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Decrease in turnover in industry and construction in April 2023

Turnover 1.6% below previous year; decline also in hours worked in industry and construction; slight increase in employment

Vienna, 2023-05-30 – Turnover in industry and construction fell by 1.6% in April 2023 compared with April of the previous year, according to flash estimates by Statistics Austria. The hours worked index declined by 1.1% in the same period, while the employment index increased by 0.9%.

“After the momentum in industry and construction had already slowed noticeably in the previous months, turnover of Austrian industrial and construction enterprises has now slipped into negative territory, according to a flash estimate. In April 2023, it was 1.6% lower than a year earlier. Hours worked declined by 1.1% in the same period, while there was a slight increase of 0.9% in employment,” says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

Considering the industrial and the construction sector separately, the flash estimates for **April 2023** showed a decrease of the turnover index in industry (–2.1%) and an increase of the turnover index in construction (+2.2%) compared to the same month of the previous year. The index of hours worked in industry decreased (–0.7%), as well as in construction (–2.6% compared to April 2022). The index of persons employed showed a slight increase in industry (+1.3%), the construction sector fell by 0.4% compared to the previous year (see table 1).

Industry and construction in February 2023

In **February 2023**, a total of 78 805 **enterprises** in the entire **industry and construction sector** reported a turnover of € 35.1 bn (+6.1% compared to February 2022). At the same time, the number of employees rose by 1.2% to 999 261. The 41 551 Austrian **construction** enterprises achieved a turnover of € 4.6 bn in February 2023. This corresponds to a nominal increase of 10.3% compared to February 2022 (see table 2).

Slight production boost in industry in February 2023

Compared to the same month of the previous year, sold production in industry (sections B to E of ÖNACE 2008) increased nominally by 6.0% to € 30.1 bn in **February 2023**. The highest increase in production within the ten largest branches of industry was recorded in manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers (+24.3% to € 1.6 bn). Manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c. (+22.0% to € 2.6 bn), manufacture of food products (+18.2% to € 1.9 bn), manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products (+12.9% to € 0.9 bn) as well as manufacture of electrical equipment (+12.0 to 1.3 bn) also recovered strongly. Manufacture of wood and of products of wood and cork, except furniture; manufacture of articles of straw and plaiting materials (–11.3% to € 0.9 bn) and manufacture of chemical products (–9.4% to € 0.9 bn), however, reported a pronounced negative development (see table 3).

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 April 2023); Turnover index, index of persons employed and index of hours worked in industry and construction (base year 2015); ÖNACE 2008

2023	Total (B-F)	Compared to the same month of the previous year	Industry (B-E)	Compared to the same month of the previous year	Construction (F)	Compared to the same month of the previous year
Turnover index ¹ February ²	163.8	6.8	167.0	5.8	141.8	15.8
Turnover index ¹ March ³	182.7	-1.7	184.6	-2.1	169.1	1.1
Turnover index ¹ April ⁴	158.7	-1.6	158.2	-2.1	162.6	2.2
Index of persons employed ¹ February ²	110.1	0.8	109.4	1.7	112.9	-1.5
Index of persons employed ¹ March ³	112.3	0.8	109.7	1.5	121.4	-1.1
Index of persons employed ¹ April ⁴	112.9	0.9	109.6	1.3	124.0	-0.4
Index of hours worked ¹ February ²	108.0	2.0	108.0	2.9	107.8	-1.2
Index of hours worked ¹ March ³	120.8	1.2	118.4	2.3	128.9	-2.4
Index of hours worked ¹ April ⁴	109.7	-1.1	106.2	-0.7	121.3	-2.6

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 – February 2023

Structure of ÖNACE 2008 ¹	Enterprises	Employees	Gross earnings in m. Euro	Turnover in m. Euro	Turnover-changes	
	End of February 2023		February 2023		nom. in % ²	wd. a. in % ³
Industry	37 254	718 884	2 720.6	30 488.4	5.5	5.5
Manufacturing	30 338	667 674	2 491.1	20 140.5	7.4	-
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	4 039	29 007	155.5	9 735.6	2.1	-
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	2 877	22 203	73.9	612.4	-2.2	-
Construction	41 551	280 377	879.7	4 600.2	10.3	10.2
Industry and construction in total	78 805	999 261	3 600.3	35 088.7	6.1	6.1

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 – February 2023

Structure of ÖNACE 2008	Sold production in million Euros	Sold production - changes in % ¹
	February 2023	
Industry	30 146.1	6.0
Electricity, Gas, steam and air conditioning supply	9 734.7	3.7
Manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c.	2 632.4	22.0
Manufacture of basic metals	2 024.4	-4.4
Manufacture of food products	1 884.2	18.2
Manufacture of fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment	1 636.5	-6.6
Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers	1 559.9	24.3
Manufacture of electrical equipment	1 259.1	12.0
Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products	947.1	12.9
Manufacture of wood and of products of wood and cork, except furniture; manufacture of articles of straw and plaiting materials	896.1	-11.3
Manufacture of chemical products	889.0	-9.4

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA.

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

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.

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