

* Headquarters-Location in the Heart of Europe

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Austria -Location in the Heart of Europe

The success factors: stability, CEE know-how, and a prosperous market in the heart of Europe

Central location

- Good basis for CEE-activities, in order to more quickly take advantage of the economic upswing in South East and Eastern European markets
- Extensive experience derived from 16,000 joint ventures between Austrian and Eastern European companies
- Eastern European coordination center (headquarters) for around 1,000 foreign companies
- Service providers with extensive East European know-how
- Vienna Airport is the best-performing airport in respect to flight connections to the CEE region

Attractive business environment

- Austria's combined economic stimulus package for the years 2009 and 2010 comprises 1.8 percent of GDP, unsurpassed in the EU
- Austria is the fourth most prosperous country in the EU
- Above-average purchasing power of Austrian consumers
- Highly developed infrastructure
- Efficient public administration

Stability and security

- Political and social stability
- Good labor-management relations
- Low strike rate
- High level of personal security
- Secure energy supply

Tax advantages

- Low corporate tax rate of 25 percent
- Attractive group taxation scheme
- No wealth or trade tax
- Research allowance of up to 35 percent and training allowance of 20 percent

Produktivität

• A top ranking in terms of hourly output per employee

Business-oriented education

- Practice-oriented learning in technical and business fields
- High educational expenditures confirm the value placed on education and training
- Close cooperation between academic and business communities



Austria: The Heart of Europe and Gateway to the East





Central location: All of Europe within 3 hours flight time

Due to its unique geographical position, Austria is an ideal business location – whether as an East-West interface or as headquarters for a company's Central and Eastern European business activities.

The geographical proximity to all major CEE cities is an important competitive advantage: the distance from Vienna to Prague is 299 kilometers, whereas Budapest is only 266 km away.

Austria offers a top-notch, high-quality network of highways and expressways spanning more than 2,000 km, as well as six international airports. Vienna International Airport is the most important East-West transportation hub, providing flight service to 45 destinations in the CEE region.

From Vienna to	Distance	Flight time
Berlin	634 km	1:15 hours
Brussels	1,121 km	1:30 hours
Budapest	266 km	0:45 hours
Frankfurt	720 km	1:50 hours
London	1,570 km	2:00 hours
Moscow	1,950 km	2:50 hours
Prague	299 km	1:00 hours
Rome	1,130 km	1:45 hours
Zurich	757 km	1:25 hours

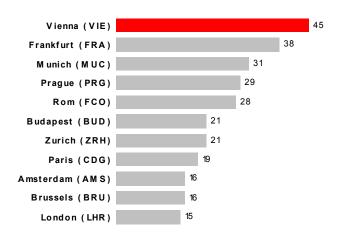


Vienna International Airport: The cutting edge of East-West flight links

Vienna International Airport, the largest of Austria's six airports, is the European leader for East European destinations. With its flight connections featuring 45 cities in 22 Eastern European countries, and 558 weekly flights to the region, Vienna Airport has further expanded its top position as an East-West interface in European air traffic, and even ranks ahead of the considerably larger Frankfurt Airport.

Vienna Takes Off

Number of destinations in Central and Eastern Europe



Source: Vienna International Airport, M ay 2010

Number of weekly departures

Airport	Eastern Europe
Vienna	558
Frankfurt	540
Munich	512
Prague	396
Paris	371
Rome	254
Zurich	252
London Heathrow	244
Budapest	227
Amsterdam	213
Brussels	172

Source: Vienna International Airport, May 2010



In good company: International companies choose Austria for their headquarters location

With the enlargement of the European Union to encompass 27 members, Austria is not only geographically but also politically and economically in the center of Europe.

Austria is internationally recognized as the leading business location for building up business ties to Eastern and South East Europe. Prominent companies spanning all business sectors, ranging from Beiersdorf, Boehringer Ingelheim, Eli Lilly, Heineken, Henkel, Lukoil and Siemens, have expressed their confidence in Austria as a business location targeting the CEE region.

Some 300 regional headquarters of multinational companies use Austria as a base to carry out cross-border corporate activities. There are 84 regional corporate headquarters alone among the top 500 companies in Austria in terms of revenues.

These investors highly value Austria's know-how particularly in demand in the financial services, construction, environmental services, tourism, real estate and telecommunications sector.

The Boston Consulting Group study reveals a range of factors behind the choice of Austria:

- Proximity to the target market: Austria's geographical proximity to the
 emerging markets of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe can't be matched by
 any other Western industrial nation. Four Eastern nations are direct neighbours,
 and Prague, Budapest and Warsaw are at most an hour away by plane.
- **Infrastructure:** Superb logistical and telecommunications infrastructures enable the fastest possible movement of goods and information. Austria's banks and management consultants traditionally claim far-reaching contacts and competencies in the Eastern European business community.
- **Productivity and motivation:** Austria is among the most productive nations in the world. Expertise in Eastern European languages is widely available.
- **Stability:** The rarity of strikes and the high level of personal security and legal certainty ensure a stable environment for secure business activities.
- Tax advantages: Austria offers attractive tax provisions for holding companies.
- **Quality of life:** Vienna is among the world's most popular business destinations for managers.



Multinationals with Eastern European headquarters in Austria

Aastra Technologies Kärcher Agfa Knauf

Air Liquide Knorr Bremse
Allianz Versicherung Logwin Logistics

Beiersdorf Lukoil
BenQ Magna
Berner Direktvertrieb Mars
Boehringer Ingelheim Mazda

Business Logic Systems Metro Cash & Carry

C&A NCR

Canon Neckermann Versand
Compuware Nestlé Nespresso

Deka Bank Nokia ASE
DHL Global Forwarding Quintiles
Dynea Rehau
EgyptAir Rewe

ElectroluxRittal-GruppeEli LillyRobert Bosch AGERGORohde & SchwarzEricssonSalamander

Festo Schindler Holding

Schenker

Flextronics Sharp

Fujitsu Shell Energy Europe

Gaz de France Suez Siemens

Gefco SIG Combibloc

Global Refund International Transearch International

Heineken UGI Corp./Flaga
Henkel CEE UniCredit Group

Hitachi Data Systems USU AG

Hyundai Mobile Vestas Wind Systems A/S

IPICO Volvo

IvecoWestern UnionJeld-Wen/DanaZürich Versicherung

JVC International

Essilor



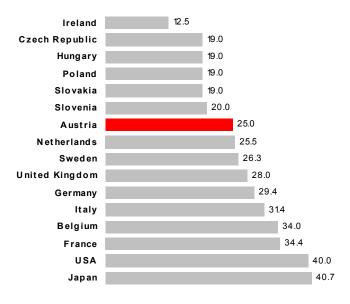
25 percent corporate tax - and that's all

Austrian companies are subject to a unified corporate tax rate of just 25 percent, and levies such as trade or net worth taxes – the norm in many other countries – simply do not exist in Austria.

The reduction of the corporate tax rate from 34 to 25 percent as of January 1, 2005 elevated Austria into a position among Europe's most business-friendly nations.

Among the EU-15, only Ireland offers more favorable tax provisions. But Austria also makes a strong showing in comparison to the new EU member states, that are attracting investors through major tax rate reductions.

Corporate Income Tax Rates*) 2010 Maximum taxation on profits, in percent



Source: KPM G Corporate Tax Survey 2010

^{*)} The given percentage includes all income taxes dependant on profits.



Austria as a holding location

Austria has traditionally served as one of the most attractive holding locations in Europe. The country has emerged as a popular location to set up holding companies, not only due to a variety of tax privileges, but also as a result of its high quality of life, top-notch education offered to employees and the beautiful countryside.

The tax reform package of 2005 further improved the tax situation for establishing holding companies. In addition to a reduction of the corporate income tax to 25 percent, the most important feature is the introduction of a group taxation scheme, which makes Austria even more attractive as a holding location than in the past.

Group taxation - a major competitive advantage to corporate headquarters

The modern, highly favorable group taxation scheme is a role model for the rest of Europe. The immediate offsetting of profits and losses within a corporate group – the main feature of a future-oriented group taxation system – is very important for a globalized economy.

The fundamental idea underlying the new group taxation model is the consolidation of the taxable business results of all financially affiliated companies within a tax group, without requiring an economic or organizational integration.

International companies as well as smaller foreign firms with subsidiaries can benefit from enormous bottom-line advantages arising from transferring their business operations to Austria. As a consequence of the new tax provisions, Austria represents pan outstanding location for setting up corporate headquarters, in particular for the Eastern European region.

The group taxation offsets the profits and losses of domestic group members and the losses of foreign subsidiaries within the tax group. Subsequently, the assessment base for calculating the corporate income tax is lower.

A tax group can be established with a qualifying participation of at least 50 percent and one share.

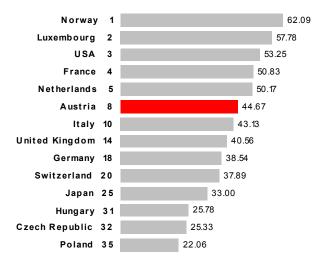
In the case of acquisitions, the capitalized goodwill can be depreciated over a period of 15 years, which is not possible in other countries at the present time.



High productivity: Austria ranks among Europe's best performers

The level of industrial productivity in Austria has been traditionally high. In recent years, Austrian industry has posted disproportionately high productivity gains. The main reasons are good capacity utilization and the comparatively high investment ratio designed to strongly exploit market opportunities, for example in Eastern and South East Europe.

Output per Man-Hour in Manufacturing Industry GDP per person employed per hour, in US\$



Source: World Competitiveness Yearbook, 2010

Austria is also rated among the best in respect to productivity as measured by purchasing power. In the latest assessment of the World Competitiveness Yearbook 2010, Austria is ranked 8th with an hourly output of USD 44.67 per employee. Accordingly Austria is not only superior to Great Britain (14th) and Germany (18th), but is also ahead of Switzerland (20th) and Japan (25th).

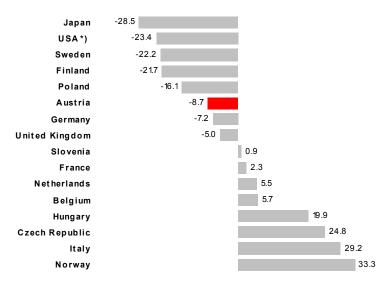


Moderate increase of labor costs

The increase of labor costs was more than compensated by the strong productivity growth. In this regard, unit labor costs declined by 8.7 percent in the period 1998 – 2008.

Austria performs remarkably well in international rankings in respect to unit labor costs, and outperforms large industrial nations such as Germany, Great Britain, France and Italy. Over the last ten years, the most pronounced decrease in unit labor costs was achieved by Japan, with the USA and Sweden also posting above-average declines. Poland was the only new EU member state to significantly lower unit labor costs.

Unit Labor Costs in the Manufacturing Industry Average percentage changes 1998–2008



*) USA: 1998-2007

Source: Austrian Institute of Economic Research, 11/2009



Unsurpassed in the world: Austria's quality of life

Today Austria is a prosperous, stable and thriving country, looking back at a long and eventful history. Across the globe, Austria is valued as a nation with a rich cultural heritage, a popular travel destination and business partner, thanks to its broad spectrum of cultural offerings, marvelous landscape and a dynamic and innovative economy.

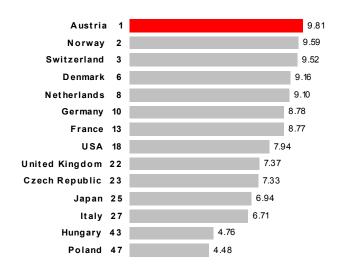
The selection of a business location is primarily driven by economic considerations. However, the underlying basis for excellence and top-rate performance of employees is a feeling of well-being and feeling good in the environment in which they live and work. This represents a decisive competitive advantage for Austria. There is hardly any country in the world which offers a comparable quality of life.

The high quality of life is reflected in the low crime rate, the high level of social security and an attractive shopping and recreational infrastructure.

Austria is a country boasting a diverse range of cultural, sporting and recreational activities. There is something suitable for every taste, fancy and age, whether a person's preference is opera, operetta, musicals, plays, concerts, exhibitions and much more.

Austria's health care system is considered to be one of the best in the world. Excellent health care is provided by specialists and top medical institutes along with a dense network of public and private hospitals.

Unmatched Quality of Life
10 = The nation's quality of life is very high





Vienna: World's most popular city for managers

The quality of life in Vienna has been rated number one in the world. Austria's capital city offers precisely those business location factors which managers highly value about business hubs, such as stability, security, education and health care.

According to the latest "Quality of Living Survey 2010" published by the internationally operating company Mercer Consulting Group, Vienna is the world's most livable capital, ahead of the Swiss cities of Zurich and Geneva. Thus Vienna has been ranked as the top business destination for employees of foreign institutions and corporate groups for the second consecutive year.

Major cities such as Paris (34), London (39) and New York (49) were left far behind.

On balance, the Mercer Consulting Group evaluated the quality of life in 221 large cities according to 39 criteria which are of relevance to expatriates. The study took social, political, economic and environmental aspects into consideration as well as personal safety and the range of health care, education and transportation services. New York was considered as the basis for the analysis, with a value of 100 points. Vienna achieved a level of 108.6 points.

This study concluded that there is still a huge difference between Eastern Europe and Western Europe. However, the standard of living has improved in many Eastern European cities due to EU membership and the favorable economic development. Prague and Budapest were rated as the cities in Eastern Europe with the highest quality of life, ranked 70th and 73rd respectively.

Rank	City	Country
1	Vienna	Austria
2	Zurich	Switzerland
3	Geneva	Switzerland
4	Vancouver	Canada
7	Frankfurt	Germany
11	Copenhagen	Denmark
13	Amsterdam	Netherlands
15	Brussels	Belgium
17	Berlin	Germany
19	Luxembourg	Luxembourg
20	Stockholm	Sweden
34	Paris	France
39	London	United Kingdom
40	Tokyo	Japan
41	Milan	Italy
49	New York	USA
70	Prague	Czech Republic
73	Budapest	Hungary
84	Warsaw	Poland
87	Bratislava	Slovakia

Source: Mercer Consulting - Worldwide Quality of Living Survey 2010



Attractive price level

Due to its cultural offerings, Austria is considered one of the most enjoyable countries in the world, but not one of the most expensive.

According to the "Cost-of-Living Survey 2010", a comparative global study carried out by the renowned consulting company Mercer, Vienna is rated 28th in the world. The study evaluates the living costs of expatriate employees in 214 large cities, including housing, transport, food, clothing, household goods and entertainment.

In 2010, Luanda in Angola is ranked the world's most expensive city for expatriates, followed by Tokyo, which had the highest living costs in the previous year. In Europe, Moscow is at the top of the rankings of the most expensive cities, with higher costs than the Swiss cities of Geneva and Zurich.

For the first time, the ranking of the world's top ten most expensive cities includes three African urban centers. The top ten also comprises four European and three Asian cities.

Rank	City	Country	
1	Luanda	Angola	
2	Tokyo	Japan	
3	Ndjamena	Chad	
4	Moscow	Russia	
5	Geneva	Switzerland	
6	Osaka	Japan	
7	Libreville	Gabon	
8	Zurich	Switzerland	
8	Hong Kong	Hong Kong	
10	Copenhagen	Denmark	
11	Oslo	Norway	
15	Milan	Italy	
17	London	United Kingdom	
17	Paris	France	
26	Rome	Italy	
27	New York City	USA	
28	Vienna	Austria	
35	Amsterdam	Netherlands	
37	Bratislava	Slovakia	
47	Prague	Czech Republic	
50	Frankfurt	Germany	

Index: New York = 100

Source: Mercer Consulting – Worldwide Cost of Living Survey 2010 $\,$



High purchasing power: Austria is the fourth most prosperous country in the EU

Austria ranks among the most prosperous countries in the EU. It not only offers a market boasting extensive purchasing power, but a corresponding consumer infrastructure.

According to the latest study published by the European Statistical Office Eurostat, Austria's purchasing power is 22 percent above the EU average. Thus, Austria places an outstanding fourth in the EU in terms of GDP per capita, only surpassed by Luxembourg, Ireland and the Netherlands.

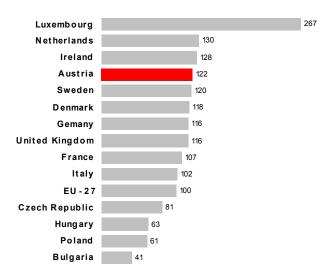
The competitive advantage of Austria is impressive, particularly in respect to the large industrial nations, i.e. Germany, the United Kingdom and France.

Despite its relatively small size and number of inhabitants, Austria is a profitable market for international companies.

Among the EU member states from Eastern and South East Europe, Slovenia and the Czech Republic are the best performers in terms of purchasing power, with 87 percent and 81 percent of the EU average respectively.

The countries with the lowest purchasing power in the EU are Bulgaria (41 percent) and Romania (45 percent). This means that per capita GDP in Luxembourg is six times higher than in Bulgaria.

The most prosperous EU member states
GDP per capita 2009 in purchasing power standards (PPS)
EU-27 = 100



Source: Eurostat 2010



Economic growth above the EU-27 average

In the years 2006 and 2007, the Austrian economy grew at a rate of 3.6 percent and 3.7 percent respectively. The global economic and financial crisis was already reflected by a slowdown in economic growth to 2.2 percent in 2008. The Austrian economy contracted in 2009, posting negative GDP growth of 3.9 percent in real terms.

In international comparison, the difficult economic environment also had a clearly negative impact. The economies of the EU member states declined by 4.2 percent on average, whereas the Eurozone contracted by 4.1 percent.

Largest economic stimulus package within the EU

Stimulus measures were implemented around the world as a response to the economic crisis. The economic stimulus packages in Austria amounted to 1.8 percent of GDP for both 2009 and 2010, the second highest in the EU, surpassed only by Spain in 2009 and Germany in 2010. However, for the two years as a whole, the package of measures designed to boost the Austrian economy was the most extensive in the entire EU.

The Austrian economy is expected to recover in 2010 and 2011 and expand by 2.0 percent and 1.9 percent respectively. In contrast, GDP growth in the EU-27 and the Eurozone is forecast to reach a level of 1.0 percent and 0.9 percent in 2010.

Economic growth (as a percentage of GDP)

	2008	2009	2010*
Austria	2.2	-3.9	2.0
EU-27	0.5	-4.2	1.0
Eurozone	0.5	-4.1	0.9
Germany	1.0	-4.7	1.2
France	0.2	-2.6	1.3
United Kingdom	-0.1	-5.0	1.2
Italy	-1.3	-5.0	0.8
Netherlands	1.9	-3.9	1.3
Poland	5.1	1.7	2.7
Czech Republic	2.5	-4.1	1.6
Hungary	0.8	-6.7	0.0

Sources: Eurostat, Austrian Institute of Economic Research

^{*} Forecast 10/10



Moderate office rents

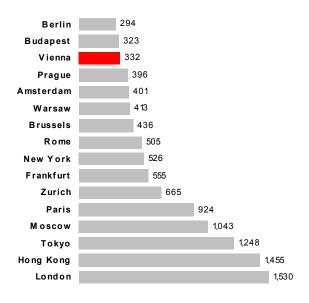
An important consideration for foreign investors - apart from the economic climate - is location cost. Austria scores highly here:

According to a study carried out by the international commercial real estate services provider CB Richard Ellis, Vienna ranks as one of the cheapest European locations in an international comparison of 175 cities across the globe. On the basis of office rental costs, Vienna is more reasonably priced than Prague, Amsterdam, Warsaw, Brussels, Rome, Frankfurt or Zurich. Berlin and Budapest are slightly cheaper.

The total occupation costs for an office in a good business location in Vienna are only 332 euros per square meter and year. For this reason, Vienna has emerged as one of the most stably priced office locations in Europe in recent years.

Globally, London's West End, Hong Kong Central, Tokyo's Inner Central, Mumbai and Moscow are the most expensive office markets in the world, according to the CBRE report.

Office Rents in International Comparison Total occupation costs per sqm/year in euros



Source: CB Richard Ellis, 11/2010



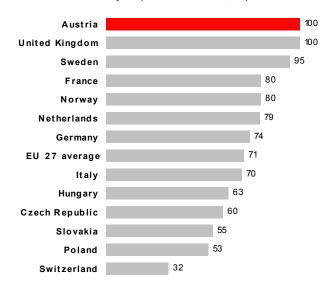
Efficient public administration

Efficient service, customer orientation and transparency are the features of electronic administration. Whether it is a question of getting legal advice and security information or applying for tax adjustments, modern information and communications technologies enable electronic services to be made available on the Internet. Access to administrative procedures is facilitated, processing is accelerated and administrative expenses are reduced. The aim is to set up a central contact point, or one-stop-shop, as the basis for electronic access to public authorities.

The online platform "Digital Austria" is the national coordination and steering body offering information and instructions on using eGovernment services. The infrastructural pre-requisites are already very good in Austria, which boasts more than 70 percent Internet use by the population and 98 percent by the business community. Approximately 80 percent of all firms take advantage of e-government services. Increased efficiency within companies is of major importance to Austria as a business location.

In recent years Austria has become a role model for many other countries. The study "Online availability of public services" carried out for the 8th time in 2009 once again confirms the cutting edge position of Austria in Europe. Since 2006, Austria has been the EU champion and reaches the 100 percent mark for the indicator "full online availability". This analysis initiated by the European Commission compares the eGovernment offering in 31 European countries (27 EU member states as well as Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Croatia).

eGovernment
Online availability of public services, in percent



Source: Capgemini Consulting, 2009



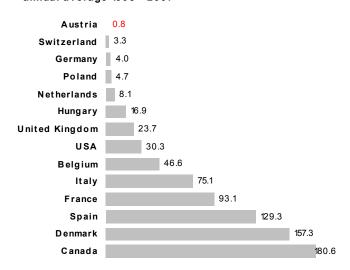
Low strike rate and far-reaching social peace

One of the major competitive advantages of Austria is its low strike rate and a high degree of social peace.

Austria ranks among the best in the world in an international comparison measuring the number of working days lost due to strikes. In the years 1998-2007, Austria boasted an annual average of only 0.8 strike days per 1,000 employees.

In the same period, the German economy lost an average of four working days through strikes. The figure was 23.7 strike days annually per 1,000 employees in Great Britain, and 30.3 days on strike in the USA. Workers frequently went on strike in Canada (180.6 working days per year), Denmark (157.3 days) and Spain (129.3 days).

Strike Duration in EU Comparison Working days lost per 1,000 employees, annual average 1998 - 2007



Source: Eurostat, ILO 2009



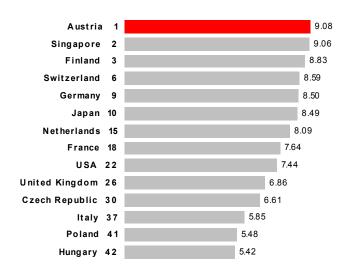
Highest personal security

The economic, social and political stability prevailing in Austria represents an important competitive advantage for the business location. The low rate of crime and high level of legal certainty are particularly attractive to companies.

According to the latest World Competitiveness Yearbook, Austria is rated first in the world in respect to the protection of personal security and private property.

The Austrian capital, Vienna, is one of the safest cities in the world with almost 1.7 million inhabitants.

Personal Security and Private Property
10 = Persons and property are adequately protected



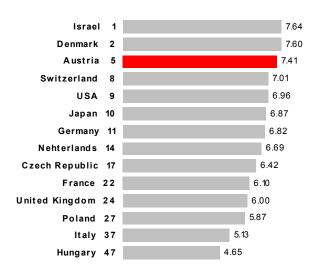


People as a success factor

One of the main competitive strengths of Austria as a business location are its qualified and highly motivated employees. Every company in Austria gets the right employees - whether a handicraft enterprise, R&D headquarters or high-tech spin-off. Foreign investors appreciate the outstanding quality of Austrian skilled labor.

According to the latest ranking of the World Competitiveness Yearbook 2010, Austria is rated fifth among 58 nations, and among the Top-3 in the EU. Accordingly, Austria is ahead of EU members such as Germany (11th), the Czech Republic (17th), France (22nd), Great Britain (34th), Poland (27th) and Hungary (47th).

Skilled Labor
10 = Readily available in the labor market



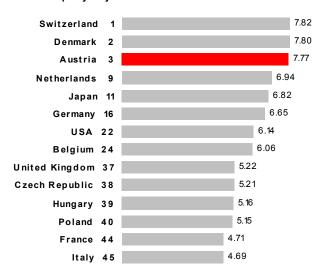


Unmatched qualifications and motivation

Austrian workers are top qualified and highly motivated. There's no better measure than the degree to which Austrian employees identify with the company goals – a characteristic that is reflected in the nation's high productivity and the quality standards.

According to the World Competitiveness Yearbook, Austria's workforce is characterized by an extraordinary work ethic. In international comparison, Austria ranks third in 2010, surpassed only by Switzerland and Denmark.

Commitment to the company 10 = Employees completely identify with company objectives





Education for the business world

The educational system in Austria is numbered among the best in the world. One of the distinctive features of the Austrian educational system is the extensive co-operation prevailing between the business community and educational institutions. Approximately 20 universities of applied sciences, offering 482 courses of study, as well as 22 federal and 13 private universities maintain close ties to the industrial sector.

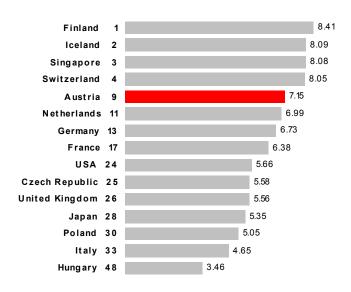
The dual education system, which combines theoretical and practical teaching, is applied in preparing for careers requiring apprentice training as well as in higher vocational schools. Curriculum and training courses are tailored to the requirements of the business world. Apprentices are professionally trained in companies or gain on-the-job experience. The bottom line results of research and development activities are exploited in a practice-oriented manner within the framework of joint projects carried out by schools working together with the business community, e.g. in theses, dissertations or student enterprises.

This two-pronged approach is considered to be exemplary throughout Europe. Foreign investors highly value the specialized skills and the sound, fundamental know-how of Austrian employees.

In the worldwide ranking of the World Competitiveness Yearbook 2010, Austria is rated among the ten best countries in terms of the quality of its educational system, ahead of Germany, France, United Kingdom and Japan.

Educational System

10 = Education meets the needs of a competitive economy





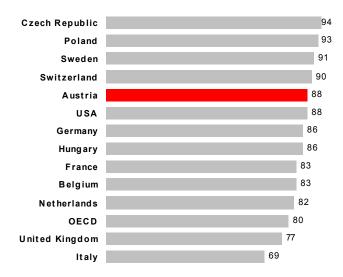
Occupational focus of the educational system

A well educated and qualified population is of primary importance to the social and economic well-being of a country.

In addition to focus on gaining practical experience, the Austrian educational system attaches considerable importance to specialization. Students always have the opportunity to specialize, whether at secondary technical or business schools. For example, the Upper Secondary School for Technology offers more than ten different courses of study just in mechanical engineering.

As the following chart demonstrates, close to 90 percent of all Austrians take advantage of this offering and successfully complete a secondary school. In this respect, Austria clearly surpasses the OECD average of 80 percent.

Graduates Completing a Higher Secondary Education As a percentage of the 25-to-34 year-old population



Source: OECD, Education at a Glance, 2010

Foreign language courses at school:

High priority is also attached to foreign language skills. In Austria 76.1 percent of students in upper secondary education learn two or more foreign languages The EU-average is only 60.1 percent. English has been introduced at the primary schools, as well.

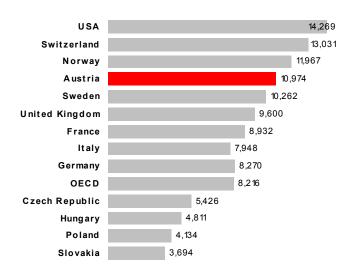


Investments in education

Public and private educational expenditures confirm the importance attached to education in Austria. The country invests 5.4 percent of its gross domestic product in educational measures to improve its high standards.

Thus Austria is somewhat below the OECD average of 5.7 percent, but education spending per capita throughout the entire training period of students is one of the highest in the OECD, exceeded only by the USA, Switzerland and Norway. From elementary to secondary school, Austrian educational expenditures amount to an average of USD 10,974 annually per capita, much higher than the OECD level of USD 8,216.

Educational Expenditures Annual costs per pupil/student in US-Dollar



Source: OECD, Education at a Glance, 2010



International schools

Austria presents a comprehensive choice of schools offering instruction in a variety of languages.

These include, among others:

- Vienna International School (www.vis.ac.at)
- American International School (www.ais.at)
- Danube International School (www.danubeschool.at)
- International Christian School of Vienna (www.icsv.at)
- The Japanese School Association in Vienna (www.japaneseschool.at)
- Lycée Français de Vienne (www.lyceefrançais.at)
- The Swedish School for Students of Scandinavian Descent (www.svenskaskolan.at)
- Schulverein Komensky (www.komensky.at)
- EMS European Middle School Neustiftgasse (www.emsneustiftgasse.at)
- Al-Azhar Vienna Islamic International School
- St. Gilgen International School (www.stgis.at)

German language courses are offered by the Goethe-Institute, Vienna University and many adult education colleges.



Vienna – meeting place of the world

Vienna is home to many leading international organizations and, along with New York, Geneva und Nairobi, one of the four headquarters of the United Nations (UN). Vienna is thus the only official seat of the United Nations within the European Union.

The Vienna International Centre (VIC), opened in 1979, hosts a number of major United Nations bodies:

- the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO)
- and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

In addition to the UN bodies, several other international organizations are based in Vienna.

They include

- the Organization for Safety and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
- the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
- and a number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Austria currently hosts a total of around 30 international organizations and has a reputation throughout the world as a centre of dialogue.

World-class congress destination

Vienna is the top global congress and conference destination. According to a study published by the International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA), Vienna was the world's most popular congress city for the fifth year in a row. A total of 160 international congresses took place in Vienna in the year 2009.

Barcelona jumped from 3rd to 2nd place with 135 congresses. Paris is placed third with 131 meetings, followed by Berlin with 129 and Singapore with 119 international congresses.