

# Austria

## Geography

Location: Central Europe, north of Italy.

Map references: Europe.

Area:

total area: 83,850 sq km.

land area: 82,730 sq km.

Land boundaries: total 2,496 km, Czech Republic 362 km, Germany 784 km, Hungary 366 km, Italy 430 km, Liechtenstein 37 km, Slovakia 91 km, Slovenia 262 km, Switzerland 164 km.

Coastline: 0 km (landlocked).

Climate: temperate; continental, cloudy; cold winters with frequent rain in lowlands and snow in mountains; cool summers with occasional showers.

Terrain: in the west and south mostly mountains (Alps); along the eastern and northern margins mostly flat or gently sloping.

Natural resources: iron ore, petroleum, timber, magnesite, aluminum, lead, coal, lignite, copper, hydropower.

Land use:

arable land: 17%.

permanent crops: 1%.

meadows and pastures: 24%.

forest and woodland: 39%.

other: 19%.

Irrigated land: 40 sq km (1989).

Environment:

current issues: some forest degradation caused by air and soil pollution; soil pollution results from the use of agricultural chemicals; air pollution results from emissions by coal- and oil-fired power stations and industrial plants and from trucks transiting Austria between northern and southern Europe.

Note: landlocked; strategic location at the crossroads of central Europe with many easily traversable Alpine passes and valleys; major river is the Danube; population is concentrated on eastern

lowlands because of steep slopes, poor soils, and low temperatures elsewhere.

## People

Population: 7,986,664 (July 1995 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 17% (female 681,087; male 711,127).

15-64 years: 67% (female 2,672,554; male 2,677,100).

65 years and over: 16% (female 791,762; male 453,034) (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 0.35% (1995 est.)

Birth rate: 11.21 births/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Death rate: 10.27 deaths/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Net migration rate: 2.5 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1995 est.)

Infant mortality rate: 6.9 deaths/1,000 live births (1995 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:

total population: 76.9 years.  
male: 73.7 years.  
female: 80.27 years (1995 est.)

Total fertility rate: 1.48 children born/woman (1995 est.)

Nationality:  
noun: Austrian(s).  
adjective: Austrian.

Ethnic divisions: German 99.4%, Croatian 0.3%, Slovene 0.2%,  
other 0.1%.

Religions: Roman Catholic 85%, Protestant 6%, other 9%.

Languages: German.

Literacy: age 15 and over can read and write (1974 est.)  
total population: 99%.

## Government

Names:  
conventional long form: Republic of Austria.

conventional short form: Austria.  
local long form: Republik Oesterreich.  
local short form: Oesterreich.

Type: federal republic

Capital: Vienna.

Administrative divisions: 9 states (bundeslaender, singular - bundesland); Burgenland, Kaernten, Niederoesterreich, Oberoesterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg, Wien.

Independence: 12 November 1918 (from Austro-Hungarian Empire).

National holiday: National Day, 26 October (1955).

Constitution: 1920; revised 1929 (reinstated 1 May 1945).

Legal system: civil law system with Roman law origin; judicial review of legislative acts by a Constitutional Court; separate administrative and civil/penal supreme courts; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction.

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal; compulsory for presidential elections.

Flag: three equal horizontal bands of red (top), white, and red.

## Economy

Overview: Austria boasts a prosperous and stable market economy with a sizable but falling proportion of nationalized industry and with extensive welfare benefits. Thanks to its raw material endowment, a technically skilled labor force, and strong links to German industrial firms, Austria occupies specialized niches in European industry and services (tourism, banking) and produces almost enough food to feed itself with only 8% of the labor force in agriculture.

### Transportation

Railroads:

total: 5,624 km.

Highways:

total: 110,000 km.

Inland waterways: 446 km.

Pipelines: crude oil 554 km; petroleum products 171 km; natural gas 2,611 km.

Ports: Linz, Vienna.

Airports:  
total: 55.

Defence Forces

Branches: Army (includes Flying Division).