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# Retail sales down in real terms in Q1/2023

## Inflation wipes out nominal sales growth of 6.7%

Vienna, 2023-05-05 – According to preliminary results by Statistics Austria, the Austrian retail sector (excluding the motor vehicle trade, including service stations) posted a nominal increase in turnover of 6.7% in the first quarter 2023 compared with the same period 2022. Considering price developments, however, sales volumes were slightly down by 2.9% year-on-year.

The sharp rise in prices led to a decline in sales volumes in the retail sector: In the first quarter 2023, retail turnover (excluding motor vehicle retailing; including service stations) was up 6.7% year-on-year in nominal terms. In real terms (adjusted for prices), this was a decline of 2.9%.

The retail trade in food, beverages, and tobacco products generated a year-on-year increase in turnover of 11.6%, which translates into a price-adjusted decline of 1.1%. The non-food retail sector posted a year-on-year increase in turnover of 3.7% in the period from January to March 2023, which translates into a price-adjusted decline of 4.2%.

**Table 1: Retail trade, first quarter of 2023, preliminary and unadjusted results**

Selected Sectors	Change in turnover compared to the same period last year	
	in nominal terms	in real terms
Retail trade (excluding automotive retail; incl. service stations)	6.7	-2.9
Retail trade (excluding motor vehicle dealerships and service stations)	7.2	-2.8
Food	11.6	-1.1
Non-Food	3.7	-4.2

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, short term statistics trade.

### March 2023: Turnover up 5.7% in nominal terms, down 2.6% in price-adjusted terms

In March 2023, the Austrian retail sector (excluding the motor vehicle trade; incl. service stations) generated 5.7% more turnover in nominal terms than in March of the previous year. In real terms, a decline in sales volume of 2.6% was recorded compared with March 2022.

The retail trade with food, beverages and tobacco products generated a year-on-year increase in turnover of 11.7% in March 2023. In real terms (price-adjusted), this represents a slight decline of 0.4%. Non-food retailing posted a nominal year-on-year increase of 3.3%, which translates into a price-adjusted decrease of 4.3%.

**Table 2 Retail trade, March 2023, preliminary and unadjusted results**

Selected Sectors	Change in turnover compared to the same period last year	
	in nominal terms	in real terms
Retail trade (excluding automotive retail; incl. service stations)	5.7	-2.6
Retail trade (excluding motor vehicle dealerships and service stations)	7.0	-2.6
Food	11.7	-0.4
Non-Food	3.3	-4.3

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, short term statistics trade.

The preliminary calculations of retail sales for March 2023 were made based on 51 % of turnover volume.

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

**Information on methodology, definitions:** The short-term statistics for retail trade were changed to the base year annual average 2015=100 as of the January 2018 reporting month. The new time series and methodological notes are available on our website. Statistics Austria's preliminary analyses are based on previously collected company sales and on advance sales tax returns. Together with Eurostat, Statistics Austria publishes the first business cycle data for the retail trade sector around 30 days after the end of the respective reporting month. The first results shown are revised before the publication of the final results (t+60 days).

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

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