Austria's fiscal balance deteriorated sharply in 2020. Austria's fiscal balance fell from +0.6% of GDP in 2019 to -8.9% of GDP in 2020. This is the fifth largest fall among the 26 OECD countries for which data is available in 2020 (Figure 2.1). Austria’s primary balance fell from +1.8% of GDP in 2019 to -7.8% of GDP in 2020 (Figure 2.2).

Austria is integrating green perspectives into Covid-19 recovery measures. As of June 2020, Austria had adopted environmental impact assessments of budget measures. Compared to the other 14 countries that use a variety of green budgeting tools, Austria may consider including green budget tagging and green conditionality, on COVID-19 recovery funds and other spending (Figure 5.5).

Austria performs well in citizen satisfaction with education and health, and confidence in the judiciary system. 86% and 75% of people reported to be satisfied with the health and education systems, respectively, in 2020. This is above OECD averages of 71% and 68% respectively. However, satisfaction in both services has decreased since 2010 (Figures 14.1 and 14.2). Confidence in the judiciary system has increased in Austria from 66% in 2010 to 78% in 2020 (Figure 14.3).
Public governance practices

Composite indices of public service leadership and capability (2020)
From 0 (worst) to 1 (best)

- Development of a diverse workforce: 0.55
- Policies to manage senior civil servants: 0.49

Objectives included in infrastructure and public procurement strategies (2020)

- Environment: YES, 21 YES, 5 NO
- Human rights: NO, 5 YES, 19 NO
- Gender: YES, 8 YES, 18 NO

Green budgeting tools (2021)

- Ex ante or ex post environmental assessment: 12 YES, 2 NO
- Ex ante or ex post green budget tagging: 7 YES, 7 NO

Citizen and stakeholder participation (2020 or 2021)

- Early consultation in the regulation-making process: NOT SYSTEMATIC
- Centres of government consulted stakeholders on COVID-19 recovery: YES, 13 YES, 13 NO
- Central government portal(s) for carrying out online consultations: YES, 22 YES, 10 NO

Digital government index (2019)
Composite index from 0 (worst) to 1 (best)

- Austria: 0.45, OECD: 0.51

Source: OECD Survey on the composition of the workforce in central/federal governments and OECD Survey on public service leadership and capability
Source: OECD Survey on centres of government’s role in managing the COVID-19 crisis, OECD open government Survey and OECD indicators of regulatory policy and governance (iREG) Survey
Source: OECD Survey on infrastructure governance and OECD Survey on leveraging responsible business conduct through public procurement
Source: OECD Survey on digital government 1.0
Government at a Glance 2021

Published every two years, Government at a Glance provides reliable, internationally comparable indicators on government activities and their results in OECD countries.

The 2021 edition includes input indicators on public finance and employment; while processes include data on institutions, budgeting practices and procedures, human resources management, regulatory governance, public procurement, the governance of infrastructure, public sector integrity, open government and digital government. Outcomes cover core government results (e.g. trust, political efficacy, inequality reduction) and indicators on access, responsiveness, quality and citizen satisfaction for the education, health and justice sectors. Governance indicators are especially useful for monitoring and benchmarking governments’ progress in their public sector reforms.

Each indicator in the publication is presented in a user-friendly format, consisting of graphs and/or charts illustrating variations across countries and over time, brief descriptive analyses highlighting the major findings conveyed by the data, and a methodological section on the definition of the indicator and any limitations in data comparability.

The Excel spreadsheets used to create the tables and figures in Government at a Glance 2021 are available via the StatLinks provided throughout the publication: https://doi.org/10.1787/1c258f55-en

For more information on the data (including full methodology and figure notes) and to consult all other Country Fact Sheets, www.oecd.org/gov/govataglance.htm