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# Sharp decline in rail freight transport in 2023

## Transit accounts for around one third of rail freight transport

Vienna, 2024-04-30 – According to Statistics Austria, 92.4 million tonnes of goods were transported on the Austrian rail network, 11.0% less than in the previous year. Multiplied by the distance travelled within Austria, this resulted in a transport performance of 20.2 billion tonne-kilometres. This is a decrease of 8.8% compared to the previous year.

After the **amount of goods** transported on the Austrian rail network had already fallen by 1.3% year-on-year to 103.9 million tonnes (t) in 2022, there was a significant decline of 11.0% to 92.4 million t in 2023. The decreases affected all types of transport. At –17.9%, the sharpest relative decline in transport volumes compared to the previous year was recorded for goods received (21.4 million t). The smallest decrease of –7.2% was observed in transit (29.7 million t). In national transport (26.0 million t) and in international goods dispatch (15.4 million t), the decreases were 9.6% and 9.9%.

The **transport performance** fell by 8.8% compared to the previous year from 22.2 billion tonne-kilometres (billion tkm) to 20.2 billion tkm. The largest decline was recorded for international goods receipt with 4,9 billion tkm and a decrease of 15.8% compared to 2022. National traffic fell by 8.0% to 3.9 billion tkm, goods dispatch (3.5 billion tkm) by 6.4% and transit (7.8 billion tkm) by 5.5% (see table).

### **32% of transport volume and 39% of transport performance attributable to transit traffic**

A total of 45 domestic and foreign rail transport companies carried out transport in Austria, with transit accounting for 32.1% of the transport volume. 42.7% (12.7 million t) of the transport volume in transit was achieved with transport between Germany and Italy. 28.1% of goods were transported in national transport. Receipt and dispatch of goods accounted for 23.2% and 16.6%, respectively.

The distribution of domestic transport performance by transport sector shows similar trends, with transit transport accounting for 38.7%, national transport for 19.5%, international goods receipt for 24.4% and international goods dispatch accounting for 17.4%.

### **More than half of the transport performance was on distances of more than 300 kilometres**

In 2023, 30.2% (28.0 million t) of the transport volume and 54.4% (11.0 billion tkm) of the transport performance were accounted for transport distances of more than 300 kilometres length. 47.0% (43.5 million t) of the transport volume or 39.6% (8.0 billion tkm) of the transport performance were transported on routes with a length of between 101 and 300 km. 22.7% of the tonnage (21.0 million t) or 6.0% (1.0 billion tkm) of the transport performance was accounted for transport distances of up to 100 kilometres.

### **1.9 million semi-trailers, containers and swap bodies transported**

With a total of 1.9 million semi-trailers, containers and swap bodies transported, which together corresponded to 3.0 million TEU (Twenty-foot Equivalent Units), the number of transport containers mentioned fell by 10.5% compared to the previous year. The transport volume of those transport containers amounted 38.7 million t (–12.4% compared to 2022) while the transport performance was 8.3 billion tkm (–8.4% compared to 2022).

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

## Rail freight transport in Austria by type of transport 2022 and 2023

Type of transport	2022 <sup>1</sup>	2023 <sup>2</sup>	Comparison 2022/23 in percent
<b>Transport volume in tonnes</b>			
National transport	28 749 192	25 980 754	-9,6
International goods receipt	26 110 015	21 434 625	-17,9
International goods dispatch	17 041 062	15 354 637	-9,9
Transit	31 969 801	29 672 738	-7,2
<b>Total</b>	<b>103 870 070</b>	<b>92 442 754</b>	<b>-11,0</b>
<b>Transport performance in 1 000 tonne-kilometres</b>			
National transport	4 291 667	3 948 293	-8,0
International goods receipt	5 845 538	4 921 328	-15,8
International goods dispatch	3 756 300	3 516 192	-6,4
Transit	8 273 396	7 819 358	-5,5
<b>Total</b>	<b>22 166 901</b>	<b>20 205 170</b>	<b>-8,8</b>

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Rail transport statistics. – Rounding differences may occur.

1) Revised data. 2) Including estimation.

**Information on methodology, definitions:** The data are based on full survey in cooperation with railway undertakings that operated freight traffic on the Austrian rail network in 2022 and 2023. Allocation to the individual types of transport is based on the loading and unloading locations specified in the railway bills of lading.

Due to small reporting failures, values for the 2023 reporting year were estimated based on the available gross tonne-kilometres. Values referring to the reporting year 2022 were revised due to updated data in October 2023.

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

**Transport performance:** Product of transport volume and distance in kilometres.

**TEU:** Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit; 1 TEU is equivalent to one 20-foot-ISO-Container.

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