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Fewer bankruptcies in Q2 2026 in Austria

3% fewer bankruptcies than a year ago and around 4% fewer than in the first quarter of 2026

Vienna, 2026-08-07 – According to preliminary figures from Statistics Austria, the number of bankruptcies in Austria decreased by 3% to 1 668 in the second quarter of 2026 compared to the period April to June 2025. Compared to the previous quarter, January to March 2026, bankruptcies fell by 4.1%.

“In the second quarter of 2026, the number of bankruptcies in Austria declined by 4.1% compared with the first quarter of the year, falling to 1 668. Compared to the second quarter of the previous year, we also see a decline of 3%. As in previous quarters, the majority of bankruptcies occurred in the services sector, in wholesale and retail trade and in construction. Overall, the number of bankruptcies in the first half of the year fell by around 3% to 3 407 compared with the first half of 2025 ,” says Manuela Lenk, Director General Statistics at Statistics Austria.

Services sector, wholesale and retail trade and construction most affected by bankruptcies

By sector, financial services/other services (489), wholesale and retail trade (262), construction (260) as well as accommodation and food service activities (246) showed the most bankruptcies in the second quarter of 2026, with the number of bankruptcies generally also highly depending on the number of active enterprises in the individual economic branch (for active enterprises in 2024, see the highlights table on our website). Comparatively few bankruptcies were recorded in the sectors information and communication (61) and manufacturing (94, see table 1).

Most registrations in service sector

In the second quarter of 2026, 15 533 registrations of legal units were recorded. This is 11.1% less than in the second quarter of 2025 (17 477). 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.

The highest number of registrations in the second quarter of 2026 was recorded in financial services/other services (4 786), personal services (3 167) and wholesale and retail trade (2 707). There were rather few registrations in transportation and storage (636), manufacturing (797) and construction (902; see table 2).

Table 1: Bankruptcies until Q2 2026 by aggregated economic branches, preliminary

ÖNACE[1] 2008	1st half-year 2025	1st half-year 2026[2]	Change in % 1st half-year 2025/ 1st half-year 2026[2]	Q2 2025	Q2 2026[2]	Change in % Q2 2025/Q2 2026[2]
B–E Manufacturing	213	180	−15.5	103	94	−8.7
F Construction	565	560	−0.9	272	260	−4.4
G Wholesale and retail trade	565	539	−4.6	265	262	−1.1
H Transportation and storage	267	256	−4.1	139	122	−12.2
I Accommodation and food service activities	467	501	7.3	247	246	−0.4
J Information and communication	102	113	10.8	48	61	27.1
K–N Financial services/other services	1 042	975	−6.4	514	489	−4.9
P–S Personal services (without S94[3])	284	283	−0.4	132	134	1.5
Total	**3 505**	**3 407**	**−2.8**	**1 720**	**1 668**	**−3.0**

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 Q3 2025 until Q2 2026 – 3) S94: Interest groups and associations.

Table 2: Registrations until Q2 2026 by aggregated economic branches, preliminary

ÖNACE[1] 2008	1st half-year 2025	1st half-year 2026[2]	Change in % 1st half-year 2025/ 1st half-year 2026[2]	Q2 2025	Q2 2026[2]	Change in % Q2 2025/Q2 2026[2]
B–E Manufacturing	1 866	1 866	0.0	917	797	−13.1
F Construction	1 946	1 888	−3.0	941	902	−4.1
G Wholesale and retail trade	6 534	6 081	−6.9	2 987	2 707	−9.4
H Transportation and storage	1 382	1 418	2.6	680	636	−6.5
I Accommodation and food service activities	2 143	2 124	−0.9	1 107	1 067	−3.6
J Information and communication	2 359	3 123	32.4	1 119	1 471	31.5
K–N Financial services/other services	13 299	11 492	−13.6	6 188	4 786	−22.7
P–S Personal services (without S94[3])	7 425	6 773	−8.8	3 538	3 167	−10.5
Total	**36 954**	**34 765**	**−5.9**	**17 477**	**15 533**	**−11.1**

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 Q3 2025 until Q2 2026 – 3) S94: Interest groups and associations.

For detailed results and further information please refer to our website.

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 data for

bankruptcies is estimated based on an ÖNACE distribution derived from new entries in the statistical business register (SBR). For registrations, in addition the subject allocation of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (WKÖ) is used as the initial source for assigning an ÖNACE code. Any remaining missing ÖNACE codes are estimated—just as with bankruptcies—based on the distribution of new entries in the SBR.

What is the registration of a legal unit?

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.

What is the difference between bankruptcy and a enterprise closure?

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.

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.

Notes: The data on registrations and bankruptcies for the last **4 quarters** of the report are shown as **provisional** and are revised when a new quarter is published.

Who is Statistics Austria?

Statistics Austria is the central organisation for official data and statistics on society, the economy, the state and the environment in Austria. 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 Statis-tics, and Franz Haslauer, Director General Finance.

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