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Number of foreign affiliates in Austria increased in 2022

Also more Austrian affiliates abroad

Vienna, 2024-10-04 – According to Statistics Austria, 12 500 or 2.2% of domestic enterprises belonged to a foreign group or were predominantly foreign-owned in 2022. With more than 685 000 employees, they generated a turnover of 334 billion euro. Conversely, Austrian enterprises had 7 600 affiliates abroad, which generated a turnover of almost 630 billion euro with more than 1.4 million employees.

“The economic upturn in 2021 and 2022 after the pandemic is also reflected in the number of foreign-controlled enterprises and Austrian affiliates abroad. In 2022, 12 500 enterprises in Austria were owned by foreign groups or owners, 7.1% more than in the previous year. The number of employees grew by 5% to 685 000 – that is almost one in five jobs in Austria – and turnover rose by 17% to 334 billion euro. The foreign presence of Austrian enterprises also developed positively: the number of Austrian affiliates abroad rose by 5.1% to 7 600, the number of employees by 5% to 1.4 million and turnover even increased by 24% to nearly 630 billion euro”, says Tobias Thomas, Director General Statistics at Statistics Austria.

High relevance of foreign controlled enterprises for the domestic economy

More than 12 500 enterprises in Austria were under foreign control in 2022. Although this was only 2.2% of all domestic profit-oriented enterprises (not including agriculture and forestry, public sector and non-profit organisations), they generated 31.2% of the turnover of all market-economy enterprises with 18.3 % of employees. The gross value added of foreign-owned enterprises reached a share of 25.8% and investments in tangible assets a share of 25.9%. Compared to 2021, the number of employees increased by 4.9% and turnover grew by 16.8% (see table 1).

The origin of foreign control changed little in 2022. 38% of foreign controlled enterprises were part of German enterprise groups or had dominating German owners, 11% were controlled by Swiss entities, 6.3% by Italian and 4.4% by Dutch investors (see table 3).

Positive growth rates also recorded for Austrian affiliates abroad

The number of Austrian affiliates abroad rose by 5.1% to just under 7 600 in 2022. With around 1.4 million employees (measured in employment relationships) in 122 different countries on all five continents, these generated a turnover of just under 630 billion euro. Compared to 2021, the number of employees increased by 4.9%. Turnover increased by 23.6% to almost 630 billion euro (see table 2).

Main destinations for foreign engagement of Austrian enterprises through controlling business investments were Germany (16.2% of all foreign affiliates), the Czech Republic (6.4%) and Hungary (4.7%). Next to these neighbouring countries came the United States with a 4.5% share, Poland (4.4%) and Romania (4.0%; see table 4).

As a consequence, almost 64% of all foreign affiliates (59% of all employed persons in foreign affiliates) were situated in countries of the EU-27, 16% of all affiliates (19% of employment) in the rest of Europe. Some 9% of all affiliates were placed in Asia and the Americas, respectively (with a slightly higher percentage of the Americas in relation to employment).

Outstanding were the losses in turnover of foreign affiliates in two particular countries in 2022: in Russia with –16% and the Ukraine with –27%.

For detailed results and further information please refer to our [website](#).

Table 1: Foreign affiliates in Austria 2022

	2021	2022	Changes 2021-2022	Shares in 2022 ³
Foreign controlled enterprises ¹	11 814	12 651	+7.1%	2.2%
Employment, annual average	653 564	685 577	+4.9%	18.3%
Turnover, million euro ²	285 844	333 813	+16.8%	31.2%

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Foreign Affiliates Statistics. – 1) Domestic enterprises under foreign control as of 31 December 2022. – 2) Including trade sales, excluding value added tax. – 3) Percentage share of total market economy acc. to Structural Business Statistics (NACE Rev.2 sections B–S excluding section O and division S94).

Table 2: Austrian affiliates abroad 2022

	2021	2022	Changes 2021–2022
Number of Austrian affiliates ¹	7 218	7 588	+5.1%
Employment, annual average	1 349 858	1 416 238	+4.9%
Turnover, million Euro ²	508 962	628 850	+23.6%

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Foreign Affiliates Statistics. – 1) Foreign companies under domestic control as of 31 December 2022. – 2) Including trade sales, excluding value added tax.

Table 3: Foreign controlled enterprises in Austria 2022 by country of control

Partner country	Foreign controlled units ¹		Employment, annual average		Turnover, mill. euro ²	
	value	shares (%)	value	shares (%)	value	shares (%)
Total	12 651	100	685 577	100.0	333 813	100.0
EU 27	8 925	70.5	486 148	70.9	190 984	57.2
Germany	4 856	38.4	330 708	48.2	128 658	38.5
Italy	795	6.3	28 959	4.2	16 218	4.9
Netherlands	557	4.4	27 854	4.1	9 030	2.7
France	296	2.3	27 839	4.1	10 184	3.1
Sweden	159	1.3	11 725	1.7	4 193	1.3
Luxembourg	256	2	11 431	1.7	4 208	1.3
Denmark	86	0.7	9 458	1.4	1 992	0.6
Non EU	3 726	29.5	199 429	29.1	142 829	42.8
Switzerland	1 403	11.1	67 898	9.9	34 131	10.2
United States	535	4.2	37 300	5.4	25 281	7.6
United Kingdom	504	4	20 986	3.1	14 661	4.4
Canada	49	0.4	16 865	2.5	8 914	2.7
Japan	93	0.7	13 307	1.9	7 136	2.1
Mexico	10	0.1	9 070	1.3	3 189	1
China	65	0.5	6 750	1	2 229	0.7
Offshore financial centres³	458	3.6	14 739	2.1	9 283	2.8

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Foreign Affiliates Statistics. – 1) Domestic enterprises under foreign control as of 31 December 2022. – 2) Including trade sales, excluding value added tax. – 3) According to IMF standards.

Table 4: Austrian affiliates abroad 2022 by country of residence

Partner country	Austrian affiliates abroad ¹		Employment, annual average		Turnover, mill. euro ²	
	value	shares (%)	value	shares (%)	value	shares (%)
Total	7 588	100	1 416 238	100	628 850	100
EU 27	4 830	63.7	835 115	59.0	326 201	51.9
Germany	1 232	16.2	222 625	15.7	82 306	13.1
Czech Republic	486	6.4	113 149	8.0	33 094	5.3
Hungary	355	4.7	77 473	5.5	21 288	3.4
Romania	304	4.0	72 325	5.1	33 377	5.3
Poland	336	4.4	71 982	5.1	22 475	3.6
Slovakia	253	3.3	50 753	3.6	12 352	2.0
Italy	268	3.5	38 972	2.8	34 522	5.5
Non EU	2 758	36.3	581 123	41.0	302 648	48.1
United States	341	4.5	88 607	6.3	65 552	10.4
United Kingdom	198	2.6	59 335	4.2	19 702	3.1
China	239	3.1	46 247	3.3	14 513	2.3
Türkiye	104	1.4	45 925	3.2	7 220	1.1
Russian Federation	144	1.9	41 638	2.9	8 959	1.4
Serbia	151	2.0	31 716	2.2	6 502	1.0
Ukraine	89	1.2	31 334	2.2	1 848	0.3
Offshore financial centres³	150	2.0	12 659	0.9	17 912	2.8

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Foreign Affiliates Statistics. – 1) Foreign companies under domestic control as of 31 December 2022. – 2) Including trade sales, excluding value added tax. – 3) According to IMF standards

Information on methodology, definitions:

Foreign affiliates statistics covers **enterprises under foreign control**. This concerns Austrian enterprises under foreign control as well as affiliates abroad under Austrian control. **Control** is measured by holding a majority in company shares. Target population is the profit-oriented part of the economy. It does not include agriculture and forestry, the public sector and non-profit organisations.

Main sources of the statistics are Statistics Austria's Structural Business Statistics and the OeNB's Foreign Direct Investment Statistics, applying their definitions. Employment is measured in jobs.

As concerns data on Austrian affiliates abroad, it should be considered that figures include data on affiliates of all domestic enterprises, including those under foreign control themselves. As some of these affiliates are engaged in the trade of crude oil, raw materials or energy, this results in high increases in turnover due to global price increases in 2022.

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