

Press release: 13 222-250/23

Number of high-growth enterprises down slightly in 2022

Majority of high-growth enterprises located in the service sector

Vienna, 2023-12-14 – In 2022, according to preliminary data from Statistics Austria, there were 3 265 enterprises in Austria with ten or more employees and an average annual increase in the number of employees of at least 10% within three years. Thus, the number of high growth enterprises has slightly decreased compared to 2021 (–1.7%, 2021: 3 322). Around 7% of these are so-called “gazelles”, young high-growth enterprises.

“The number of high-growth enterprises developed less dynamically in 2022. Compared to the previous year, it fell by 1.7% to 3 265. In 2022, as in the previous year, most enterprises with an average annual increase in the number of employees of at least 10% within three years were in in wholesale and retail trade and construction – even though there was a sharper decline in high-growth enterprises in construction,” says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

Highest number of high-growth enterprises in wholesale and retail trade and construction

More than 70% (2 339) of the high-growth enterprises were located in 2022 in the services sector. By economic sector, the most high-growth enterprises were recorded in wholesale and retail trade (617), construction (520), manufacturing (383) and professional, scientific and technical activities (377, see Table 1).

In 2022, the largest percentage increases of high-growth enterprises compared with 2021 were in the areas accommodation and food service activities (+56.0%), education (+46.4%) and other service activities (+11.8%), while significant decreases occurred in the areas water electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (–66.7%), financial and insurance (–38.7%) as well as in arts, entertainment and recreation (–16.7%). In these sectors, however, the number of high-growth enterprises is also rather low in absolute values (see table 1).

Many “gazelles” in construction as well as accommodation and food service activities

Around 7% of high-growth enterprises in 2022 are so-called gazelles, high-growth enterprises that have been on the market for five years or less. The largest shares of these gazelles were found in the areas of arts, entertainment and recreation (16.7%), accommodation and food service activities (13.3%) as well as administrative and support service activities (12.2%, see table 2). In absolute values, the most gazelles were in the areas of construction (54), accommodation and food service activities (43) and administrative and support service activities (30).

Vienna, Lower Austria, Styria and Upper Austria with most young high-growth enterprises

There were particularly large numbers of young high-growth enterprises in 2022 in Vienna (80), Lower Austria (36) as well as in Styria and Upper Austria (34 each; see Table 3). In Vienna alone, around one third (33.8%) of all gazelles-enterprises was located. The highest shares of gazelles in all high growth enterprises were identified in Vienna (9.3%), Carinthia (8.1%) and Styria (7.4%). In contrast, the rates of gazelles were lowest in Salzburg (4.0%), Burgenland (5.5%) as well as in Tyrol and Vorarlberg (5.8% each).

For detailed results or further information on high growth enterprises, please refer to our [website](#).

Table 1: High growth enterprises 2022 and 2021 by economic branches

Section (ÖNACE ¹ 2008)		2022	2021	Change in % 2021– 2022
Total		3 265	3 322	-1.7
B	Mining and quarrying	3	3	0.0
C	Manufacturing	383	427	-10.3
D	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	4	12	-66.7
E	Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	16	18	-11.1
F	Construction	520	623	-16.5
B–F	Industry and construction	926	1 083	-14.5
G	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	617	647	-4.6
H	Transportation and storage	196	202	-3.0
I	Accommodation and food service activities	323	207	56.0
J	Information und communication	277	291	-4.8
K	Financial and insurance activities	19	31	-38.7
L	Real estate activities	46	49	-6.1
M	Professional, scientific and technical activities	377	368	2.4
N	Administrative and support service activities	246	227	8.4
P	Education	41	28	46.4
Q	Human health and social work activities	148	136	8.8
R	Arts, entertainment and recreation	30	36	-16.7
S	Other service activities ²	19	17	11.8
G–S	Services sector²	2 339	2 239	4.5

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Statistics on high growth enterprises. 2022: preliminary data.

1) ÖNACE: Austrian Classification of Economic Activities. – 2) Excl. division 94 “Activities of membership organisations”.

Table 2: Young high growth enterprises (“gazelles”) 2022 by economic branches

Section (ÖNACE ¹ 2008)		Young high growth enterprises (“gazelles”) 2022	Share on all high growth enterprises in %
Total		237	7.3
B	Mining and quarrying	0	0.0
C	Manufacturing	16	4.2
D	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	0	0.0
E	Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	0	0.0
F	Construction	54	10.4
B–F	Industry and construction	70	7.6
G	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	24	3.9
H	Transportation and storage	21	10.7
I	Accommodation and food service activities	43	13.3
J	Information und communication	9	3.2
K	Financial and insurance activities	0	0.0
L	Real estate activities	2	4.3
M	Professional, scientific and technical activities	21	5.6
N	Administrative and support service activities	30	12.2
P	Education	2	4.9

Section (ÖNACE ¹ 2008)		Young high growth enterprises (“gazelles”) 2022	Share on all high growth enterprises in %
Q	Human health and social work activities	9	6.1
R	Arts, entertainment and recreation	5	16.7
S	Other service activities ¹	1	5.3
G–S	Services sector¹	167	7.1

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Statistics on high growth enterprises. 2022: preliminary data.

1) ÖNACE: Austrian Classification of Economic Activities – 2) Excl. division 94 “Activities of membership organizations”.

Table 3: Young high growth enterprises (“gazelles”) 2022 by federal provinces

Federal province	Young high growth enterprises (“gazelles”) 2022	Share on all high growth enterprises in %
Total	237	7.3
Burgenland	6	5.5
Carinthia	14	8.1
Lower Austria	36	7.0
Upper Austria	34	6.7
Salzburg	9	4.0
Styria	34	7.4
Tyrol	16	5.8
Vorarlberg	8	5.8
Vienna	80	9.3

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Statistics on high growth enterprises. 2022: preliminary data.

Information on methodology, definitions: The statistics on **high growth enterprises** are compiled on the basis of register and administrative data. High growth enterprises are those **employer enterprises** that show an average **annual growth of at least 10%** in the number of **employees** over a three-year-period (e.g. 2018 to 2021). All employer enterprises with fewer than ten employees at the beginning of the observation period are eliminated from the data. Similarly, enterprises that were enterprise births in the starting year (t-3) are not taken into account in the reporting year (t). The growth of an enterprise does not have to be continuous over the entire period, but is measured over the entire period. “False” growth is excluded and occurs when the increase in the number of employees of a company was primarily due to acquisitions of enterprises or mergers. Cases of “false” growth must therefore be removed from the population of high growth enterprises. As of the 2021 reporting year, **young high growth enterprises** (so-called **gazelles**) are also compiled and published. These are a sub-population of high growth enterprises with the additional restriction of a maximum age of five years.

If you have any questions on this topic, please contact:

Valerie Mayr-Birklbauer, phone: +43 1 711 28-7448 | e-mail: Valerie.Mayr-Birklbauer@statistik.gv.at

Hanna Freundl, phone: +43 1 711 28-7992 | e-mail: Hanna.Freundl@statistik.gv.at

Media owner, producer and publisher:

STATISTICS AUSTRIA | Federal Institution under Public Law | Guglgasse 13 | 1110 Vienna | www.statistik.at

Press: phone: +43 1 711 28-7777 | e-mail: presse@statistik.gv.at

© STATISTICS AUSTRIA