

Stable Labor Market

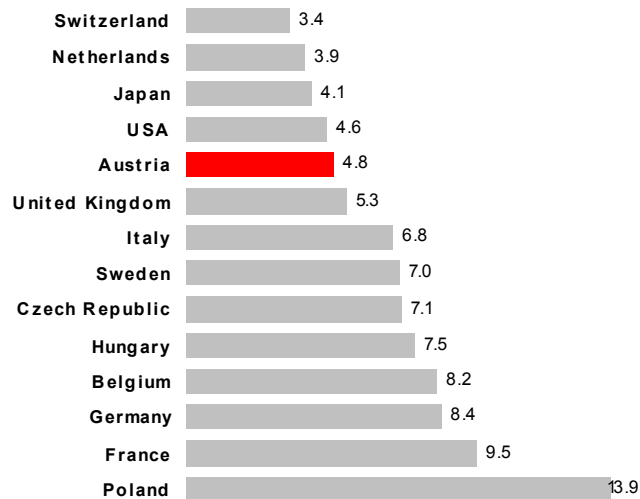
High level of employment

In 2006 about 3,278.444 persons were in dependent employment in Austria, about 1,763.822 of them men and 1,514.622 women. During the year in question some 72.2% of the labor force worked in the service sector, 27.0% in industry, and less than one percent in agriculture and forestry.

Austria's economic stability is reflected in its high level of employment. With its low unemployment rate, Austria takes a top position, not only in the EU but worldwide.

Despite a comparatively low unemployment rate of 4.8 %, Austria has a large pool of available skilled labor.

Unemployment Rates 2006 In percent



Source: Eurostat, OECD, WIIW 2007

Austrian employees top global ranking

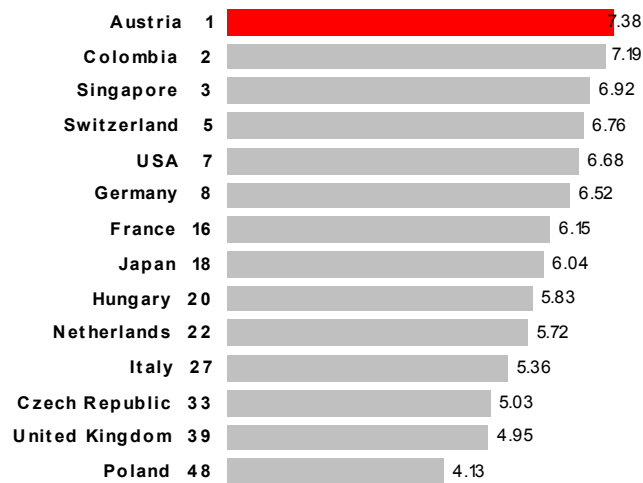
One of the fundamental strengths of Austria as a business location are its qualified and highly-motivated employees. Foreign investors appreciate the outstanding quality of Austrian skilled labor.

Although skilled labor in the country is increasingly in short supply, the situation is much better than in other industrial nations.

According to the latest ranking published in the World Competitiveness Yearbook 2007, Austria boasts the best employees in the world and is ranked number one in the availability of qualified employees surpassing 54 other nations.

Skilled Labor

10 = Sufficiently available in the labor market



Source: World Competitiveness Yearbook, 2007

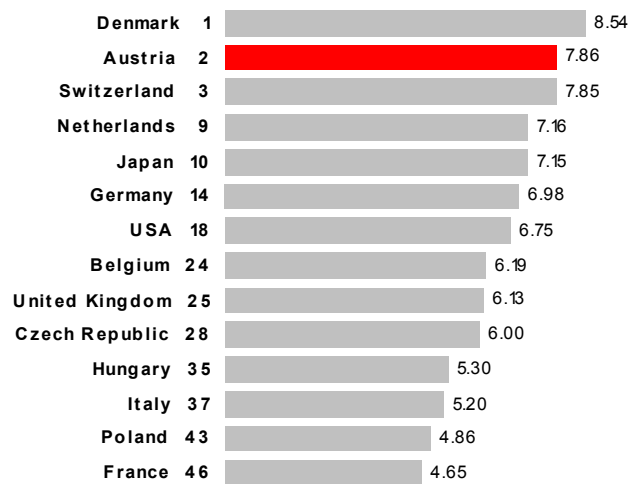
Unmatched qualifications and motivation

Austrian workers are highly motivated. There's no better measure than the degree to which Austrian employees identify with their employers' goals – a characteristic that is reflected in the high quality of products and the broad customer satisfaction.

According to the World Competitiveness Yearbook, Austria's workforce is characterized by an extraordinary work ethic. In international comparison, Austria ranks second in 2007, surpassed only by Denmark but ahead of Switzerland.

Motivated Workers

10 = Employees identify with company objectives



Source: World Competitiveness Yearbook, 2007

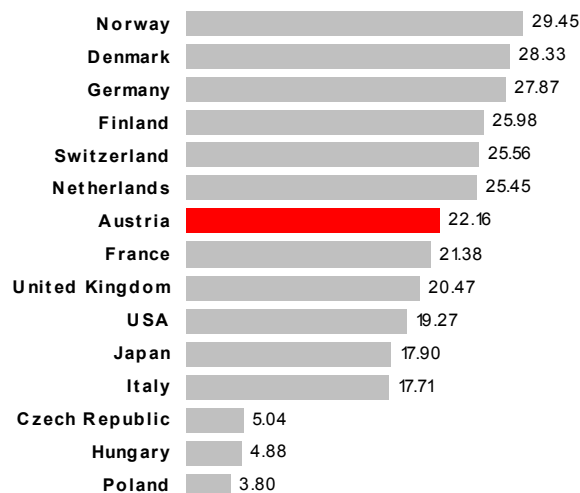
Austria's labor costs in international comparison

Labor costs represent an important indicator for the international cost competitiveness of a business location. In recent years, Austrian labor costs have risen by 2.2 per cent on average, a considerably lower increase in comparison to the EU (+ 3.6 %) and the Eurozone (+ 3.0 %). Labor cost increases were much higher in France (+ 3.4 %), the Netherlands (+ 4.0 %) and in Great Britain (+ 4.7 %) than in Austria.

The rise in labor costs was even more pronounced in the new Eastern European member states of the European Union. During the period 2000 - 2005, labor costs in Poland climbed by 6.5 %, in the Czech Republic by 7.4 % and in Hungary by even 10 %.

In absolute terms, Austria ranks in midfield when it comes to comparing labor costs in Europe. According to a current study carried out by the Institute of the German Economy, one man hour in Austria costs 22.16 euros in the year 2005. The most expensive countries in terms of labor costs are Norway, followed by Denmark, Germany and Finland.

Hourly Labor Costs in International Comparison In euros, 2005 - Manufacturing Industry



Source: Institute for Economic Research Cologne, 2006