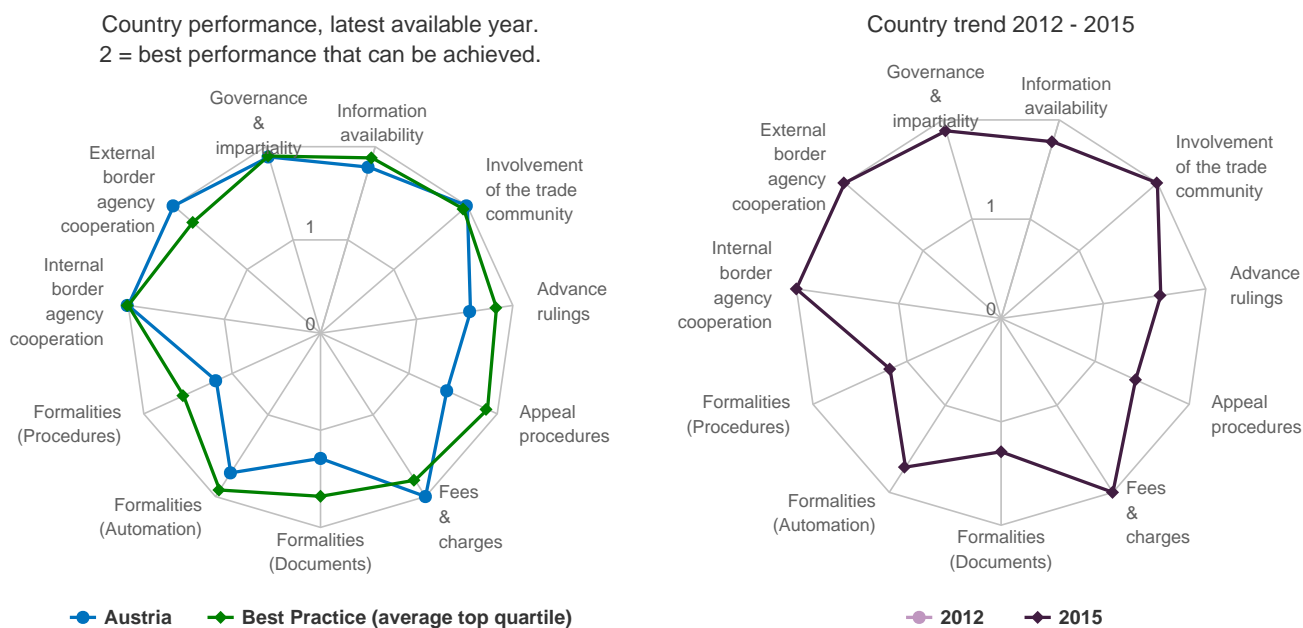


Trade Facilitation Indicators Country note - Austria

Trade facilitation performance

Austria matches or exceeds best performance across the sample as regards the involvement of the trade community, fees and charges, border agency cooperation (internal and external) and governance and impartiality.

Performance in the areas of information availability, advance rulings, appeal procedures, simplification of documents, automation and streamlining of border procedures is below best performance.



Areas for Action

For the group of developed countries to which Austria belongs, the assessment of the impact of trade facilitation measures, both on bilateral trade flows and on trade costs, shows that reforms with the greatest benefit are in the areas of information availability, advance rulings, fees and charges, automation and streamlining of procedures.

Taking into account the trade flow increase and costs reduction potential of the policy areas highlighted above and considering the areas where Austria has not yet reached best performance, Austria would benefit from continued improvements in the following:

Information availability:

Provide access to examples of judicial decisions

Advance rulings:

Encourage more extensive use of advance rulings

Formalities – automation:

Further improve the proportion of procedures expedited electronically

Formalities – procedures:

Complete the development of the Single Window currently under elaboration

Publish the average clearance time consistently and on a periodic basis, for major Customs offices
Expand the use of pre-arrival processing and of Authorised Operators

Definitions for Trade Facilitation Indicators

Information availability: Publication of trade information, including on internet; enquiry points

Involvement of the trade community: Consultations with traders

Advance rulings: Prior statements by the administration to requesting traders concerning the classification, origin, valuation method, etc., applied to specific goods at the time of importation; the rules and process applied to such statements

Appeal procedures: The possibility and modalities to appeal administrative decisions by border agencies

Fees & charges: Disciplines on the fees and charges imposed on imports and exports

Formalities (Documents): Electronic exchange of data; automated border procedures; use of risk management

Formalities (Automation): Simplification of trade documents; harmonisation in accordance with international standards; acceptance of copies

Formalities (Procedures): Streamlining of border controls; single submission points for all required documentation (single windows); post-clearance audits; authorised economic operators

Internal border agency cooperation: Co-operation between various border agencies of the country; control delegation to customs authorities

External border agency cooperation: Co-operation with neighbouring and third countries

Governance & impartiality: Customs structures and functions; accountability; ethics policy