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Your easy access to Austria

Life Sciences in Austria

Where Innovation Moves Mountains



The Ecosystem

Austria: The Life Sciences Hub of Europe

Companies, initiatives, and research centres comprise a stable network for complementary expertise and joint projects. Selected examples at a glance:

Research Landscape

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

Networks, Platforms, and Incubators

- > BIOTECH AUSTRIA
- > Cluster Life Sciences Tirol
- > ecoplus Technopol Krems & Platform for Health Technology
- > EIT Health Austria
- > Future Health Lab
- > Health Hub Tirol
- > Health Hub Vienna
- > Human.technology Styria
- > Life Sciences Cluster Salzburg
- > LISAvienna
- > Medical Technology Cluster Upper Austria
- > Medical Technology Cluster Salzburg
- > xista Science Park

Startups & Scaleups

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

Discover more about the ecosystem at: www.lifesciencesdirectory.at

Companies



Best Infrastructure

Life Sciences in Austria at a Glance

The figures speak for themselves: 1,174 life sciences companies with 73,400 employees, 56 research institutions and universities employing over 24,000 people, along with about 68,300 students. They combine to make Austria one of the most important European business locations for pharmaceuticals and biotechnology – in a country with nine million inhabitants. In 2024, the pharmaceutical and biotech sector generated nearly €40 billion in revenue – a 20% increase since 2021.

1,174	Companies
€40 billion	Revenue
8.3%	Share of GDP
20%	Increase in revenue since 2021
€480 million	Investment in R&D by biotechnology companies

Source: Life Science Austria (LISA), 2024

About 45% of the life sciences companies in Austria belong to the pharmaceutical sector, whereas 55% operate in the field of medical technology.

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

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



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

Each year Austria spends approx. €53 billion on healthcare services. This corresponds to about 11.2% of Austria's GDP, putting the country far above the OECD average.

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

NOVARTIS



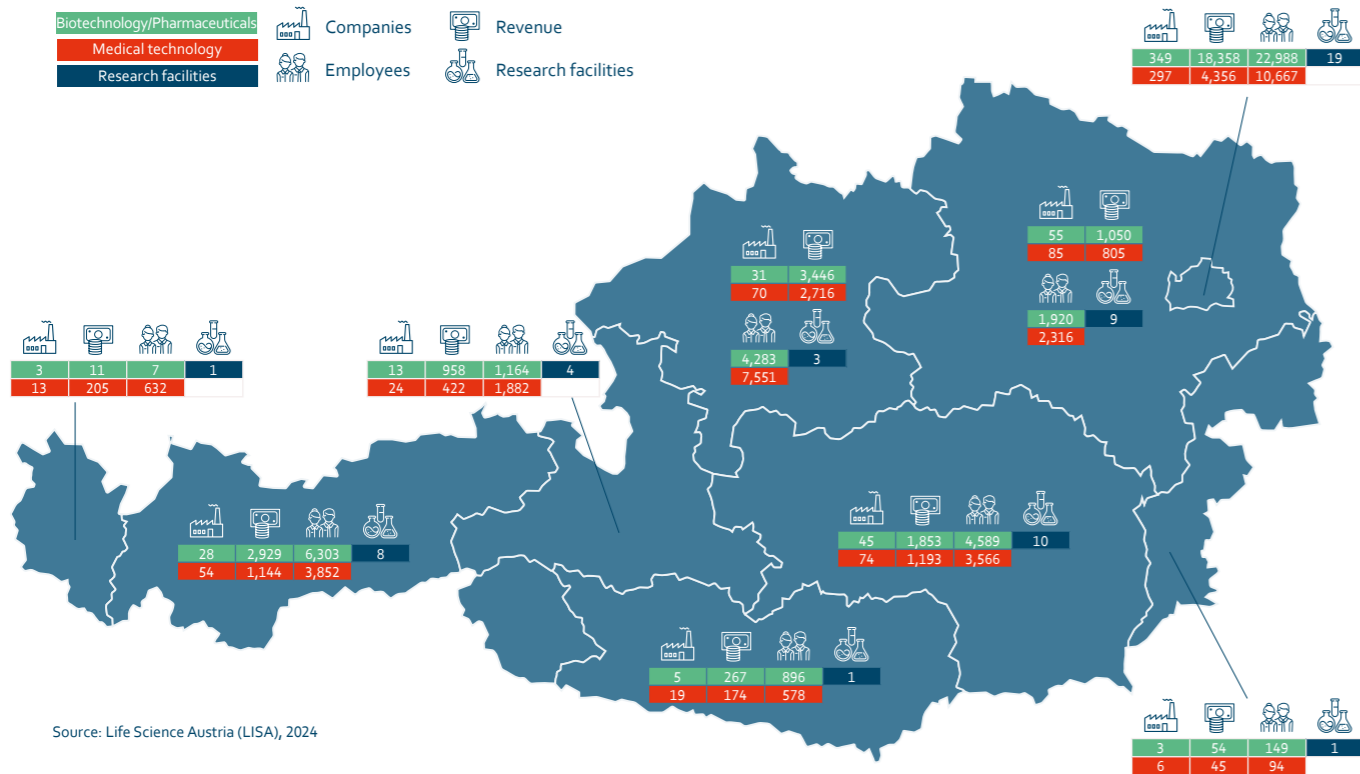
The two facilities in Kundl and Schafteu in Tyrol together comprise the largest production centre within the globally operating Novartis Group. Over the past eight years, Novartis has invested a total of €1.8 billion in Austria. In 2024/25 the company invested additional €500 million to build two new cell culture plants to manufacture biopharmaceuticals, creating 350 new jobs.

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

Steffen Lang, President Operations Novartis

Tradition, Innovation and Translation

Research as an Engine for Growth



Source: Life Science Austria (LISA), 2024

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

The Eric Kandel Institute - Centre for Precision Medicine of the Medical University of Vienna is being created in the direct vicinity of Vienna General Hospital (AKH), one of the world's largest university hospitals. Moreover, in September 2024, the AITHYRA

Institute – Europe's first competence centre for biomedical artificial intelligence – was established by the Austrian Academy of Sciences with €150 million in funding from the Boehringer Ingelheim Foundation.

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

ABA simply gets it done.

Aim to implement your business idea in Austria?
We will guide you through the startup process – step by step.

Did you know this?

Vaccines are produced in Austria for export worldwide.

Success Stories

Takeda

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

Octapharma

Octapharma is significantly expanding its Viennese facility. Plans call for 220 employees to be employed there as of 2028. Furthermore, a new logistically optimized new building for biopharmaceutical research and development in Vienna's Urban Lakeside district.

Fresenius

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

//Austria is an attractive location for research and biotechnology.//

Pavol Dobrocky
 Country Managing Director at Boehringer Ingelheim RCV GmbH & Co KG

The proof

Every year, around 15 million vaccine doses against TBE and meningococcal C leave the production site of Pfizer Manufacturing Austria in Orth an der Donau.

Research funding

Companies benefit quickly and unbureaucratically

Austria ranks third in the EU with an R&D intensity of 3.35%. An important building block for the high willingness to invest in research and development is the uncapped, 14% research premium for project based R&D expenditures. This applies to both in-house and contract research, encompassing staff costs, R&D investments, finance and operating costs. In 2024, the amount of research premium requested rose to €1.4 billion from €1.21 billion in the previous year.

Furthermore, the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) directly supports corporate R&D projects along the entire value chain by providing up to 70% of the costs. On balance, it made funding commitments totalling €1.8 billion in the year 2023. In contrast, basic research is funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF). Companies are assisted by Austria Wirtschaftsservice (aws), the promotional bank of the federal government. The total financing volume equalled more than €917.3 million in 2023.

The Talents

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

- 23 public universities
- 17 private universities
- 21 universities of applied sciences
- > 3,000 study programmes
- 400,000 students from all over the world

Source: BMFWF, Statistics Austria, OECD, 2024

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

It is easy for international talents to communicate. According to the EF English Proficiency Index 2024, Austria has the top rating of 'Very high proficiency'.

//We have an R&D centre at our Vienna site. We research and develop vaccines here, from preclinical research, process and analytical development to the design and monitoring of clinical trials. This essential contribution by our employees in Austria brings us closer to a world where no one suffers or dies from a vaccine-preventable disease, in line with Valneva's vision.//

Juan Carlos Jaramillo, Chief Medical Officer Valneva

International Startups Select Austria

Innophore

This University of Graz spin-off, a cooperation partner of NVIDIA, is working on the latter's BioNeMo platform e.g., to develop medicines.

Brightmind.AI

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

RobotDreams

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

Did you know this?

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

The proof

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

How we can support you – at no cost to yourself!

FIRST CONTACT

- > General information
- > Benchmarking with other countries
- > Sector-specific data
- > Legal & financial information



Typical questions

- Why should I choose Austria?
- What R&D centers can I find in my sector?
- What do I need to set up a company here – and how long does it take?

EVALUATION

- > Finding the right location
- > Cost details
- > Identifying suitable networks
- > Contacting service providers



- What's the optimal location for me in Austria?
- What is a "collective agreement"?
- How much will I spend on labour costs?
- What is meant by a "Gewerbeberechtigung"?

REALISATION

- > Organisation of fact-finding missions
- > Identifying the right grants/funding programmes
- > Finding specific properties/locations
- > Explaining cultural differences



- Who can organize all the necessary appointments for me?
- How do I find employees here?
- Which funding programme is relevant for my project?

EXPANSION

- > "Troubleshooter"
- > Establishing useful contacts
- > Support of local management in winning expansion project



- Our HQ is evaluating different locations – how can I pitch Austria?

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