Press release: 14 252-171/26

More car and motorcycle driving licences issued in Austria again in 2025

Highest value for L17 licences

Vienna, 2026-08-26 – According to Statistics Austria, 168 437 driver's licences were issued in Austria in 2025. This represents a 6% increase compared to 2024 (159 242) and is also the highest figure since 2013. A key contributor to this increase was the substantial rise in the number of licences issued for passenger cars and motorcycles.

"The number of new driving licences issued in Austria rose for the third consecutive year in 2025, reaching 168 437 – the highest level since 2013. There was a particularly sharp increase in the number of car and motorcycle licences. In 2025, 9% more standard car driving licences were issued to people aged 18 and over than in 2024, while the number of early-age driving licences for cars issued to those aged 17 rose by 6% to around 33 300. This is the highest figure since digital records began in 2006. Motorcycle licences rose by 5% to roughly 25 700," says Manuela Lenk, Director General Statistics of Statistics Austria.

Strong increase in class B licences; new all-time-high in L17 licences

In 2025, the number of people obtaining a B **driving licence for passenger cars** rose again (regular B licences and L17). A total of more than 90 000 licences were issued, an increase of 8% or about 6 800 compared to 2024 (see table 2). This is the second-highest figure since 2013. Growth was recorded for both regular B licences and L17. The latter reached a new high with approximately 33 300 licences issued, the highest number since digital records began in 2006. Consequently, more than one in three new B licences (37%) was obtained through the L17 program.

Large regional differences in L17 popularity

In 2025, 35% of all 17-year-olds residing in Austria obtained a **L17 early-age passenger car driving licence** (2024: 32%). While in Burgenland, more than half of all 17-year-olds (56%) already obtained an L17 licence, in Vienna the figure was at just 9%, meaning fewer than one in ten. As in 2024, the district with the highest L17 rate was Zwettl in Lower Austria at 77%, followed by Hartberg-Fürstenfeld in Styria at 75%. The lowest proportion was recorded in Vienna's sixth district, Mariahilf, at 5%. There were also differences by gender in the L17 proportion. While 37% of 17-year-old men obtained an L17 licence, the figure for 17-year-old women was 33%.

Number of motorcycle licences at all-time high; decline in bus licences

With 25 712 **motorcycle licences** (A, A1, and A2) issued in 2025, a new record high since 2006 was recorded. Compared to the previous year, this represents a 5% increase. Among the individual A-class categories, A1 recorded the strongest increase, with a plus of 10% compared to 2024. Within the age groups, particularly remarkable growth was recorded among those aged 40 to 49 (+13%).

Bus driver's licences (D classes) saw a sharp decline of 24% compared to the peak year of 2024, dropping to 1 256. Despite this sharp decline, 2025 still marked the third-highest figure in the past 10 years.

Table 1: Driving licences issued by federal province of issuing authority 2021 to 2025

Federal province of issuing authority	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Change 2024/25 in %
Burgenland	6 018	5 822	6 028	5 800	6 216	7
Carinthia	11 881	11 145	11 508	11 686	12 094	3
Lower Austria	32 952	31 171	31 886	32 158	34 041	6
Upper Austria	32 869	30 664	30 900	30 897	32 278	4
Salzburg	11 276	10 172	10 119	10 629	10 861	2
Styria	25 109	24 290	24 169	24 893	26 312	6
Tyrol	16 336	14 968	14 799	15 140	16 039	6
Vorarlberg	7 682	6 661	7 021	7 218	7 644	6
Vienna	22 907	20 080	19 660	20 818	22 952	10
Not classifiable	2	1	-	3	-	−100
Austria	**167 032**	**154 974**	**156 090**	**159 242**	**168 437**	**6**

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Driving licences and driving authorisations.

Table 2: Driving authorisations acquired by class of vehicle 2021 to 2025

Vehicle class	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Change 2024/25 in %
AM – Mopeds	29 435	27 876	28 100	27 962	29 151	4
A – Motorcycles total	23 108	21 315	22 932	24 376	25 712	5
A1	3 238	3 211	3 450	3 752	4 123	10
A2	7 715	7 057	7 638	8 165	8 542	5
A	12 155	11 047	11 844	12 459	13 047	5
B – Passenger cars total	91 973	82 735	81 203	83 382	90 171	8
B – Passenger cars regular	61 112	51 819	49 834	51 938	56 847	9
BV – Passenger cars (L17)	30 861	30 916	31 369	31 444	33 324	6
BE – Passenger cars with trailer	12 591	12 250	12 310	11 726	12 435	6
C1 and C – Trucks	5 880	6 083	5 894	5 581	5 490	−2
C1E and CE – Trucks with trailer	5 083	5 276	5 103	4 748	4 726	0
D1 and D – Buses	743	1 030	1 382	1 652	1 256	−24
D1E and DE – Buses with trailer	329	389	472	537	433	−19
F – Tractors, motor carts, etc.	12 690	12 381	12 576	12 315	12 362	0
Total driving authorisations acquired	**181 832**	**169 335**	**169 972**	**172 279**	**181 736**	**5**

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Driving licences and driving authorisations.

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

Information on methodology, definitions:

Driving licence register: Central IT application and database for the registration and administration of all information relevant to driving licences.

Driving licence: Document on the issue of one or more driving authorisations.

Driving authorisation: Official licence to drive vehicles on public roads. It is tied to a certain motor vehicle class.

Granting a driving licence: The prerequisite for granting a driving licence is a successfully passed theoretical and practical driver's licence test and reaching the minimum age for the respective motor vehicle class.

AM class: In 2013, the moped permit was replaced by the driving licence class AM which entitles the holder to drive motorcycles and four-wheeled light motor vehicles. A direct comparison of the total number of driving licences with the results prior to 2013 is therefore not possible. The AM class is only shown if it was issued alone, not in the course of grantings of other classes.

BE class: Class is only shown if it was not obtained in connection with the acquisition of C1E, CE, D1E or DE.

BV (L17, driving licence for cars granted at the age of 17): Since March 1999, a driving licence for class B (car) can be granted at the age of 17, after verifiably 3 000 kilometres driven with an accompanying person and a perfection drive in the driving school. The regular age for driving licences for cars is at the age of 18.

C classes: Include the authorisations to drive motor vehicles (large goods vehicles) with a total mass over 3.5t (C1: up to 7.5t; C: over 7.5t); with trailer (C1E, CE).

D classes: Include the right to drive buses for the transport of more than 8 people (D1: up to 16 people; D: more than 8 people); with trailer (D1E, DE).

F class: Includes authorisation to steer tractors, motor carts, self-propelled work machines, etc.

Population: The population stock at 1 January 2025 was used to calculate the proportion of 17-year-olds who acquired a BV authorisation per district.

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 Statistics, and Franz Haslauer, Director General Finance.

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