

Standard-documentation Meta information

(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

Statistics on Business demography

This documentation is valid from the reference period:
2013 (recalculation back to 2007)

Status: **06.11.2017**



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Executive Summary

Statistics on business demography are based on secondary data and include data on births of enterprises, their survival, on deaths of enterprises, on active enterprises, and on the corresponding employment data. In Austria, statistics on **business demography in total** and on **employer business demography** are published since 2008. Since 2011 data on so-called **“high growth enterprises”** and their employment and since 2015 data on **knowledge and research-intensive enterprise births** are released.

The results are basis for analyses of births, survival and deaths of enterprises by economic activity, legal form, employee size class, gender (for sole proprietors), regional breakdown (provinces, NUTS3) and turnover tax classes. The focus of both, the business demography and employer business demography statistic, lies on enterprise births and deaths. Only real births and deaths are counted: A real enterprise birth (death) occurs if only one enterprise is involved, a combination of production factors – in particular employment – is created (dissolved). If a dormant unit is reactivated within two years, this also does not count as a real birth. No declaration is therefore made about reorganisation (i.e., break-ups, mergers and take-overs) or succession.

Business demography statistics play a key role by forming a basis for **political decisions** and analyses. Another aspect of particular interest is the relevance of new enterprises in stimulating the economy by creating new jobs. But the statistics also deliver information on lost jobs when enterprises are closed. The development of employment in surviving enterprises is also examined. Business demography therefore concentrates on the **dynamic developments**; changes due to new enterprises or enterprises that disappear are shown. For the calculation of survival the development of a cohort of enterprise births (i.e. enterprises that were all created in the same year) in the following year(s) is analysed and up to five-year-survival rates are derived.

In the context of statistics on business demography one distinguishes **two different concepts**:

1. Business demography in total: The population of this statistics contains all active enterprises, irrespective of whether it has employees or not. An enterprise birth is defined as an enterprise that has turnover and/or employment for the first time.
2. Employer business demography: Only enterprises with at least one employee are counted as active. Employer enterprise births are all enterprises that became employers for the first time (irrespective of whether it already existed without employees before or not).

Further business demography statistics are:

3. Statistics on high-growth enterprises: The population contains employer enterprises which have an average annual increase of the number of their employees of at least 10% over a three-year-period. Enterprises not having at least 10 employees at the beginning of the observation period (t-3) and those that were newly born are excluded of the calculation.
4. Statistics on knowledge and research-intensive enterprise births (based on business demography in total): The delineation of knowledge and research-intensive enterprise births is made according to the [„High-technology and knowledge based services aggregations“](#) of Eurostat. The following economic activities of ÖNACE 2008 are therefore included: Sections J, K, M and O to R, Divisions C 19 to C 30, C 33, H 50, H 51, N 78 and N 80 as well as groups C 18.2 and C 32.5.

Until reference year 2012 business demography statistics were based on secondary data with model-based estimates. Since reporting year 2013 a revised method to produce business demography statistics is applied. The data were recalculated with the new method back to reference year 2007. The most important change is that smaller enterprises are included as well because there is no turnover threshold anymore. The main sources for business demography are the two business registers of Statistics Austria (business register for administrative purposes and business register for statistical purposes). Further administrative data (e.g. tax data or data from the Main Association of Austrian Social Security Institutions) and additional data sources deliver missing characteristics. The results of these methodological adjustments were on the one hand register-based business demography statistics without model-based estimates, and on the other hand more extensive data. Also small and very small enterprises with a turnover less than 10.000 Euro are considered. Moreover, a comparison of micro-data between business demography and other business statistics, e.g. with Structural Business Statistics, was enabled.

Final **results** are published 18 months (business demography in total), 20 months (employer business demography and knowledge and research-intensive enterprise births) resp. 12 months (statistics on high-growth enterprises) after the end of the reference year. The numbers of enterprise births, active enterprises and surviving enterprises are provisional for the most recent reporting year, the number of enterprise deaths and for high-growth enterprises for the last two reporting years.

This standard-documentation refers to business demography since reference year 2013 (implementation of the new method). Information on business demography until reference year 2012 can be found in this [former version \(German only\)](#).

Statistics on Business Demography - Main features	
Subject Matter	Enterprise births, survival of newly born enterprises and enterprise deaths (incl. employment), high-growth enterprises (incl. employment), knowledge and research-intensive enterprise births
Population	<i>Business demography in total: Enterprises (legal units)</i> , with main activity in ÖNACE-2008-sections B to S (without groups 64.2 „Activities of holding companies“ and 64.3 „Trusts and funds“, nor section O „Public Administration“) that had either turnover or employment at any time during the reference period (2015: 547 276 enterprises) <i>Employer business demography: Enterprises with at least one employee</i> (2015: 239 940 employer enterprises)
Type of statistics	Statistics based on secondary data
Data sources/Survey techniques	Register- and administrative data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Business registers (business register for administrative purposes and business register for statistical purposes) - Tax data (tax register, value added tax (VAT), income tax) - Main Association of Austrian Social Security Institutions (employer- and employee-related data) - Company Register and Economic Chamber
Reference period or due day	Calendar year Remark: The statistics covers all enterprises that were active at any time of the year (no due day)
Periodicity	Annual
Survey participation (in case of a survey)	-
Main legal acts	<u>EU:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structural business statistics Regulation, Annex IX: Regulation (EG) Nr. 295/2008 (recast) • Implementing Regulation as regards the definitions of characteristics (NACE Rev. 2): Regulation (EG) Nr. 250/2009 • Implementing and amending Regulation (EG) Nr. 295/2008: Regulation (EG) Nr. 251/2009 • Implementing Regulation as regards the criteria for the evaluation of the quality in structural business statistics: Regulation (EU) Nr. 275/2010 • Regulation on the transmission of data subject to statistical confidentiality: Regulation (EG) Nr. 223/2009 <u>national:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bundesstatistikgesetz 2000 • Unternehmensdemografie-Statistikverordnung: BGBl. II Nr. 270/2009 • Novelle Unternehmensdemografie-Statistikverordnung: BGBl. II Nr. 191/2015
Most detailed regional breakdown	NUTS3
Availability of results	Business demography in total: t+18 mth. Employer business demography: t+20 mth. Knowledge and research-intensive enterprise births: t+20 mth. High-growth enterprises: t+12 mth.
Other	Enterprise births, surviving and active enterprises: results of the latest reference year are preliminary High-growth enterprises and enterprise deaths: results of the last two reference years are preliminary