AUSTRIA: A COUNTRY RICH IN WATER

FACTS AND FIGURES

AUSTRIAN WATER is clean, safe and healthy
WATER RESERVOIRS AND RESERVES

The water reserves which are available subterraneanly in groundwater and in soil water, in natural lakes, in glacier ice, and in reservoirs amount in total to about 122.5 km³.

This water volume results in a water column which is 1.5 m high and covers the whole federal territory of Austria.

Source: BMNT 2017

Annual precipitation in Austria is around 1,190 mm.

About 86 km³ of water are available per year, of which only about 3 % (2.5 km³) is used.

Percentage of water used:

--- 2/3 Industry
--- 1/3 Households
--- 5 % Agriculture

AVERAGE PER CAPITA WATER CONSUMPTION IN AUSTRIAN HOUSEHOLDS

The volume of water used each year by Austrian households is equivalent to the total volume of water in Lake Wolfgang. This equates to an average of 130 litres per person per day.

Most of it is used for toilet flushing and daily personal hygiene.

Source: OVGW 2017, Studie WAVE
FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

Every year, 1,400 projects for protection against natural hazards are implemented in Austria.

The Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism invests 200 million euros per year for this purpose.

Currently there are 416 designated risk areas in Austria.

ECOLOGICAL STATUS AND ECOLOGICAL POTENTIAL – RUNNING WATERS

- Very good: 15%
- Good: 22%
- Moderate: 32%
- Poor: 10%
- Unsatisfactory: 13%
- No evaluation: 2%

Potential: good and better: 40%
Potential: moderate and poor: 10%
No evaluation: 2%

Source: BMNT 2018

ECOLOGICAL STATUS AND ECOLOGICAL POTENTIAL – LAKES

(62 lakes > 50 ha)

- Very good: 16%
- Good: 32%
- Moderate: 10%
- Poor: 4%
- Unsatisfactory: 2%

Potential: good and better: 40%
Potential: moderate: 10%

Source: BMNT 2018

USING WATER

Austria’s network of rivers and streams amounts to a total length of over 100,000 km (almost 2.5 times around the world).

95% of the country’s bathing water classified as »excellent«.

About 2/3 of the electricity in Austria is generated from hydropower (about 40,000 GWh).

»As the water shapes itself to the vessel that contains it, so a wise man adapts himself to circumstances.«
CONFUCIUS
The water footprint in Austria is **4,377** litres per capita and day.

2 billion people worldwide are currently affected by water stress.

The right to safe drinking water and sanitation is a universal human right.

Since **2009**, Austria's largest water platform »Wasseraktiv« has regularly provided up-to-date information for water related issues.

Austria obtains **100%** of its drinking water from groundwater and spring water.

There are 5,500 water supply companies, which supply almost **92%** of the population with drinking water.

The length of the drinking water and wastewater network is about **171,000 km** (4 times around the world).

**95.2%** of the population are connected to sewer systems and urban wastewater treatment plants.

Throughout Austria, **2,000** groundwater monitoring sites are continuously monitored for 129 parameters.

**THE DANUBE**

is **2.857 km** long and flows through 10 countries on its way. The Danube River Basin extends over 19 countries, making it the most international river basin in the world.

A detailed description of the entire water management in Austria can be found in the long version of the brochure

»**Austria: A country rich in Water**«:

[www.bmnt.gv.at/service/publikationen](http://www.bmnt.gv.at/service/publikationen)

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