

Facts & Figures: Mobility and Automotive in Austria

Austria is considered in Europe to be a supplier of highly qualified technologies and developments in the automotive industry. There is hardly a single automobile anywhere in the world which can leave the assembly lines without products made by the Austrian component supply industry. Austria can not only look back at a long tradition in the automobile sector, but its automotive and component supply industry continues to rank among the most important industrial sectors in the country.

800 companies and start-ups, including university and non-university research facilities, research clusters and networks, are making decisive contributions in Austria to the mobility of the future. More than 1,600 patents were registered in the automotive sector in Austria in the period 2011 - 2015. AVL List, TTTech Computertechnik, Kreisel Electric, Miba, BMW Motorenwerk Steyr, Magna Steyr and KTM Industries are just a few examples of Austrian companies shaping the vehicle market of the future. Optimally trained skilled workers are a key reason for the top-notch quality of the business location and the high level of attractiveness of the country's automotive industry for multinational companies.

Particular attention is being paid in research towards an intelligent, clean and efficient future for mobility. Europe's most diverse testing environment for autonomous driving, the world's lightest and most efficient high-performance batteries for electromobility and the promotion of the use of artificial intelligence are among the current research priorities in Austria.

Austria as an automotive stronghold: key figures

- 700 companies involved in automotive production
- About 100,000 vehicles produced p.a.
- 2.4 million engines and transmissions manufactured annually
- Every 9th job is in the automotive industry
- EUR 43 billion in annual revenue from the automotive sector
- Export rate of about 90% for passenger cars assembled in Austria
- The vehicle industry is the second biggest export sector
- R&D investments of EUR 8.4 billion over the last 25 years
- EUR 21,500 in annual R&D expenditures per person employed

Research funding and tax benefits

Thanks to the generous research tax credit, companies carrying out research can claim 14 percent of their research expenditures for tax purposes as of January 1, 2018. The research tax credit comprises an effective supplement to direct research grants. Moreover, 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.

Clusters, networks and competence centers

The ACstyria Automotive Cluster (288 members) and the Automotive Cluster (AC) of Business Upper Austria (260 members) initiate, promote and coordinate the successful cooperation and scientific exchange of companies in the automotive sector, also serving as the link between business, research and public institutions. The Austrian Research Promotion Agency FFG promotes the development of competence centers with its COMET program. The centerpiece of this initiative is a high-level research program jointly defined by business and science. They work together on sustainable future concepts of new mobility, from alternative drive systems, networked driving and energy-saving lightweight models.

- **Upper Austria:** Automobile Cluster (AC) Business Upper Austria, A2LT Austrian Advanced Lightweight Technology (cluster), Light Metals Technologies Ranshofen
- **Styria:** ACstyria (cluster), LEC Evolutionary Large Engines Technology for the Next Generation of Gas and Dual Fuel Engines, K1-Center in Polymer Engineering and Science, K2-Mobility SVT Sustainable Vehicle Technologies, K2-Digital Mobility Context-Embedded Vehicle Technologies
- **Vienna:** AustriaTech

The research and development center Virtual Vehicle founded in Graz in 2002 is the specialist for efficient, virtual testing methods and focuses on application-oriented vehicle development and future road and rail vehicle concepts. Its 90 industrial partners include Audi, AVL, BMW, MAN, Porsche, Siemens and Volkswagen. At the present time it is implementing about 100 research projects with leading international research partners.

Research and education

In addition to top researchers, highly qualified specialists are required for practical implementation purposes in order to bring innovations to market. Business Location Austria offers both. Application-oriented training is offered by numerous technical secondary schools (HTL), the 35 public and private universities and the 21 universities of applied sciences offering more than 640 different degree programs.

University-based and applied automotive research (selection)

- **Vienna:** AIT Austrian Center for Technology, Vienna University of Technology
- **Upper Austria:** Johannes Kepler University (JKU) of Linz, RISC Research Institute for Symbolic Computation, RECENDT Research Center for Non-Destructive Testing
- **Styria:** Graz University of Technology, Montanuniversität Leoben, Karl Franzens University, Joanneum Research, PCCL Polymer Competence Center Leoben
- **Carinthia:** Carinthian Tech Research

Examples of companies in the automotive industry

BMW, Opel and Magna Steyr: More than half of all newly sold vehicles by the BMW Group boast a “heart” from the Austrian engine plant, which also serves as the Group-wide competence center for the development of BMW diesel motors. Every second Opel runs on a transmission and every third on an engine manufactured by the Opel factory in Vienna. About 140,000 contracted automobiles leave the assembly lines of Magna Steyr each year.

TTTech is the global technology leader in the field of robust networking and safety controls, supplies driver assistance systems to VW/Audi and Volvo and entered into a strategic partnership with Samsung and a joint venture with SAIC Motor Corporation to develop technologies for safe autonomous driving.

AVL List is the world’s largest private company for the development, simulation and testing of drive systems.

ZKW Group ranks among the leading suppliers of lighting and headlight systems for the automobile industry, developing and producing complex premium lighting and electronic modules.

Kreisel Electric has been developing the world’s lightest and most efficient batteries for electromobility since 2014.