[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Redirect2](/wiki/Template:Redirect2) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Coord](/wiki/Template:Coord) [Template:Infobox country](/wiki/Template:Infobox_country)

**Austria** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en);[[1]](#cite_note-1)[[2]](#cite_note-2) [Template:Lang-de](/wiki/Template:Lang-de) [Template:IPA-de](/wiki/Template:IPA-de)), officially the **Republic of Austria** ([Template:Lang-de](/wiki/Template:Lang-de), [Template:Audio](/wiki/Template:Audio)), is a [federal republic](/wiki/Federal_republic) and a [landlocked country](/wiki/Landlocked_country) of over 8.66 million people[[3]](#cite_note-3) in [Central Europe](/wiki/Central_Europe). It is bordered by the [Czech Republic](/wiki/Czech_Republic) and [Germany](/wiki/Germany) to the north, [Hungary](/wiki/Hungary) and [Slovakia](/wiki/Slovakia) to the east, [Slovenia](/wiki/Slovenia) and [Italy](/wiki/Italy) to the south, and [Switzerland](/wiki/Switzerland) and [Liechtenstein](/wiki/Liechtenstein) to the west. The territory of Austria covers [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). Austria's terrain is highly mountainous, lying within the [Alps](/wiki/Alps); only 32% of the country is below [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), and its highest point is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[4]](#cite_note-4) The majority of the population speak local [Bavarian](/wiki/Bavarian_language) dialects of [German](/wiki/German_language) as their native language,[[5]](#cite_note-5) and [Austrian German](/wiki/Austrian_German) in its standard form is the country's [official language](/wiki/Official_language).[[6]](#cite_note-6) Other local official languages are [Hungarian](/wiki/Hungarian_language), [Burgenland Croatian](/wiki/Burgenland_Croatian), and [Slovene](/wiki/Slovene_language).[[4]](#cite_note-4) The origins of modern-day Austria date back to the time of the [Habsburg dynasty](/wiki/House_of_Habsburg) when the vast majority of the country was a part of the [Holy Roman Empire](/wiki/Holy_Roman_Empire). From the time of the [Reformation](/wiki/Reformation), many Northern German princes, resenting the authority of the Emperor, used [Protestantism](/wiki/Protestantism) as a flag of rebellion. The [Thirty Years War](/wiki/Thirty_Years_War), the influence of the [Kingdom of Sweden](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Sweden) and [Kingdom of France](/wiki/Kingdom_of_France), the rise of the [Kingdom of Prussia](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Prussia), and the Napoleonic invasions all weakened the power of the Emperor in the North of Germany, but in the South, and in non-German areas of the Empire, the Emperor and Catholicism maintained control. During the 17th and 18th centuries, Austria was able to retain its position as one of the [great powers](/wiki/Great_power) of Europe[[7]](#cite_note-7)[[8]](#cite_note-8) and, in response to the coronation of [Napoleon](/wiki/Napoleon) as the [Emperor of the French](/wiki/Emperor_of_the_French), the [Austrian Empire](/wiki/Austrian_Empire) was officially proclaimed in 1804. Following Napoleon's defeat, Prussia emerged as Austria's chief competitor for rule of a larger Germany. Austria's defeat by Prussia at the [Battle of Königgrätz](/wiki/Battle_of_Königgrätz), during the [Austro-Prussian War](/wiki/Austro-Prussian_War) of 1866, cleared the way for Prussia to assert control over the rest of Germany. In 1867, the empire was [reformed](/wiki/Austro-Hungarian_Compromise_of_1867) into [Austria-Hungary](/wiki/Austria-Hungary). After the defeat of France in the 1870 [Franco-Prussian War](/wiki/Franco-Prussian_War), Austria was left out of the formation of a new [German Empire](/wiki/German_Empire), although in the following decades its politics, and its foreign policy, increasingly converged with those of the Prussian-led Empire. During the 1914 [July Crisis](/wiki/July_Crisis) that followed the assassination of [Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria](/wiki/Archduke_Franz_Ferdinand_of_Austria), Germany guided Austria in issuing the [ultimatum](/wiki/July_Crisis#Austria-Hungary_receives_German_support_and_settles_on_coercive_diplomacy_with_Serbia) to [Serbia](/wiki/Serbia) that led to the declaration of [World War I](/wiki/World_War_I).

After the collapse of the Habsburg (Austro-Hungarian) Empire in 1918 at the end of World War I, Austria adopted and used the name the [Republic of German-Austria](/wiki/Republic_of_German-Austria) ([*Template:Lang*](/wiki/Template:Lang), later [*Template:Lang*](/wiki/Template:Lang)) in an attempt for union with [Germany](/wiki/Weimar_Republic), but was forbidden due to the [Treaty of Saint-Germain-en-Laye (1919)](/wiki/Treaty_of_Saint-Germain-en-Laye_(1919)). The [First Austrian Republic](/wiki/First_Republic_of_Austria) was established in 1919. In the 1938 [Anschluss](/wiki/Anschluss), Austria was occupied and annexed by [Nazi Germany](/wiki/Nazi_Germany).[[9]](#cite_note-9) This lasted until the end of [World War II](/wiki/World_War_II) in 1945, after which Germany was [occupied by the Allies](/wiki/Allied-occupied_Austria) and Austria's former democratic constitution was restored. In 1955, the [Austrian State Treaty](/wiki/Austrian_State_Treaty) re-established Austria as a sovereign state, ending the occupation. In the same year, the [Austrian Parliament](/wiki/Austrian_Parliament) created the [Declaration of Neutrality](/wiki/Declaration_of_Neutrality) which declared that the Second Austrian Republic would become permanently [neutral](/wiki/Neutrality_(international_relations)).

Today, Austria is a parliamentary [representative democracy](/wiki/Representative_democracy) comprising nine [federal states](/wiki/States_of_Austria).[[4]](#cite_note-4)[[10]](#cite_note-10) The capital and largest city, with a population exceeding 1.7 million, is [Vienna](/wiki/Vienna).[[4]](#cite_note-4)[[11]](#cite_note-11) Austria is one of the [richest countries in the world](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_(nominal)_per_capita), with a nominal per capita GDP of $43,546. The country has developed a [high standard of living](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_Human_Development_Index) and in 2014 was ranked 21st in the world for its [Human Development Index](/wiki/Human_Development_Index). Austria has been a member of the United Nations since 1955,[[12]](#cite_note-12) [joined the European Union](/wiki/Accession_of_Austria_to_the_European_Union) in 1995,[[4]](#cite_note-4) and is a founder of the [OECD](/wiki/Organisation_for_Economic_Co-operation_and_Development).[[13]](#cite_note-13) Austria also signed the [Schengen Agreement](/wiki/Schengen_Agreement) in 1995,[[14]](#cite_note-14) and adopted the [euro](/wiki/Euro) currency in 1999.

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## Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|left|First appearance of the word "ostarrichi", circled in red. Modern Austria honours this document, dated 996, as the founding of the nation.](/wiki/File:Ostarrichi.jpg) The German name for Austria, [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang), meant "eastern realm" in [Old High German](/wiki/Old_High_German), and is cognate with the word *Ostarrîchi*, which first appears in the "Ostarrîchi document" of 996.[[15]](#cite_note-15) This word is probably a translation of [Medieval Latin](/wiki/Medieval_Latin) [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang) into a local (Bavarian) dialect. Austria was a prefecture of Bavaria created in 976. The word "Austria" is a Latinisation of the German name and was first recorded in the 12th century. At the time, the Danube basin of Austria ([Upper](/wiki/Upper_Austria) and [Lower Austria](/wiki/Lower_Austria)) was the easternmost extent of Bavaria, and in fact of all the [Germans](/wiki/Germans), as at the time the territory of the former [East Germany](/wiki/Former_eastern_territories_of_Germany) was populated by [Slavic](/wiki/Slavs) [Sorbs](/wiki/Sorbs) and [Polabians](/wiki/Polabians).

[Friedrich Heer](/wiki/Friedrich_Heer), a 20th-century Austrian historian, stated in his book *Der Kampf um die österreichische Identität* (*The Struggle Over Austrian Identity*),[[16]](#cite_note-16) that the Germanic form *Ostarrîchi* was not a translation of the Latin word, but both resulted from a much older term originating in the [Celtic languages](/wiki/Celtic_languages) of ancient Austria: more than 2,500 years ago, the major part of the actual country was called *Norig* by the Celtic population ([Hallstatt culture](/wiki/Hallstatt_culture)); according to Heer, *no-* or *nor-* meant "east" or "easterns", whereas *-rig* is related to the modern German *Reich*, meaning "realm". Accordingly, *Norig* would essentially mean the same as *Ostarrîchi* and *Österreich*, thus *Austria*. The Celtic name was eventually Latinised to [*Noricum*](/wiki/Noricum) after the Romans conquered the area that encloses most of modern-day Austria, in around 15 BC. *Noricum* later became a [Roman province](/wiki/Roman_province) in the mid 1st century AD.[[17]](#cite_note-17) Heer's hypothesis is not accepted by linguists.

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|](/wiki/File:2011-07-09_gasometer_28.JPG)[Venus of Willendorf](/wiki/Venus_of_Willendorf), 28,000 to 25,000 BC. [Museum of Natural History Vienna](/wiki/Naturhistorisches_Museum) Settled in ancient times,[[10]](#cite_note-10) the Central European land that is now Austria was occupied in pre-Roman times by various [Celtic](/wiki/Celt) tribes. The Celtic kingdom of [Noricum](/wiki/Noricum) was later claimed by the [Roman Empire](/wiki/Roman_Empire) and made a province. Present day Petronell-[Carnuntum](/wiki/Carnuntum) in Eastern Austria was an important army camp turned capital city in what became known as the Upper Pannonia province. Carnuntum was home for 50,000 people for nearly 400 years.[[18]](#cite_note-18) [thumb|"Heidentor" – Remains of the](/wiki/File:Petronell-Heidentor.jpg) [Roman](/wiki/Ancient_Rome) military city of [Carnuntum](/wiki/Carnuntum) After the fall of the Roman Empire the area was invaded by [Bavarians](/wiki/Bavarians), [Slavs](/wiki/Slavs), and [Avars](/wiki/Pannonian_Avars).[[19]](#cite_note-19) [Charlemagne](/wiki/Charlemagne) conquered the area in AD 788, encouraged colonisation and introduced Christianity.[[19]](#cite_note-19) As part of [Eastern Francia](/wiki/Eastern_Francia), the core areas that now encompass Austria were bequeathed to the house of [Babenberg](/wiki/Babenberg). The area was known as the [*marchia Orientalis*](/wiki/March_of_Austria) and was given to [Leopold of Babenberg](/wiki/Leopold_I_of_Austria_(Babenberg)) in 976.[[20]](#cite_note-20) The first record showing the name Austria is from 996, where it is written as [*Ostarrîchi*](/wiki/Ostarrîchi), referring to the territory of the Babenberg March.[[20]](#cite_note-20) In 1156 the [Privilegium Minus](/wiki/Privilegium_Minus) elevated Austria to the status of a duchy. In 1192, the Babenbergs also acquired the Duchy of [Styria](/wiki/Styria_(duchy)). With the death of [Frederick II](/wiki/Frederick_II_of_Austria) in 1246, the line of the Babenbergs was extinguished.[[21]](#cite_note-21) As a result, [Ottokar II of Bohemia](/wiki/Ottokar_II_of_Bohemia) effectively assumed control of the duchies of Austria, Styria and [Carinthia](/wiki/Carinthia_(duchy)).[[21]](#cite_note-21) His reign came to an end with his defeat at [Dürnkrut](/wiki/Dürnkrut) at the hands of [Rudolph I of Germany](/wiki/Rudolph_I_of_Germany) in 1278.[[22]](#cite_note-22) Thereafter, until World War I, Austria's history was largely that of its ruling dynasty, the [Habsburgs](/wiki/Habsburgs).

### Middle Ages[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

In the 14th and 15th centuries, the [Habsburgs](/wiki/Habsburg_Monarchy) began to accumulate other provinces in the vicinity of the Duchy of Austria. In 1438 Duke [Albert V of Austria](/wiki/Albert_V_of_Austria) was chosen as the successor to his father-in-law, [Emperor Sigismund](/wiki/Emperor_Sigismund). Although Albert himself only reigned for a year, henceforth every emperor of the Holy Roman Empire was a Habsburg, with only one exception.

[thumb|The](/wiki/File:Vienna_Battle_1683.jpg) [Battle of Vienna](/wiki/Battle_of_Vienna) in 1683 broke the advance of the [Ottoman Empire](/wiki/Ottoman_Empire) into Europe. The Habsburgs began also to accumulate lands far from the hereditary lands. In 1477 [Archduke Maximilian](/wiki/Maximilian_I,_Holy_Roman_Emperor), only son of [Emperor Frederick III](/wiki/Frederick_III,_Holy_Roman_Emperor), married the heiress Maria of [Burgundy](/wiki/County_of_Burgundy), thus acquiring most of the [Netherlands](/wiki/Netherlands) for the family.[[23]](#cite_note-23)[[24]](#cite_note-24) His son [Philip the Fair](/wiki/Philip_I_of_Castile) married [Joanna the Mad](/wiki/Joanna_the_Mad), the heiress of [Castile](/wiki/Crown_of_Castile) and [Aragon](/wiki/Crown_of_Aragon), and thus acquired Spain and its Italian, African and [New World](/wiki/New_World) appendages for the Habsburgs.[[23]](#cite_note-23)[[24]](#cite_note-24) In 1526 following the [Battle of Mohács](/wiki/Battle_of_Mohács), [Bohemia](/wiki/Bohemia) and the part of [Hungary](/wiki/Hungary) not occupied by the Ottomans came under Austrian rule.[[25]](#cite_note-25) [Ottoman expansion](/wiki/Ottoman–Hungarian_Wars) into Hungary led to [frequent conflicts](/wiki/Ottoman–Habsburg_wars) between the two empires, particularly evident in the so-called [Long War](/wiki/Long_War_(Ottoman_wars)) of 1593 to 1606. The Turks made incursions into [Styria](/wiki/Styria) nearly twenty times;,[[26]](#cite_note-26) which some of them are cited as "burning, pillaging, and taking thousands of slaves".[[27]](#cite_note-27)

### 17th and 18th centuries[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[thumb||](/wiki/File:CongressVienna.jpg)[The Congress of Vienna](/wiki/The_Congress_of_Vienna) met in 1814–15. The objective of the Congress was to settle the many issues arising from the [French Revolutionary Wars](/wiki/French_Revolutionary_Wars), the [Napoleonic Wars](/wiki/Napoleonic_Wars), and the dissolution of the [Holy Roman Empire](/wiki/Holy_Roman_Empire). During the long reign of [Leopold I](/wiki/Emperor_Leopold_I) (1657–1705) and following the successful [defense of Vienna](/wiki/Battle_of_Vienna) in 1683 (under the command of the King of Poland, [John III Sobieski](/wiki/John_III_Sobieski)),[[28]](#cite_note-28) a [series of campaigns](/wiki/Great_Turkish_War) resulted in bringing all of Hungary to Austrian control by the [Treaty of Karlowitz](/wiki/Treaty_of_Karlowitz) in 1699.

[Emperor Charles VI](/wiki/Emperor_Charles_VI) relinquished many of the gains the empire made in the previous years, largely due to his apprehensions at the imminent extinction of the House of Habsburg. Charles was willing to offer concrete advantages in territory and authority in exchange for recognition of the [Pragmatic Sanction](/wiki/Pragmatic_Sanction) that made his daughter [Maria Theresa](/wiki/Maria_Theresa_of_Austria) his heir. With the rise of [Prussia](/wiki/Prussia) the [Austrian–Prussian dualism](/wiki/German_dualism) began in Germany. Austria participated, together with Prussia and Russia, in the first and the third of the three [Partitions of Poland](/wiki/Partitions_of_Poland) (in 1772 and 1795).

### 19th century[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

Austria later became engaged in a war with [Revolutionary France](/wiki/Revolutionary_France), at the beginning highly unsuccessfully, with successive defeats at the hands of [Napoleon](/wiki/Napoleon) meaning the end of the old [Holy Roman Empire](/wiki/Holy_Roman_Empire) in 1806. Two years earlier,[[29]](#cite_note-29) in 1804, the [Empire of Austria](/wiki/Austrian_Empire) was founded. In 1814 Austria was part of the Allied forces that invaded France and brought to an end the [Napoleonic Wars](/wiki/Napoleonic_Wars).

[thumb|250px|An ethno-linguistic map of Austria–Hungary, 1910](/wiki/File:Austria_Hungary_ethnic.svg) It emerged from the [Congress of Vienna](/wiki/Congress_of_Vienna) in 1815 as one of the continent's four dominant powers and a recognised [great power](/wiki/Great_power). The same year, the [German Confederation](/wiki/German_Confederation) ([Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)) was founded under the presidency of Austria. Because of unsolved social, political and national conflicts the German lands were shaken by the [1848 revolution](/wiki/1848_revolution) aiming to create a unified Germany.[[30]](#cite_note-30) A unified Germany would have been possible either as a [Greater Germany](/wiki/Kleindeutschland_and_Großdeutschland), or a Greater Austria or just the German Confederation without Austria at all. As Austria was not willing to relinquish its German-speaking territories to what would become the [German Empire of 1848](/wiki/Unification_of_Germany), the crown of the newly formed empire was offered to the Prussian King [Friedrich Wilhelm IV](/wiki/Friedrich_Wilhelm_IV). In 1864, Austria and Prussia fought together against [Denmark](/wiki/Denmark) and secured the independence from Denmark of the duchies of [Schleswig](/wiki/Schleswig) and [Holstein](/wiki/Holstein). But as they could not agree on how the two duchies should be administered, they fought the [Austro-Prussian War](/wiki/Austro-Prussian_War) in 1866. Defeated by Prussia in the [Battle of Königgrätz](/wiki/Battle_of_Königgrätz),[[30]](#cite_note-30) Austria had to leave the German Confederation and subsequently no longer took part in German politics.[[31]](#cite_note-31)[[32]](#cite_note-32) The [Austro-Hungarian Compromise of 1867](/wiki/Austro-Hungarian_Compromise_of_1867), the *Ausgleich*, provided for a dual sovereignty, the [Austrian Empire](/wiki/Austrian_Empire) and the [Kingdom of Hungary](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Hungary), under [Franz Joseph I](/wiki/Franz_Joseph_I_of_Austria).[[33]](#cite_note-33) The Austrian-Hungarian rule of this diverse empire included various [Slavic](/wiki/Slavic_peoples) groups, including [Croats](/wiki/Croats), [Czechs](/wiki/Czechs), [Poles](/wiki/Poles), [Rusyns](/wiki/Rusyns), [Serbs](/wiki/Serbs), [Slovaks](/wiki/Slovaks), [Slovenes](/wiki/Slovenes) and [Ukrainians](/wiki/Ukrainians), as well as large Italian and [Romanian](/wiki/Romanians) communities.

As a result, ruling Austria–Hungary became increasingly difficult in an age of emerging nationalist movements, requiring considerable reliance on an expanded secret police. Yet the government of Austria tried its best to be accommodating in some respects: The *Reichsgesetzblatt*, publishing the laws and ordinances of [Cisleithania](/wiki/Cisleithania), was issued in eight languages; and all national groups were entitled to schools in their own language and to the use of their mother tongue at state offices, for example.

### 20th century[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:franzferdinand.jpg)[Archduke Franz Ferdinand](/wiki/Archduke_Franz_Ferdinand) (right) with his family In 1908 Austria-Hungary found an excuse in the promulgation of the [Second Constitutional Era](/wiki/Second_Constitutional_Era) in the [Ottoman Empire](/wiki/Ottoman_Empire) to annex [Bosnia and Herzegovina](/wiki/Bosnia_and_Herzegovina_in_Austria-Hungary).[[34]](#cite_note-34) The [assassination](/wiki/Assassination_of_Archduke_Franz_Ferdinand_of_Austria) of [Archduke Franz Ferdinand](/wiki/Archduke_Franz_Ferdinand_of_Austria) in [Sarajevo](/wiki/Sarajevo) in 1914 by Bosnian Serb [Gavrilo Princip](/wiki/Gavrilo_Princip)[[35]](#cite_note-35) was used by leading Austrian politicians and generals to persuade the emperor to declare war on Serbia, thereby risking and prompting the outbreak of [World War I](/wiki/World_War_I), which eventually led to the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Over one million Austro-Hungarian soldiers died in World War I.[[36]](#cite_note-36)

### Post-war settlement[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

On 21 October 1918, the elected German members of the *Reichsrat* (parliament of Imperial Austria) met in Vienna as the Provisional National Assembly for German Austria (*Provisorische Nationalversammlung für Deutschösterreich*). On 30 October the assembly founded the State of German Austria by appointing a government, called *Staatsrat*. This new government was invited by the Emperor to take part in the decision on the planned armistice with Italy, but refrained from this business.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

This left the responsibility for the end of the war, on 3 November 1918, solely to the Emperor and his government. On 11 November the emperor, advised by ministers of the old and the new government, declared he would not take part in state business any more; on 12 November German Austria, by law, declared itself to be a democratic republic and part of the new German republic. The constitution, renaming the *Staatsrat* as *Bundesregierung* (federal government) and *Nationalversammlung* as *Nationalrat* (national council) was passed on 10 November 1920.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

[thumb|250px|German speaking provinces claimed by Austria in 1918. The border of the subsequent Second Republic of Austria is outlined in red](/wiki/File:GermanAustriaMap.png) The [Treaty of Saint-Germain](/wiki/Treaty_of_Saint-Germain) of 1919 (for Hungary the [Treaty of Trianon](/wiki/Treaty_of_Trianon) of 1920) confirmed and consolidated the new order of Central Europe which to a great extent had been established in November 1918, creating new states and altering others. Over 3 million German-speaking Austrians found themselves living outside the newborn Austrian Republic as minorities in the newly formed or enlarged states of [Czechoslovakia](/wiki/Czechoslovakia), [Yugoslavia](/wiki/Yugoslavia), [Hungary](/wiki/Hungary) and Italy.[[37]](#cite_note-37) These included the provinces of [South Tyrol](/wiki/South_Tyrol) (which became part of Italy) and [German Bohemia](/wiki/German_Bohemia) (Czechoslovakia). The status of German Bohemia (Sudetenland) later played a role in sparking the Second World War.[[38]](#cite_note-38) The status of South Tyrol was a lingering problem between Austria and Italy until it was officially settled by the 1980s with a great degree of autonomy being granted to it by the Italian national government. Between 1918 and 1919 Austria was known as the State of [German Austria](/wiki/German_Austria) ([Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)). Not only did the [Entente powers](/wiki/Allies_of_World_War_I) forbid German Austria to unite with Germany, they also rejected the name German Austria in the peace treaty to be signed; it was therefore changed to Republic of Austria in late 1919.[[38]](#cite_note-38) The border between Austria and the [Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Serbs,_Croats,_and_Slovenes) (later Yugoslavia) was settled with the [Carinthian Plebiscite](/wiki/Carinthian_Plebiscite) in October 1920 and allocated the major part of the territory of the former Austro-Hungarian Crownland of Carinthia to Austria. This set the border on the [Karawanken](/wiki/Karavanke) mountain range, with many [Slovenes](/wiki/Slovenes) remaining in Austria.

### Interwar period and World War II[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) After the war, inflation began to devalue the *Krone*, which was still Austria's currency. In autumn 1922 Austria was granted an international loan supervised by the [League of Nations](/wiki/League_of_Nations).[[39]](#cite_note-39) The purpose of the loan was to avert bankruptcy, stabilize the currency and improve Austria's general economic condition. The loan meant that Austria passed from an independent state to the control exercised by the League of Nations. In 1925 the [*Schilling*](/wiki/Austrian_schilling), replacing the *Krone* at a rate of 10,000:1, was introduced. Later it was called the Alpine dollar due to its stability. From 1925 to 1929 the economy enjoyed a short high before nearly crashing after [Black Tuesday](/wiki/Wall_Street_Crash_of_1929).

The [First Austrian Republic](/wiki/First_Austrian_Republic) lasted until 1933 when Chancellor [Engelbert Dollfuss](/wiki/Engelbert_Dollfuss), using what he called "self-switch-off of Parliament" ([Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)), established an autocratic regime tending toward [Italian fascism](/wiki/Italian_fascism).[[40]](#cite_note-40)[[41]](#cite_note-41) The two big parties at this time, the Social Democrats and the Conservatives, had paramilitary armies;[[42]](#cite_note-42) the Social Democrats' [*Schutzbund*](/wiki/Republikanischer_Schutzbund) was now declared illegal but still operative[[42]](#cite_note-42) as [civil war](/wiki/Austrian_Civil_War) broke out.[[40]](#cite_note-40)[[41]](#cite_note-41)[[43]](#cite_note-43) In February 1934 several members of the *Schutzbund* were executed,[[44]](#cite_note-44) the Social Democratic party was outlawed and many of its members were imprisoned or emigrated.[[43]](#cite_note-43) On 1 May 1934, the [Austrofascists](/wiki/Austrofascism) imposed a new constitution ("Maiverfassung") which cemented Dollfuss's power but on 25 July he was assassinated in a [Nazi](/wiki/Nazi) coup attempt.[[45]](#cite_note-45)[[46]](#cite_note-46) [thumb|Hitler speaking at](/wiki/File:Bundesarchiv_Bild_183-1987-0922-500,_Wien,_Heldenplatz,_Rede_Adolf_Hitler.jpg) [Heldenplatz](/wiki/Heldenplatz), Vienna, 1938 His successor [Kurt Schuschnigg](/wiki/Kurt_Schuschnigg) struggled to keep Austria independent as "the better German state", but on 12 March 1938, Austrian Nazis took over government, while German troops occupied the country.[[47]](#cite_note-47) On 13 March 1938, the [*Anschluss*](/wiki/Anschluss) of Austria was officially declared. Two days later Austrian-born [Hitler](/wiki/Adolf_Hitler) announced what he called the "re-unification" of his home country with the "rest of the [German Reich](/wiki/Nazi_Germany)" on Vienna's [Heldenplatz](/wiki/Heldenplatz). He established a plebiscite confirming the union with Germany in April 1938.

Parliamentary elections were held in Germany (including recently annexed Austria) on 10 April 1938. They were the final elections to the Reichstag during Nazi rule and took the form of a single-question referendum asking whether voters approved of a single Nazi-party list for the 813-member Reichstag as well as the recent annexation of Austria (the Anschluss). Turnout in the election was officially 99.5% with 98.9% voting "yes". In the case of Austria, Adolf Hitler's native soil, 99.71% of an electorate of 4,484,475 officially went to the ballots, with a positive tally of 99.73%.[[48]](#cite_note-48) [mini|hochkant=1.2|thumb|left|The liberation of](/wiki/File:KZ_Mauthausen.jpg) [Mauthausen concentration camp](/wiki/Mauthausen_concentration_camp), 1945 Austria was incorporated into the [Third Reich](/wiki/Third_Reich) and ceased to exist as an independent country. The [Aryanisation](/wiki/Aryanisation) of the wealth of Jewish Austrians started immediately in mid-March with a so-called "wild" (i.e. extra-legal) phase, but soon was structured legally and bureaucratically to strip Jewish citizens of any assets they possessed. The Nazis called Austria "[Ostmark](/wiki/Ostmark_(Austria))"[[47]](#cite_note-47) until 1942 when it was again renamed and called "Alpen-Donau-Reichsgaue".

Some of the most prominent Nazis were native Austrians, including [Adolf Hitler](/wiki/Adolf_Hitler), [Ernst Kaltenbrunner](/wiki/Ernst_Kaltenbrunner), [Arthur Seyss-Inquart](/wiki/Arthur_Seyss-Inquart), [Franz Stangl](/wiki/Franz_Stangl), and [Odilo Globocnik](/wiki/Odilo_Globocnik),[[49]](#cite_note-49) as were 40% of the staff at Nazi [extermination camps](/wiki/Extermination_camp).[[50]](#cite_note-50) Vienna fell on 13 April 1945, during the [Soviet](/wiki/Soviet_Union) [Vienna Offensive](/wiki/Vienna_Offensive) just before the total collapse of the Third Reich. The invading Allied powers, in particular the Americans, planned for the supposed "Alpine Fortress Operation" of a national redoubt, that was largely to have taken place on Austrian soil in the mountains of the eastern Alps. However it never materialized because of the rapid collapse of the Reich.

[Karl Renner](/wiki/Karl_Renner) and [Adolf Schärf](/wiki/Adolf_Schärf) (Socialist Party of Austria [Social Democrats and Revolutionary Socialists]), Leopold Kunschak (Austria's People's Party [former Christian Social People's Party]) and Johann Koplenig (Communist Party of Austria) declared Austria's secession from the Third Reich by the Declaration of Independence on 27 April 1945 and set up a [provisional government](/wiki/Provisional_government) in Vienna under state Chancellor Renner the same day, with the approval of the victorious [Red Army](/wiki/Red_Army) and backed by [Joseph Stalin](/wiki/Joseph_Stalin).[[51]](#cite_note-51) (The date is officially named the birthday of the second republic.) At the end of April, most of Western and Southern Austria was still under Nazi rule. On 1 May 1945, the federal constitution of 1929, which had been terminated by dictator Dollfuss on 1 May 1934, was declared valid again.

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Bergisel.jpg)[Innsbruck](/wiki/Innsbruck) hosted the [1964](/wiki/1964_Winter_Olympics) and [1976 Winter Olympics](/wiki/1976_Winter_Olympics) as well as the [2012 Winter Youth Olympics](/wiki/2012_Winter_Youth_Olympics), the first in history [thumb|The](/wiki/File:Uno_City_Kaiserwasser.jpg) [United Nations Office in Vienna](/wiki/United_Nations_Office_in_Vienna) (UNOV) is one of the four major [UN](/wiki/UN) office sites worldwide. Total [military deaths](/wiki/World_War_II_casualties#endnote_Austria) from 1939 to 1945 are estimated at 260,000.[[52]](#cite_note-52) Jewish Holocaust victims totaled 65,000.[[53]](#cite_note-53) About 140,000 Jewish Austrians had fled the country in 1938–39. Thousands of Austrians had taken part in serious Nazi crimes (hundreds of thousands died in [Mauthausen-Gusen concentration camp](/wiki/Mauthausen-Gusen_concentration_camp) alone), a fact officially recognised by Chancellor [Franz Vranitzky](/wiki/Franz_Vranitzky) in 1992.

### After World War II[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

Much like Germany, Austria was [divided](/wiki/Allied-occupied_Austria) into British, French, Soviet and American zones and governed by the [Allied Commission for Austria](/wiki/Allied_Commission_for_Austria).[[54]](#cite_note-54) As forecast in the [Moscow Declaration](/wiki/Moscow_Declaration) in 1943, there was a subtle difference in the treatment of Austria by the Allies.[[51]](#cite_note-51) The Austrian government, consisting of Social Democrats, Conservatives and Communists (until 1947), and residing in Vienna, which was surrounded by the Soviet zone, was recognised by the [Western Allies](/wiki/Western_Allies) in October 1945 after some doubts that Renner could be Stalin's puppet. Thus the creation of a separate Western Austrian government and the division of the country was avoidable. Austria, in general, was treated as though it had been originally invaded by Germany and liberated by the Allies.[[55]](#cite_note-55) On 15 May 1955, after talks which lasted for years and were influenced by the [Cold War](/wiki/Cold_War), Austria regained full independence by concluding the [Austrian State Treaty](/wiki/Austrian_State_Treaty) with the Four Occupying Powers. On 26 October 1955, after all occupation troops had left, Austria declared its "permanent neutrality" by an act of parliament.[[56]](#cite_note-56) [thumb|Austria joined the European Union in 1995 and signed the](/wiki/File:Tratado_de_Lisboa_13_12_2007_(081).jpg) [Lisbon Treaty](/wiki/Lisbon_Treaty) in 2007. The political system of the [Second Republic](/wiki/Second_Austrian_Republic) is based on the constitution of 1920 and 1929, which was reintroduced in 1945. The system came to be characterised by [*Proporz*](/wiki/Proporz), meaning that most posts of political importance were split evenly between members of the [Social Democratic Party of Austria](/wiki/Social_Democratic_Party_of_Austria) (SPÖ) and the [Austrian People's Party](/wiki/Austrian_People's_Party) (ÖVP).[[57]](#cite_note-57) Interest group "chambers" with mandatory membership (e.g. for workers, business people, farmers) grew to considerable importance and were usually consulted in the legislative process, so that hardly any legislation was passed that did not reflect widespread consensus.[[58]](#cite_note-58) Since 1945, governing via a single-party government has occurred between 1966–1970 (ÖVP) and 1970–1983 (SPÖ). During all other legislative periods, either a [grand coalition](/wiki/Grand_coalition) of SPÖ and ÖVP or a "small coalition" (one of these two and a smaller party) ruled the country.

[Kurt Waldheim](/wiki/Kurt_Waldheim), an SS intelligence officer in the Second World War accused of war crimes,[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) was elected President of Austria from 1986 to 1992.

Following a [referendum in 1994](/wiki/Austrian_European_Union_membership_referendum,_1994), at which consent reached a majority of two-thirds, the country became a member of the [European Union](/wiki/European_Union) on 1 January 1995.[[59]](#cite_note-59) The major parties SPÖ and ÖVP have contrary opinions about the future status of Austria's military non-alignment: While the SPÖ in public supports a neutral role, the ÖVP argues for stronger integration into the EU's security policy; even a future NATO membership is not ruled out by some ÖVP politicians (ex. Dr Werner Fasslabend (OVP) in 1997). In reality, Austria is taking part in the EU's [Common Foreign and Security Policy](/wiki/Common_Foreign_and_Security_Policy), participates in [peacekeeping](/wiki/Peacekeeping) and peace creating tasks, and has become a member of [NATO's](/wiki/NATO) "Partnership for Peace"; the constitution has been amended accordingly. Since [Liechtenstein](/wiki/Liechtenstein) joined the [Schengen Area](/wiki/Schengen_Area) in 2011, none of Austria's neighbouring countries performs border controls towards it anymore.

## Politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|The](/wiki/File:WienParlament.jpg) [Austrian Parliament Building](/wiki/Austrian_Parliament_Building) in Vienna. [right|thumb|The Leopoldine Wing of](/wiki/File:Wien_Hofburg_Leopoldinischer_Trakt_mod_2006-09-04.jpg) [Hofburg Imperial Palace](/wiki/Hofburg_Imperial_Palace) in [Vienna](/wiki/Vienna), home to the offices of the [Austrian president](/wiki/Austrian_president). The [Parliament of Austria](/wiki/Parliament_of_Austria) is located in [Vienna](/wiki/Vienna), the country's largest city and capital. Austria became a [federal](/wiki/Federation), [representative democratic](/wiki/Representative_democracy) [republic](/wiki/Republic) through the [Federal Constitution](/wiki/Federal_Constitution_(Austria)) of 1920. The political system of the Second Republic with its [nine states](/wiki/States_of_Austria) is based on the constitution of 1920, amended in 1929, which was reenacted on 1 May 1945.[[60]](#cite_note-60) The [head of state](/wiki/Head_of_state) is the [Federal President](/wiki/President_of_Austria) (*Bundespräsident*), who is directly elected by popular vote. The chairman of the [Federal Government](/wiki/Government_of_Austria) is the [Federal Chancellor](/wiki/Chancellor_of_Austria), who is appointed by the President. The government can be removed from office by either a presidential decree or by [vote of no confidence](/wiki/Vote_of_no_confidence) in the lower chamber of parliament, the [Nationalrat](/wiki/National_Council_of_Austria). Voting for the Federal President and for the Parliament used to be compulsory in Austria, but this was abolished in steps from 1982 to 2004.[[61]](#cite_note-61) The Parliament of Austria consists of two chambers. The composition of the Nationalrat (183 seats) is determined every five years (or whenever the Nationalrat has been dissolved by the federal president on a motion by the federal chancellor, or by Nationalrat itself) by a general election in which every citizen over 16 years (since 2007) has [voting rights](/wiki/Suffrage). While there is a general threshold of 4% for all parties at federal elections (Nationalratswahlen), there remains the possibility to gain a direct seat, or [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang), in one of the 43 regional election districts.

The Nationalrat is the dominant chamber in the formation of legislation in Austria. However, the upper house of parliament, the [Bundesrat](/wiki/Federal_Council_of_Austria), has a limited right of veto (the Nationalrat can—in almost all cases—ultimately pass the respective bill by voting a second time. This is referred to as **Beharrungsbeschluss*, lit. "vote of persistence"). A convention, called the*** [***Template:Lang***](/wiki/Template:Lang)[***[62]***](#cite_note-62) ***was convened on 30 June 2003 to decide upon suggestions to reform the constitution, but failed to produce a proposal that would receive the two-thirds of votes in the Nationalrat necessary for constitutional amendments and/or reform.***

With legislative and executive, the courts are the third column of Austrian state powers. Notably the Constitutional Court (*Verfassungsgerichtshof*) may exert considerable influence on the political system by ruling out laws and ordinances not in compliance with the constitution. Since 1995, the [European Court of Justice](/wiki/European_Court_of_Justice) may overrule Austrian decisions in all matters defined in laws of the European Union. Austria also implements the decisions of the [European Court of Human Rights](/wiki/European_Court_of_Human_Rights), since the [European Convention on Human Rights](/wiki/European_Convention_on_Human_Rights) is part of the Austrian constitution.

### Recent developments[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[thumb|Federal Chancellery on Ballhausplatz.](/wiki/File:Wien_-_Bundeskanzleramt1.JPG) After general elections held in October 2006, the [SPÖ](/wiki/Social_Democratic_Party_of_Austria) emerged as the strongest party, whereas the [ÖVP](/wiki/Austrian_People's_Party) came in second, having lost about 8 percent of its previous polling.[[63]](#cite_note-63)[[64]](#cite_note-64) Political realities prohibited any of the two major parties from forming a coalition with smaller parties. In January 2007 the People's Party and SPÖ formed a grand coalition with the social democrat [Alfred Gusenbauer](/wiki/Alfred_Gusenbauer) as Chancellor. This coalition broke up in June 2008.

Elections in September 2008 further weakened both major parties (SPÖ and ÖVP) but together they still held 70% of the votes, with the Social Democrats holding slightly more than the other party. They formed a coalition with [Werner Faymann](/wiki/Werner_Faymann) from the Social Democrats as Chancellor. The Green Party came in third with 11 percent of the vote. The FPÖ and the deceased [Jörg Haider's](/wiki/Jörg_Haider) new party [Alliance for the Future of Austria](/wiki/Alliance_for_the_Future_of_Austria), both on the political right, were strengthened during the election but taken together received less than 20 percent of the vote.

In the [Austrian Legislative Elections of 2013](/wiki/Austrian_legislative_election,_2013), The [Social Democratic Party](/wiki/Social_Democratic_Party_of_Austria) received 27 percent of the vote and 52 seats; People's Party 24 percent and 47 seats, thus controlling together the majority of the seats. The Freedom Party received 40 seats and 21 percent of the votes, while the Greens received 12 percent and 24 seats. Two new parties, Stronach and the NEOS, received less than 10 percent of the vote, and 11 and nine seats respectively.[[65]](#cite_note-65)

### Foreign relations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|The](/wiki/File:Inauguration_EYE2014_Parlement_européen_Strasbourg_9_mai_2014.jpg) [European Parliament](/wiki/European_Parliament). Austria is one of the 28 EU members.

The 1955 [Austrian State Treaty](/wiki/Austrian_State_Treaty) ended the occupation of Austria following World War II and recognised Austria as an independent and sovereign state. On 26 October 1955, the [Federal Assembly](/wiki/Federal_Assembly_of_Austria) passed a constitutional article in which "Austria declares of her own free will her perpetual neutrality". The second section of this law stated that "in all future times Austria will not join any military alliances and will not permit the establishment of any foreign military bases on her territory". Since then, Austria has shaped its foreign policy on the basis of neutrality, but rather different from the neutrality of Switzerland.

Austria began to reassess its definition of neutrality following the fall of [the Soviet Union](/wiki/Soviet_Union), granting overflight rights for the UN-sanctioned action against [Iraq](/wiki/Iraq) in 1991, and, since 1995, it has developed participation in the [EU's](/wiki/European_Union) Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP). Also in 1995, it joined [NATO's](/wiki/NATO) [Partnership for Peace](/wiki/Partnership_for_Peace) and subsequently participated in peacekeeping missions in Bosnia. Meanwhile, the only part of the Constitutional Law on Neutrality of 1955 still fully valid is not to allow foreign military bases in Austria.

Austria attaches great importance to participation in the [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development](/wiki/Organisation_for_Economic_Co-operation_and_Development) and other international economic organisations, and it has played an active role in the [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe](/wiki/Organization_for_Security_and_Cooperation_in_Europe) (OSCE). As an OSCE participating State, Austria's international commitments are subject to monitoring under the mandate of the [U.S. Helsinki Commission](/wiki/U.S._Helsinki_Commission).

### Military[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

The manpower of the Austrian Armed Forces ([Template:Lang-de](/wiki/Template:Lang-de)) mainly relies on [conscription](/wiki/Conscription). All males who have reached the age of eighteen and are found fit have to serve a six months compulsory [military service](/wiki/Military_service), followed by an eight-year reserve obligation. Both males and females at the age of sixteen are eligible for voluntary service.[[4]](#cite_note-4) [Conscientious objection](/wiki/Conscientious_objector) is legally acceptable and those who claim this right are obliged to serve an institutionalised nine months [civilian service](/wiki/Zivildienst_in_Austria) instead. Since 1998, women volunteers have been allowed to become professional soldiers.

The main sectors of the Bundesheer are Joint Forces (Streitkräfteführungskommando, SKFüKdo) which consist of Land Forces (Landstreitkräfte), Air Forces (Luftstreitkräfte), International Missions (Internationale Einsätze) and Special Forces (Spezialeinsatzkräfte), next to Joint Mission Support Command (Kommando Einsatzunterstützung; KdoEU) and Joint Command Support Centre (Führungsunterstützungszentrum; FüUZ). Austria is a [landlocked country](/wiki/Landlocked_country) and has no navy.

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| **Branches of the Austrian Armed Forces** | |
| [border|x120px](/wiki/File:Leopard_2A4_Austria_4.JPG) [Austrian Army](/wiki/Austrian_Army) [Leopard 2](/wiki/Leopard_2) [main battle tank](/wiki/Main_battle_tank)</small> | [border|x120px](/wiki/File:Eurofighter_Typhoon_AUT.jpg) [Austrian Air Force](/wiki/Austrian_Air_Force) [Eurofighter Typhoon](/wiki/Eurofighter_Typhoon) [fighter aircraft](/wiki/Fighter_aircraft)</small> |

In 2012, Austria's defence expenditures corresponded to approximately 0.8% of its GDP. The Army currently has about 26,000[[66]](#cite_note-66) soldiers, of whom about 12,000 are conscripts. As head of state, [Austrian President](/wiki/President_of_Austria) (currently [Heinz Fischer](/wiki/Heinz_Fischer)) is nominally the Commander-in-Chief of the Bundesheer. In practical reality, however, command of the Austrian Armed Forces is almost exclusively exercised by the Minister of Defense, currently [Hans Peter Doskozil](/wiki/Hans_Peter_Doskozil).

Since the end of the [Cold War](/wiki/Cold_War), and more importantly the removal of the former heavily guarded "[Iron Curtain](/wiki/Iron_Curtain)" separating Austria and its [Eastern Bloc](/wiki/Eastern_Bloc) neighbours ([Hungary](/wiki/Hungary) and former [Czechoslovakia](/wiki/Czechoslovakia)), the Austrian military has been assisting Austrian border guards in trying to prevent border crossings by [illegal immigrants](/wiki/Illegal_immigration). This assistance came to an end when Hungary and [Slovakia](/wiki/Slovakia) joined the EU [Schengen Area](/wiki/Schengen_Area) in 2008, for all intents and purposes abolishing "internal" border controls between treaty states. Some politicians have called for a prolongation of this mission, but the legality of this is heavily disputed. In accordance with the Austrian constitution, armed forces may only be deployed in a limited number of cases, mainly to defend the country and aid in cases of national emergency, such as in the wake of [natural disasters](/wiki/Natural_disaster).[[67]](#cite_note-67) They may generally not be used as auxiliary police forces.

Within its self-declared status of permanent neutrality, Austria has a long and proud tradition of engaging in UN-led peacekeeping and other humanitarian missions. The [Austrian Forces Disaster Relief Unit](/wiki/Austrian_Forces_Disaster_Relief_Unit) (AFDRU), in particular, an all-volunteer unit with close ties to civilian specialists (e.g. rescue dog handlers) enjoys a reputation as a quick (standard deployment time is 10 hours) and efficient [SAR](/wiki/Search_and_rescue) unit. Currently, larger contingents of Austrian forces are deployed in [Bosnia](/wiki/Bosnia_and_Herzegovina) and [Kosovo](/wiki/Kosovo).

### Administrative divisions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) As a [federal republic](/wiki/Federal_republic), Austria is divided into [nine states](/wiki/States_of_Austria) ([Template:Lang-de](/wiki/Template:Lang-de)).[[4]](#cite_note-4) These states are then divided into [districts](/wiki/Districts_of_Austria) ([Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)) and statutory cities ([Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)). Districts are subdivided into municipalities ([Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)). Statutory Cities have the competencies otherwise granted to both districts and municipalities. The states are not mere administrative divisions but have some legislative authority distinct from the federal government, e.g. in matters of culture, social care, youth and nature protection, hunting, building, and zoning ordinances. In recent years, it has been discussed whether today it is appropriate for a small country to maintain ten parliaments.

[Template:Austrian Federal States](/wiki/Template:Austrian_Federal_States)

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| |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | [**State**](/wiki/States_of_Austria) | **Capital** | **Area** [**Template:Smaller**](/wiki/Template:Smaller) | **Population** [**Template:Smaller**](/wiki/Template:Smaller)**!** | **GDP (euro)** [**Template:Smaller**](/wiki/Template:Smaller) | **GDP per capita!** | | [Burgenland](/wiki/Burgenland) | [Eisenstadt](/wiki/Eisenstadt) | 3,965 | 288,472 | 7.311 bn | 25,600 | | [Carinthia](/wiki/Carinthia_(state)) | [Klagenfurt](/wiki/Klagenfurt) | 9,536 | 557,754 | 17.62 bn | 31,700 | | [Lower Austria](/wiki/Lower_Austria) | [Sankt Pölten](/wiki/Sankt_Pölten) | 19,178 | 1,638,618 | 49.75 bn | 30,800 | | [Salzburg](/wiki/Salzburg_(state)) | [Salzburg](/wiki/Salzburg) | 7,154 | 539,612 | 23.585 bn | 44,500 | | [Styria](/wiki/Styria) | [Graz](/wiki/Graz) | 16,401 | 1,222,326 | 40.696 bn | 33,600 | | [Tirol](/wiki/Tirol_(state)) | [Innsbruck](/wiki/Innsbruck) | 12,648 | 730,444 | 28.052 bn | 39,400 | | [Upper Austria](/wiki/Upper_Austria) | [Linz](/wiki/Linz) | 11,982 | 1,439,592 | 53.863 bn | 38,000 | | colspan=2| [Vienna](/wiki/Vienna) | 415 | 1,805,681 | 81.772 bn | 47,300 |  | | [Vorarlberg](/wiki/Vorarlberg) | [Bregenz](/wiki/Bregenz) | 2,601 | 379,613 | 14.463 bn | 38,900 | |

[[68]](#cite_note-68)

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|Modern](/wiki/File:13-08-30-wien-by-RalfR-123.jpg) [Vienna](/wiki/Vienna), [Vienna International Centre](/wiki/Vienna_International_Centre) with the [United Nations Office at Vienna](/wiki/United_Nations_Office_at_Vienna) and the [DC Tower 1](/wiki/DC_Towers).

Austria is the 12th [richest country in the world](/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_(nominal)_per_capita) in terms of GDP (Gross domestic product) per capita,<ref name=autogenerated1>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> has a well-developed [social market economy](/wiki/Social_market_economy), and a high [standard of living](/wiki/Standard_of_living). Until the 1980s, many of Austria's largest industry firms were nationalised; in recent years, however, [privatisation](/wiki/Privatization) has reduced state holdings to a level comparable to other European economies. [Labour movements](/wiki/Labour_movement) are particularly strong in Austria and have large influence on labour politics. Next to a highly developed industry, international tourism is the most important part of the national economy.

Germany has historically been the main trading partner of Austria, making it vulnerable to rapid changes in the [German economy](/wiki/German_economy). Since Austria became a member state of the [European Union](/wiki/European_Union), it has gained closer ties to other EU economies, reducing its economic dependence on Germany. In addition, membership of the EU has drawn an influx of foreign investors attracted by Austria's access to the single European market and proximity to the aspiring economies of the European Union. Growth in GDP reached 3.3% in 2006.[[71]](#cite_note-71) At least 67% of Austria's imports come from other European Union member states.[[72]](#cite_note-72) [thumb|left|Austria is part of a monetary union, the](/wiki/File:BlueEurozone.svg) [eurozone](/wiki/Eurozone) (dark blue), and of the [EU single market](/wiki/Internal_Market_(European_Union)).

Austria indicated on 16 November 2010 that it would withhold the December installment of its contribution to the EU bailout of Greece, citing the material worsening of the Greek debt situation and the apparent inability of Greece to collect the level of tax receipts it had previously promised.[[73]](#cite_note-73) The [Eurozone crisis](/wiki/Eurozone_crisis) dented the economy of Austria in other ways as well. It caused, for example, the [Hypo Alpe-Adria-Bank International](/wiki/Hypo_Alpe-Adria-Bank_International) to be purchased in December 2009 by the government for 1 euro owing to credit difficulties, thus wiping out the euro 1.63bn of [BayernLB](/wiki/BayernLB). As of February 2014, the HGAA situation was unresolved,[[74]](#cite_note-74) causing Chancellor [Werner Faymann](/wiki/Werner_Faymann) to warn that its failure would be comparable to the 1931 [Creditanstalt](/wiki/Creditanstalt) event.[[75]](#cite_note-75) Since the fall of communism, Austrian companies have been quite active players and consolidators in Eastern Europe. Between 1995 and 2010, 4,868 [mergers and acquisitions](/wiki/Mergers_and_acquisitions) with a total known value of 163 bil. EUR with the involvement of Austrian firms have been announced.[[76]](#cite_note-76) The largest transactions with involvement of Austrian companies[[77]](#cite_note-77) have been: the acquisition of [Bank Austria](/wiki/Bank_Austria) by [Bayerische Hypo- und Vereinsbank](/wiki/HypoVereinsbank) for 7.8 billion EUR in 2000, the acquisition of [Porsche Holding Salzburg](/wiki/Porsche) by [Volkswagen Group](/wiki/Volkswagen_Group) for 3.6 billion EUR in 2009,[[78]](#cite_note-78) and the acquisition of [Banca Comercială Română](/wiki/Banca_Comercială_Română) by [Erste Group](/wiki/Erste_Group) for 3.7 bil. EUR in 2005.[[79]](#cite_note-79) Tourism accounts for almost 9% of the Austrian gross domestic product.[[80]](#cite_note-80)In 2007, Austria ranked 9th worldwide in international tourism receipts, with 18.9 billion US$.[[81]](#cite_note-81) In [international tourist arrivals](/wiki/World_Tourism_rankings), Austria ranked 12th with 20.8 million tourists.[[81]](#cite_note-81)

### Energy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|The](/wiki/File:Verbund_malta.jpg) [Kölnbrein Dam](/wiki/Kölnbrein_Dam) in [Carinthia](/wiki/Carinthia_(state))

In 1972, the country began construction of a [nuclear-powered](/wiki/Nuclear_power) electricity-generation station at [Zwentendorf](/wiki/Zwentendorf) on the River [Danube](/wiki/Danube), following a unanimous vote in parliament. However, in 1978, a [referendum](/wiki/Referendum) voted approximately 50.5% against nuclear power, 49.5% for,[[82]](#cite_note-82) and parliament subsequently unanimously passed a law forbidding the use of nuclear power to generate electricity although the nuclear power plant was already finished.

Austria currently produces more than half of its electricity by [hydropower](/wiki/Hydropower).[[83]](#cite_note-83) Together with other [renewable energy](/wiki/Renewable_energy) sources such as [wind](/wiki/Wind_power), [solar](/wiki/Solar_power) and [biomass](/wiki/Biomass) powerplants, the electricity supply from renewable energy amounts to 62.89%[[84]](#cite_note-84) of total use in Austria, with the rest being produced by [gas](/wiki/Natural_gas) and [oil](/wiki/Petroleum) power plants.

### Transport[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) <gallery class="center"> File:Austria A2 moedling.jpg|Four-lane [Autobahn](/wiki/Autobahns_of_Austria) File:Railjet bei Guntramsdorf.JPG|[High-speed](/wiki/High-speed_rail) [train](/wiki/Train) of the [Austrian Federal Railways](/wiki/Austrian_Federal_Railways) (ÖBB) File:Kledering Zentralverschiebebahnhof in 2011.jpg|Austria's largest [Classification yard](/wiki/Classification_yard) near [Vienna](/wiki/Vienna) File:Donaustadtbrücke rigardate de la stacio Donaumarina.jpg|[U-Bahn Wien](/wiki/U-Bahn_Wien) File:2011-06-14 10-23-53 Austria Niederösterreich Fischamend Markt.jpg|[Vienna International Airport](/wiki/Vienna_International_Airport) File:GuentherZ 2001 Schiff in Wien IMG0064.jpg|Passenger ship on [Danube River](/wiki/Danube_River) File:2015-4-Danube(96).JPG|Cargo ship on Danube near [Melk](/wiki/Melk) </gallery>

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|Children in Austria, near](/wiki/File:AuVorarlberg5.JPG) [Au, Vorarlberg](/wiki/Au,_Vorarlberg) Austria's population estimate in July 2015 was 8,623,073.[[85]](#cite_note-85) The population of the capital, [Vienna](/wiki/Vienna), exceeds 1.8 million[[11]](#cite_note-11) (2.6 million, including the suburbs), representing about a quarter of the country's population. It is known for its cultural offerings and high standard of living.

Vienna is by far the country's largest city. [Graz](/wiki/Graz) is second in size, with 265,778 inhabitants, followed by [Linz](/wiki/Linz) (191,501), [Salzburg](/wiki/Salzburg) (145,871), and [Innsbruck](/wiki/Innsbruck) (122,458). All other cities have fewer than 100,000 inhabitants.

According to [Eurostat](/wiki/Eurostat), in 2010 there were 1.27 million foreign-born residents in Austria, corresponding to 15.2% of the total population. Of these, 764,000 (9.1%) were born outside the EU and 512,000 (6.1%) were born in another EU Member State.[[86]](#cite_note-86) Statistik Austria estimated in 2011 that 81% or 6.75 million residents[[87]](#cite_note-87) had no migration background and more than 19% or 1.6 million inhabitants[[87]](#cite_note-87) had at least one or more parents of migration background. There are more than 415,000 descendants of foreign-born immigrants[[87]](#cite_note-87) residing in Austria, the great majority of whom have been naturalized.

185,592 [Turks](/wiki/Turkish_people)[[87]](#cite_note-87) (including a minority of Turkish [Kurds](/wiki/Kurds)) make up the second biggest single ethnic minority in Austria after [Germans](/wiki/Germans) (2.5%), representing 2.2% of the total population. 13,000 Turks were naturalized in 2003 and an unknown number have arrived in Austria at the same time. While 2,000 Turks left Austria in the same year, 10,000 immigrated to the country, confirming a strong trend of growth.[[88]](#cite_note-88)Together, [Serbs](/wiki/Serbs), [Croats](/wiki/Croats), [Bosniaks](/wiki/Bosniaks) and [Slovenes](/wiki/Slovenes) make up about 5.1% of Austria's total population.

The [total fertility rate](/wiki/Total_fertility_rate) (TFR) in 2013 was estimated at 1.42 children born per woman,[[89]](#cite_note-89) which is lower than the replacement rate of 2.1. In 2014, 41.7% of births were to unmarried women.[[90]](#cite_note-90) The [life expectancy](/wiki/Life_expectancy) in 2013 was estimated at 80.04 years (77.13 years male, 83.1 years female).[[89]](#cite_note-89) Foreign-born population – Top 15 Countries: [300px|thumb|The birthplace of foreign-born naturalised residents in Austria.](/wiki/File:COB_data_Austria.PNG)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Rank** | **Nationality** | **Population (1 January 2014)** |
| 1 | Germany | 210,735 |
| 2 | Turkey | 159,958 |
| 3 | Bosnia and Herzegovina | 155,050 |
| 4 | Serbia | 132,553 |
| 5 | Romania | 79,264 |
| 6 | Poland | 66,802 |
| 7 | Hungary | 55,038 |
| 8 | Czech Republic | 40,833 |
| 9 | Croatia | 39,782 |
| 10 | Slovakia | 32,633 |
| 11 | Russia | 30,249 |
| 12 | Italy | 27,720 |
| 13 | Macedonia | 22,430 |
| 14 | Slovenia | 19,663 |
| 15 | Bulgaria | 18,481 |

<http://www.statistik.at/web_de/statistiken/bevoelkerung/bevoelkerungsstruktur/bevoelkerung_nach_staatsangehoerigkeit_geburtsland/index.html>

### Largest cities[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

[Template:Largest cities](/wiki/Template:Largest_cities)

### Language[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

[German](/wiki/German_language) is Austria's official language and, according to the 2001 census, is spoken natively by 88.6% of the population (including the 2.5% Germans who reside in Austria) — followed by [Turkish](/wiki/Turkish_language) (2.3%), Bosnian (2.2%), Serbian (1.9%), English (0.7%), Hungarian (0.5%), Croatian (0.4%), Polish (0.4%), Albanian (0.3%), Slovenian (0.3%), Czech (0.2%), Arabic (0.2%) and Romanian (0.2%).[[5]](#cite_note-5) The official language used in education, publications, announcements and websites is [German](/wiki/German_language), which is mostly identical to the German used in Germany but with some vocabulary differences. The German language is standardized between countries of German mother tongue, i.e., Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Liechtenstein, as well as those with significant German speaking minorities: Italy, Belgium and Denmark. (The German population in Alsace-Lorraine in France has no minority rights.) Many local dialects are spoken in Austria, and though their base is Austrian German, their corresponding speakers have certain degrees of difficulty when trying to understand each other.

[thumb|The national and regional standard varieties of the German language](/wiki/File:Continental_West_Germanic_languages.png)

The Austrian federal states of [Carinthia](/wiki/Carinthia_(state)) and [Styria](/wiki/Styria) are home to a significant indigenous [Slovene-speaking minority](/wiki/Carinthian_Slovenes) while in the easternmost state, [Burgenland](/wiki/Burgenland) (formerly part of the Hungarian portion of [Austria–Hungary](/wiki/Austria–Hungary)), there are significant [Hungarian](/wiki/Hungarian_language)- and [Croatian](/wiki/Croatian_language)-speaking minorities. Of the remaining number of Austria's people that are of non-Austrian descent, many come from surrounding countries, especially from the former [East Bloc](/wiki/Eastern_Bloc) nations. So-called [guest workers](/wiki/Foreign_worker) *(Gastarbeiter)* and their descendants, as well as refugees from the [Yugoslav wars](/wiki/Yugoslav_wars) and other conflicts, also form an important [minority group](/wiki/Minority_group) in Austria. Since 1994 the [Roma](/wiki/Romani_people)–[Sinti](/wiki/Sinti) (gypsies) have been an officially recognised ethnic minority in Austria.

According to census information published by [Statistik Austria](/wiki/Statistik_Austria) for 2001[[5]](#cite_note-5) there were a total of 710,926 foreign nationals living in Austria. Of these, the largest by far are 283,334 foreign nationals from the [former Yugoslavia](/wiki/Socialist_Federal_Republic_of_Yugoslavia) (of whom 135,336 speak Serbian; 105,487 Croatian; 31,591 Bosnian – i.e. 272,414 Austrian resident native speakers in total, plus 6,902 Slovenian and 4,018 [Macedonian](/wiki/Macedonian_language) speakers).

The second largest population of linguistic and ethnic groups are the [Turks](/wiki/Turkish_people) (including minority of [Kurds](/wiki/Kurds)) with a number of 200,000 to 300,000 who currently live in Austria. The Turks and the Kurds are the largest single immigrant group in Austria,[[91]](#cite_note-91) closely followed by the [Serbs](/wiki/Serbs).[[92]](#cite_note-92) The next largest population of linguistic and ethnic groups are the 124,392 who speak German as their [mother tongue](/wiki/First_language) even though they hail from outside of Austria (mainly immigrants from Germany, some from Switzerland, [South Tyrol](/wiki/South_Tyrol) in Italy, [Romania](/wiki/Germans_in_Romania), or the [former Soviet Union](/wiki/Germans_in_Russia)); 123,417 English; 24,446 Albanian; 17,899 Polish; 14,699 Hungarian; 12,216 Romanian; 10,000 Malayali; 7,982 Arabic; 6,891 Slovak; 6,707 Czech; 5,916 Persian; 5,677 Italian; 5,466 Russian; 5,213 French; 4,938 Chinese; 4,264 Spanish; 3,503 Bulgarian. The numbers for other languages fall off sharply below 3,000.

In 2006, some of the Austrian states introduced standardised tests for new citizens, to assure their language ability, cultural knowledge and accordingly their ability to integrate into the Austrian society.[[93]](#cite_note-93) For the national rules, see [Austrian nationality law – Naturalisation](/wiki/Austrian_nationality_law#Naturalization_as_an_Austrian_citizen).

### Ethnic groups[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[thumb|Bilingual sign of](/wiki/File:Oberwart_-_Felsőőr.JPG) [Oberwart](/wiki/Oberwart) (in Hungarian *Felsőőr*) in [Burgenland](/wiki/Burgenland).

Historically most [Austrians](/wiki/Austrians) were regarded as ethnic [Germans](/wiki/Germans), which changed in the decades after the end of World War I and even more so after World War II.[[94]](#cite_note-94)[[95]](#cite_note-95)[[96]](#cite_note-96) Austria was part of the [Holy Roman Empire](/wiki/Holy_Roman_Empire) until its ending in 1806 and part of the [German Confederation](/wiki/German_Confederation), a loose association of 39 separate German-speaking countries, until the [Austro-Prussian war](/wiki/Austro-Prussian_war) in 1866, which resulted in the creation of the [North German Confederation](/wiki/North_German_Confederation) led by Prussia. After World War I and the breakup of the Austrian monarchy, politicians of the new republic declared its name to be "Deutschösterreich" ([Republic of German-Austria](/wiki/Republic_of_German-Austria)) and that it was part of the [German Republic](/wiki/Weimar_Republic). A unification of the two countries was forbidden by the [treaty of Saint-Germain-en-Laye](/wiki/Treaty_of_Saint-Germain-en-Laye_(1919)) as one of the conditions imposed by the victorious [Allies of World War I](/wiki/Allies_of_World_War_I) upon the vanquished nation, to prevent the creation of a territorially extensive German state. Along with the events of World War II and [Nazism](/wiki/Nazism) Austria as a country has made efforts to develop its own distinct [national identity](/wiki/National_identity) among its populace[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed), and nowadays most do not consider themselves Germans,[[97]](#cite_note-97) while a minority still feels German, a movement historically known as "Grossdeutsch", pointing to the fact that they consider historic boundaries of the German people going beyond the boundaries of the actual states. Today 91.1% of the population are regarded as ethnic Austrians.[[98]](#cite_note-98) [Serbs](/wiki/Serbs_in_Austria) form one of the largest ethnic groups in Austria, numbering around 300,000 people.[[99]](#cite_note-99)[[100]](#cite_note-100)[[101]](#cite_note-101) Historically, Serbian immigrants moved to Austria during the time of the [Austro-Hungarian Empire](/wiki/Austro-Hungarian_Empire), when [Vojvodina](/wiki/Vojvodina) was under Imperial control. Following [World War II](/wiki/World_War_II) the number of Serbs expanded again, and today the community is very large. The Austrian Serbian Society was founded in 1936. Today, Serbs in Austria are mainly found in [Vienna](/wiki/Vienna), [Salzburg](/wiki/Salzburg), and [Graz](/wiki/Graz).

An estimated 13,000 to 40,000 [Slovenes](/wiki/Slovenes) in the Austrian state of [Carinthia](/wiki/Carinthia_(state)) (the [Carinthian Slovenes](/wiki/Carinthian_Slovenes)) as well as [Croats](/wiki/Croats) (around 30,000)[[102]](#cite_note-102) and [Hungarians](/wiki/Hungarians) in Burgenland were recognised as a minority and have had special rights following the Austrian State Treaty ([Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)) of 1955.[[56]](#cite_note-56) The Slovenes in the Austrian state of [Styria](/wiki/Styria) (estimated at a number between 1,600 and 5,000) are not recognised as a minority and do not have special rights, although some believe the State Treaty of 27 July 1955 states otherwise.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

The right for bilingual topographic signs for the regions where Slovene- and Croat-Austrians live alongside the German-speaking population (as required by the 1955 State Treaty) is still to be fully implemented in the view of some, while others believe that the treaty-derived obligations have been met (see below). Many Carinthians are afraid of [Slovenian](/wiki/Slovenia) territorial claims,[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) pointing to the fact that Yugoslav troops entered the state after each of the two [World Wars](/wiki/World_war) and considering that some official Slovenian atlases show parts of Carinthia as Slovene cultural territory. The recently deceased governor, [Jörg Haider](/wiki/Jörg_Haider), has made this fact a matter of public argument in autumn 2005 by refusing to increase the number of bilingual topographic signs in Carinthia. A poll by the Kärntner Humaninstitut conducted in January 2006 states that 65% of Carinthians are not in favour of an increase of bilingual topographic signs, since the original requirements set by the State Treaty of 1955 have already been fulfilled according to their point of view.

Another interesting phenomenon is the so-called "[Windischen-Theorie](/wiki/De:Windischen-Theorie)" stating that the Slovenes can be split in two groups: actual Slovenes and *Windische* (a traditional German name for Slavs), based on differences in language between Austrian Slovenes, who were taught Slovene standard language in school and those Slovenes who spoke their local Slovene dialect but went to German schools. The term *Windische* was applied to the latter group as a means of distinction. This politically influenced theory, dividing Slovene Austrians into the "loyal Windische" and the "national Slovenes", was never generally accepted and fell out of use some decades ago.

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Main Denominations in Austria**[[103]](#cite_note-103)[[104]](#cite_note-104) | | | | | | | |
| **Year** | **Population** | **Catholics** | **Percentage** | **Lutherans**[**[105]**](#cite_note-105) | **Percentage** |  |  |
| 1971 | 7,491,526 | 6,548,316 | 87.4% | 447,070 | 6.0% |  |  |
| 1981 | 7,555,338 | 6,372,645 | 84.3% | 423,162 | 5.6% |  |  |
| 1991 | 7,795,786 | 6,081,454 | 78.0% | 338,709 | 5.0% |  |  |
| 2001 | 8,032,926 | 5,915,421 | 73.6% | 376,150 | 4.7% |  |  |
| 2011 | 8,430,558<ref name=pop>[Austrian Population 4. Quarter 2009](http://www.statistik.at/web_de/statistiken/bevoelkerung/bevoelkerungsstand_und_veraenderung/bevoelkerung_zu_jahres-_quartalsanfang/023582.html). Retrieved 14 January 2010.</ref> | 5,403,722<ref name=Kista/> | 64.1 % | 319,752 | 3.8% |  |  |
| 2014 | 8,573,000<ref name=pop/> | 5,265,757<ref name=Kista/> | 61.4 % | 309,173 | 3.6% |  |  |

At the end of the 20th century, about 74% of Austria's population were registered as Roman Catholic,[[106]](#cite_note-106) while about 5% considered themselves [Protestants](/wiki/Protestant).[[106]](#cite_note-106) Austrian Christians are obliged to pay a mandatory membership fee (calculated by income—about 1%) to their church; this payment is called "Kirchenbeitrag" ("Ecclesiastical/Church contribution").

[thumb|The Basilica of](/wiki/File:Mariazell_Basilika_3.jpg) [Mariazell](/wiki/Mariazell) is Austria's most popular pilgrimage site [thumb|View of](/wiki/File:1907_-_Salzburg_-_View_from_Mönchsberg.JPG) [Salzburg Cathedral](/wiki/Salzburg_Cathedral)

Since the second half of the 20th century, the number of adherents and churchgoers has declined. Data for the end of 2014 from the Austrian Roman Catholic church lists 5,265,757<ref name=Kista>[Church data](http://www.katholisch.at/site/kirche/article/102078.html) retrieved 14 January 2015</ref> members, or 61.4% of the total Austrian population. Sunday [church attendance](/wiki/Church_attendance) was 753,701 or 9% of the total Austrian population in 2005.[[107]](#cite_note-107) The Lutheran church also recorded a loss of 47,904 adherents between 2001 and 2008. European Commission survey of 2012 indicates that a significantly higher 86% of the Austrian population is Christian and 77% are Roman Catholic.[[108]](#cite_note-108) About 12% of the population declared that they have [no religion](/wiki/Irreligion).[[106]](#cite_note-106) in 2001; this share had grown to 20% by 2015.<ref name=Kista/> Of the remaining people, around 340,000 are registered as members of various Muslim communities, mainly due to the influx from [Turkey](/wiki/Turkey), [Bosnia-Herzegovina](/wiki/Bosnia-Herzegovina) and [Kosovo](/wiki/Kosovo).[[106]](#cite_note-106) About 180,000 are members of [Orthodox Churches](/wiki/Orthodox_Church) (mostly [Serbs](/wiki/Serbs)), about 21,000 people are active [Jehovah's Witnesses](/wiki/Jehovah's_Witnesses)[[109]](#cite_note-109) and about 8,100 are [Jewish](/wiki/Jewish).[[106]](#cite_note-106) The [Austrian Jewish](/wiki/History_of_the_Jews_in_Austria) community of 1938—Vienna alone counted more than 200,000—was reduced to around 4,500 during the [Second World War](/wiki/Second_World_War), with about 65,000 Jewish Austrians killed in [the Holocaust](/wiki/The_Holocaust) and 130,000 emigrating.[[110]](#cite_note-110) The large majority of the current Jewish population are post-war immigrants, particularly from eastern Europe and central Asia (including [Bukharan Jews](/wiki/Bukharan_Jew)).[[111]](#cite_note-111) [Buddhism](/wiki/Buddhism_in_Austria) was legally recognised as a religion in Austria in 1983.[[112]](#cite_note-112) According to the most recent [Eurobarometer Poll](/wiki/Eurobarometer) 2010,[[113]](#cite_note-113)\* **44%** of Austrian citizens responded that *"they believe there is a God"*.

* **38%** answered that *"they believe there is some sort of spirit or life force"*.
* **12%** answered that *"they do not believe there is any sort of spirit, God, or life force"*.

While northern and central Germany was the origin of the [Reformation](/wiki/Protestant_Reformation), Austria and Bavaria were the heart of the [Counter-Reformation](/wiki/Counter-Reformation) in the 16th and 17th centuries, when the absolute monarchy of [Habsburg](/wiki/Habsburg) imposed a strict regime to restore Catholicism's power and influence among Austrians.[[114]](#cite_note-114)[[115]](#cite_note-115) The Habsburgs for a long time viewed themselves as the vanguard of Catholicism and all other confessions and religions were repressed.

In 1775, Maria Theresa gave official permission to the [Mechistarist](/wiki/Mechitarists) Congregation of the [Armenian Catholic Church](/wiki/Armenian_Catholic_Church) to settle in the Habsburg Empire.

In 1781, in the era of Austrian enlightenment, [Emperor Joseph II](/wiki/Joseph_II,_Holy_Roman_Emperor) issued a Patent of Tolerance for Austria that allowed other confessions a limited [freedom of worship](/wiki/Freedom_of_religion). Religious freedom was declared a constitutional right in Cisleithania after the Austro-Hungarian [*Ausgleich*](/wiki/Ausgleich) in 1867 thus paying tribute to the fact that the monarchy was home of numerous religions beside Roman Catholicism such as Greek, Serbian, Romanian, Russian, and Bulgarian [Orthodox Christians](/wiki/Orthodox_Christians) (Austria neighboured the [Ottoman Empire](/wiki/Ottoman_Empire) for centuries), [Calvinist](/wiki/Calvinism), [Lutheran](/wiki/Lutheranism) [Protestants](/wiki/Protestants) and Jews. In 1912, after the annexation of [Bosnia Hercegovina](/wiki/Bosnia_Hercegovina) in 1908, [Islam](/wiki/Islam) was officially recognised in Austria.[[116]](#cite_note-116) Austria remained largely influenced by Catholicism. After 1918, First Republic Catholic leaders such as [Theodor Innitzer](/wiki/Theodor_Innitzer) and [Ignaz Seipel](/wiki/Ignaz_Seipel) took leading positions within or close to Austria's government and increased their influence during the time of the [Austrofascism](/wiki/Austrofascism); Catholicism was treated much like a [state religion](/wiki/State_religion) by [Engelbert Dollfuss](/wiki/Engelbert_Dollfuss) and [Kurt Schuschnigg](/wiki/Kurt_Schuschnigg).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) Although Catholic (and Protestant) leaders initially welcomed the Germans in 1938 during the [Anschluss](/wiki/Anschluss) of Austria into Germany, Austrian Catholicism stopped its support[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) of [Nazism](/wiki/Nazism) later on and former religious public figures became involved with the resistance during the [Third Reich](/wiki/Third_Reich). After the end of World War II in 1945, a stricter [secularism](/wiki/Secularism) was imposed in Austria, and religious influence on politics declined.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

### Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Melk_Stift_Altstadt.jpg)[Stiftsgymnasium Melk](/wiki/Stiftsgymnasium_Melk) is the oldest Austrian school Education in Austria is entrusted partly to the [Austrian states](/wiki/States_of_Austria) (Bundesländer) and partly to the federal government. School attendance is [compulsory](/wiki/Compulsory_education) for nine years, i.e. usually to the age of fifteen.

[Pre-school](/wiki/Pre-school) education (called *Kindergarten* in German), free in most states, is provided for all children between the ages of three and six years and, whilst optional, is considered a normal part of a child's education due to its high takeup rate. Maximum class size is around 30, each class normally being cared for by one qualified teacher and one assistant.

Primary education, or [Volksschule](/wiki/Volksschule), lasts for four years, starting at age six. The maximum class size is 30, but may be as low as 15. It is generally expected that a class will be taught by one teacher for the entire four years and the stable bond between teacher and pupil is considered important for a child's well-being. The so-called "[3Rs](/wiki/The_three_Rs)"(Reading, wRiting and aRithmetic) dominate lesson time, with less time allotted to project work than in the UK. Children work individually and all members of a class follow the same plan of work. There is no [streaming](/wiki/Streaming_(education)).

Standard attendance times are 8 am to 12 pm or 1 pm, with hourly five- or ten-minute breaks. Children are given homework daily from the first year. Historically there has been no lunch hour, with children returning home to eat. However, due to a rise in the number of mothers in work, primary schools are increasingly offering pre-lesson and afternoon care.

As in Germany, secondary education consists of two main types of schools, attendance at which is based on a pupil's ability as determined by grades from the primary school. The [Gymnasium](/wiki/Gymnasium_(school)) caters for the more able children, in the final year of which the [Matura](/wiki/Matura) examination is taken, which is a requirement for access to university. The [Hauptschule](/wiki/Hauptschule) prepares pupils for vocational education but also for various types of further education ([Höhere Technische Lehranstalt](/wiki/Höhere_Technische_Lehranstalt) HTL = institution of higher technical education; HAK = commercial academy; HBLA = institution of higher education for economic business; etc.). Attendance at one of these further education institutes also leads to the [Matura](/wiki/Matura). Some schools aim to combine the education available at the Gymnasium and the Hauptschule, and are known as [Gesamtschulen](/wiki/Gesamtschule#Germany). In addition, a recognition of the importance of learning English has led some Gymnasiums to offer a bilingual stream, in which pupils deemed able in languages follow a modified curriculum, a portion of the lesson time being conducted in English.

[thumb|The](/wiki/File:Wien_-_Universität_(3).JPG) [University of Vienna](/wiki/University_of_Vienna) [thumb| The campus of the](/wiki/File:Wien_02_Campus_WU_a.jpg) [Vienna University of Economics and Business](/wiki/Vienna_University_of_Economics_and_Business) As at primary school, lessons at Gymnasium begin at 8 am and continue with short intervals until lunchtime or early afternoon, with children returning home to a late lunch. Older pupils often attend further lessons after a break for lunch, generally eaten at school. As at primary level, all pupils follow the same plan of work. Great emphasis is placed on homework and frequent testing. Satisfactory marks in the end-of-the-year report ("Zeugnis") are a prerequisite for moving up ("aufsteigen") to the next class. Pupils who do not meet the required standard re-sit their tests at the end of the summer holidays; those whose marks are still not satisfactory are required to re-sit the year ("sitzenbleiben").

It is not uncommon for a pupil to re-sit more than one year of school. After completing the first two years, pupils choose between one of two strands, known as "Gymnasium" (slightly more emphasis on arts) or "Realgymnasium" (slightly more emphasis on science). Whilst many schools offer both strands, some do not, and as a result, some children move schools for a second time at age 12. At age 14, pupils may choose to remain in one of these two strands, or to change to a vocational course, possibly with a further change of school.

The Austrian university system had been open to any student who passed the [Matura](/wiki/Matura) examination until recently. A 2006 bill allowed the introduction of entrance exams for studies such as Medicine. In 2001, an obligatory tuition fee ("*Studienbeitrag*") of €363.36 per term was introduced for all public universities. Since 2008, for all EU students the studies have been free of charge, as long as a certain time-limit is not exceeded (the expected duration of the study plus usually two terms tolerance).[[117]](#cite_note-117) When the time-limit is exceeded, the fee of around €363.36 per term is charged. Some further exceptions to the fee apply, e.g. for students with a year's salary of more than about €5000. In all cases, an obligatory fee of €17 is charged for the student union and insurance.

## Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

### Music[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Wolfgang-amadeus-mozart_1.jpg)[Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart](/wiki/Wolfgang_Amadeus_Mozart) (1756–1791)

Austria's past as a European power and its cultural environment generated a broad contribution to various forms of art, most notably among them music. Austria was the birthplace of many [famous composers](/wiki/Music_of_Austria) such as [Joseph Haydn](/wiki/Haydn), [Michael Haydn](/wiki/Michael_Haydn), [Franz Liszt](/wiki/Franz_Liszt), [Franz Schubert](/wiki/Franz_Schubert), [Anton Bruckner](/wiki/Anton_Bruckner), [Johann Strauss, Sr.](/wiki/Johann_Strauss,_Sr.) and [Johann Strauss, Jr.](/wiki/Johann_Strauss,_Jr.) as well as members of the [Second Viennese School](/wiki/Second_Viennese_School) such as [Arnold Schoenberg](/wiki/Arnold_Schoenberg), [Anton Webern](/wiki/Anton_Webern) and [Alban Berg](/wiki/Alban_Berg). [Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart](/wiki/Wolfgang_Amadeus_Mozart) was born in [Salzburg](/wiki/Salzburg), then an independent Church Principality of the [Holy Roman Empire](/wiki/Holy_Roman_Empire), though one that was culturally closely connected to Austria, and much of Mozart's career was spent in Vienna.

[thumb|left|World famous](/wiki/File:WSO-Interior.JPG) [Vienna State Opera](/wiki/Vienna_State_Opera)

Vienna was for a long time an important centre of musical innovation. 18th- and 19th-century composers were drawn to the city due to the patronage of the Habsburgs, and made Vienna the European capital of classical music. During the [Baroque period](/wiki/Baroque_period), Slavic and Hungarian folk forms influenced Austrian music.

Vienna's status began its rise as a cultural center in the early 16th century, and was focused around instruments, including the [lute](/wiki/Lute). [Ludwig van Beethoven](/wiki/Beethoven) spent the better part of his life in Vienna. Austria's current [national anthem](/wiki/National_anthem), attributed to Mozart, was chosen after [World War II](/wiki/World_War_II) to replace the traditional Austrian anthem by Joseph Haydn.

Austrian [Herbert von Karajan](/wiki/Herbert_von_Karajan) was principal conductor of the [Berlin Philharmonic](/wiki/Berlin_Philharmonic) for 35 years. He is generally regarded as one of the greatest conductors of the 20th century, and he was a dominant figure in European classical music from the 1960s until his death.[[118]](#cite_note-118)

### Art and architecture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [thumb|The](/wiki/File:Upper_Belvedere_palace_Vienna.jpg) [Belvedere Palace](/wiki/Belvedere_(palace)), an example of [Baroque](/wiki/Baroque) architecture

Among Austrian Artists and architects one can find the painters [Ferdinand Georg Waldmüller](/wiki/Ferdinand_Georg_Waldmüller), [Rudolf von Alt](/wiki/Rudolf_von_Alt), [Hans Makart](/wiki/Hans_Makart), [Gustav Klimt](/wiki/Gustav_Klimt), [Oskar Kokoschka](/wiki/Oskar_Kokoschka), [Egon Schiele](/wiki/Egon_Schiele), [Carl Moll](/wiki/Carl_Moll), and [Friedensreich Hundertwasser](/wiki/Friedensreich_Hundertwasser), the photographers [Inge Morath](/wiki/Inge_Morath) and [Ernst Haas](/wiki/Ernst_Haas), and architects like [Johann Bernhard Fischer von Erlach](/wiki/Johann_Bernhard_Fischer_von_Erlach), [Otto Wagner](/wiki/Otto_Wagner), [Adolf Loos](/wiki/Adolf_Loos), and [Hans Hollein](/wiki/Hans_Hollein) (recipient of the 1985 [Pritzker Architecture Prize](/wiki/Pritzker_Architecture_Prize)). Contemporary artist Herbert Brandl.

### Cinema and theatre[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

[Sascha Kolowrat](/wiki/Sascha_Kolowrat) was an Austrian pioneer of filmmaking. [Billy Wilder](/wiki/Billy_Wilder), [Fritz Lang](/wiki/Fritz_Lang), [Josef von Sternberg](/wiki/Josef_von_Sternberg), and [Fred Zinnemann](/wiki/Fred_Zinnemann) originally came from Austria before establishing themselves as internationally relevant movie makers. [Willi Forst](/wiki/Willi_Forst), [Ernst Marischka](/wiki/Ernst_Marischka), or [Franz Antel](/wiki/Franz_Antel) enriched the popular cinema in German language speaking countries. [Michael Haneke](/wiki/Michael_Haneke) became internationally known for his disturbing cinematic studies, before receiving a [Golden Globe](/wiki/Golden_Globe) for his critically acclaimed film [*The White Ribbon*](/wiki/The_White_Ribbon) in 2010.

The first Austrian film director to receive an [Academy Award](/wiki/Academy_Award) was [Stefan Ruzowitzky](/wiki/Stefan_Ruzowitzky). A number of Austrian actors were able to pursue a career, the impact of which was sensed beyond national borders. Among them were [Peter Lorre](/wiki/Peter_Lorre), [Helmut Berger](/wiki/Helmut_Berger), [Curd Jürgens](/wiki/Curd_Jürgens), [Senta Berger](/wiki/Senta_Berger), [Oskar Werner](/wiki/Oskar_Werner), and [Klaus Maria Brandauer](/wiki/Klaus_Maria_Brandauer). [Hedy Lamarr](/wiki/Hedy_Lamarr) and [Arnold Schwarzenegger](/wiki/Arnold_Schwarzenegger) became American as well as international movie stars. The latter also became the 38th Governor of California. [Christoph Waltz](/wiki/Christoph_Waltz) rose to international fame with his performance in [*Inglourious Basterds*](/wiki/Inglourious_Basterds), earning the [Best Actor Award](/wiki/Best_Actor_Award_(Cannes_Film_Festival)) at [Cannes](/wiki/Cannes) in 2009, and the [Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor](/wiki/Academy_Award_for_Best_Supporting_Actor) in 2010 and finally two Oscars. [Max Reinhardt](/wiki/Max_Reinhardt) was a master of spectacular and astute theater productions. [Otto Schenk](/wiki/Otto_Schenk) not only excelled as a stage actor, but also as an opera director.

### Science and philosophy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Sigmund_Freud_LIFE.jpg)[Sigmund Freud](/wiki/Sigmund_Freud) was the founder of [psychoanalysis](/wiki/Psychoanalysis)

Austria was the cradle of numerous scientists with international reputation. Among them are [Ludwig Boltzmann](/wiki/Ludwig_Boltzmann), [Ernst Mach](/wiki/Ernst_Mach), [Victor Franz Hess](/wiki/Victor_Franz_Hess) and [Christian Doppler](/wiki/Christian_Doppler), prominent scientists in the 19th century. In the 20th century, contributions by [Lise Meitner](/wiki/Lise_Meitner), [Erwin Schrödinger](/wiki/Erwin_Schrödinger) and [Wolfgang Pauli](/wiki/Wolfgang_Pauli) to nuclear research and [quantum mechanics](/wiki/Quantum_mechanics) were key to these areas' development during the 1920s and 1930s. A present-day [quantum physicist](/wiki/Quantum_physics) is [Anton Zeilinger](/wiki/Anton_Zeilinger), noted as the first scientist to demonstrate [quantum teleportation](/wiki/Quantum_teleportation).

In addition to [physicists](/wiki/Physics), Austria was the birthplace of two of the most noteworthy philosophers of the 20th century, [Ludwig Wittgenstein](/wiki/Ludwig_Wittgenstein) and [Karl Popper](/wiki/Karl_Popper). In addition to them, biologists [Gregor Mendel](/wiki/Gregor_Mendel) and [Konrad Lorenz](/wiki/Konrad_Lorenz) as well as mathematician [Kurt Gödel](/wiki/Kurt_Gödel) and engineers such as [Ferdinand Porsche](/wiki/Ferdinand_Porsche) and [Siegfried Marcus](/wiki/Siegfried_Marcus) were Austrians.

A focus of Austrian science has always been medicine and psychology, starting in [medieval times](/wiki/Medieval_Times) with [Paracelsus](/wiki/Paracelsus). Eminent physicians like [Theodore Billroth](/wiki/Theodore_Billroth), [Clemens von Pirquet](/wiki/Clemens_von_Pirquet), and [Anton von Eiselsberg](/wiki/Anton_Eiselsberg) have built upon the achievements of the 19th century Vienna School of Medicine. Austria was home to [Sigmund Freud](/wiki/Sigmund_Freud), founder of [psychoanalysis](/wiki/Psychoanalysis), [Alfred Adler](/wiki/Alfred_Adler), founder of [Individual psychology](/wiki/Individual_psychology), psychologists [Paul Watzlawick](/wiki/Paul_Watzlawick) and [Hans Asperger](/wiki/Hans_Asperger), and psychiatrist [Viktor Frankl](/wiki/Viktor_Frankl).

The [Austrian School](/wiki/Austrian_School) of Economics, which is prominent as one of the main competitive directions for economic theory, is related to Austrian economists [Carl Menger](/wiki/Carl_Menger), [Joseph Schumpeter](/wiki/Joseph_Schumpeter), [Eugen von Böhm-Bawerk](/wiki/Eugen_von_Böhm-Bawerk), [Ludwig von Mises](/wiki/Ludwig_von_Mises), and [Friedrich Hayek](/wiki/Friedrich_Hayek). Other noteworthy Austrian-born émigrés include the management thinker [Peter Drucker](/wiki/Peter_Drucker), sociologist [Paul Felix Lazarsfeld](/wiki/Paul_Felix_Lazarsfeld) and scientist [Sir Gustav Nossal](/wiki/Gustav_Nossal).

### Literature[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

Complementing its status as a land of artists and scientists, Austria has always been a country of poets, writers, and novelists. It was the home of novelists [Arthur Schnitzler](/wiki/Arthur_Schnitzler), [Stefan Zweig](/wiki/Stefan_Zweig), [Thomas Bernhard](/wiki/Thomas_Bernhard), and [Robert Musil](/wiki/Robert_Musil), of poets [Georg Trakl](/wiki/Georg_Trakl), [Franz Werfel](/wiki/Franz_Werfel), [Franz Grillparzer](/wiki/Franz_Grillparzer), [Rainer Maria Rilke](/wiki/Rainer_Maria_Rilke), [Adalbert Stifter](/wiki/Adalbert_Stifter), [Karl Kraus](/wiki/Karl_Kraus_(writer)) and children's author [Eva Ibbotson](/wiki/Eva_Ibbotson).

Famous contemporary playwrights and novelists are [Nobel prize](/wiki/Nobel_Prize) winner [Elfriede Jelinek](/wiki/Elfriede_Jelinek), [Peter Handke](/wiki/Peter_Handke) and [Daniel Kehlmann](/wiki/Daniel_Kehlmann).

### Food and beverages[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

Austria's cuisine is derived from that of the [Austro-Hungarian Empire](/wiki/Austro-Hungarian_Empire). Austrian cuisine is mainly the tradition of Royal-Cuisine ("Hofküche") delivered over centuries. It is famous for its well-balanced variations of beef and pork and countless variations of vegetables. There is also the "Mehlspeisen" Bakery, which created particular delicacies such as Sachertorte, "Krapfen" which are doughnuts usually filled with apricot jam or custard, and "Strudel" such as "[Apfelstrudel](/wiki/Apfelstrudel)" filled with apple, "Topfenstrudel" filled with a type of cheese curd called "topfen", and "[Millirahmstrudel](/wiki/Millirahmstrudel)" (milk-cream strudel).

In addition to native regional traditions, the cuisine has been influenced by [Hungarian](/wiki/Hungary), Bohemia [Czech](/wiki/Czech_republic), [Jewish](/wiki/Jewish), Italian, [Balkan](/wiki/Balkan) and French cuisine, from which both dishes and methods of food preparation have often been borrowed. The Austrian cuisine is therefore one of the most multicultural and transcultural in Europe.

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Wiener-Schnitzel02.jpg)[Wiener Schnitzel](/wiki/Wiener_Schnitzel)

Typical Austrian dishes include [Wiener Schnitzel](/wiki/Wiener_Schnitzel), Schweinsbraten, [Kaiserschmarren](/wiki/Kaiserschmarren), [Knödel](/wiki/Knödel), [Sachertorte](/wiki/Sachertorte) and [Tafelspitz](/wiki/Tafelspitz). There are also Kärntner Kasnudeln, which are pockets of dough filled with Topfen, potatoes, herbs and peppermint which are boiled and served with a butter sauce. Kasnudeln are traditionally served with a salad. [Eierschwammerl](/wiki/Cantharellus) dishes are also popular. The candy [Pez](/wiki/Pez) was invented in Austria, as well as [Mannerschnitten](/wiki/Manner_(confectionary)). Austria is also famous for its [Mozartkugeln](/wiki/Mozartkugel) and its coffee tradition.

Beer is sold in 0.2 litre (a *Pfiff*), 0.3 litre (a *Seidel*, *kleines Bier* or *Glas Bier*) and 0.5 litre (a *Krügerl* or *großes Bier* or *Halbe*) measures. At festivals one litre *Maß* and two litre *Doppelmaß* in the [Bavarian](/wiki/Bavaria) style are also dispensed. The most popular types of beer are [lager](/wiki/Lager) (known as *Märzen* in Austria), naturally cloudy *Zwicklbier* and [wheat beer](/wiki/Wheat_beer). At holidays like Christmas and Easter [bock](/wiki/Bock) beer is also available.

The most important wine-producing areas are in [Lower Austria](/wiki/Lower_Austria), [Burgenland](/wiki/Burgenland), [Styria](/wiki/Styria) and Vienna. The [Grüner Veltliner](/wiki/Grüner_Veltliner) grape provides some of Austria's most notable white wines [[119]](#cite_note-119) and [Zweigelt](/wiki/Zweigelt) is the most widely planted red wine grape.[[120]](#cite_note-120) In [Upper Austria](/wiki/Upper_Austria), Lower Austria, Styria and [Carinthia](/wiki/Carinthia_(state)), *Most*, a type of [cider](/wiki/Cider) or [perry](/wiki/Perry) is widely produced.

[Schnapps](/wiki/Schnapps) of typically up to 60% alcohol or fruit [brandy](/wiki/Brandy) is drunk, which in Austria is made from a variety of fruits, for example [apricots](/wiki/Apricot) and [rowanberries](/wiki/Rowan). The produce of small private schnapps [distilleries](/wiki/Distillery), of which there are around 20,000 in Austria, is known as *Selbstgebrannter* or *Hausbrand*.

Local soft drinks such as [Almdudler](/wiki/Almdudler) is very popular around the country as an alternative to alcoholic beverages, often called the "national drink" of Austria and even places before [Coca-Cola](/wiki/Coca-Cola) in terms of market share. Another popular drink is the so-called "Spetzi", a mix between Coca-Cola and the original formula of [Orange Fanta](/wiki/Fanta) or the more locally renowned [Frucade](/wiki/Frucade).

### Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|upright|Ski racer](/wiki/File:Fischer_Sports_franz-klammer_1976.jpg) [Franz Klammer](/wiki/Franz_Klammer) won a gold medal at the [1976 Winter Olympics](/wiki/1976_Winter_Olympics) in [Innsbruck](/wiki/Innsbruck) Due to the mountainous terrain, [alpine skiing](/wiki/Alpine_skiing) is a prominent sport in Austria. Similar sports such as [snowboarding](/wiki/Snowboarding) or [ski-jumping](/wiki/Ski-jumping) are also widely popular. Austrian athletes such as [Annemarie Moser-Pröll](/wiki/Annemarie_Moser-Pröll), [Franz Klammer](/wiki/Franz_Klammer), [Hermann Maier](/wiki/Hermann_Maier), [Toni Sailer](/wiki/Toni_Sailer), [Benjamin Raich](/wiki/Benjamin_Raich), [Marlies Schild](/wiki/Marlies_Schild) & [Marcel Hirscher](/wiki/Marcel_Hirscher) are widely regarded as some of the greatest alpine skiers of all time, [Armin Kogler](/wiki/Armin_Kogler), [Andreas Felder](/wiki/Andreas_Felder), [Ernst Vettori](/wiki/Ernst_Vettori), [Andreas Goldberger](/wiki/Andreas_Goldberger), [Andreas Widhölzl](/wiki/Andreas_Widhölzl), [Thomas Morgenstern](/wiki/Thomas_Morgenstern) & [Gregor Schlierenzauer](/wiki/Gregor_Schlierenzauer) as some of the greatest ski jumpers of all time. [Bobsleigh](/wiki/Bobsleigh), [luge](/wiki/Luge), and [skeleton](/wiki/Skeleton_(sport)) are also popular events with a permanent track located in [Igls](/wiki/Igls_bobsleigh,_luge,_and_skeleton_track), which hosted bobsleigh and luge competitions for the [1964](/wiki/1964_Winter_Olympics) and [1976 Winter Olympics](/wiki/1976_Winter_Olympics) held in [Innsbruck](/wiki/Innsbruck). The [first Winter Youth Olympics](/wiki/2012_Winter_Youth_Olympics) in 2012 were held in Innsbruck as well.[[121]](#cite_note-121) A popular [team sport](/wiki/Team_sport) in Austria is [football](/wiki/Association_football), which is governed by the [Austrian Football Association](/wiki/Austrian_Football_Association).[[122]](#cite_note-122) Austria was among the most successful football playing nations on the European continent placing 4th at the [1934 FIFA World Cup](/wiki/1934_FIFA_World_Cup), 3rd at the [1954 FIFA World Cup](/wiki/1954_FIFA_World_Cup) and 7th at the [1978 FIFA World Cup](/wiki/1978_FIFA_World_Cup). However, recently Austrian football has not been internationally successful. It also co-hosted the [2008 UEFA European Football Championship](/wiki/2008_UEFA_European_Football_Championship) with Switzerland. The national Austrian football league is the [Austrian Bundesliga](/wiki/Austrian_Bundesliga), which includes teams such as record-champions [SK Rapid Wien](/wiki/SK_Rapid_Wien), [FK Austria Wien](/wiki/FK_Austria_Wien), [Red Bull Salzburg](/wiki/FC_Red_Bull_Salzburg) and [Sturm Graz](/wiki/Sturm_Graz).

Besides football, Austria also has professional national leagues for most major team sports, including the [Austrian Hockey League](/wiki/Austrian_Hockey_League) for [ice hockey](/wiki/Ice_hockey), and the [Österreichische Basketball Bundesliga](/wiki/Österreichische_Basketball_Bundesliga) for basketball. Horseback riding is also popular; the famed [Spanish Riding School of Vienna](/wiki/Spanish_Riding_School_of_Vienna) is located in Vienna.

[Niki Lauda](/wiki/Niki_Lauda) is a former [Formula One](/wiki/Formula_One) driver who was three times F1 World Champion, winning in 1975, 1977 and 1984. He is currently the only driver to have been champion for both Ferrari and McLaren, the sport's two most successful constructors. Other known Austrian F1 drivers are for example [Gerhard Berger](/wiki/Gerhard_Berger) and [Jochen Rindt](/wiki/Jochen_Rindt). Austria also hosts F1 races ([Austrian Grand Prix](/wiki/Austrian_Grand_Prix)); now held at [Red Bull Ring](/wiki/Red_Bull_Ring), in the past also at [Österreichring](/wiki/Österreichring) and [Zeltweg Airfield](/wiki/Zeltweg_Airfield).

[Thomas Muster](/wiki/Thomas_Muster) is a former [tennis](/wiki/Tennis) player and one of the greatest clay courters of all time. He won the [1995 French Open](/wiki/1995_French_Open) and in 1996 he was ranked [number 1](/wiki/List_of_ATP_number_1_ranked_players) in the [ATP Ranking](/wiki/ATP_Rankings). Other known Austrian tennis players are for example [Horst Skoff](/wiki/Horst_Skoff), [Jürgen Melzer](/wiki/Jürgen_Melzer) and [Dominic Thiem](/wiki/Dominic_Thiem).

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]

[Template:Portal](/wiki/Template:Portal) [Template:Wikipedia books](/wiki/Template:Wikipedia_books)

* [Index of Austria-related articles](/wiki/Index_of_Austria-related_articles)
* [Outline of Austria](/wiki/Outline_of_Austria)
* [Austrian colonial policy](/wiki/Austrian_colonial_policy)
* [Federal Criminal Police Office (Austria)](/wiki/Federal_Criminal_Police_Office_(Austria))
* [List of European Research Council grants awarded to Austrian institutions](/wiki/List_of_European_Research_Council_grants_awarded_to_Austrian_institutions)
* [List of twin towns and sister cities in Austria](/wiki/List_of_twin_towns_and_sister_cities_in_Austria)
* [Telephone numbers in Austria](/wiki/Telephone_numbers_in_Austria)
* [Austrian Federal Computing Centre](/wiki/Austrian_Federal_Computing_Centre)

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## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]

[Template:Sister project links](/wiki/Template:Sister_project_links)

* [Template:CIA World Factbook link](/wiki/Template:CIA_World_Factbook_link)
* [Austria](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/44183/Austria) entry at [*Encyclopædia Britannica*](/wiki/Encyclopædia_Britannica)
* [Austria](http://www.state.gov/p/eur/ci/au/) information from the [United States Department of State](/wiki/United_States_Department_of_State)
* [Austria](http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/govpubs/for/austria.htm) at *UCB Libraries GovPubs*
* [Template:Dmoz](/wiki/Template:Dmoz)
* [Information on Austria](http://www.city-map.at/) Sorted by regions. Choose from 5 languages.
* [Austria profile](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-17405422) from the [BBC News](/wiki/BBC_News)
* [Template:Wikiatlas](/wiki/Template:Wikiatlas)
* [Template:Osmrelation-inline](/wiki/Template:Osmrelation-inline)
* [Key Development Forecasts for Austria](http://www.ifs.du.edu/ifs/frm_CountryProfile.aspx?Country=AT) from [International Futures](/wiki/International_Futures)
* [Things to see and do in Austria](http://www.mycentrope.com/de/home/tag/oesterreich)

Government

* [Federal Chancellery of Austria](http://www.bundeskanzleramt.at/DesktopDefault.aspx?alias=english&init&init) *official government portal*
* [AEIOU Austria Albums](http://aeiou.iicm.tugraz.at/) (in German, English)
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* [World Bank Summary Trade Statistics Austria](http://wits.worldbank.org/CountryProfile/Country/AUT/Year/2014/Summary)

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* [Austria.info](http://www.austria.info/) Official homepage of the Austrian National Tourist Office
* [Austria.mu](http://www.austria.mu/) Homepage of the Austrian Museums
* [TourMyCountry.com](http://www.postrealism.com/austria.htm) Website on Austrian culture, cuisine and tourist attractions
* [Europe Pictures – Austria](http://www.europepictures.gm/europe/austria/photos)

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