	5 002	5.5	1.1
N	Administrative and support service activities	2 188	8.7	1.9
P	Education	2 047	9.6	1.0
Q	Human health and social work activities	3 834	5.1	1.1
R	Arts, entertainment and recreation	1 881	6.8	1.1
S	Other service activities ²	3 609	8.6	1.1
G– S	Services sector²	31 908	6.3	1.3

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Business demography statistics 2022.

1) ÖNACE: Austrian classification of economic activities. – 2) Without division 94 – Activities of membership organisations.

Table 2: Survival rates of newly created enterprises in 2017 that survived until 2022 by economic branches

Section (ÖNACE 2008 ¹)		Five-year survival rate in % of enterprises created in 2017
Total		38.8
B	Mining and quarrying	71.4
C	Manufacturing	55.9
D	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	60.6
E	Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	63.8
F	Construction	53.0
B–F	Industry and construction	54.3
G	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	44.5
H	Transportation and storage	37.4
I	Accommodation and food service activities	39.6
J	Information and communication	46.9
K	Financial and insurance activities	36.5
L	Real estate activities	68.5
M	Professional, scientific and technical activities	48.7
N	Administrative and support service activities	40.3
P	Education	42.0
Q	Human health and social work activities	15.8
R	Arts, entertainment and recreation	41.1
S	Other service activities ²	44.3
G–S	Services sector²	37.0

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Business demography statistics 2022.

1) ÖNACE: Austrian classification of economic activities. – 2) Without division 94 – Activities of membership organisations.

Information on methodology, definitions: Business demography statistics are compiled on the basis of administrative data and the business registers of Statistics Austria. The database is adjusted for false enterprise births (creations) and false deaths (closures). A **real enterprise birth** (creation) occurs when only one enterprise is involved and a combination of production factors – especially employment – is created. The enterprise is established from scratch, so to speak. Mergers, break-ups or restructurings for example are no real births; nor is a pure change of economic activity, legal form or location regarded as a new enterprise. If a dormant unit is reactivated within two years, this does not count as a real birth. The definition of an enterprise death (closure) is similar. The **enterprise birth rate** is calculated as the share of new enterprises in the total number of enterprises active on the market.

With reference year **2021** there was a changeover in the business demography statistics to meet the requirements of **Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 on European business statistics (EBS Regulation)**. The main methodological changes were the switch to the **statistical enterprise** as the new unit of measurement, full **harmonisation** with the structural business statistics, minor changes in coverage, and an **adjusted method** for calculating the **annual average of employment** according to EU requirements. In addition, the conceptual changes in the data basis led to a break in the time series for the survival of newly created enterprises and thus to lower survival rates.

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