

BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT

AUSTRIAN BUILDING
TRADES ASSOCIATION

AUSTRIAN CONSTRUCTION
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

TOGETHER FOR AUSTRIA'S CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

NUMBERS, DATA AND FACTS NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY



Within the Economic Chamber of Austria (WKÖ), the Building and Construction Department is responsible for all the member companies of the Austrian Building Trades Association and the Austrian Construction Industry Association, two associations with their own independent legal identities. From this central position, the Building and Construction Department is the initiator of many building industry developments. In the areas of social and economic policy especially, it initiates and sets important policies through targeted lobbying.

Representing Austria-wide interests in the construction industry, the task of the Building and Construction Department is to present and identify forecasts and capture developmental trends. These are prepared in the form of information events, workshops and publications in order to prepare member companies for future requirements. In addition, the Office works closely together with authorities, politicians and institutions.

The Building and Construction Department of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (*Geschäftsstelle Bau of the Wirtschaftskammer Österreich*) represents approximately 14,000 companies with a total of about 110,000 employees across Austria. The construction industry overall is therefore one of the largest employers in the country.

There were a total of 3,000 apprentices receiving vocational training as bricklayers, framework builders, foundation builders, track building technicians, build-tech assistants and build-tech drawers. Therefore, the construction industry makes a significant contribution to training and quality assurance.

In addition, the building and construction industry is an important economic engine. Its annual turn-over production value is more than 20 billion Euros, which accounts for approx. 6.5 percent of the Austrian economic performance.

Current figures and detailed data can be found at www.bau.or.at

Are you interested in further information?
Further specific and expert information is available.

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The Building and Construction Department develops its role and activities on the basis of the law of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber. These activities are divided into three central pillars:

■ Advocacy

Lobbying at national and European level, in order to communicate the interests of the construction industry in a targeted manner and to shape decisions. Contract negotiations with the social/trade partners regarding working hours, remuneration and building safety.

■ Information and Expertise

Specific training provision, e.g. apprenticeship training for young trainees as well as further professional training for those already working. Development and publication of information brochures and instruction manuals. Organization of information workshops/presentations by experts, focusing on current industry topics.

■ Services

Explanations regarding the practical application of legal regulations and guidelines, as well as providing further contact with external experts. Development and implementation of initiatives, eg. around fairness in project tenders, in the fight against undeclared work and the upgrading of teaching and training of apprentices.

The Building and Construction Department is your partner for all inquiries regarding the construction industry. Consultant Services focus on clear and specific information – for member companies as well as federal organizations – concerning the following areas:

■ Labor Law and Social Policy

The interests of the construction companies are represented by the social partners and other institutions. In addition, the Building and Construction Department conducts the collective negotiations, which are attended by the Austrian Building Trades Association (*Bundesinnung Bau*) and the Austrian Construction Industry Association (*Fachverband der Bauindustrie*) as employers' associations.

■ Rights Policy

The Building and Construction Department places special emphasis on the fields of public procurement law, building contract law as well as trade law and is in constant dialogue with politics and administration representatives. Furthermore, member companies are supported by reliable information services.

■ Economic Policy

The Building and Construction Department is in ongoing dialogue with all policy-makers, in order to achieve better legal and economic conditions for construction companies.

■ Business Administration/Management

In addition to accountancy, company management and price indexing, the core themes of the construction industry include construction contracts and contracting rights. In addition, the Building and Construction Department continuously collects and analyzes statistical data on industry structure and construction activities.

■ Education and Training

The expertise of local construction companies relies upon the first-class training of all employees. The Building and Construction Department is the driving force behind the “three pillar“ training system, the expansion of the Building and Construction Academies and many other training initiatives.

■ Technology, Environment, Security and Research

Technical innovations, increasing demands on energy efficiency and the environment, as well as maintaining safe working conditions, present new challenges for the construction industry. The Building and Construction Department is actively shaping these areas and representing the interests of the construction industry.

■ Public Relations

Targeted advertising campaigns and the active use of media determine the public perception of the initiatives and activities of the Building and Construction Department. Communication with companies takes place via online videos, a membership magazine, internet platforms and newsletters.

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