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2022 again more new employer enterprises

83.6% of new employers in the services sector

Vienna, 2024-08-29 – According to Statistics Austria, 18 861 new employer enterprises were established in Austria in 2022 – including both enterprises that already had employees at the time of foundation, as well as those that only became employers for the first time this year. This is around 11%, respectively 17%, more than in the years of the corona crisis 2021 and 2020. Measured against the total number of active employer enterprises in 2022, the enterprise creation rate was 7.5% and thus higher than in the two previous years. At the same time, 19 402 employer enterprises disappeared from the market in 2022; the enterprise closing rate was 7.8%.

On average, each new employer enterprise in 2022 created 2.2 jobs (see table 1). Most new employer enterprises (5 091 or 27.0%) were founded in Vienna. Lower Austria (15.8%) and Upper Austria (13.3%) ranked second and third. With 9.1%, Vienna also recorded the highest enterprise creation rate (see table 2). The most common legal form of all new employer enterprises was the sole proprietorship (58.2%), and nearly all new employer enterprises (95.5%) had between one and four employees in the year of birth.

Wholesale and retail trade with most new employer enterprises

Around 84% of the new employer enterprises in 2022 were located in the services sector. By economic branches, most newly-created employer enterprises were found in the sectors wholesale and retail trade (3 381), accommodation and food service activities (2 532), professional, scientific and technical activities (2 456) and in construction (2 108). The highest employer enterprise creation rates were found in administrative and support service activities (11.0%), followed by real estate activities on a par with transportation and storage (10.3% each), as well as in information and communication (10.1%). The lowest shares of newly founded employer enterprises were recorded in the economic branches of water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (2.1%), mining and quarrying (2.6%) and manufacturing (4.9%, see table 1).

Knowledge- and research-intensive enterprise births most frequently without employees

44.6% or 16 201 of the total of 36 294 new enterprises in Austria in 2022 were knowledge- and research-intensive companies. The vast majority of these (89.6%) had no employees and therefore did not belong to the employer enterprises. 9.6% of knowledge- and research-intensive enterprise births had one to four employees in the year of their creation; 0.6% had five to nine employees and 0.3% had ten or more employees (see table 3).

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

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

Section (ÖNACE 2008 ¹)	Employer enterprise births	Enterprise birth rate in %	Persons employed per employer enterprise birth
Total	18 861	7.5	2.2
B Mining and quarrying	6	2.6	2.3
C Manufacturing	914	4.9	2.1
D Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	50	5.1	1.8
E Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	24	2.1	1.9
F Construction	2 108	7.5	2.4
B–F Industry and construction	3 102	6.3	2.3
G Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	3 381	6.7	2.0
H Transportation and storage	1 070	10.3	2.4
I Accommodation and food service activities	2 532	7.1	2.6
J Information and communication	982	10.1	1.8
K Financial and insurance activities	301	5.8	1.7
L Real estate activities	965	10.3	1.4
M Professional, scientific and technical activities	2 456	7.9	1.8
N Administrative and support service activities	1 309	11.0	2.9
P Education	270	8.1	1.7
Q Human health and social work activities	1 111	5.7	2.4
R Arts, entertainment and recreation	402	9.2	1.8
S Other service activities ²	980	9.9	1.9
G–S Services sector²	15 759	7.8	2.1

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Employer business demography 2022.

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

Table 2: Employer enterprise births and enterprise birth rates 2022 by federal provinces

Federal province	Employer enterprise births	Enterprise birth rate in %
Total	18 861	7.5
Burgenland	573	7.3
Carinthia	1 237	7.4
Lower Austria	2 988	7.2
Upper Austria	2 508	6.9
Salzburg	1 423	7.1
Styria	2 453	7.4
Tyrol	1 732	6.6
Vorarlberg	856	7.3
Vienna	5 091	9.1

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Employer business demography 2022.

Table 3: Knowledge- and research-intensive enterprise births 2017 to 2022 by employee size classes

Employee size class	Knowledge- and research-intensive enterprise births					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total	21 677	21 050	18 206	15 770	16 113	16 201
0 employees	19 954	19 475	16 725	14 729	14 563	14 512
1–4 employees	1 363	1 275	1 134	788	1 462	1 549
5–9 employees	242	199	252	174	60	99
10 and more employees	118	101	95	79	28	41

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Business demography statistics 2022.

The following economic activities of ÖNACE 2008 are included: sections J, K, M and O to R, divisions 19 to 30, 33, 50, 51, 78 and 80 as well as groups 18.2 and 32.5. – From 2021, due to EU requirements, companies will be assigned to the size category “1–4 employees” even if the annual average of employees is rounded to zero.

Information on methodology, definitions: Employer business demography statistics are compiled on the basis of administrative data and the business registers of Statistics Austria. The database is adjusted for false employer enterprise births (creations) and false employer enterprise deaths (closures).

A **real employer enterprise birth** (creation) occurs when only one enterprise is involved and a combination of production factors – especially employment – is created. **Two types** of employer enterprise births can be distinguished: a) an enterprise is newly founded in year t and **already had at least one employee in the year of birth**; b) an enterprise already exists before year t, was not an employer enterprise in the preceding two years but **has at least one employee in year t for the first time**. The number of employer enterprise births is the **sum of these two entrepreneurial populations**. Mergers, break-ups or restructurings for example are no real employer births; nor is a pure change of economic activity, legal form or location regarded as a new employer enterprise, even if new jobs are created.

The definition of an employer enterprise death (closure) is similar. Accordingly, a **real employer enterprise closure** is given if a) an enterprise with at least one employee is closed; b) an enterprise has employees for the last time at time t.

The employer **enterprise birth rate** is calculated as the share of new employer enterprises in the total number of employer enterprises active on the market.

Knowledge- and research-intensive enterprise births are defined on the basis of Eurostat's high-technology and knowledge-based services aggregations. Included are thus activities according to sections J, K, M and O to R, divisions C 19 to C 30, C 33, H 50, H 51, N 78 and N 80 as well as groups C 18.2 and C 32.5 of ÖNACE 2008. The analysis is based on the statistics of general business demography.

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.

Further enquiries:

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