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# Wholesale prices down by 0.4% in March 2023

**Wholesale prices lost significant momentum; compared with the previous month, February 2023, the index fell by 0.8%**

Vienna, 2023-04-06 – According to preliminary calculations by Statistics Austria, the wholesale price index (WPI 2020) for March 2023 was 133.0 index points. Compared to March 2022, prices fell by 0.4% and by 0.8% compared with February 2023. In February 2023, the annual rate of change was 10.2%.

“The Austrian wholesale prices continued to moderate in March 2023 and, with a rate of change of –0.4%, even fell below the price level of March of the previous year. The prices of goods that are dependent on internationally traded raw materials rose sharply at the beginning of the Ukraine war, have since fallen again and are now having an inflation-dampening effect. In contrast, the price trend for other groups of goods continues to rise steeply,” explains Tobias Thomas, Director General of Statistics Austria.

## Declines compared to March 2022

The main reasons for the index decline compared with March 2022 were lower prices for waste and scrap (–34.4%), iron and steel (–29.4%), plastics and rubber in primary forms (–26.9%) and also other liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (–22.1%). Significant price reductions were also recorded for motor spirit (–15.4%), grain, seeds and animal feeds (–14.1%), fertilisers and agrochemical products (–12.3%) and non-iron metals (–6.3%) as well as hides and leather (–4.4%).

However, the price of industrial chemicals (+41.6%), dairy products, eggs, edible oils and fats (+30.0%), sugar, chocolate, sugar confectionary (+25.2%), other food (+24.8%), solid fuels (+22.5%), stationary (+22.3%) and also coffee, tea, cocoa and spices (+21.4%) again rose sharply.

There were also price increases for other construction materials (+19.7%), fruit and vegetables, meat and meat products (each +18.5%), cleaning materials (+17.1%), hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies (+15.7%). In addition, prices for perfume and cosmetics as well as agricultural machinery, equipment and supplies (each +14.5%), but also glassware, china and pottery (+14.2%) increased.

The upward price trend also continued for alcoholic beverages (+13.5%), flowers and plants (+13.3%), flat glass, paper and paperboard (each +12.6%), other machinery and equipment (+12.2%), but also for office furniture, wallpaper and floor coverings (each +11, 6%) and live animals (+11.2%), non-alcoholic beverages (+10.9%), paints, varnishes and lacquers (+10.6%) as well as machinery for the textile industry, sewing and knitting machines (+10.5%).

## Price decrease compared to February 2022

Compared with February 2023, the price spiral continued to turn downward for grain, seeds and animal feeds (–7.4%), industrial chemicals (–4.6%), flowers and plants (–4.0%), fertilisers and agrochemical products (–3.6%), other liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (–2.6%) and motor spirit (–2.2%).

Nevertheless, in the same period, cleaning materials (+4.2%), alcoholic beverages (+3.3%), waste and scrap (+3.0%), hides and leather (+2.8%), but also coffee, tea, cocoa and spices (+2.6%), fruit and vegetables (+2.2%) and also tobacco products (+2.1%) have become more expensive.

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
<b>2023 Q1<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>134.0</b>	<b>-1.7</b>	<b>7.4</b>
2023 March <sup>1</sup>	133.0	-0.8	-0.4
2023 February	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

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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