

Press release: 13 363-129/24

# Imports down in 2023, exports up

## Import value of fuels and energy down by a third

Vienna, 2024-06-25 – In 2023, according to final results from Statistics Austria, the total value of imports of goods was with €202.78 bn nominally 5.8% below the previous year, while exports of goods increased by 3.1% to €200.76 bn. The deficit of the trade balance amounted to €2.02 bn, after €20.59 bn in 2022.

“Significantly cheaper gas imports in particular caused imports to fall by almost 6% year-on-year to 202.78 billion euros in 2023. At the same time, exports rose by over 3% to 200.76 billion euros due to the high increase in the export values of machinery and vehicles as well as chemical products. Austria’s foreign trade deficit therefore only totalled 2.02 billion euros in 2023. In the previous year, the value of imports was still more than 20 billion euros higher than that of exports, mainly due to the drastic rise in energy prices,” says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

Since Austria joined the EU in 1995, international trade of goods has had a negative trade balance every year with a few exceptions (2002: +€0.30 bn and 2007: +€0.43 bn). As a rule, both import and export values increased. The biggest slumps occurred in 2009 due to the financial and economic crisis and in 2020 as a result of the coronavirus pandemic (see graph).

### Further increases in the most important product group, machinery and vehicles

With an import share of 34.5% and an export share of 37.5%, machinery and vehicles were once again the most important product group in Austrian international trade in 2023, with imports rising by 6.2% to €69.96 bn and exports by 8.4% to €75.31 bn. The other strongest product groups in terms of value in exports were manufactured goods (–8.2% to €39.26 bn), chemical products (+19.0% to €34.61 bn) and other manufactured goods (–2.2% to €19.86 bn). Fuels and energy (–32.9% to €18.19 bn) saw the biggest absolute decreases in imports. Within this product group, the gas subgroup in particular showed a very high decrease in value of 45.9% compared to 2022, while the import volume increased by 5.6% in the same period (see table 3).

### Almost 70% of Austrian international trade is conducted with other EU member states

Austria imported goods worth €131.35 bn (–6.3%) from the member states of the **European Union** in 2023. The value of goods exported to these countries increased by 2.8% compared to 2022 and amounted to €137.37 bn. The trade asset with the European Union amounted to €6.02 bn, compared to deficit of €6.56 bn in 2022. Around 70% of Austria’s international trade (intra-EU imports: 64.8%, intra-EU exports: 68.4%) was conducted with EU member states.

Compared to the previous year, international trade with **non-EU countries** showed a slight decrease in imports (–4.8% to €71.42 bn) and a slight increase in exports (+3.9% to €63.39 bn). This resulted in a reduction of trade deficit with third countries of €8.04 bn (trade balance deficit 2022: €14.03 bn). More than 30% of Austria’s international trade (extra-EU imports: 35.2%, extra-EU exports: 31.6%) was conducted with partner countries that are not EU member states (see table 1).

### Most important partner countries in Austrian international trade

In 2023, the bulk of Austria’s import-export trade was concentrated on its key trading partners. These ten partner countries in each direction accounted for 69.9% of imports and 68.5% of exports – a total of eight EU countries and four third countries were represented in this ranking. Apart from Liechtenstein, Slovenia

and Slovakia, all of Austria's neighbouring countries were among the top 10 partner countries in both trade directions. The product group machinery and vehicles topped the list of six of the ten most important export partner countries. On the import side, the picture was similar, with chemical products (Switzerland and United States) topping the list alongside machinery and vehicles (see tables 4.1 and 4.2).

#### **Austria's trade with the Ukraine**

With an import share of 0.5% (€0.93 bn) and an export share of 0.3% (€0.62 bn) in 2023, Ukraine was not among Austria's most important trading partners. However, in 2023, Austria imported 6.4% of all crude materials from Ukraine. Crude materials accounted for 51.7% of imports from Ukraine (see table 5).

#### **Austria's trade with the Russian Federation**

In terms of trade intensity, the Russian Federation was the 17th most important trading partner in 2023. With an import share of 2.0% (€4.09 bn), the Russian Federation now reached eleventh place in 2023, after the sixth place in 2022. The export share was not even half as high as the import share, at €1.30 bn, or 0.6% (see table 6). Compared to 2022, the value of imports halved (-50.4%); export values fell by more than a quarter (-29.4%). The product group fuels and energy dominated the imports (share: 93.9%). The majority of Austrian exports to Russia in 2023 were chemical products (-12.2% to €0.63 bn), followed by machinery and vehicles (-51.2% to €0.24 bn).

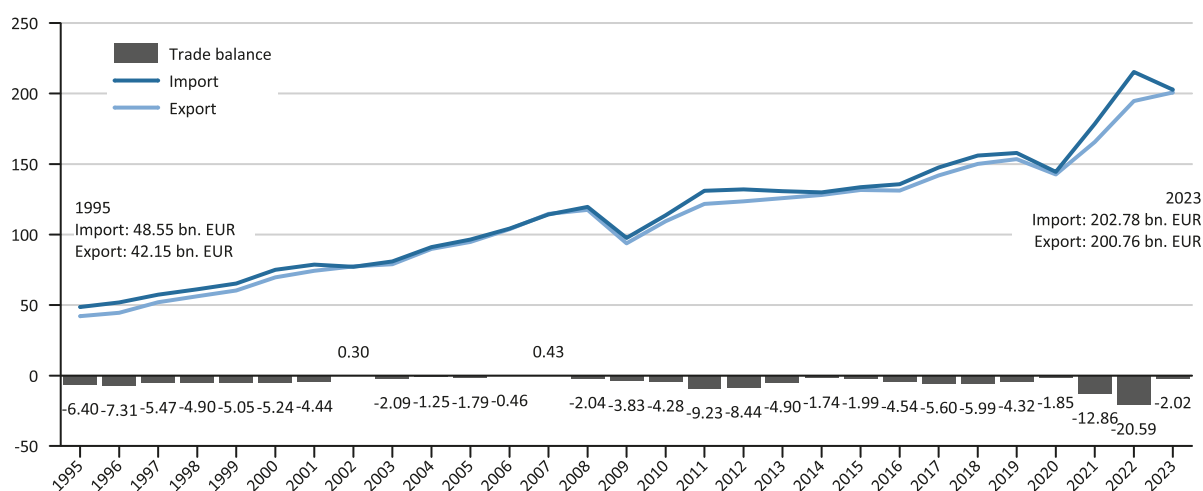
#### **Austria's trade with China**

China was still among the eleven most important trading partners. In exports, with an export share of 2.5% (€5.07 bn), it found itself just behind the United Kingdom in eleventh place. On the import side, it took second place with an import share of 7.5% (€15.12 bn).

Compared to 2022, imports decreased by 13.4% in value; export values decreased by 3.6% (see table 7). The product group machinery and vehicles (share: 56.7%), in particular the electrical machinery subgroup, dominated imports. The bulk of Austria's exports to China in 2023 were machinery and vehicles, too (+2.4% to €3.01 bn), followed by processed goods (-14.8% to €0.65 bn).

For detailed results and further information, please refer to our [website](#). Visualisations of the international trade data for 2023 are available in the [ITGS-Atlas](#).

## Development of Austrian international trade of goods since 1995



S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, International trade in goods statistics. Final results.

**Table 1: Austria's International Trade January to December 2023**

2023	Import	Export	Trade balance <sup>1</sup>	In- (+) or decrease (-) compared to previous year (in %)	
				Import	Export
Total	202 777 484	200 755 417	-2 022 067	-5.8	+3.1
EU-27 (Intra-EU-Imports/-Exports)	131 352 571	137 370 157	6 017 586	-6.3	+2.8
Third states (Extra-EU-Imports/-Exports)	71 424 913	63 385 260	-8 039 653	-4.8	+3.9

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, monthly international trade statistics. Final results. Values in 1 000 euros (unless otherwise indicated). – 1) Trade balance = exports minus imports (import or export surplus).

**Table 2: Development of individual months January to December 2023**

Total	Import	Export	Trade balance <sup>1</sup>	In- (+) or decrease (-) compared to previous year (in %)	
				Import	Export
January	17 820 446	15 720 694	-2 099 752	12.4	9.6
February	17 366 593	15 920 861	-1 445 733	7.2	5.1
March	19 907 502	20 151 824	244 322	1.5	13.9
April	16 862 249	16 492 775	-369 474	-4.0	6.8
May	17 659 512	17 005 478	-654 034	-6.5	-0.5
June	17 509 615	17 276 890	-232 725	-1.0	3.0
July	16 247 146	16 080 913	-166 233	-4.2	2.2
August	14 906 741	14 794 514	-112 227	-14.5	0.2
September	16 712 879	16 468 307	-244 572	-13.5	-7.0
October	16 919 985	17 676 700	756 715	-11.1	5.5
November	17 186 584	19 144 663	1 958 079	-14.7	5.4
December	13 678 231	14 021 797	343 566	-17.6	-7.0

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, monthly international trade statistics. Final results. Values in 1 000 euros (unless otherwise indicated). – 1) Trade balance = exports minus imports (import or export surplus).

**Table 3: Austria's International Trade by SITC 2023**

SITC <sup>1</sup>	Import	Export	In- (+) or decrease (-) compared to previous year (in %)		Share (in %)	
			Import	Export	Import	Export
Total	202.78	200.76	-5.8	3.1	100.0	100.0
0 food and live animals	13.82	12.00	9.5	7.9	6.8	6.0
1 beverages and tobacco	1.42	3.34	11.9	-7.0	0.7	1.7
2 crude materials	7.48	5.49	-17.2	-16.1	3.7	2.7
3 fuels and energy	18.19	7.49	-32.9	-1.5	9.0	3.7
4 animal and vegetable oils	0.73	0.33	-16.0	-14.9	0.4	0.2
5 chemical products	28.97	34.61	-2.4	19.0	14.3	17.2
6 manufactured goods	29.98	39.26	-14.2	-8.2	14.8	19.6
7 machinery and vehicles	69.96	75.31	6.2	8.4	34.5	37.5
8 miscellaneous manufactured articles	28.59	19.86	4.3	-2.2	14.1	9.9
9 other goods	3.64	3.07	-43.9	-18.7	1.8	1.5

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, monthly international trade statistics. Final results. Rounding differences not balanced. Values in billions of euros (unless otherwise stated). – 1) SITC = Standard International Trade Classification.

**Table 4.1: Austria's Top 10 Trading Partner Countries by Direction of Trade Flow 2023 – Imports**

Partner Country	Value in bn. Euro	Share (in %)	In- (+) or decrease (-) compared to previous year (in %)	Main goods (SITC-1) <sup>1</sup>
Germany	64.71	31.9	-6.3	machinery and vehicles
China	15.12	7.5	-13.4	machinery and vehicles
Italy	13.01	6.4	-3.2	machinery and vehicles
Switzerland	10.26	5.1	2.3	chemical products
Czechia	8.40	4.1	-14.4	machinery and vehicles
United States	7.93	3.9	9.3	chemical products
Poland	6.54	3.2	-7.0	machinery and vehicles
Netherlands	5.50	2.7	-5.9	machinery and vehicles
France	5.32	2.6	4.0	machinery and vehicles
Hungary	5.04	2.5	-5.8	machinery and vehicles

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, monthly international trade statistics. Final results. Rounding differences not balanced. Values in billions of euros (unless otherwise stated). – 1) SITC = Standard International Trade Classification. Products are classified by the SITC into five levels/digits, with the SITC-1 digit representing the coarsest classification level.

**Table 4.2: Austria's Top 10 Trading Partner Countries by Direction of Tradeflow 2023 – Exports**

Partner Country	Value in bn. Euro	Share (in %)	In- (+) or. decrease (-) compared to previous year (in %)	Main goods (SITC-1) <sup>1</sup>
Germany	58.44	29.1	0.7	machinery and vehicles
United States	14.74	7.3	14.1	machinery and vehicles
Italy	12.31	6.1	-7.1	manufactured goods
Switzerland	9.96	5.0	-0.3	chemical products
Belgium	7.52	3.7	150.1	chemical products
Poland	7.34	3.7	-0.2	chemical products
France	7.27	3.6	-6.3	machinery and vehicles
Hungary	7.26	3.6	-6.2	machinery and vehicles
Czechia	7.24	3.6	2.2	machinery and vehicles
United Kingdom	5.45	2.7	6.8	machinery and vehicles

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, monthly international trade statistics. Final results. Rounding differences not balanced. Values in billions of euros (unless otherwise stated). – 1) SITC = Standard International Trade Classification. Products are classified by the SITC into five levels/digits, with the SITC-1 digit representing the coarsest classification level.

**Table 5: Austria's international trade with Ukraine, since 2013**

Reporting year	Import	Export	In- (+) or decrease (-) compared to previous year (in percent)		Share (in percent)	
			Import	Export	Import	Export
2013	0.67	0.68	-15.1	1.2	0.5	0.5
2014 <sup>1</sup>	0.61	0.51	-9.4	-24.9	0.5	0.4
2015	0.48	0.34	-21.3	-34.5	0.4	0.3
2016	0.49	0.40	3.0	19.8	0.4	0.3
2017	0.66	0.47	33.3	15.9	0.4	0.3
2018	0.68	0.50	4.1	6.7	0.4	0.3
2019	0.79	0.57	15.9	15.2	0.5	0.4
2020	0.83	0.53	4.9	-7.5	0.6	0.4
2021	1.05	0.62	26.5	17.5	0.6	0.4
2022 <sup>2</sup>	1.18	0.51	12.1	-18.4	0.5	0.3
2023	0.93	0.62	-21.0	21.5	0.5	0.3

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, monthly international trade statistics. Final results. – Rounding differences not balanced. Values in billions of euros (unless otherwise stated). – 1) Annexation of Crimea in February 2014. – 2) Start of Ukraine war in February 2022.

**Table 6: Austria's international trade with the Russian Federation, since 2013**

Reporting year	Import	Export	In- (+) or decrease (-) compared to previous year (in percent)		Share (in percent)	
			Import	Export	Import	Export
2013	3.19	3.47	-22.1	9.0	2.4	2.8
2014 <sup>1)</sup>	2.29	3.19	-28.0	-8.0	1.8	2.5
2015	2.44	1.98	6.2	-38.1	1.8	1.5
2016	2.46	1.88	1.1	-4.8	1.8	1.4
2017	2.77	2.18	12.3	16.1	1.9	1.5
2018	3.29	2.10	19.0	-3.7	2.1	1.4
2019	2.76	2.36	-16.1	12.3	1.8	1.5
2020	2.17	2.12	-21.4	-10.3	1.5	1.5
2021	4.67	2.00	115.1	-5.7	2.6	1.2
2022 <sup>2, 3</sup>	8.25	1.84	76.7	-8.0	3.8	0.9
2023 <sup>4</sup>	4.09	1.30	-50.4	-29.4	2.0	0.6

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, monthly international trade statistics. Final results. – Rounding differences not balanced. Values in billions of euros (unless otherwise stated). – 1) Sanctions against Russia since August 2014 after the annexation of Crimea. – 2) Start of Ukraine war in February 2022.– 3) Start sanctions package against Russia with February 2022.

**Table 7: Austria's International Trade with the People's Republic of China, since 2013**

Reporting year	Import	Export	In- (+) or decrease (-) compared to previous year (in percent)		Share (in percent)	
			Import	Export	Import	Export
2013	6.79	3.14	0.6	3.5	5.2	2.5
2014	7.32	3.38	7.9	7.8	5.6	2.6
2015	7.96	3.30	8.7	-2.2	6.0	2.5
2016	7.97	3.31	0.2	0.2	5.9	2.5
2017	8.51	3.70	6.7	11.7	5.8	2.6
2018	9.11	4.06	7.1	9.6	5.8	2.7
2019	9.83	4.46	7.9	10.0	6.2	2.9
2020	10.19	3.92	3.7	-12.2	7.1	2.7
2021	13.11	4.82	28.7	23.1	7.3	2.9
2022	17.45	5.26	33.2	9.1	8.1	2.7
2023	15.12	5.07	-13.4	-3.6	7.5	2.5

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, monthly international trade statistics. Final results. – Rounding differences not balanced. Values in billions of euros (unless otherwise stated).

**Information on methodology, definitions:** The available result of the international trade statistics (ITGS: International Trade in Goods Statistics) contains data of the statistics of the trade in goods with third countries (EXTRASTAT) associated with the customs declaration and the primary statistics of the trade in goods with the EU member states (INTRASTAT) as well as additional estimates on the INTRASTAT data collected, which cover the non-response to the survey and values not collected due to thresholds. International trade statistics usually take into account the physical movement of goods that cross the Austrian border.

**Further enquiries:**

For information on results and methodology, please contact:

Melanie Kalina, phone: +43 1 711 28-7732 | e-mail: [itgs@statistik.gv.at](mailto:itgs@statistik.gv.at)

For interview requests, please contact the press office: [presse@statistik.gv.at](mailto:presse@statistik.gv.at)

**Media owner, producer and publisher:**

STATISTICS AUSTRIA | Federal Institution under Public Law | Guglgasse 13 | 1110 Vienna | [www.statistik.at](http://www.statistik.at)

Press: phone: +43 1 711 28-7777 | e-mail: [presse@statistik.gv.at](mailto:presse@statistik.gv.at)

© STATISTICS AUSTRIA