

Facts & Figures: Life Sciences in Austria

Diversity and strong networking have always characterized the Austrian life sciences community. Top researchers and “serial entrepreneurs” work side by side, whereas companies and intellectual property come together via idea portals. Clusters and competence centers with regional priorities promote the lively collaboration between science and business, university-level and non-university research. Companies and start-ups in the therapeutic, medical technology and diagnostic sectors and providers of key technologies create a dynamic environment for research.

Every second biotech company is located in the hot spot of Vienna, also home to the Campus Vienna Biocenter, one of the leading biomedical research centers in Central and Eastern Europe. The focal points of the research being conducted include oncology, neurology, vaccines and immunology as well as precision medicine and e-health.

Life Sciences in Austria: key figures

- Employees: 51,660
- Companies: 823
- Revenue: EUR 19.11 billion
- Research institutions: 55
- Employees in research institutions: 19,830
- ERC grants: 180 grants in 10 years

Source: aws Life Sciences Report Austria 2015

Clusters, networks and competence centers

- Vienna: LISA Vienna, 434 companies
- Tyrol: Cluster Life Sciences, 75 members
- Styria: human.technology.styria, 14 non-university research facilities, 25 competence centers/projects
- Upper Austria: MTC MedTech Cluster, 230 members
- Lower Austria: Technopole, 9 research institutions

Research and education

University-based and applied research (selection)

- **Vienna:** Campus Vienna Biocenter, Institute for Molecular Pathology (IMP), Institute of Molecular Biotechnology (IMBA), Research Center for Molecular Medicine (CeMM), Ludwig Boltzmann Society, Max F. Perutz Laboratories (MFLP), Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT)
- **Lower Austria:** Institute of Science and Technology (IST), Austrian Center for Medical Innovation and Technology (ACMIT)
- **Tyrol:** Onkotyrol Center for Personalized Cancer Therapy
- **Styria:** Joanneum Research, Biobanking and BioMolecular Resources Research Infrastructure (BBMI-ERIC), Austrian Centre of Industrial Biotechnology (ACIB), Austrian COMET K1 Center for Biomarker Research (CBMed), Research Center Pharmaceutical Engineering (RCPE)

In addition to research carried out at top-notch universities, non-university research in Austria also enjoys a worldwide reputation. For example, in the field of life sciences, the Research Center for Molecular Medicine (CeMM) belongs to the Austrian Academy of Sciences (AAS). Many research facilities are university spin-offs or were co-founded by companies, such as the Institute for Molecular Pathology (IMP) in Vienna.

Moreover, five Competence Centers for Excellent Technologies (COMET centers) involved in the field of life sciences bundle the competencies of business and science in the fields of biomarker research, industrial biotechnology and big data analytics. Christian Doppler (CD) laboratories are devoted to application-oriented basic research. In this case, the research issue of a company is handled by a university or university of applied sciences.

More than half of Austria's universities conduct research in the field of life sciences, particularly the medical universities of Vienna, Innsbruck, Graz and Linz. In addition to top researchers, highly qualified specialists are required for practical implementation purposes in order to bring innovations to market. Application-oriented training has a long tradition in Austria, for example at the numerous technical secondary schools (HTL) and universities of applied sciences.

Research promotion and tax benefits

Thanks to the generous research tax credit, 14 percent of R&D expenditures incurred by research-oriented firms can be deducted for tax purposes. The research tax credit comprises an effective complement to direct research funding. In addition, Austria offers attractive tax benefits. For example, there is an immigration allowance for scientists and researchers covering 30 percent of research income and which companies can take advantage of for up to five years.

Lively start-up scene

More than half of all Austrian life sciences companies have been established over the past two decades, many as spin-offs from academic institutions. 336 of them operate in the fields of biotechnology and pharmaceuticals, with a particular research focus on oncology and infectious diseases. Medical technology start-ups mainly focus on health, software and robotics solutions.

Life sciences start-ups (selection)

- **Affiris:** Vaccines against chronic diseases
- **Apeiron:** Focus on cancer immunotherapies for children
- **Cubile Health:** Contactless monitoring systems
- **Haplogen:** Drugs against viral infections
- **iSYS:** Robots for minimally invasive interventions
- **mySugr:** Diabetes management (belongs to Roche since 2017)
- **Themis Bioscience:** Vaccines against infectious diseases
- **Valneva Austria:** Vaccines against infectious diseases
- **ViraTherapeutics:** Innovative virotherapy against cancer

Business locations for multinationals

Business Location Austria enjoys strong interest from international companies. Many have set up competence centers or headquarters for their CEE operations in Austria.

Multinational companies (selection)

- **Boehringer Ingelheim:** Regional Center Vienna (RCV), global cancer research center
- **Shire:** Development and production of biopharmaceuticals for rare and under-served illnesses (hematology, oncology and immunology)
- **Otto Bock:** Research, development and production of high-tech prostheses for the global market
- **Sandoz (Novartis):** global competence center for biotechnology, research and production of generic drugs