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Transport volume on Austria's roads in 2021 higher than before the pandemic

More than 600 million tonnes of goods transported for the first time

Vienna, 2022-10-13 – Domestic and foreign road freight vehicles transported a total of 609.5 million tonnes (t) on Austria's roads in 2021, as Statistics Austria reports. This corresponds to an increase in transport volume of 10.4 % compared to the previous year. Compared to 2019, this is an increase of 1.9 %. Especially the amount of goods in cross-border traffic rose high in percentage terms and was above the pre-pandemic level.

After the Corona crisis had initially slowed down the transport of goods on Austria's roads (**transport volume** in 2020 -7.7 % compared to 2019), the continuous upward trend of the previous years continued in 2021 (2017 +3.7 % compared to the previous year to 557.0 million t; 2018 +3.3 % to 575.2 million t; 2019 +4.0% to 598.0 million t). The volume of goods transported reached more than 600 million t for the first time in 2021, 10.4 % above the previous year and 1.9 % above the pre-pandemic level. The volume of goods transported in 2021 was above the pre-pandemic level and reached more than 600 million t for the first time. The **transport performance**, which had also increased steadily in recent years but had fallen by 3.7 % to 52.5 billion tonne-kilometres (tkm) in 2020, rose by 8.3 % to 56.8 billion tkm in 2021.

While the amount of goods carried by **Austrian vehicles** increased by 7.8 % to 398.0 million t compared to the previous year (369.4 million t), the growth in transport performance was with 4.4 % to 19.6 billion tkm lower (2020: 18.7 billion tkm). In comparison, the rise in transport volume and transport performance of **vehicles registered abroad** was in the double digits: the volume of goods transported rose by 15.7 % to 211.4 million t (2020: 182.7 million t), the transport performance by 10.4 % to 37.3 billion tkm (2020: 33.8 billion tkm).

Double-digit growth rates in cross-border transport

In 2021, **transport volume** increased in all types of transport. **National transport**, which accounted with 384.3 million t for the main part of the transport volume, rose by 7.6 %. **International receipt** (74.1 million t) and **dispatch** (65.4 million t) showed a growth by 14.1 % and 17.1 % compared to the preceding year. In 2021, **transit transport** (85.7 million t) recorded a plus of 15.8 % compared to 2020.

Almost two thirds of the total **transport volume** (65.3 % resp. 398.0 million t) was performed by **Austrian road freight vehicles**. While national transport was carried out primarily by Austrian vehicles (97.8 % and 375.7 million t respectively), the share of domestic road freight vehicles in international receipt and dispatch reached only 14.7 % (10.9 million t) and 15.8 % (10.3 million t). With 1.4 % (1.2 million t) Austrian vehicles contributed only marginal to transit traffic.

With 65.6 % (37.3 billion tkm), the share of foreign freight vehicles in the total **domestic transport performance** was significantly higher than that of Austrian freight vehicles (34.4 % or 19.6 billion tkm). This is mainly due to the long journeys foreign vehicles conduct in transit transport. More than one third of the total transport performance (20.3 billion tonne-kilometres) was carried out in transit transport, whereas a share of 99.2 % was performed by foreign vehicles.

For detailed results and further information please refer to [website](#).

Transport volume and transport performance by types of transport in Austria 2021

Types of transport	Austrian freight vehicles	Foreign freight vehicles	Third countries	Total	Share of AT in %	Change to 2020
Transport volume in 1 000 tonnes						
National transport	375 670	8 431	214	384 315	97.8	7.6
International receipt	10 882	61 746	1 491	74 119	14.7	14.1
International dispatch	10 317	53 583	1 474	65 374	15.8	17.1
Transit	1 161	77 176	7 335	85 671	1.4	15.8
Total	398 030	200 936	10 514	609 480	65.3	10.4
Transport performance in million domestic tonne-kilometres						
National transport	17 347	1 536	20	18 903	91.8	4.4
International receipt	985	7 858	201	9 045	10.9	12.6
International dispatch	1 076	7 341	205	8 622	12.5	7.6
Transit	156	18 217	1 904	20 277	0.8	10.5
Total	19 564	34 952	2 330	56 846	34.4	8.3

Q: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Road freight transport statistics; Eurostat (table D3.1 and D5); ASFINAG. – Rounding differences may occur.
1) EU-27 without Malta, including the United Kingdom, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

Information on methodology, definitions: In accordance with Regulation (EU) No 70/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 January 2012 (amendment of Regulation (EG) No 1172/98), all EU member states have to collect statistical data on freight transport conducted by freight vehicles registered in the respective countries since 1999. Like in Austria, data collection is usually arranged as a sampling survey. Thereby small vehicles may be excluded, which is carried out differently among some member states. The states transfer the statistical data regularly to the statistical office of the European Union, Eurostat. From this data pool, Eurostat provides results (so-called **D-Tables**) in accordance with Regulation (EG) No 6/2003 to the national statistical authorities to complete their own national statistics.

Included are all reported journeys which start or/and end in or transit through Austria and which were conducted with freight vehicles registered in one of the reporting countries (EU-27 without Malta, including the United Kingdom, Norway, Liechtenstein and Switzerland). Journeys of smaller freight vehicles (mostly up to 3.5 tonnes loading capacity or 6 tonnes permissible maximum weight) are not included. As the results are derived from sampling surveys, there can be partly significant sampling errors.

From reporting year 2018 (results starting from reporting year 2015), data from the Austrian **toll collection system** – which are provided by the “Autobahnen und Schnellstraßen-Finanzierungs-Aktiengesellschaft” (ASFINAG) - are used for weighting the results from the D-tables. Furthermore, results from so-called third countries - countries that are not included in the D-tables – can now be provided.

Transport volume is the amount of transported goods in tonnes (t).

Domestic transport performance is the product of the transport volume and the distance travelled within Austria in kilometres (t*km=tkm).

If you have any questions on this topic, please contact:

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