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# Turnover in industry and construction increased moderately

## Hours worked and employment in industry in March 2023 up slightly according to first estimate, slightly down in construction

Vienna, 2023-04-27 – The flash estimates for industry and construction by Statistics Austria for March 2023 show an increase of the turnover index by 5.7% in a year-on-year comparison. Furthermore, the index of persons employed grew by 0.4%, as well as the index of hours worked by 0.6% compared to the same month of the previous year. Road freight transport volume declined by 3.1% in the first quarter 2023.

“Despite slowing momentum, the industry and construction sector continued to grow in March 2023: According to an initial estimate, turnover by Austrian industrial and construction enterprises was 5.7% higher than in March of the previous year. Hours worked increased slightly by 0.6%, employment by 0.4% in this context”, says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

Considering the industrial and the construction sector separately, the flash estimates for **March 2023** showed both an increase of the turnover index in industry (+6.1%) and in construction (+2.6%) compared to the same month of the previous year. The index of hours worked in industry grew (+2.2%), while in construction the index decreased (–4.0% compared to March 2022). The index of persons employed showed a slight increase in industry (+1.4%), the construction sector fell by 2.9% compared to the previous year (see table 1).

### Industry and construction with turnover growth of 7.9% in January 2023

In **January 2023**, a total of 80 594 **enterprises** in the entire **industry and construction sector** reported a turnover of € 33.8 bn (+7.9% compared to January 2022). At the same time, the number of employees rose by 1.2% to 981 798. The 42 248 Austrian **construction** enterprises achieved a turnover of € 3.6 bn in January 2023. This corresponds to a nominal increase of 12.2% compared to January 2022 (see table 2).

### Production growth in industry in January 2023

Compared to the same month of the previous year, sold production in industry (sections B to E of ÖNACE 2008) increased nominally by 8.6% to € 30.1 bn in **January 2023**. The highest increase in production by far within the ten largest branches of industry was recorded in manufacture of beverages (+36.6% to € 0.9 bn). Manufacture of food products (+24.4% to € 1.9 bn), manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c. (+24.3% to € 2.3 bn), manufacture of electrical equipment (+23.8% to € 1.2 bn) as well as manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products (+16.6% to € 0.9 bn) also recovered strongly. Among the ten largest branches of Austrian industry, only manufacture of chemical products (–8.3% to € 0.9 bn) showed a negative development (see table 3).

### Decline in road freight transport of Austrian enterprises in the first quarter 2023

For the first quarter 2023, the flash estimates for transport volume of Austrian enterprises showed a decrease by 3.1% to 85.2 million tonnes compared to the first quarter 2022 (87.9 million tonnes; see table 4). Total transport performance on Austrian and foreign territory declined by 4.2% to 6.5 billion tonne-kilometres (tkm) and the number of laden journeys increased by 0.5% to 6.3 million. Transport performance on

Austrian territory decreased by 3.8% (to 4.6 billion tkm), outside Austria it declined by 5.1% to 2.0 billion tkm.

For **detailed results** or more information on short-term statistics in Austria and on our [flash-estimates](#) in industry and construction please refer to our [website](#). Further information about [road freight transport of Austrian enterprises](#) can be found on our website. The [Economic monitor](#) of Statistics Austria provides an overview of the economic development in Austria with about 80 business indicators. Additionally a more detailed presentation and description of the most important [nominal short-term statistics data](#) is also available.

**Table 1: Short-term business statistics indicators (final, preliminary and flash estimates at t+30 days for March 2023; Turnover index, index of persons employed and index of hours worked in industry and construction (base year 2015); ÖNACE 2008**

2023	Total (ÖNACE B–F)	Compared to the same month of the previous year	Industry (ÖNACE B–E)	Compared to the same month of the previous year	Construction (ÖNACE F)	Compared to the same month of the previous year
Turnover index <sup>1</sup> January <sup>2</sup>	157.5	6.4	164.6	5.9	107.8	12.4
Turnover index <sup>1</sup> February <sup>3</sup>	163.2	6.5	166.3	5.4	141.1	15.2
Turnover index <sup>1</sup> March <sup>4</sup>	196.5	5.7	200.1	6.1	171.7	2.6
Index of persons employed <sup>1</sup> January <sup>2</sup>	108.5	1.0	109.0	2.0	106.6	-2.3
Index of persons employed <sup>1</sup> February <sup>3</sup>	109.7	0.5	109.3	1.6	111.0	-3.1
Index of persons employed <sup>1</sup> March <sup>4</sup>	111.8	0.4	109.6	1.4	119.2	-2.9
Index of hours worked <sup>1</sup> January <sup>2</sup>	100.9	4.8	104.0	5.5	90.3	1.9
Index of hours worked <sup>1</sup> February <sup>3</sup>	107.2	1.2	107.8	2.7	105.2	-3.6
Index of hours worked <sup>1</sup> March <sup>4</sup>	120.1	0.6	118.2	2.2	126.8	-4.0

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA. Annual average 2015 = 100.

1) Unadjusted. – 2) Results after 70 days. – 3) Results after 40 days. – 4) Flash-estimates after t+30 days.

**Table 2: Enterprises' results – January 2023**

Structure of ÖNACE 2008 <sup>1</sup>	Enterprises	Employees	Gross earnings in m. Euro	Turnover in m. Euro	Turnover-changes	
	End of January 2023		January 2023		nom. in % <sup>2</sup>	wd. a. in % <sup>3</sup>
<b>Industry</b>	<b>38 346</b>	<b>715 988</b>	<b>2 712.3</b>	<b>30 207.7</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>4.7</b>
Manufacturing	31 261	665 086	2 496.8	19 097.7	12.1	-
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	4 188	28 840	140.5	10 562.1	0.3	-
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	2 897	22 062	75.0	547.9	-1.4	-
<b>Construction</b>	<b>42.248</b>	<b>265 810</b>	<b>896.6</b>	<b>3 591.7</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>8.3</b>
<b>Industry and construction in total</b>	<b>80 594</b>	<b>981 798</b>	<b>3 608.9</b>	<b>33 799.3</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>5.1</b>

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA.

1) rounding differences not compensated. – 2) Nominal changes compared to the same period of the previous year. – 3) Working-day adjusted changes compared to the same period of the previous year.

**Table 3: Key branches of industry – value of sold production sold – January 2023**

Structure of ÖNACE 2008	Sold production in million Euros	Sold production - changes in % <sup>1</sup>
	January 2023	
<b>Industry</b>	<b>30 142.8</b>	<b>8.6</b>
Electricity, Gas, steam and air conditioning supply	10 811.1	3.4
Manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c.	2 320.1	24.3

Manufacture of basic metals	2 057.6	2.4
Manufacture of food products	1 898.1	24.4
Manufacture of fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment	1 520.1	9.2
Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers	1 332.5	6.4
Manufacture of electrical equipment	1 222.2	23.8
Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products	909.3	16.6
Manufacture of chemical products	893.7	-8.3
Manufacture of beverages	892.4	36.6

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA.

1) Nominal changes compared to the same period of the previous year.

**Table 4: Quarterly results of road freight transport volume (in million tonnes) of Austrian enterprises 2019 to 2023**

Reporting year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	total
<b>2023<sup>1</sup></b>	85.2				
Compared to previous year in %	-3.1				
<b>2022<sup>1</sup></b>	87.9	104.2	102.6	94.4	<b>389.1</b>
Compared to previous year in %	-0.2	-2.4	-8.6	-2.1	<b>-3.6</b>
<b>2021</b>	88.1	106.8	112.3	96.3	<b>403.5</b>
Compared to previous year in %	16.7	20.1	3.5	-6.1	<b>7.4</b>
<b>2020</b>	75.5	88.9	108.5	102.6	<b>375.6</b>
Compared to previous year in %	-5.5	-15.8	-2.9	-2.3	<b>-6.6</b>
<b>2019</b>	79.9	105.6	111.7	105.0	<b>402.2</b>
Compared to previous year in %	0.3	-2.6	5.2	6.0	<b>2.3</b>

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, road freight transport statistics.

1) Values for the fourth quarter 2022 and first quarter 2023 are flash estimates. The flash estimate for the third quarter 2022 was replaced by the preliminary quarterly result.

**Information on methodology, definitions:** The main results presented here are based on the one hand on the primary statistical data of the short-term statistics survey in industry and construction and on the other hand on a model-based approach to data supplementation. The latter tries to integrate the characteristic relationships of the monthly business survey and to make efficient use of the information from the various administrative sources. In that way, the **structure of the population (thus 100%)** of the short-term statistics in industry and construction can be presented at activity level as a combination of primary data, secondary data and model-based calculation. Detailed methodological descriptions can be found on our website under [Further documentation](#) (available in German only).

The **enterprise** results are based on all single- and multiple-operational enterprises that can be classified in industry and construction. Data of so-called **establishments** show the results of those establishments whose main area of activity is in industry and construction; irrespective of the economic focus of the enterprises above the establishments.

**Flash-estimates of economic activity** Flash-estimates are based on reported data already available 30 days after the end of the reference month as well as on historical movements and correlations of individual variables. Furthermore, the correlation of data from early reporting units and late reporting units is considered. The model is based on the assumption that missing reports show a similar development as the data of the reports already received from the companies.

The term industry in this context corresponds to manufacturing excluding construction (ÖNACE 2008 - sections B to E) and also includes commercial enterprises. Thus, this term is not identical with the term industry according to the classification system of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber.

Quality of the flash estimates: An essential aspect for the quality of the estimates is the automatic outlier detection and correction procedure. 30 days after the end of the reference period about 60 % of all reports have been received, however, standard data editing procedures are not completed at this early stage of data

processing. Therefore, reported data considerably differing from standard reports have to be corrected automatically. The outlier detection is based on a RegArima-model. The sensitivity of this outlier detection procedure was heuristically calibrated such, that not too many correctly reported values were replaced, and most incorrect reports were eliminated as well.

Thus, the quality of the t+30 estimate depends, on the extent to which the most significant erroneous reports could be identified and corrected. Furthermore, the underlying model assumes a correlation of early and late reported data. This dependence did not change significantly in the observation period 2013-2020. Structural breaks caused by crises such as the Corona pandemic could cause problems in the identification of outliers (suddenly occurring zero values that are recognized as outliers and replaced). Furthermore, due to the current situation, follow-up reports and major revisions cannot be ruled out.

**Road freight transport:**

Data is collected using a vehicle- and time-related sample survey. Sampled vehicles are allocated to one week per owner such that owners have to report at most one week per quarter. Until 2015, vehicles (lorry with two or more tonnes load capacity or road tractor) were sampled quarterly. From 2016 onwards, sampling is carried out once a year and in cases of dropouts, quarterly supplements are sampled. This leads to lower sample errors compared with the previous sampling method.

**Transport volume:** Weight of goods transported in tonnes.

**Transport performance:** Product of transport volume and kilometres driven.

**Flash estimates** for transport volume and transport performance in road freight transport of Austrian enterprises are published on our website one month after the end of the reference quarter. Detailed results are released five months after the end of the reference quarter. More information about road freight transport flash estimates can be found in the article "[Erhebung zum Straßengüterverkehr – Neuer Stichprobenplan und Entwicklung von Schnellschätzern](#)" (available in German only) by Karner, T., Weninger, B., Schuster, S. and Fleck, S. in Statistischen Nachrichten, Heft 4, 2018 (PDF, 0.4 MB).

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