



AUSTRIA

Population: 8,793,370 | GDP: \$441 billion | Language: German | Unicorns 2009-2018: 0



What did Austria do right?

The country promotes drone research via its Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology and continues to invest in drone innovation projects, including Amazon Prime Air, which has a testing site in Graz. Austria's air and water quality has improved since last year, earning the country an A+ Environment grade in comparison to a B in the 2018 Scorecard.



What can Austria do better?

Austria can lift restrictive rules on ridesharing drivers in Vienna, including one that requires drivers to return to a home base between rides, which caused the country's Ridesharing grade to drop from a C- to a D. The country could also lower its corporate and individual tax rates, which remain high and caused Austria's Tax Friendliness grade to drop from a C to a D.

KEY TAKEAWAYS



Credit: Chenxiyuan, Wikimedia Commons

A standout in the Environment category, Austria earned an A+ for its excellent air quality and universal access to improved drinking water sources.

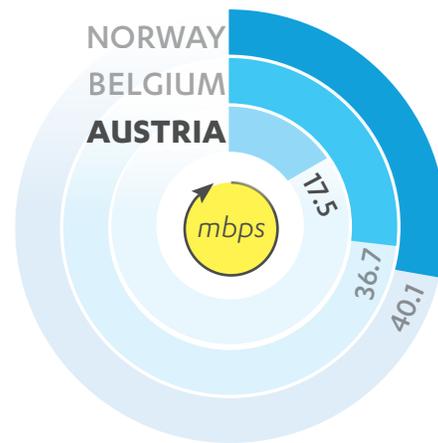
Austria earns an A in the R&D Investment category, spending a remarkable 3.1 percent of its gross domestic product on research and development operations. Over the past 25 years, that figure has doubled, and the government has set even higher targets for the future.

Austria also owes its success in part to organizing and funding dozens of public-private clusters, in which companies can partner with state research facilities to make new discoveries in the pursuit of tomorrow's products and services. These include a pharmaceutical development cluster in Graz, a cancer therapy center in Innsbruck and other partnerships in medical robotics, food technology and renewable energy.

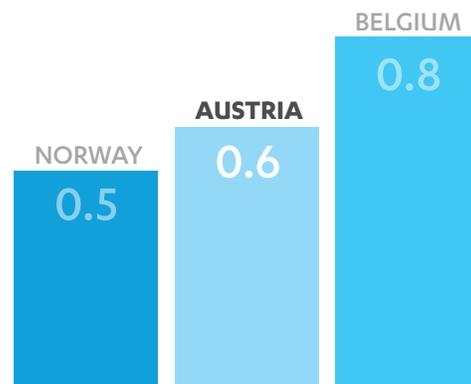
Austria also has one of the most visible supply chains on the Scorecard, as well as top-notch local suppliers, earning it an A in Resilience and providing innovators with a stable environment in which to develop their ideas.

Sources: [\(Invest in Austria\)](#) [\(Advantage Austria\)](#) [\(Invest in Austria\)](#)

Mean Download Speed (Fixed & Mobile)



Fixed Broadband Cost Per Month



Shown as a percentage of gross monthly income per capita



Broadband

The mean download speed of fixed and mobile internet is faster than average at 17.5 Mbps. The monthly cost of fixed broadband is 0.60 percent of GNI per capita and mobile broadband is 0.10 percent of GNI per capita.



R&D Investment

The country spends 3.1 percent of its GDP on research and development.



Resilience

Austria has a clearly visible supply chain, low exposure to natural hazards and a well-developed e-government presence.



Freedom

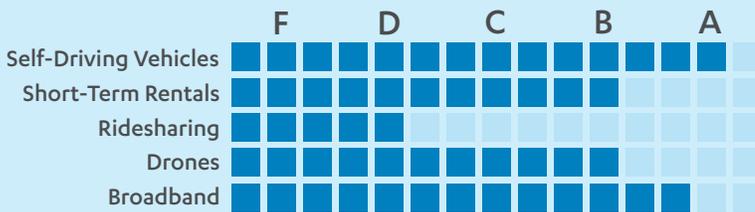
The country has above-average levels of both personal and political freedom. Austria's grade decreased slightly to an A- in 2019 from an A in 2018.



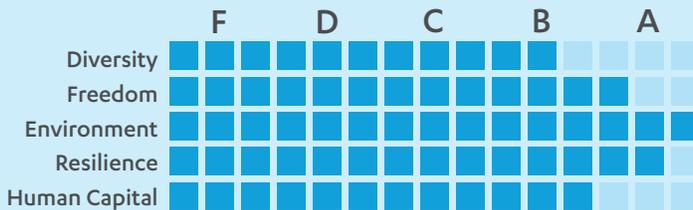
Short-Term Rentals

The country's capital, Vienna, has tightened regulations and seeks to require all short-term rental hosts to register for tax purposes.

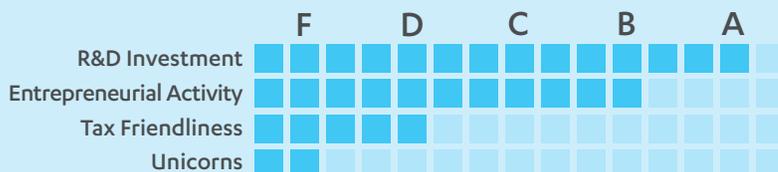
Technology



Society



Economy



ABOUT THE SCORECARD

With the 2019 International Innovation Scorecard, the Consumer Technology Association expands the report in breadth and depth, adding 23 new countries and two new categories. In this second edition, we evaluate 61 countries and the European Union across 28 indicators to determine whether they stifle progress or fuel the fires of innovation.

Each country on the Scorecard ranks in one of four tiers: Innovation Champions excel in almost all areas, followed by Innovation Leaders, which earn high scores in most. Behind the Leaders are Innovation Adopters, which promote innovation in some areas but not others. Finally, Modest Innovators may support innovation in one or more areas, but they show the greatest room for improvement.

ABOUT CTA

The Consumer Technology Association (CTA)[™] is the preeminent trade organization representing the \$398 billion U.S. consumer technology industry, which supports more than 15 million jobs. CTA serves over 2,200 companies, ranging from the startups and small businesses that make up 80 percent of its membership to some of the world's best-known brands. CTA also owns and produces CES[®], the world's premier gathering for consumer technology and the innovators who turn today's dreams into tomorrow's realities. Profits from CES are reinvested into CTA's industry services.

CONTACTS

Izzy Santa
 Director, Strategic Communications
 isanta@cta.tech

Bronwyn Flores
 Specialist, Policy Communications
 bflores@cta.tech

- @ConsumerTechnologyAssociation
- Consumer Technology Association
- @CTA
- @CTATech