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Your easy access to Austria

Life Sciences in Austria

Where Innovation Moves Mountains



The Ecosystem

Austria: The Best Location for Life Sciences

Companies, initiatives, and research centres comprise a stable network for complementary expertise and joint projects (selected examples):

Research Landscape

- > Austrian Center for Medical Innovation and Technology (ACMIT)
- > Austrian Centre of Industrial Biotechnology (acib)
- > Austrian Drug Screening Institute (ADSI)
- > Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT)
- > Biobank Graz
- > CBmed GmbH Center for Biomarker Research in Medicine
- > Center for Precision Medicine Vienna
- > Competence Center Digital Health and Care
- > JOANNEUM RESEARCH
- > MedAustron
- > Medical Universities of Vienna, Graz and Innsbruck
- > Research Center Pharmaceutical Engineering (RCPE)
- > Research Center for Molecular Medicine, Vienna (CeMM)
- > Research Institute of Molecular Pathology (IMP)
- > Institute of Molecular Biotechnology of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (IMBA)

Networks, Platforms, and Incubators

- > BIOTECH AUSTRIA
- > ecoplus/Technopol Krems
- > ecoplus/Plattform für Gesundheitstechnologie
- > EIT Health Austria
- > Future Health Lab
- > Health Hub Tirol
- > Health Hub Vienna
- > Human.technology Styria
- > Cluster Life Sciences Tirol
- > LISAVienna
- > Medizintechnik-Cluster Oberösterreich
- > Medizintechnik-Cluster Salzburg
- > xista Science Park

Startups & Scaleups

- > contextflow
- > Cutanos
- > Delta4
- > DirectSens
- > Evobright
- > hi.health
- > invIOs
- > Myllia
- > OncoOne
- > OncoLab Diagnostics
- > nyra health
- > Phoenestra
- > PIUR IMAGING
- > QUANTRO Therapeutics
- > Sarcura
- > Sendance
- > Single Use Support
- > Solgate
- > SteadySense
- > UpNano
- > VALANX

Companies



Best Infrastructure

Life Sciences in Austria at a Glance

The figures speak for themselves: close to 1,000 life sciences companies with more than 60,000 employees, 55 research institutions with a total workforce of 25,000 people focusing solely on life sciences, along with about 77,000 students. They combine to make Austria one of the most important European business locations for pharmaceuticals and biotechnology – in a country with just nine million inhabitants. The pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry generated revenue of more than € 25 billion in 2020 and shows a continuing upward trend. At present, total revenue in the industry is growing by more than 10% p.a.

982	Companies
€ 25.1 billion	Revenue
7%	Proportion of GDP
20.5%	Research ratio
€ 1.27 billion	R&D expenditures

Source: Life Sciences Austria (LISA), 2020

About 40% of the life sciences companies in Austria belong to the pharmaceutical sector, whereas 60% operate in the field of medical technology.

Thanks to the research-friendly conditions, the life sciences sector and the startup scene are posting particularly dynamic growth. A supporting role is played by investors and companies providing the necessary infrastructure such as laboratory space along with the well-developed supplier industry and service providers.

Austria is an important production location for pharmaceuticals which Big Pharma players such as Boehringer Ingelheim, Takeda, Fresenius, and Novartis leverage to implement efficient manufacturing. The country has gained an outstanding reputation as a life sciences research location. The excellent infrastructure including laboratory space and the large number of highly qualified employees complemented by the availability of data and donors support the boom in Austria as a location of medical research.



Major areas of strength include oncology and personalised medicine. The medical technology sector is a leader in technologies such as the 3D printing of implants, biosensors, patient monitoring, and AI-based diagnostic apps. Micro-electronics research is the foundation for the success of medical technology, with a focus on diagnostics, imaging, and prosthetics.

Each year Austria spends approx. € 50 billion on healthcare services. This corresponds to about 11.2% of Austria's GDP, putting the country far above the OECD average.

About three-quarters of all health spending are publicly financed in Austria, with the other quarter coming from private households, insurance companies and the corporate sector, an amount which is on the rise.

NOVARTIS



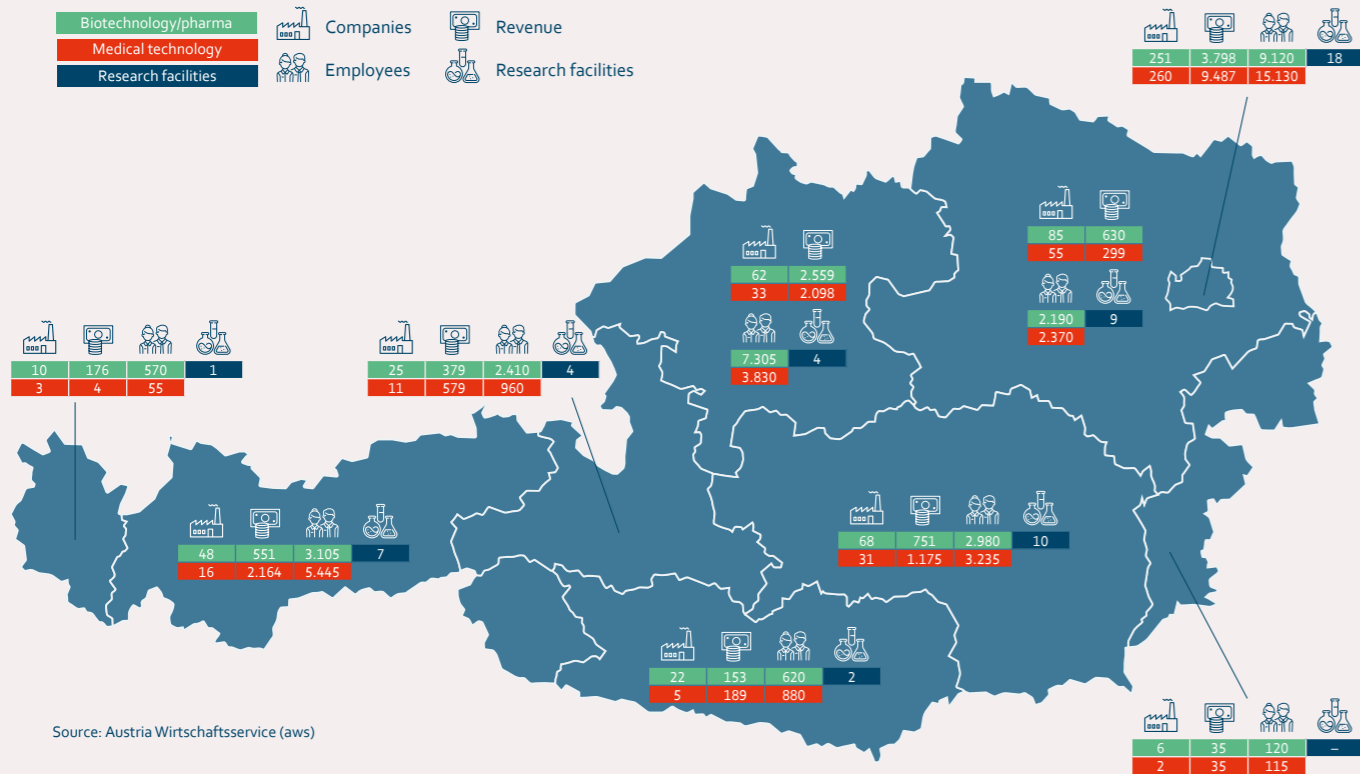
The two facilities in Kundl and Schafstau in Tyrol together comprise the largest production centre within the globally operating Novartis Group. Over the past eight years, Novartis has invested a total of € 1.8 billion in Austria. At the beginning of 2024, the company announced plans to invest an additional € 500 million to build two new cell culture plants to manufacture biopharmaceuticals. The pharmaceutical company considers Austria to be a strategic location for production and research.

"As one of Austria's leading pharmaceutical companies, we are well positioned to further strengthen our production capacities and thus continue to supply patients in Austria, Europe, and the entire world with innovative medicines 'Made in Austria'."

Steffen Lang, President Operations Novartis

Tradition, Innovation and Translation

Research as an Engine for Growth



Source: Austria Wirtschaftsservice (aws)

The good interaction of sciences and companies and the high level of networking among manufacturing/service companies and suppliers makes Austria a unique life sciences location. Austria's leading research institutions with their excellently trained life sciences employees and young professionals are the main drivers for the extremely fast translation of biomedical research into medical discoveries and interventions. Research institutions with a global reputation such as IMBA, COMET competence centres and the application-oriented Christian Doppler Laboratories comprise the main cornerstones of Austria's research landscape.

The Eric Kandel Institute – Centre for Precision Medicine of the Medical University of Vienna is being created in the direct vicinity of Vienna General Hospital (AKH), one of the world's largest university hospitals. Moreover, Vienna also hosts the Co-Location

Centre Austria serving as a startup incubator for life sciences companies and one of the hubs of the European Institute for Innovation & Technology (EIT) Health.

In addition to Vienna, other centres of knowledge in Austria stand out thanks to their strong life sciences expertise. The Medical University of Graz hosts one of the world's largest biobanks and the EU headquarters of BBMRI-ERIC, the European research infrastructure for biobanking. For its part, the Medical University of Linz is positioned as an interface for science, software and health and offers a good home for e-health startups. The Medical University of Innsbruck is regarded as a research centre for oncology, neurosciences, and genetics. Excellent clusters in several federal states support the collaboration between science, education, and the corporate sector.

// Austria has emerged as a centre for research and biotechnology.//

Philipp von Latorff, Chairman of the Supervisory Board, Boehringer Ingelheim RCV GmbH & Co KG

Success Stories

Takeda

The Japanese pharmaceutical firm Takeda, operating in Vienna for close to 70 years, is currently investing a three-digit million euro amount in a technically and ecologically optimized new building for biopharmaceutical research and development in Vienna's Urban Lakeside district.

Octapharma

Octapharma is significantly expanding its Viennese facility. Plans call for 220 employees to be employed there as of 2028. Furthermore, a new logistics area is being built. On balance, Octapharma is investing a total of € 200 million.

Fresenius

After investing more than € 60 million over the past three years, Fresenius Kabi is expanding its facility in Graz and investing about € 28 million up to 2026 in the production of biopharmaceutical drug products.

ABA simply gets it done.

Aim to implement your business idea in Austria?

We will guide you through the startup process – step by step.

Did you know this?

Austria has one of the world's largest and best hospitals, namely the Vienna General Hospital (AKH).

The proof

The University Hospital Vienna (AKH) and the university clinics operated in conjunction with the Medical University of Vienna are rated 25th in the latest ranking of the World's Best Hospitals.

Research funding

Companies benefit quickly and unbureaucratically

Austria is number one in the EU for direct and indirect research funding. An important building block for this is the uncapped, 14% research tax premium for R&D expenditures. This applies to both in-house and contract research, encompassing staff costs, R&D investments, finance costs and operating costs. In 2022, the research premium for which companies applied surpassed the threshold of € 1 billion.

Furthermore, the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) directly supports corporate R&D projects along the entire value chain by providing up to 70% of the costs. On balance, it made funding commitments totalling € 912 million in the year 2022. In contrast, basic research is funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF). Companies are assisted by Austria Wirtschaftsservice (aws), the promotional bank of the federal government. 73% of all applications are approved. The total financing volume equalled more than € 1 billion in 2022.

The Talents

Austria is a country focusing on education. About one-third of the 390,000 students conclude their studies in one of the STEM subjects. Accordingly, Austria ranks second in the EU.

22	public Universities
17	private Universities
21	universities of applied sciences
3,600	study programmes
390,000	students from all over the world

Source: Statistics Austria, 2022

International scientists and executives highly value the country's high quality of life. People coming from abroad to conduct research in Austria also benefit from tax deductions. There is a 30% foreign researchers' tax deduction limited to five years on their income from scientific work.

It is easy for international talents to communicate with others. Austria is ranked third in the English Proficiency Index (TOEFL) and one-quarter of all Austrians grow up bilingual.

//Austria - and Vienna in particular - is an attractive business location for innovative biotech startups. The existing funding instruments and well-organised services such as those offered by ABA are extremely helpful.//

Dr. Robert Wawrzinek, Co-Founder and CEO, Cutanos

International Startups Select Austria

CUTANOS

The biotech company develops anti-specific vaccines as well as new treatments for autoimmune disorders.

Brightmind.AI

The neurotech startup aims to launch a Non-Invasive Brain Stimulation (NIBS) solution on the marketplace as a wearable.

RobotDreams

RobotDreams is developing an AI-based software for the diagnosis of cardiovascular diseases based on blood tests.

Did you know this?

Vienna is Europe's plasma capital and can look back at more than 60 years of research in this field.

The proof

About 15% of the blood plasma required globally is processed by Austrian companies and turned into plasma-derived medicinal products. The Austrian Octapharma subsidiary operates one of the most modern plasma fractionation facilities in the world.

INVEST in AUSTRIA

We are there to provide help and support when foreign companies want to set up business operations in Austria or expand existing facilities.

WORK in AUSTRIA

Austrian companies offer many attractive jobs for skilled workers from abroad. We are the advisory centre for both sides.

FILM in AUSTRIA

Tom Cruise climbs down a rope from the Vienna State Opera and James Bond flies across Tyrol. We work "behind the scenes" so that the world sees these images.

Austrian Business Agency

Opernring 3
1010 Vienna
Austria

aba.gv.at



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