



From:
**OECD Science, Technology and Industry Outlook
2010**

Access the complete publication at:
http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/sti_outlook-2010-en

Austria

Please cite this chapter as:

OECD (2010), "Austria", in *OECD Science, Technology and Industry Outlook 2010*, OECD Publishing.
http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/sti_outlook-2010-8-en

This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

AUSTRIA

Austria performs well on a number of science and innovation indicators. Since 1998 gross expenditure on R&D (GERD) has increased consistently as a share of GDP to 2.7% in 2008, mainly owing to higher business expenditure on R&D (BERD) (1.9% of GDP). The 23.8% of GERD performed by the higher education sector was slightly lower than in preceding years; that of government (5.3%) increased slightly.

BERD growth has been particularly strong in the office machinery, computer and pharmaceutical industries. The share performed in service industries also increased slightly to 2006. The 23.3% funded from abroad in 2007 was the OECD leader, owing to the strong presence of foreign multinationals. Industry financed 66.3% of BERD in 2007, and the government-funded share increased sharply from 5.5% in 1998 to 10.3%. In 2008, venture capital investment was 0.03% of GDP, well below the average (0.1%).

Triadic patents increased by 53% in the decade to 2008 to 52 per million population. At 973 scientific articles per million population in 2008, Austria was above the OECD average and accounted for 0.5% of world output. Almost a quarter of all firms introduced new-to-market product innovations during 2004-06, and 56% of firms undertook non-technological innovation.

Innovation links are strong. The percentage of firms collaborating on innova-

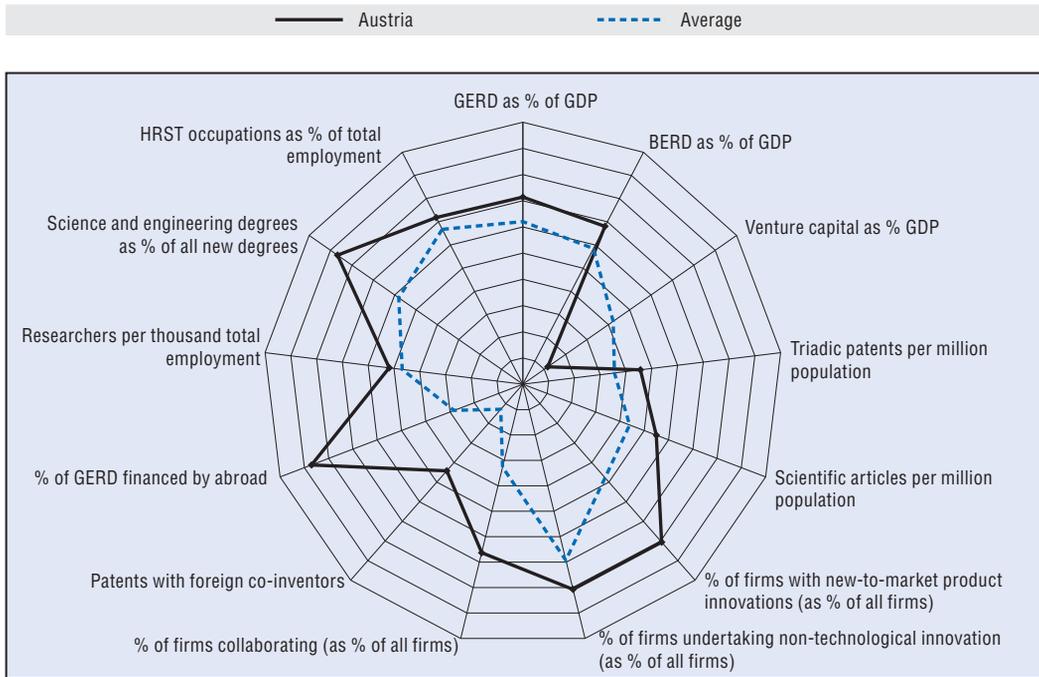
tion activities was a relatively high 20% in 2004-06. During 2005-07, Austria lodged 27% of Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) patent applications with foreign co-inventors, three times the OECD average. In 2008, 16.5% of GERD was financed from abroad.

Austria's human resources in science and technology (HRST) indicators firmed over the past two years. Science and engineering degrees represent 31% of all new degrees, well above the OECD average. HRST occupations represented almost 30% of total employment in 2008. The number of researchers increased to 8 per thousand total employment, slightly above average.

GDP grew by a strong average 2.4% a year between 2001 and 2008, but contracted by 3.6% in 2009. Unemployment increased to a modest 4.8%. GDP per capita was 80% relative to the United States in 2008, and remained above the OECD average. Labour productivity growth slowed to 0.8%.

The Austrian federal government is to launch its *Research Strategy 2020* in the second half of 2010; it will outline the government's science, technology and innovation activities for the next decade. Despite the recent economic crisis, Austria aims to be among the top three European innovation leaders by 2020, and to become a country with production structures at the "technological frontier" with substantially higher productivity.

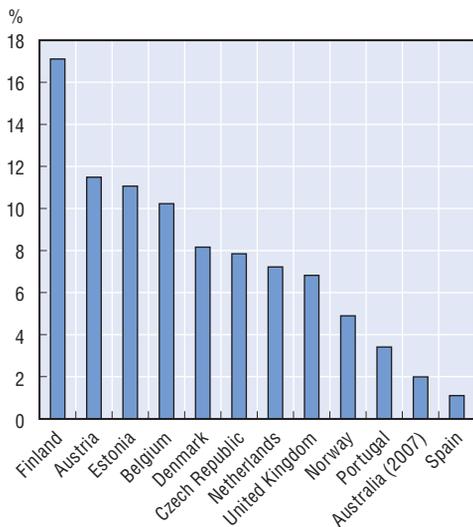
Science and innovation profile of Austria



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932333120>

Firms collaborating internationally on innovation

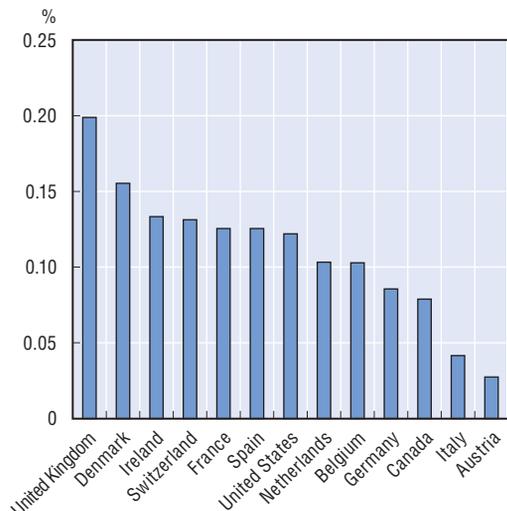
As a percentage of all firms, 2004-06



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932333139>

Venture capital investment

As a percentage of GDP, 2008



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932333158>