

Facts & Figures: Research Location Austria

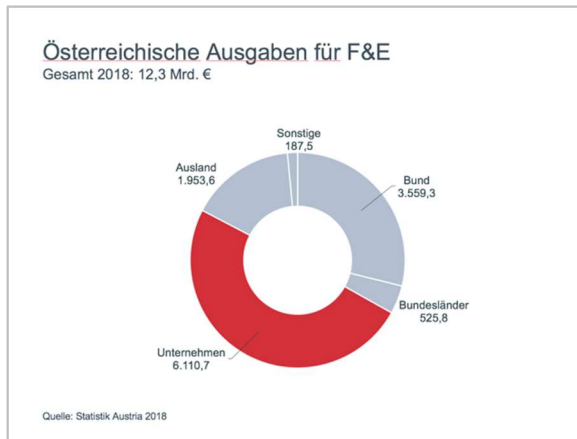
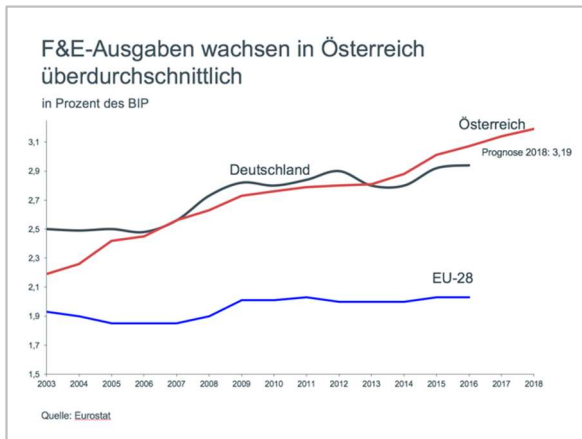
Mozart, Lipizzaner stallions and Sachertorte are only the traditional side of the picture when it comes to Austria. As a “strong innovator” boasting a research ratio of 3.14 percent of GDP, Austria is ranked second in Europe in terms of research investments, surpassed only by Sweden. Since 1995 Austria has more than doubled its research to GDP ratio. On balance, the research ratio of the EU-28 rose by close to three percentage points on average in the period 2005 to 2015, whereas Austria’s increased by seven percentage points.

In 2018, total estimated research expenditures will amount to about EUR 12.3 billion. Austrian and foreign companies account for about half of all R&D investments. In turn, firms whose parent company is headquartered outside of Austria contribute 50 percent of this total. One of the reasons for the strong growth is the Austrian research tax credit, which was raised to 14 percent as of 2018.

Research Location Austria: key figures

- Population: 8.75 million
- Researchers: approx. 71,000
- GDP approx. EUR 360 billion
- R&D expenditures (2018 estimate): EUR 12.3 billion
- Research ratio: 3.19 percent of GDP (2018 estimate)
- ERC grants: 180 grants in 10 years
- Patents and trademarks: 15,000 (2016)

More than 71,000 researchers (full-time employees/full-time equivalents) are currently employed in Austria. About 70 percent carry out corporate research, and about 25 percent of these researchers work in higher education.



Global players such as BMW, Bosch, Infineon and Novartis bundle their R&D activities in Austria. They are complemented by innovative spin-offs and a lively start-up scene embedded in a creative, interdisciplinary ecosystem. Precision medicine, artificial intelligence, autonomous driving, alternative drive systems and lightweight construction supplement traditionally strong segments such as mechanical engineering, vehicle and plant construction and industrial goods.

The competitive advantages of Research Location Austria at a glance

- Strong funding: 14 percent research tax credit for large companies and SMEs
- Attractive tax benefits e.g. 30 percent tax deduction for migrants working as scientists and researchers
- Excellent specialized employees thanks to technical schools and colleges
- Top international researchers at first-class universities and non-university research centers
- Closely knit networks between the scientific and business communities
- Fascinating ecosystem featuring a highly interdisciplinary approach and diversity
- Stability, security and quality of life for the benefit of companies and employees

Top international researchers, excellent specialized employees: 65 non-university research institutes

In addition to research conducted at top-notch universities, non-university research in Austria enjoys a world-wide reputation. One of the 65 non-university research facilities is the Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT), the country's largest research and technology organization. 28 research institutions belong to the Austrian Academy of Sciences (AAS), Austria's largest academic society.

In addition to top researchers, highly qualified specialists are required for practical implementation purposes in order to bring innovations to market. Research Location Austria offers both. Application-oriented training has a long tradition, whether at the numerous technical secondary schools (HTL), schools with practice-oriented training, 22 public universities, twelve private universities or the 21 universities of applied sciences offering more than 640 different degree programs.

University-level and applied research (selection)

- **Vienna:** AIT (Austrian Institute of Technology): specialist for important infrastructure issues of the future, the fields of Energy, Mobility Systems, Low-Emission Transport, Health & Bioresources, Digital Safety & Security. Campus Vienna Biocenter incl. the Institute for Molecular Pathology (IMP) and the Institute of Molecular Biotechnology (IMBA). The Austrian Academy of Sciences (AAS) includes the Research Center for Molecular Medicine (CeMM).
- **Lower Austria:** The Institute of Science and Technology (IST): basic research in biosciences, formal sciences, physics and chemistry
- **Styria:** Joanneum Research: sought-after R&D partner, cutting-edge research of an international caliber in the five research areas of Materials, Health, Digital, Resources and Policies

Strong funding, attractive tax benefits: 14 euros for every 100 euros in R&D investments

Small and medium-sized enterprises and large companies are equally supported by research funding in Austria. 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. Austria's average effective corporate tax burden of 22.4 percent is in the middle range in Europe.

Closely-knit networks: more than 60 industrial clusters

More than 60 industrial clusters consisting of more than 7,000 companies with over 800,000 employees and an average research ratio of 7.5 percent strengthen Austria's innovative capacity. They initiate, promote and coordinate the successful collaboration and exchange of knowledge among companies and serve as a link between business, research and public institutions. In the automotive sector, they include the ACStyria Mobility Cluster and the Upper Austria Business Auto-Cluster (AC). In life sciences, LISAvienna, amongst others, contributes to the further development of life sciences in Vienna. In the field of mechatronics, for example, the Tyrol Mechatronic Cluster supports its member companies.

Furthermore, the funding initiative Competence Centers for Excellent Technologies (COMET) in Austria promotes the development of centers of excellence, whose core element is high level research programs jointly defined by business and science. A total of 42 programs are being funded at the present time.

Lively start-up scene

A lively and diverse start-up scene has emerged in Austria in recent years. The Research Promotion Agency FFG has set up eight incubators throughout Austria providing qualified advice and support to founders from the academic sector. The Pioneers Festival in Vienna is one of the largest start-up shows in Europe. In 2017, weXelerate, Central Europe's largest start-up hub, opened its doors in Vienna. Start-ups work together there with large companies, incubators, venture partners, service and sales partners.

Multifaceted research companies

Austria's top ten research firms include the R&D competence centers of foreign companies. Two examples are Infineon Technologies Austria, the world's leading semiconductor manufacturer, and the global cancer research center of Boehringer-Ingelheim in Vienna. There are also leading edge Austrian companies in the list, such as Frequentis, developer of communication and information systems for safety-critical areas such as flight traffic, and chip producer ams.

Österreichs Top-Forschungsunternehmen		Nettoumsatz in Mio Euro	F&E in % des Umsatzes
1	ams AG	549,90	25,20
2	Infineon Technologies Austria AG	1.839,50	22,39
3	Frequentis AG	252,20	17,01
4	Boehringer Ingelheim RCV GmbH & Co KG	1.209,70	16,53
5	Bernecker + Rainer Industrie Elektronik GmbH	600,00	11,83
6	Trumpf Maschinen Austria GmbH & Co KG	229,92	11,33
7	AVL List GmbH	1.400,00	10,00
8	Anton Paar GmbH	282,00	9,86
9	Kapsch Group Bet.GmbH	1.046,80	9,38
10	Epcos OHG	287,60	8,34

Quelle: Goldener trend 2017