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Slightly more driving licences issued in 2023

Decline in B class licences, highest value for L17

Vienna, 2024-08-23 – According to Statistics Austria, 156 090 driving licences were issued in Austria in 2023. This represents an increase of 1% compared to the previous year (2022: 154 974), as well as an increase of 3% compared to the years before the pandemic (2019: 151 477). “Regular” B class licences declined again and reached their lowest level since digital records began in 2006. In contrast, there was an increase in L17, the motorcycle and bus classes.

“Fewer driving licences in the regular passenger car category are being acquired: In 2023, 49 834 people from the age of 18 received a B driving licence, this is the lowest level since the start of digital records in 2006. In contrast, the trend towards the L17 driving licence continues. With a total of 31 369 L17 driving licenses, a new all-time-high was recorded”, says Tobias Thomas, Director General of Statistics Austria.

New **L17 authorisations** (category BV, early driving licence for cars from the age of 17) increased slightly in 2023 compared to 2022 (31 369, +1%) and thus rose to the highest level since 2006. 39% of new car drivers obtained the B category in the form of an L17 driving licence in 2023, compared to only 29% 10 years ago. The proportion of women obtaining an L17 licence has also increased in recent years and reached 47% in 2023 (2013: 45%).

One in three 17-year-olds acquired an L17 driving licence

Almost a third of all 17-year-olds living in Austria obtained a car driving licence via L17 in 2023 (32%). This proportion was therefore slightly below the previous year (2022: 33%). Sharp differences were recorded at **federal province level**: The highest figure was recorded in Burgenland, where every second 17-year-old (49%) acquired the L17 licence, followed by Styria and Lower Austria with 43% each. Vienna had the lowest figure with 8% of all 17-year-olds. At **district level**, the highest percentages were recorded in the Styrian district of Murau (71%) and in Zwettl in Lower Austria (70%), where seven out of ten 17-year-olds obtained the L17 licence.

Considerable increases in motorcycle and bus classes

The **A classes** for motorcycles recorded an increase of 8% in 2023 compared to 2022, with a total of 22 932 A driving authorisations (A, A1, A2) being issued (see table). This is the third-highest figure since 2006. An increase was also recorded for the **D classes**, i.e. buses and bus trailers: 31% more D driving authorisations were issued in 2023 compared to the previous year (2023: 1 854, 2022: 1 419), the highest figure in the past 15 years.

For detailed results and further information please refer to our [website](#). An interactive map can be found in the web application [STATatlas](#).

Driving authorisations issued by vehicle class 2019–2023

Vehicle class	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change 2022/2023 in %
AM – Moped	28 438	28 330	29 435	27 876	28 100	0.8
A1, A2, A – Motorcycles	17 844	19 392	23 108	21 315	22 932	7.6
B – Passenger cars regular	55 492	49 933	61 112	51 819	49 834	-3.8
BV – Passenger cars L17	26 451	26 867	30 861	30 916	31 369	1.5
C1, C, C1E und CE – Trucks incl. trailer	10 525	8 105	10 963	11 359	10 997	-3.2
D1, D, D1E und DE – Buses incl. trailer	1 532	1 305	1 072	1 419	1 854	30.7
BE – Passenger cars with trailer up to 3.5 t	12 042	9 807	12 591	12 250	12 310	0.5
F – Tractor, motor cart etc.	14 069	10 229	12 690	12 381	12 576	1.6
Vehicle class total	166 393	153 968	181 832	169 335	169 972	0.4

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 8 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 2023 was used to calculate the proportion of 17-year-olds who acquired a BV-authorisation per district.

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