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Foreign affiliates of Austrian enterprises in 118 countries of the world in 2021

Number of foreign affiliates grew by 7.2% compared to 2020

Vienna, 2023-10-06 – In 2021, Austrian enterprises had affiliates in 118 countries on all five continents. These 7 218 affiliates in total employed more than 1.3 million people and generated turnover of roughly 510 billion euros.

“Austrian enterprises increased their number of foreign affiliates also in 2021 and were thus able to defy the global economic development in the second year of the Covid pandemic. The number of foreign affiliates of Austrian enterprises increased by 7.2%, while their number of employees rose by 5.3% compared to the previous year. Thus, the positive development of 2020 was continued,” explains Statistics Austria's Director General Tobias Thomas.

Gains especially in Germany, Poland, USA and Italy

New affiliates of Austrian enterprises were mainly recorded in Germany, Poland, the USA, Italy and Luxembourg in 2021. Outside of Europe, the highest increases in affiliates – in addition to the USA – were found in Brazil, Argentina, Australia and Malaysia.

The highest growth in employment was recorded in Italy, Germany, United Kingdom, Poland and the USA (increases between 7 000 and 14 000 employed persons). However, in some countries the number of employees decreased remarkably, e.g. in France, Singapore, the Russian Federation and Romania (decreases between approximately 1 000 and 4 400 employees). In the year before the Russian Federation attacked the Ukraine, the number of Austrian affiliates still increased slightly in both countries (Russian Federation: +11, Ukraine: +2 in absolute numbers).

Foreign affiliates on all continents

Although increases in the number of affiliates were recorded on all five continents in 2021, the global distribution was rather uneven in absolute numbers. Foreign affiliates within the EU accounted for roughly 64% of all foreign affiliates and for 60% of the employment. The shares for Europe in total (including e.g. the Russian Federation and Turkey) sum up to 80% each (see table 2).

The number of Austrian affiliates in America (North, Central, South America and the Caribbean) and Asia were approximately on the same level, in absolute numbers 672 and 666, with the American affiliates having slightly higher numbers of employees.

Africa and Oceania have low importance as locations for Austrian affiliates. On both continents, there is roughly one percent of all foreign affiliates located, with the share of employment being only slightly higher.

In total, Austrian affiliates were located in 118 countries around the world in the year 2021, among them rather exotic places such as Myanmar, Barbados or Mozambique.

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

Table 1: Overview of Austrian affiliates abroad 2021

	2020	2021	Changes 2020–2021
Number of Austrian affiliates ¹	6 731	7 218	+7.2 %
Employment, annual average	1 281 689	1 349 858	+5.3 %
Turnover, million Euro ²	394 895	508 962	+28.9 %

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Foreign Affiliates Statistics. – 1) Majority (>50%; as of 31 December 2021) of foreign companies under domestic control. – 2) Including trade sales, excluding value added tax.

Table 2: Austrian affiliates abroad 2021 by country of residence

Continent / Country	Foreign affiliates ¹		Employment, annual average		Turnover ²	
	number	shares (%)	employed	shares (%)	mill. Euro	shares (%)
World total	7 218	100.0	1 349 858	100.0	508 962	100.0
Europe	5 732	79.4	1 068 009	79.7	383 866	75.4
EU27	4 599	63.7	804 028	59.6	253 993	49.9
Germany	1 151	15.9	211 668	15.7	66 141	13.0
Czech Republic	469	6.5	110 900	8.2	27 436	5.4
Hungary	358	5.0	77 250	5.7	18 600	3.7
Europe - Non-EU	1 133	15.7	263 981	19.6	129 873	25.5
United Kingdom	189	2.6	51 151	3.8	16 334	3.2
Russian Federation	157	2.2	49 369	3.7	10 702	2.1
Turkey	97	1.3	37 396	2.8	4 310	0.8
Americas	672	9.3	145 069	10.7	77 387	15.2
United States	320	4.4	85 177	6.3	57 168	11.2
Mexico	64	0.9	18 647	1.4	2 982	0.6
Brazil	98	1.4	17 845	1.3	4 102	0.8
Canada	70	1.0	6 557	0.5	6 067	1.2
Asia	666	9.2	105 205	7.8	37 026	7.3
China	235	3.3	42 251	3.1	12 340	2.4
India	75	1.0	17 884	1.3	2 033	0.4
Africa	85	1.2	18 059	1.3	2 592	0.5
South Africa	41	0.6	6 805	0.5	1 113	0.2
Oceania	63	0.9	13 516	1.0	8 092	1.6
Australia	54	0.7	13 074	1.0	7 714	1.5

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Foreign Affiliates Statistics. – 1) Majority (>50%; as of 31 December 2021) of foreign companies under domestic control. – 2) Including trade sales, excluding value added tax.

Information on methodology, definitions:

The foreign affiliates statistics (FATS) covers enterprises under foreign control. Subject of the statistics is to describe the structure and activity of Austrian foreign affiliates, i.e. enterprises resident in Austria which are controlled by foreign units, as well as Austrian enterprises' affiliates abroad. Control is defined as the possibility to determine the general policy of an enterprise mostly by holding the majority of the enterprise's capital. Only enterprises operating in the market sector are covered.

This press release is about foreign affiliates of Austrian enterprises. The results refer to all foreign affiliates of enterprises located in Austria even if they belong to a foreign enterprise group. This is an important detail when looking at the turnover figures in table 1 and table 2, as they include the turnover of foreign affiliates operating in the trade of raw materials and especially crude oil, which recorded a significant increase in turnover in 2021 due to the development of world market prices.

The main data source is the Austrian Central Bank's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) survey.

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

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