

Press release: 13 299-065/24

Freight transport on the Danube: Transport volume in 2023 at a historic low

Transport from Eastern and South-Eastern Europe to Austria down by more than a fifth

Vienna, 2024-03-27 – According to Statistics Austria, 6.0 million tonnes were transported on the Danube in 2023, 5.1% less than in 2022 (6.4 million tonnes). The transport volume thus fell to a historic low. This was solely due to decreases in goods receipt, with transports from Ukraine to Austria almost coming to a standstill.

The **transport volume** of goods on the Danube fell by 5.1% or 0.3 million tonnes (million t) to 6.0 million t in 2023, a further decline after it had already fallen to 6.4 million t in 2022 (-22.9% or -1.9 million t compared to 2021). Multiplied by the domestic and international distance travelled, this resulted in a total **transport performance** of 5.6 billion tonne-kilometres (bn tkm). This is a decrease of 5.9% or 0.3 billion tkm in comparison to 2022. The number of transportations declined by 8.1% or 519 to 5 883.

Highest decrease in goods receipt from eastern countries

International goods receipt recorded a decline of 20.9% or 0.7 million t to 2.7 million t in 2023. However, increases were seen in all other transport modes in the reporting year with international goods dispatch growing by 7.5% (+0.1 million t) to 2.0 million t and transit by 3.8% to 0.9 million t (+0.03 million t). For national transport, which is less important in terms of volume, an increase of 158.1% to 0.4 million t (+0.2 million t) was reported.

From **eastern countries** (Slovakia, Croatia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary and Serbia), a total of 2.1 million t was transported to Austria in 2023, which accounted to a minus of 22.7% or 0.6 million t. Goods receipt from the Ukraine has been reduced since 2022. While 0.8 million t were transported to Austria in 2021, the transport volume decreased to 0.4 million t in 2022. In 2023, only a small amount of 10 361 t was transported via waterway from Ukraine to Austria. The total volume of goods received from **western countries** (Germany, Belgium, France, Netherlands, Switzerland) was 0.6 million t in 2023, 13.5% or 0.1 million t below the previous year's level.

Overall decline in the volume of goods loaded and unloaded by water in Austria's ports

In 2023, the waterborne transshipment – i.e. the total of goods loaded and unloaded by water – was at 5.5 million t and 2.5% (-0.1 million t) below the value of 2022. However, there were different developments for the individual Austrian ports. Increases in waterside transshipments were reported for the ports of Linz and Vienna compared to the previous year. In the ports of Linz, the volume of goods handled by water rose by 4.7% or 0.1 million t to 3.1 million t and in the ports of Vienna by 36.2% or 0.3 million t to 1.0 million t. Decreases were reported for the other ports: cargo handling fell in the port of Enns by 25.6% or 0.1 million t to 0.4 million t and in the port of Krems by 34.0% or 0.1 million t to 0.2 million t. The remaining ports together resulted at 0.7 million t, which corresponds to a decrease of 30.5% or 0.3 million t compared to 2022.

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

Goods transport on the Danube 2022 and 2023

Type of transport	2022	Comparison 2021/22 in percent	2023	Comparison 2022/23 in percent
Transport volume in tonnes				
Inland transport	140 614	-81.4	362 904	158.1
International goods receipt	3 465 631	-11.8	2 742 011	-20.9
International goods dispatch	1 876 948	-22.6	2 017 663	7.5
Transit	890 883	-23.2	924 548	3.8
Total	6 374 076	-22.9	6 047 126	-5.1
Transport performance in 1 000 tonne kilometres				
Inland transport	12 604	-71.2	45 506	261.1
International goods receipt	2 990 887	-20.6	2 470 487	-17.4
International goods dispatch	1 712 594	-13.6	1 744 177	1.8
Transit	1 185 321	-27.9	1 293 358	9.2
Total	5 900 405	-20.7	5 553 528	-5.9

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, inland waterways statistics.

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

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.

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

Brigitte Weninger, phone: +43 1 711 28-7561, e-mail: brigitte.weninger@statistik.gv.at

Media owner, producer and publisher:

STATISTICS AUSTRIA | Federal Institution under Public Law | Guglgasse 13 | 1110 Vienna | www.statistik.at

Press: Phone: +43 1 711 28-7777 | E-mail: presse@statistik.gv.at

© STATISTICS AUSTRIA