

Press release: 12.564-155/21

**Building permits reach record level in the first quarter of 2021; high residential construction activity in 2020**

**Vienna**, 2021-07-12 – In the **first quarter of 2021** around **19 300 apartments** were approved for construction, 21% or 3 400 units more than in the previous year. This was the **highest result of all reference quarters since 2005** and exceeded previous peak values from 2019 and 2017 by three and five percent (around 600 and 900 absolute).

The building permits for the **entire year 2020** – around **77 500 apartments** without additions, construction or renovation activities in Vienna – came in **third place after 2017 and 2019**: Compared to the average of the almost equally high number of permits in 2017 (83 430) and 2019 (83 113) the minus was around seven percent each.

This result or the **development** over time is **characterized** by the **large-volume of residential construction**. While the corresponding share of the respective total residential construction output was still around half on average in the years 2011 to 2015, it rose to 58% in the period 2016 to 2020. From a regional point of view, the federal capital is gaining importance because in contrast to the other federal states, construction activity here is largely concentrated on multi-storey residential construction. In the period from 2011 to 2015 mentioned above, 27% of all apartments in larger residential buildings in the federal capital were approved. In the period from 2016 to 2020 this increased to 39%.

The share of units in new single and two-family houses in Austria was a little more than a quarter in 2020. Only 1% of the entities were in new, mostly non-private residential buildings. Apart from Vienna, the apartments approved in existing buildings through additions, construction or renovation activities accounted for around 19% of all permits.

For more detailed information please refer to the [German website](#).

**Information on methods, definitions:** The figures come from a data extraction from June 15, 2021 from the Building and Dwelling Register, which is subject to mandatory maintenance by the building authorities of the 1st instance (municipalities, partly also district authorities). However, no results are currently available for the federal capital Vienna within the reporting on the extension, construction and renovation activities. In order to improve the data quality, the results are estimated with a view to reporting delays. The figures are therefore subject to regular revisions, which are normally carried out with the publication of the fourth quarter.

For further inquiries please contact Directorate Social Statistics, Statistics Austria:  
Kurt VOLLMANN, Tel. +43 1 71128-7329 resp. [kurt.vollmann@statistik.gv.at](mailto:kurt.vollmann@statistik.gv.at)

Media owner, producer and publisher:  
STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Federal Institution under Public Law  
1110 Vienna, Austria, Guglgasse 13, Tel.: +43 1 71128-7777  
[presse@statistik.gv.at](mailto:presse@statistik.gv.at)  
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