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# Wholesale prices increased by 10.2% in February

## Compared with January 2023, prices fell slightly by 0.5% overall

Vienna, 2023-03-07 – According to preliminary calculations by Statistics Austria, the wholesale price index (WPI 2020) for February 2023 was 134.1 index points. It was thus 10.2% higher than a year earlier. Compared with the previous month, wholesale prices fell slightly by 0.5%. In January 2023, the annual rate of change was 13.2%.

“Compared with the previous month, prices in Austrian wholesale trade declined slightly in February 2023. Nevertheless, the increase in wholesale prices remains high at +10.2% year-on-year. However, the high price increases of the previous year of more than 25% in some cases are now behind us,” says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

### Industrial chemicals and solid fuels in February 2023 main price drivers

The increase in the index **compared with February of the previous year** resulted mainly from price rises, some of them substantial, in industrial chemicals (+51.3%), solid fuels (+41.3%), dairy products, eggs, edible oils and fats (+31.1%) and live animals (+26.7%). Prices for sugar, chocolate, sugar confectionery and flat glass (each +25.9%), other food (+24.2%) and stationary (+23.0%) as well as liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (+21.1%) also rose sharply year-on-year.

The price of other construction materials (+19.8%), meat and meat products (+19.1%), coffee, tea, cocoa and spices (+18.6%), flowers and plants (18.4%), fruit, vegetables (+17.8%), hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies (+16.4%) as well as paper and paperboard (+15.0%) also increased sharply.

Prices for agricultural machinery, equipment and supplies (+14.2%), perfumes and cosmetics (+13.9%), cleaning materials (+13.6%), office furniture (+13.4%), other machinery and equipment, motor spirit (each +13.3%) and glassware, china and pottery (+13.2%) also increased significantly.

Prices also rose for wallpaper and floor coverings (+11.6%), textiles (+11.4%), paints and varnishes and lacquers (+10.7%), machinery for the textile industry and sewing and knitting machines (+10.5%) and alcoholic beverages (+10.3%).

By contrast, prices of waste and scrap (–28.1%), plastics and rubber in primary forms (–24.7%), iron and steel (–7.0%) as well as hides and leather (–5.7%) continued to fall.

### Moderate decline compared with January 2023

Price declines for fertilisers and agrochemical products (–7.6%), other liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (–6.1%), solid fuels (–4.6%), motor spirit (–3.6%), grain, seeds and animal feeds (–3.4%), industrial chemicals (–2.7%) as well as iron and steel (–1.7%) weakened the index slightly **compared with the previous month**.

On the other hand, the prices of fruits, vegetables (+11.1%), flowers and plants (+7.8%), coffee, tea, cocoa and spices (+6.2%), textile industry and sewing and knitting machines (+4.3%) and alcoholic beverages (+3.7%) increased. Also, agricultural machinery, equipment and supplies and other food (each +2.8%), live animals and non-alcoholic beverages (each +2.4%) as well as glassware, china and pottery (+2.2%) increased in price.

For more information on the Wholesale Price Index, please refer to our [website](#).

## Wholesale price index (excluding value added tax)

Period	Total Index 2020 = 100	Change in percent	
		Previous Period	Previous Year Period
2023 February <sup>1</sup>	134.1	-0.5	10.2
2023 January	134.8	1.5	13.2
<b>2022 Annual average</b>	<b>133.5</b>	-	<b>20.9</b>
<b>2022 Q4</b>	<b>136.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>17.4</b>
2022 December	132.8	-2.3	14.4
2022 November	135.9	-3.0	16.5
2022 October	140.1	3.1	21.2
<b>2022 Q3</b>	<b>136.3</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>21.6</b>
2022 September	135.9	0.2	20.6
2022 August	135.6	-1.2	21.3
2022 July	137.3	-1.5	22.8
<b>2022 Q2</b>	<b>136.7</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>25.9</b>
2022 June	139.4	2.5	26.5
2022 May	136.0	1.0	25.1
2022 April	134.7	0.9	26.0
<b>2022 Q1</b>	<b>124.8</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>19.2</b>
2022 March	133.5	9.7	25.6
2022 February	121.7	2.2	16.3
2022 January	119.1	2.6	15.5

Q: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, monthly price surveys.

1) Preliminary figures.

**Information on methodology, definitions:** The index series is denoted by the base year, i.e., the average measurement number of the 2020 wholesale price index is 100.0 in 2020. As a fixed-basis index, the base year wholesale price index recalculates the monthly measurement numbers from January through December 2020 based on an updated weighting and relates them to the reporting periods beginning in January 2021.

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

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