

Press release: 13 326-092/24

Retail turnover stagnates in Q1

Food retail up in real terms, non-food retail down

Vienna, 2024-05-07 – According to preliminary results by Statistics Austria, the Austrian retail sector (excluding motor vehicle trade, including service stations) posted a nominal increase in turnover of 3.2% in the first quarter of 2024 compared with the same period in 2023. Taking inflation into account, however, turnover remained unchanged year-on-year.

In the first quarter of 2024, retail turnover (excluding motor vehicle retailing; including service stations) was up 3.2% year-on-year in nominal terms, in real terms (price-adjusted), turnover was at the previous year's level. Retail trade in food, beverages, and tobacco products generated a year-on-year increase in turnover of 6.3%, which translates to a price-adjusted increase of 1.9%. The non-food retail sector posted a year-on-year increase in turnover of 1.4% in the period from January to March 2024, which translates to a price-adjusted decline of 1.1%.

Table 1: Retail trade first quarter of 2024, 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)	3.2	0.0
Retail trade (excluding motor vehicle dealerships and service stations)	3.6	0.3
Food	6.3	1.9
Non-Food	1.4	-1.1

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, short term statistics trade.

March 2024: Turnover up 2.1% in nominal terms, down 0.6% in real terms

In March 2024, the retail sector (excluding the motor vehicle trade; incl. service stations) generated 2.1% more turnover in nominal terms than in March of the previous year. In real terms, a decline in turnover of 0.6% was recorded compared with March 2023.

The retail trade with food, beverages and tobacco products generated a year-on-year increase in turnover of 5.3% in March 2024, in real terms, this represents an increase of 1.8%. The non-food sector decreased nominally by 0.1% compared to the previous year and decreased in real terms by 2.1%.

Table 2: Retail trade March 2024, 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)	2.1	-0,6
Retail trade (excluding motor vehicle dealerships and service stations)	2.4	-0.3
Food	5.3	1.8
Non-Food	-0.1	-2.1

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, short term statistics trade.

The preliminary calculations of retail sales for March 2024 were made based on 49% 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 switched to the base year 2021 (annual average 2021=100) as of January 2024. With the base year change, major changes have been made in the short-term statistics, as the new EU Regulation 2019/2152 was implemented. However, there are no changes for users of the preliminary retail turnover indices.

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).

Rates of change are based on unrounded index values.

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