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More than 4 000 enterprises in Austria are considered as high growing

5 % less high growth enterprises in 2024 than the year before

Vienna, 2025-12-18 – According to preliminary data from Statistics Austria, 4 070 enterprises in Austria with 10 or more employees grew particularly fast. This means that the number of their employees increased by an average of at least 10% annually between 2021 and 2024. Compared to the previous year (2023: 4 278), the number of these high growth enterprises declined by about 5%.

“In 2024, 4 070 enterprises in Austria were considered to be high growing, as the number of their employees had increased by an average of at least 10% annually within three years. This represents a decrease of approximately 5% in high growth enterprises compared to 2023. We are seeing slight increases in the arts, entertainment and recreation sector, as well as in transport, due to catch-up effects in employment figures after the coronavirus crisis,” says Manuela Lenk, Director General Statistics at Statistics Austria.

Highest number of growth enterprises in accommodation and food service activities

More than 80% (3 391) of the high growth enterprises in 2024 were in the services sector, especially in accommodation and food service activities (1 176) and wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (526). There were also many high growth enterprises in the areas of professional, scientific and technical activities (388) and construction (335, see table 1).

In 2024, the largest percentage increases of high growth enterprises compared to the previous year were found in the sectors electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (+55.6%), financial and insurance activities (+25.9%), arts, entertainment and recreation (+17.2%), transportation and storage (+14.3%) as well as accommodation and food service activities (+11.3%). In contrast, there were fewer high growth enterprises in construction (–28.3%), manufacturing (–23.6%) and education (–19.7%, see table 1).

The highest numbers of so-called “gazelles”, young high growth enterprises that have been on the market for a maximum of 5 years, were registered in accommodation and food service activities (40), administrative and support service activities (37) and construction (32).

Most high growth enterprises in Vienna, Tyrol and Upper Austria

There were particularly large numbers of high growth enterprises in 2024 in Vienna (1 185), Tyrol (526), Upper Austria (518) and Lower Austria (492; see table 2). In Vienna alone, more than one quarter (29.1%) of all high growth enterprises are located. The fewest high growth enterprises were reported in Burgenland (99), Vorarlberg (190) and Carinthia (210). Compared to 2023, the number of high growth enterprises increased most significantly in Salzburg (+9.2%), whereas it declined most strongly in Styria (–18.8%).

For detailed results and further information on high growth enterprises please refer to our [website](#).

Table 1: High growth enterprises 2024–2023 and “gazelles” 2024 by economic branches

Section (ÖNACE ¹ 2008)		High growth enterprises 2024	High growth enterprises 2023	Change of high growth enterprises 2023–2024 in %	“Gazelles” (young high growth enterprises) 2024
Total		4 070	4 278	-4.9	215
B	Mining and quarrying	2	0	–	0
C	Manufacturing	311	407	-23.6	18
D	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	14	9	55.6	1
E	Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	17	18	-5.6	1
F	Construction	335	467	-28.3	32
B–F	Industry and construction	679	901	-24.6	52
G	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	526	585	-10.1	25
H	Transportation and storage	296	259	14.3	15
I	Accommodation and food service activities	1 176	1 057	11.3	40
J	Information and communication	276	267	3.4	12
K	Financial and insurance activities	34	27	25.9	3
L	Real estate activities	50	57	-12.3	1
M	Professional, scientific and technical activities	388	432	-10.2	20
N	Administrative and support service activities	313	350	-10.6	37
P	Education	57	71	-19.7	1
Q	Human health and social work activities	141	152	-7.2	6
R	Arts, entertainment and recreation	102	87	17.2	3
S	Other service activities ²	32	33	-3.0	0
G–S	Services sector²	3 391	3 377	0.4	163

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Statistics on high growth enterprises. – 2024: preliminary data.

1) ÖNACE: Austrian classification of economic activities. The version currently in use is ÖNACE 2008 – 2) Without division 94 “Activities of membership organisations”.

Table 2: High growth enterprises 2024 and 2023 by federal provinces

Federal province	2024	2023	2023–2024 change in %
Total	4 070	4 278	-4.9
Burgenland	99	107	-7.5
Carinthia	210	203	3.4
Lower Austria	492	570	-13.7
Upper	518	608	-14.8

Federal province	2024	2023	2023–2024 change in %
Austria			
Salzburg	426	390	9.2
Styria	424	522	-18.8
Tyrol	526	520	1.2
Vorarlberg	190	187	1.6
Vienna	1 185	1 171	1.2

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Statistics on high growth enterprises. – 2024: preliminary data.

Information on methodology, definitions:

The statistics on **high growth enterprises** are compiled on the basis of register and administrative data. High growth enterprises are those **employer enterprises** that show an **average annual growth of at least 10%** in the number of **employees** over a three-year-period (e.g. 2020 to 2023). All employer enterprises with fewer than ten employees at the beginning of the observation period are eliminated. Similarly, enterprises that were enterprise births in the starting year of the observation (t-3) are not taken into account in the reporting year (t). The growth of an enterprise does not have to be continuous over the entire period but is measured over the period in total. Cases of “false” growth are removed from the population of high growth enterprises. “False” growth occurs when the increase in the number of employees of a company was primarily due to acquisitions of enterprises or mergers.

As of the 2021 reporting year, **young high growth enterprises** (so-called **gazelles**) are also compiled and published. These are a sub-population of high growth enterprises with the additional restriction of a maximum age of five years.

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 Manuela Lenk, Director General Statistics, and Franz Haslauer, Director General Finance.

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