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Transport volume on the Danube at a historic low in 2022

Vienna, 2023-03-30 – According to Statistics Austria, 6.4 million tonnes of goods were transported on the Danube in 2022, 22.9% less than in 2021. The transport volume was thus at a historic low. The highest monthly decline was recorded in August 2022.

The **transport volume** of goods on the Danube in 2022 fell by 22.9% or 1.9 million tonnes (million t) to 6.4 million t. The figure was thus also 3.0% lower than that of 1992 (6.6 million t), the year in which the Rhine-Main-Danube Canal was opened in September. **Total transport performance** on domestic and international routes also saw a significant decrease of 20.7% or 1.5 billion tonne kilometres (tkm) to 5.9 billion tkm. The number of transportations declined by 19.8% from 7 986 to 6 402 in 2022.

Volume of goods transported from Ukraine to Austria decreased by more than half

Decreases were reported for all types of transport in the reference year (see Table 1). The tonnage transported reduced in **total international transport** (receipt, dispatch and transit together) by 17.1% or 1.3 million t to 6.2 million t. The largest drop (from 0.8 million t in 2021 by 54.8% to 0.4 million t in 2022) was accounted for freight transport from the Ukraine to Austria. The decreases in the individual international transport types were 11.8% or 0.5 million t to 3.5 million t for receipt, 22.6% or 0.5 million t to 1.9 million t for dispatch and 23.2% or 0.3 million t to 0.9 million t for transit.

In **national transport**, the goods volume decreased by 81.4% or 0.6 million t to only 0.1 million t in 2022. This was mainly due to the fact that the increased goods transports via the waterway in previous years in connection with the removal of goods during road and bridge construction near Linz were terminated in the fall of 2021. Moreover, no dredging of the fairway has been performed in 2022.

Largest decrease in August 2022

The individual months of 2022 still show increases for January (+14.5% to 0.7 million tonnes) and February (+5.5% to 0.7 million tonnes) compared to the corresponding months of the previous year. March saw a decrease of 30.7% to 0.6 million t and declines were also reported for all other months (see Table 2). The largest decrease was recorded for August (–61.0% or –0.5 million t to 0.3 million t), as the navigability of the waterway was restricted during this time due to low water caused by a prolonged dry period. In September, the tonnage carried was still significantly below the previous year's level (–44.8% to 0.4 million t).

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

Table 1: Freight transport on the Danube 2021 and 2022

Type of transport	2021	2022	Comparison 2021/22 in percent
Transport volume in tonnes			
Inland transport	755 959	140 614	-81.4
International goods receipt	3 930 683	3 465 631	-11.8
International goods dispatch	2 424 785	1 876 948	-22.6
Transit	1 159 269	890 883	-23.2
Total	8 270 876	6 374 076	-22.9
Transport performance in 1 000 tonne kilometres			
Inland transport	43 757	12 604	-71.2
International goods receipt	3 768 710	2 990 887	-20.6
International goods dispatch	1 982 188	1 712 594	-13.6
Transit	1 643 215	1 184 321	-27.9
Total	7 437 871	5 900 405	-20.7

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, inland waterways statistics.

Data including the Rhine-Main-Danube-Canal. – Rounding differences may occur.

Table 2: Transport volume in tonnes on the Danube 2021 and 2022 by months

Month	2021	2022	Comparison 2021/22 in percent
January	622 897	712 990	14.5
February	697 295	735 368	5.5
March	824 784	571 848	-30.7
April	633 266	629 425	-0.6
May	789 928	715 308	-9.4
June	853 325	629 899	-26.2
July	784 691	447 953	-42.9
August	754 950	294 248	-61.0
September	681 993	376 457	-44.8
October	505 257	407 940	-19.3
November	507 016	406 296	-19.9
December	615 474	446 343	-27.5

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, inland waterways statistics.

Data including the Rhine-Main-Danube-Canal.

Information on methodology, definitions:

Number of transportations: For vessel convoys (e.g. pushed convoy with several pushed barges), each loaded vessel unit is counted separately as a single transportation.

Transport volume: Amount of transported goods in tonnes.

Transport performance: Product of transport volume and distance travelled in kilometres.

Values related to transit transport were checked for possible under-reporting on a monthly basis, based on the lockings reported by the lock Aschach minus the journeys in receipt downstream and dispatch upstream

and compensated if necessary. Dredging or unloading of gravel performed on the Austrian part of the Danube is allocated to the fictitious loading places Austrian Danube Basin or Linz Lände. These numbers (0.5 million tonnes in 2021, no transports in 2022) are included in the total amount of inland transport.

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

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