



[Exchange Rates from Around The World](#)  
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Official Language:	German
Monetary Unit:	Schilling
Stock Exchanges:	<a href="#">Vienna Stock Exchange</a>
Regulatory Authority:	Ministry of Finance

## Forms of Business Enterprise

*Aktiengesellschaft (AG)* -- public corporation  
*Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung (GmbH)* -- private limited company  
*Handelsgesellschaft (OHG)* -- general partnership  
*Kommanditgesellschaft auf Aktien (KGaA)* -- limited partnership  
*Limited commercial partnership in form of a GmbH & Co.*  
*Silent partnerships*  
*Branch of a foreign enterprise*  
*Genossenschaft* -- cooperative society  
*Sole proprietorship*

## Disclosure Practices and Requirements

The law regulating Austrian public corporations (AGs) is the Aktiengesetz of 1965. Incorporation is accomplished by registration in the Firmenbuch (commercial register) at the Handelsgericht (local court). When corporations are registered, the composition of the management board (Vorstand) and a written report by its founders are required.

## Audited Statements

Public corporations (AGs) must file audited year-end financial statements within three months along with a report of the management board. Statements must be examined by Austrian independent public accountants and published in the official newspaper, Wiener Zeitung.

The law relating to private limited companies (the GmbH Law) also specifies that year-end statements are due within three months, although the time can be extended to six and sometimes nine months.

Financial statements of AGs and GmbH companies must consist of a balance sheet, income statements and notes to the accounts. Current income statements are in horizontal format and show no figure for turnover (sales). Profit for the year is shown as a balancing figure and carried to the balance

sheet.

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## Consolidated Statements

Consolidation is not a legal requirement in Austria; all subsidiary companies, majority and minority investments are grouped together on the balance sheet with appropriate detail in the notes to the accounts.

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## Company Registration and Filing Location

All companies are required to register in the local Firmenbuch (commercial register) kept at the Handelsgericht (local court).

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## Access to Filings

Official extracts may be obtained from the local commercial register; the information available depends on the size of the company and the policy of the individual register. Entries in the commercial register are published in the Amtsblatt zur Wiener Zeitung, the official gazette.

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## Filing Requirements

**AG:** Audited financial statements at the Handelsgericht. Business report of executive board. Interim reports (unaudited).

**GmbH:** Annual audited financial statements. Business report of the executive board (larger companies only)

**GmbH:** (less than 300 employees and less than Oes 500.000 capital ) No obligatory filings.

**KGaA, OHG:** No obligatory filings. The only exception to this is if parent company of a **KGaA** is a **GmbH** or an **AG**.

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## Filing Dates

**Annual report:** Within nine months of year end.

**Interim report:** Within four months of the half-year.

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## Additional Information

Although it did not join the EU until January 1995, Austria adopted the main elements of the requirements of the Fourth and Seventh directives in its reform of company legislation in 1990. The Austrian commercial code (Handelsgesetzbuch) relating to company registration and disclosure of company accounts is based on German law, as is the accounting system adopted. Failure to comply with filing requirements is not normally a punishable offense.