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Environmental industry generated €60 bn in 2024

Around 231 100 people employed in Austria's environmental industry

Vienna, 2025-05-27 – In 2024, the Austrian environmental industry employed 231 100 people and generated an output of €60.1 billion (bn), of which €18.1 bn came from exports. As data from Statistics Austria on the environmental goods and services sector (EGSS) further shows, the gross value added of the environmental industry – that is, the value of production minus intermediate inputs – amounted to €23.7 bn in 2024.

"The environmental sector in Austria saw a slight decline in 2024, starting from a high base. Overall, it generated €60.1 billion, which is 4.6% less than in 2023. The number of people employed fell by around 3 900, or 1.7%, to 231 100. Nevertheless, both the value of production and the number of people employed in the environmental industry reached their second-highest levels since records began in 2008, surpassed only by the record figures of 2023," says Manuela Lenk, Director General Statistics at Statistics Austria.

As in previous years, the most important environmental domain was **management of energy resources,** mainly consisting of activities in the subdomains energy from renewable sources and energy saving and management. At €31.1 bn, the management of energy resources accounted for more than half (51.8%) of the total production value of the environmental industry in 2024. Although the production value of this domain has risen significantly since 2008 (2008: €17.0 bn, 2024: €31.1 bn), it fell by around 7.8% in 2024 compared with the previous year (2023: €33.8 bn). This was primarily due to price developments in renewable energy. The gross value added of the management of energy resources amounted to €11.6 bn, accounting for 48.8% of the total environmental gross value added. Exports stood at €10.1 bn, or 56.0% of total environmental exports.

The **subdomain energy from renewable sources** (see table) consists of activities like the production of renewable energy and heat, the production and installation of renewable energy technologies as well as biofuels. In 2024, it recorded a production value of €19.9 bn (2023: €22.1 bn) and gross value added of €7.5 bn (2023: €8.3 bn). The **subdomain energy saving and management** comprises, among others, the production of low energy buildings and insulation materials, energy consulting and thermal rehabilitation of buildings. In this subdomain, the production value amounted to €11.2 bn in 2024 (2023: €11.6 bn), while gross value added reached €4.0 bn (2023: €4.1 bn).

Among the other environmental domains, materials recovery and savings achieved a production value of €5.5 bn in 2024, followed by air and climate at €4.3 bn, protection of soil, surface and groundwater at €3.9 bn, waste management at €3.7 bn and wastewater management at €2.8 bn.

Around 231 100 people employed in the environmental industry

A total of around 231 100 people were employed in the environmental industry in 2024 (2023: 235 000), including 94 500 in the management of energy resources (40.9% of environmental employees in total), 38 300 in the protection of soil, surface and groundwater and 18 300 in air and climate. If public transport is also taken into account, 258 100 people were employed in the Austrian environmental industry.

Environmental goods and services sector 2024

	Environmental output	Environmental gross value added	Environmental exports	Environmental employees
	million €	million €	million €	persons
Environmental goods and services sector in total	**60 100**	**23 700**	**18 100**	**231 100**
including e.g.				
Air and climate	4 300	1 500	2 700	18 300
Wastewater management	2 800	1 200	300	7 600
Waste management	3 700	1 200	700	11 600
Materials recovery and savings	5 500	1 900	1 800	14 800
Protection of soil, surface and groundwater	3 900	1 900	500	38 300
Management of energy resources	31 100	11 600	10 100	94 500
of which: Energy from renewable sources	19 900	7 500	5 900	58 700
of which: Energy saving and management	11 200	4 000	4 300	35 800

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Environmental Accounts. – Values are rounded; rounding differences have not been adjusted.

For more detailed information and further information concerning the Austrian environmental industry please refer to our website.

Information on methodology, definitions: According to the definition by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, the environmental goods and services sector summarises goods, technologies and services that measure, control, restore, prevent, treat, minimise and research environmental damages to air, water and soil as well as problems related to waste, noise, biodiversity and landscapes. This includes cleaner technologies, goods and services that prevent or minimise pollution. In addition, it includes resource-efficient goods, technologies and services that help to avoid resource depletion or at least to reduce it.

Public transport is explicitly excluded from the Eurostat definition. However, since it is more environmentally friendly than private transport, the employees are reported as additional information.

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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