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Double-digit growth in international trade in 2022

Value of gas imports doubled price-related compared with 2021

Vienna, 2023-03-10 – In 2022, according to preliminary results from Statistics Austria, the total value of imports of goods was with €213.72 bn nominally 19.8% higher than the previous year, while exports of goods increased by 17.2% to €194.13 bn. The deficit of the trade balance amounted to €19.59 bn, after €12.86 bn in 2021.

“The deficit in Austria’s trade balance increased massively from just under 13 billion euros in 2021 to almost 20 billion in 2022. The main reason for this was the strong increase in energy import prices compared with 2021. Within a year, the import value of fuels and energy has increased by 86.0%. For Gas in particular almost twice as much money was transferred to import partners compared with the previous year, while the volume of imports fell by 38.0%,” says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

In 2022, international trade recorded double-digit growth in both directions. The 19.8% increase on the import side was mainly due to price rises for fuels and energy, as also shown by the 86.0% rise in the value of this product group. The gas subgroup even doubled in value compared with the previous year, while the volume of imports declined by 38.0% in the same period. The 17.2% increase in exports was mainly due to the positive development of exports of machinery and vehicles, as well as processed goods.

Austria imported goods worth €138.97 bn (+16.8%) from the member states of **the European Union** in 2022. The value of goods exported to these countries also increased by 18.1% compared to 2021 and amounted to €133.21 bn. The trade deficit with the European Union amounted to €5.75 bn, compared to €6.17 bn in 2021. Around 70% of Austria’s international trade (intra-EU imports: 65.0%, intra-EU exports: 68.6%) was conducted with EU member states.

Compared to the previous year, international trade with **non-EU countries** showed a strong increase in both imports (+25.6% to €74.75 bn) and exports (+15.3% to €60.91 bn). This resulted in a doubled trade deficit with third countries of €13.84 bn (trade balance deficit 2021: €6.69 bn). More than 30% of Austria’s international trade (extra-EU imports: 35.0%, extra-EU exports: 31.4%) was conducted with partner countries that are not EU member states (see table 2).

Strong growth in the most important product group, machinery and vehicles

With an import share of 30.8% and an export share of 35.6%, machinery and vehicles were once again the most important product group in Austrian international trade in 2022, with imports rising by 11.2% to €65.72 bn and exports by 12.6% to €69.03 bn. The other strongest product groups in terms of value in exports were manufactured goods (+21.4% to €42.90 bn), chemical products (+15.0% to €29.08 bn) and other manufactured goods (+14.2% to €20.27 bn). 83.1% of Austrian exports were concentrated in these four product groups in 2022. Imports of fuels and energy also rose sharply (+86.0% to €25.88 bn). Within this product group, the gas subgroup in particular showed a very high increase in value of 100.0% compared to the 2021 reporting year, while the import volume declined by 38.0% in the same reporting period. Beverages and tobacco saw the smallest percentage increases in imports, up 7.5% (to €1.27 bn) and exports up 15.1% (to €3.59 bn) (see table 3).

Most important partner countries in Austrian international trade

In 2022, the bulk of Austria’s import-export trade was concentrated on its key trading partners. These ten partner countries in each direction accounted for 71.2% of imports and 69.2% of exports – a total of seven EU countries and five third countries were represented in this ranking. Apart from Liechtenstein, Slovenia

and Slovakia, all of Austria's neighboring countries were among the top 10 partner countries in both trade directions. The product group machinery and vehicles topped the list of seven of the ten most important export partner countries. On the import side, the picture was similar, with chemical products (Switzerland, United States and Netherlands) and fuels and energy (Russian Federation) topping the list alongside machinery and vehicles (see tables 4.1 and 4.2).

Austria's trade with the Ukraine

With an import share of 0.6% (€1.18 bn) in 2022 and an export share of 0.3% (€0.51 bn), the Ukraine was not among Austria's most important trading partners. However, in 2022 Austria imported 7.2% of all crude materials from the Ukraine. Crude materials accounted for 55.5% of imports from Ukraine.

Austria's trade with the Russian Federation

In the past five years, the Russian Federation has always been among Austria's 20 most important trading partners. With an import share of 3.9% (€8.24 bn), the Russian Federation now reached 6th place in 2022, after the 10th place in 2021 before. The export share was not even half as much, at €1.84 bn, or 0.9%. Compared to the previous year, imports increased by 76.4% in value; export values decreased by 8.0%. The product group fuels and energy dominated the imports (share: 93.1%). The majority of Austrian exports to Russia in 2022 were chemical products (+12.1% to €0.72 bn), followed by machinery and vehicles (-23.8% to €0.50 bn).

Austria's trade with the United Kingdom

Almost three years after the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union, the country was still among the 14 most important trading partners. In exports, it found itself just behind China in 10th place with an export share of 2.6% (€5.10 bn). On the import side, it took 14th place with an import share of 1.6% (€3.49 bn).

Compared to 2021, imports increased by 25.7% in value; export values increased by 14.9%. The product group other goods (share: 32.7%), in particular the gold subgroup, dominated imports. The bulk of Austria's exports to the UK in 2022 were machinery and vehicles (+8.7% to €2.35 bn), followed by processed goods (+20.0% to €0.90 bn).

Looking at 2019 for comparison, the year before Brexit, we can see that imports increased by 23.5% compared to the corresponding year, while exports increased by 13.5%. Thus, trade with the United Kingdom has recovered since the decline in 2020 (import -24.2%; export -9.3% compared to the reporting year 2019).

Austria's international trade in Goods in December 2022: imports up 4.1%, exports up 8.1%

In December 2022, the preliminary value of **imports** of goods was €16.34 bn, a slight increase of 4.1% compared to December 2021. At the same time, **exports** of goods also increased, rising by 8.1% to €14.98 bn. The trade balance showed a deficit in the amount of €1.36 bn.

Austria imported goods worth €10.47 bn from the member states of the **European Union** in December 2022, and exported goods worth €10.07 bn to these countries. Compared to December 2021, intra-EU imports increased by 3.8% and intra-EU exports by 8.1%. This resulted in a negative trade balance with European Union member states in the amount of €0.40 bn.

Imports from **non-EU countries** amounted to €5.87 bn in December 2022, up 4.5% year-on-year; extra-EU exports increased by 8.3% to €4.91 bn. The resulting liability of the trade balance with third countries was €0.96 bn (see table 5).

For detailed results and further information, please refer to our [website](#). Visualisations of the international trade data for 2022 are available in the [ITGS-Atlas](#).

Table 1: Development of individual months January to December 2022

Total	Import	Export	Trade-balance ²	In- (+) or decrease (-) compared to previous year (in percent)	
				Import	Export
January ¹	15 825 336	14 337 346	-1 487 991	36.5	28.0
February ¹	16 169 940	15 117 616	-1 052 325	23.9	18.9
March	19 535 919	17 631 702	-1 904 217	19.9	15.3
April	17 500 627	15 398 497	-2 102 130	15.7	10.4
May	18 696 205	17 100 836	-1 595 370	32.0	29.1
June	17 498 155	16 754 973	-743 182	10.7	19.1
July	16 842 577	15 673 848	-1 168 729	14.1	11.1
August	17 337 291	14 722 225	-2 615 066	26.8	19.7
September	19 197 421	17 649 423	-1 547 999	21.6	19.6
October	18 825 592	16 682 912	-2 142 680	19.4	16.8
November	19 948 466	18 074 899	-1 873 567	19.2	14.4
December	16 339 682	14 981 550	-1 358 132	4.1	8.1

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, monthly international trade statistics. Preliminary results. Values in 1 000 euros (unless otherwise indicated)
- 1) Restrictions for unvaccinated- 2) trade balance = exports minus imports (import or export surplus).

Table 2: Austria's International Trade January to December 2022

2022 ¹	Import	Export	Trade-balance ²	In- (+) or decrease (-) compared to previous year (in percent)	
				Import	Export
Total	213 717 213	194 125 827	-19 591 386	+19.8	+17.2
EU-27 (Intra-EU-Imports/-Exports)	138 968 985	133 214 029	-5 754 957	+16.8	+18.1
Third states (Extra-EU-Imports/-Exports)	74 748 227	60 911 798	-13 836 430	+25.6	+15.3

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, monthly international trade statistics. Preliminary results. Values in 1 000 euros (unless otherwise indicated)
- 1) trade balance = exports minus imports (import or export surplus).

Table 3: Austria's International Trade by SITC, January to December 2022

SITC ¹	Import	Export	In- (+) or decrease (-) compared to previous year (in percent)		Share (in percent)	
			Import	Export	Import	Export
Total	213.72	194.13	19.8	17.2	100.0	100.0
0 food and live animals	12.61	11.15	17.7	16.6	5.9	5.7
1 beverages and tobacco	1.27	3.59	7.5	15.1	0.6	1.8
2 crude materials	9.01	6.53	9.4	11.7	4.2	3.4
3 fuels and energy	25.88	7.14	86.0	71.8	12.1	3.7
4 animal and vegetable oils	0.95	0.46	38.7	29.3	0.4	0.2
5 chemical products	29.58	29.08	12.8	15.0	13.8	15.0
6 manufactured goods	34.82	42.90	19.6	21.4	16.3	22.1
7 machinery and vehicles	65.72	69.03	11.2	12.6	30.8	35.6
8 miscellaneous manufactured articles	27.33	20.27	11.0	14.2	12.8	10.4
9 other goods	6.55	3.98	40.8	39.2	3.1	2.0

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, monthly international trade statistics. Preliminary results. - Values are not calculated from the tabulated individual figures. Values in billions of euros (unless otherwise stated) - 1) SITC = Standard International Trade Classification;

Table 4.1: Austria's Top 10 Trading Partner Countries by Direction of Trade Flow 2022 - Imports

Partner Country	Value in bn. Euro	Share (in percent)	In- (+) or. decrease (-) compared to previous year (in percent)	Main goods (SITC-1) ¹
Germany	68.89	32.2	16.5	machinery and vehicles
China	17.21	8.1	31.3	machinery and vehicles
Italy	13.06	6.1	12.8	machinery and vehicles
Switzerland	10.02	4.7	3.0	chemical products
Czechia	9.76	4.6	25.7	machinery and vehicles
Russian Federation	8.24	3.9	76.4	fuels and energy
United States	7.17	3.4	25.8	chemical products
Poland	6.79	3.2	17.7	machinery and vehicles
Netherlands	5.63	2.6	17.8	chemical products
Hungary	5.34	2.5	14.0	machinery and vehicles

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, monthly international trade statistics. Preliminary results. - Values are not calculated from the tabulated individual figures. Values in billions of euros (unless otherwise stated) - 1) SITC = Standard International Trade Classification.

Table 4.2: Austria's Top 10 Trading Partner Countries by Direction of Tradeflow 2022 - Exports

Partner Country	Value in bn. Euro	Share (in percent)	In- (+) or. decrease (-) compared to previous year (in percent)	Main goods (SITC-1) ¹
Germany	57.99	29.9	16.1	machinery and vehicles
Italy	13.16	6.8	17.4	manufactured goods
United States	12.91	6.7	16.3	machinery and vehicles
Switzerland	9.99	5.1	22.3	chemical products
Hungary	7.73	4.0	26.0	machinery and vehicles
France	7.72	4.0	22.9	machinery and vehicles
Poland	7.38	3.8	12.3	chemical products
Czechia	7.11	3.7	17.9	machinery and vehicles
China	5.17	2.7	7.2	machinery and vehicles
United Kingdom	5.10	2.6	14.9	machinery and vehicles

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, monthly international trade statistics. Preliminary results. - Values are not calculated from the tabulated individual figures. Values in billions of euros (unless otherwise stated) - 1) SITC = Standard International Trade Classification.

Table 5: International trade in goods in December 2022

2022 ¹	Import	Export	Trade balance ²	In- (+) or. decrease (-) compared to previous year (in percent)	
				Import	Export
Total	16 339 682	14 981 550	-1 358 132	+4.1	+8.1
EU-27 (Intra-EU-Imports/-Exports)	10 470 461	10 069 881	-400 580	+3.8	+8.1
Third states (Extra-EU-Imports/-Exports)	5 869 221	4 911 669	-957 552	+4.5	+8.3

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, monthly international trade in goods statistics. Values in 1 000 euros (unless otherwise indicated) – 1) preliminary results – 2) trade balance = exports minus imports (import or export surplus).

Information on methodology, definitions: The available result of the international trade statistics (ITGS: International Trade in Goods Statistics) contains data of the statistics of the trade in goods with third countries (EXTRASTAT) associated with the customs declaration and the primary statistics of the trade in goods with the EU member states (INTRASTAT) as well as additional estimates on the INTRASTAT data collected, which cover the non-response to the survey and values not collected due to thresholds. International trade statistics usually take into account the physical movement of goods that cross the Austrian border.

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