

Press release: 13 600-093/25

# Number of bankruptcies remains high in Q1

## Around 5% more bankruptcies than in the first quarter of 2024

Vienna, 2025-05-08 – According to preliminary figures from Statistics Austria, 1 798 bankruptcies were recorded in Austria in the first quarter of 2025. Compared with the first three months of 2024, this represents an increase of around 5%. Registrations of legal units fell by around 6% to 16 963 in the same period.

“The ongoing recession caused the number of bankruptcies to rise again in the first quarter of 2025, starting from a high level. There were a total of 1 798 bankruptcies at the start of 2025. This is around 5% more than in the previous quarter and the bankruptcy figures also rose by around 5% compared to the first three months of the previous year. Once again, the service sector, the construction industry and the retail sector were the hardest hit,” says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

### Service sector, construction and trade with the most bankruptcies

By economic sector, financial services/other services (516), construction and wholesale and retail trade (299 each), as well as accommodation and food service activities (217), showed the highest **bankruptcy** figures in the first quarter of 2025, with the number of bankruptcies generally highly depending on the number of active enterprises in the individual economic branch. Rather few bankruptcies were recorded in the sectors information and communication (51) and manufacturing (97, see table 1).

### Service sector with highest numbers of registrations

In the same period (January to March 2025) 16 963 **registrations** of legal units were recorded, most of them in financial services/other services (5 474), personal services (3 536) and wholesale and retail trade (3 313). The lowest numbers of registrations were recorded in transportation and storage (638), accommodation and food service activities (950) and in the construction sector (989; see table 2). In contrast to the formation of an enterprise, the registration of a legal unit is part of an administrative procedure and is to be understood as a declaration of intent. It does not always mean that economic activity will actually be taken up. Nevertheless, registrations are an important early indicator of economic development.

For detailed results and further information on the quarterly statistics on registrations and bankruptcies please refer to our [website](#).

**Table 1: Bankruptcies until Q1 2025 by aggregated economic branches, preliminary**

ÖNACE <sup>1</sup> 2008		2023	2024 <sup>2</sup>	Change in % 2023/2024 <sup>2</sup>	Q1 2024	Q1 2025 <sup>2</sup>	Change in % Q1 2024/Q1 2025 <sup>2</sup>
B–E	Manufacturing	306	414	35.3	100	97	-3.0
F	Construction	942	1 102	17.0	337	299	-11.3
G	Wholesale and retail trade	922	1 081	17.2	285	299	4.9
H	Transportation and storage	427	500	17.1	134	137	2.2
I	Accommodation and food service activities	729	860	18.0	234	217	-7.3
J	Information und communication	196	239	21.9	63	51	-19.0
K–N	Financial services/ other services	1 281	1 695	32.3	398	516	29.6
P–S	Personal services (without S94 <sup>3</sup> )	507	647	27.6	158	182	15.2
<b>Total</b>		<b>5 310</b>	<b>6 538</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>1 709</b>	<b>1 798</b>	<b>5.2</b>

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Statistics on bankruptcies.

1) ÖNACE: Austrian classification of economic activities. The version currently in use is ÖNACE 2008. –2) Preliminary data for Q2 2024 until Q1 2025 – 3) S94: Interest groups and associations.

**Table 2: Registrations until Q1 2025 by aggregated economic branches, preliminary**

ÖNACE <sup>1</sup> 2008		2023	2024 <sup>2</sup>	Change in % 2023/2024 <sup>2</sup>	Q1 2024	Q1 2025 <sup>2</sup>	Change in % Q1 2024/Q1 2025 <sup>2</sup>
B–E	Manufacturing	3 841	3 598	-6.3	1 024	1 013	-1.1
F	Construction	3 666	3 229	-11.9	1 006	989	-1.7
G	Wholesale and retail trade	11 201	11 495	2.6	3 350	3 313	-1.1
H	Transportation and storage	2 558	2 723	6.5	730	638	-12.6
I	Accommodation and food service activities	3 703	3 795	2.5	1 006	950	-5.6
J	Information und communication	3 316	3 369	1.6	973	1 050	7.9
K–N	Financial services/ other services	20 583	20 700	0.6	5 846	5 474	-6.4
P–S	Personal services (without S94 <sup>3</sup> )	15 988	14 730	-7.9	4 160	3 536	-15.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>64 856</b>	<b>63 639</b>	<b>-1.9</b>	<b>18 095</b>	<b>16 963</b>	<b>-6.3</b>

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Statistics on registrations.

1) ÖNACE: Austrian classification of economic activities. The version currently in use is ÖNACE 2008. –2) Preliminary data for Q2 2024 until Q1 2025 – 3) S94: Interest groups and associations.

**Information on methodology, definitions:** From the first quarter of 2021 onwards, Statistics Austria is obliged to compile quarterly data on registrations of legal units and on bankruptcies. The data are produced since reference year 2019 and published by aggregated economic activities (ÖNACE 2008) 40 days after the end of the respective reporting quarter. All market economy activities in sections B to S (without section O and division S94) of ÖNACE 2008 are recorded. For units for which ÖNACE is not available, the subject allocation of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (WKÖ) is used as a data source, or an estimate is made using an ÖNACE distribution based on the new entries in the statistical business register (URS).

A **registration** is the recording of a legal unit in the business register for administrative purposes (URV) under certain premises. In addition to the URV, the statistical business register represents a central database for the data on registrations. In contrast to an enterprise birth, the registration of a legal unit is part of an administrative procedure and is to be understood as a declaration of intent. It does not necessarily mean that an economic activity in the sense of turnover or employment will actually be taken up.

The data on **bankruptcies** are based on the judicial bankruptcy proceedings; the main source is the Judicial edict file of the Federal Ministry of Justice. Bankruptcies are not synonymous with enterprise deaths (the enterprises concerned can also continue their activities under certain conditions), but are an early indicator to measure the situation of an economy. In the event of an actual enterprise closure, all activities of the enterprise must be terminated.

**Notes:** The data on registrations and bankruptcies for the **last four quarters** of the report are shown as **provisional** and are revised when a new quarter is published.

In Austria, there are comparable bankruptcy figures for instance from the KSV1870. Although the data source used is identical, there are slight deviations from the figures published by Statistics Austria. Causes include different coverage areas or reference times for the analysis or the assignment of the units to economic branches according to ÖNACE 2008.

**Statistics Austria** is the central organisation for official data and statistics on society, the economy, the state and the environment. As a national statistical institute, it is committed to the statutory principles of independence, impartiality and objectivity. Statistics Austria is headed by Tobias Thomas, Director General Statistics, and Franz Haslauer, Director General Finance.

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