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More new enterprises founded in Austria in 2024

89.1% of overall 39 554 new enterprises founded in the services sector

Vienna, 2026-06-30 – 39 554 new enterprises were founded in Austria in 2024, as Statistics Austria reports. These were around 5% more than in 2023. However, the enterprise birth rate, i.e. the proportion of newly founded enterprises in relation to the total number of enterprises active on the market, remained nearly unchanged compared to the previous year at 6.3%. More than one third (36.4%) of the enterprises founded 5 years earlier (2019) were still active in 2024.

“Foundation activity in Austria remains high. 39 554 new enterprises were established in 2024, an increase of around 5% compared with 2023. The share of new enterprises in the total number of enterprises therefore amounts to 6.3%. As in previous years, nearly 90% of new enterprises were founded in the services sector, particularly in trade. The highest survival rate is observed among enterprises in the industry and construction, where more than one in two was still active 5 years after its foundation,” says Manuela Lenk, Director General Statistics at Statistics Austria.

On average, 1.2 jobs were created per newly founded enterprise in 2024 (see table 1). More jobs per new enterprise were created in industry and construction (1.4 persons employed) than in the services sector (1.2 persons employed). The majority of new enterprises were without employees (82.5%).

Most new enterprises in wholesale and retail trade and in professional, scientific and technical activities

89.1% of the new enterprises were founded in the services sector, most of them in wholesale and retail trade (6 280), in professional, scientific and technical activities (5 991) and in other service activities (3 843). The highest enterprise birth rates were recorded in administrative and support service activities (10.0%), education (9.3%), transportation and storage (9.2%), other service activities (8.8%) as well as in information and communication (8.0%). The lowest shares of newly created enterprises were in water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (1.3%), mining and quarrying (1.5%) as well as in financial and insurance activities (3.7%; see table 1).

More than one third of new enterprises still active on the market after 5 years

The survival rates of a cohort of newly founded enterprises are declining year by year: 83.3% of enterprises newly created in 2019 were still active 1 year later compared to 36.4% 5 years later. At 54.3%, the 5-year survival rate from 2019 to 2024 was significantly higher in the industry and construction sector than in the services sector (34.2%). By economic branch, 5-year survival rates were highest in water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (65.7%), real estate activities (62.2%), electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (59.5%), construction (54.4%), manufacturing (53.0%) and in mining and quarrying (50.0%; see table 2).

Table 1: Enterprise birth rates and persons employed per enterprise birth 2024 by economic branches

Section (ÖNACE[1] 2008)	Enterprise births	Enterprise birth rate in %	Persons employed[3] per enterprise birth
Total	**39 554**	**6.3**	**1.2**
B Mining and quarrying	5	1.5	0.6
C Manufacturing	1 827	5.3	1.2
D Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	380	7.5	0.9
E Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	36	1.3	1.1
F Construction	2 076	4.8	1.6
B–F Industry and construction	**4 324**	**5.0**	**1.4**
G Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	6 280	6.7	1.2
H Transportation and storage	1 581	9.2	1.6
I Accommodation and food service activities	2 460	5.1	2.1
J Information and communication	2 657	8.0	1.1
K Financial and insurance activities	493	3.7	1.0
L Real estate activities	1 278	5.0	0.6
M Professional, scientific and technical activities	5 991	6.0	1.1
N Administrative and support service activities	2 824	10.0	1.4
P Education	2 253	9.3	1.0
Q Human health and social work activities	3 480	4.1	1.1
R Arts, entertainment and recreation	2 090	6.6	1.1
S Other service activities[2]	3 843	8.8	1.1
G–Services sector[2]	**35 230**	**6.5**	**1.2**

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Business demography statistics 2024.
1) ÖNACE: Austrian classification of economic activities. – 2) Excluding division S94 – Activities of membership organisations). – 3) Including self-employed persons.

Table 2: Survival rates of newly created enterprises in 2019 that survived until 2024 by economic branches

Section (ÖNACE[1] 2008)	Five-year survival rate in % of enterprises created in 2019
Total	**36.4**
B Mining and quarrying	50.0
C Manufacturing	53.0
D Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	59.5
E Water supply; sewerage, waste management and re-mediation activities	65.7
F Construction	54.4
B–F Industry and construction	**54.3**
G Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	40.9
H Transportation and storage	36.5
I Accommodation and food service activities	40.8
J Information and communication	46.1
K Financial and insurance activities	32.8
L Real estate activities	62.2
M Professional, scientific and technical activities	44.7
N Administrative and support service activities	35.8
P Education	28.6
Q Human health and social work activities	10.3
R Arts, entertainment and recreation	37.8
S Other service activities[2]	42.0
G–Services sector[2]	**34.2**

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Business demography statistics 2024.
1) ÖNACE: Austrian classification of economic activities. – 2) Excluding division S94 – Activities of membership organisations.

For detailed results and further information on statistics on business demography please refer to our web-site.

Information on methodology, definitions: Business demography statistics are compiled on the basis of administrative data and the business registers of Statistics Austria. The database is adjusted for false enterprise births (creations) and false deaths (closures). A **real enterprise birth** (creation) occurs when only one enterprise is involved and a combination of production factors – especially employment – is created. The enterprise is established from scratch, so to speak. Mergers, break-ups or restructurings for example are no real births; nor is a pure change of economic activity, legal form or location regarded as a new enterprise. If a dormant unit is reactivated within two years, this does not count as a real birth. The definition of an enterprise death (closure) is similar. The **enterprise birth rate** is calculated as the share of new enterprises in the total number of enterprises active on the market.

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. In addition, the conceptual changes in the data basis led to a break in the time series for the survival of newly created enterprises and thus to lower survival rates.

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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