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Decline in freight transport on Austrian roads 2023

Freight transport by domestic and foreign lorries declining

Vienna, 2024-10-23 – According to Statistics Austria, 569.0 million tonnes of goods were transported by Austrian and foreign road freight vehicles on Austrian roads in 2023. This means that the transport volume is 3.9% lower than in the previous year. The transport performance on Austrian territory declined by 2.2% to 55.1 billion tonne-kilometres.

In 2023, the decrease of the **transport volume** of domestic and foreign road freight vehicles on Austrian territory (–3.9%) continued and amounted to 569.0 million tonnes (million t) after declining to 592.0 million t in 2022 (–3.0% compared to 2021). The **domestic transport performance**, i.e., the transport volume multiplied by the kilometres driven on Austrian territory, decreased by 2.2% to 55.1 billion tonne-kilometres (bn tkm).

For vehicles registered in Austria, the transport volume on Austrian roads fell by 4.8% to 366.5 million t and the domestic transport performance decreased by 2.3% to 18.7 bn tkm. Similar declines were observed for transport volume (–2.1% to 202.5 million t) and transport performance on Austrian territory (–2.2% to 36.4 bn tkm) of vehicles registered in foreign countries.

Two-thirds of the total transport volume performed by domestic vehicles

Almost two-thirds of the total transport volume (64.4% or 366.5 million t) were attributed to road freight vehicles registered in Austria. Regarding the types of transport, national transport almost exclusively was performed by Austrian vehicles (97.4% or 345.0 million t), whereas contributions of domestic vehicles were significantly smaller in international receipt (14.6% or 10.0 million t) and international dispatch (16.8% or 10.5 million t). In transit, only 1.1% (1.0 million t) of total transport volume was performed by Austrian vehicles. Vehicles from Poland (35.2 million t), Hungary (26.8 million t) and Germany (24.5 million t) were the top three foreign contributors, being responsible for 42.7% of the total transport volume of foreign vehicles.

Foreign vehicles account for two-thirds of total domestic transport performance

The contribution of foreign vehicles to the total transport performance on Austrian territory (66.0% or 36.4 bn tkm) was significantly higher than that of Austrian vehicles (34.0% or 18.7 bn tkm). Thus, it also was considerably higher than the share in transport volume. This is mainly due to the longer distances travelled and to transit transport. Total transit (19.8 bn tkm) represented more than a third of the total transport performance on Austrian territory and 99.3% of total transit was performed by foreign vehicles. Polish (7.7 bn tkm), Hungarian (4.4 bn tkm) and Slovenian (3.9 bn tkm) road freight vehicles represented 43.9% (16.0 bn tkm) of the total transport performance on Austrian territory of all foreign vehicles.

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

Transport volume and domestic transport performance by types of transport on Austrian roads 2023

Types of transport	Austrian freight vehicles	Foreign freight vehicles	Total	Share of AT in %	Total compared to previous year in %
Transport volume in 1 000 tonnes					
National transport	345 014	9 343	354 357	97.4	-4.9
International receipt	9 983	58 365	68 348	14.6	-2.0
International dispatch	10 530	52 243	62 773	16.8	-0.4
Transit	(959)	82 579	83 538	1.1	-3.6
Total	366 487	202 529	569 016	64.4	-3.9
Domestic transport performance in million tkm					
National transport	16 548	1 487	18 034	91.8	-2.8
International receipt	991	7 734	8 726	11.4	0.4
International dispatch	1 060	7 554	8 615	12.3	-0.7
Transit	134	19 620	19 754	0.7	-3.4
Total	18 733	36 395	55 128	34.0	-2.2

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Road freight transport statistics; Eurostat (table D3.1 and D5, see information on methodology); ASFINAG. – Rounding differences may occur. – For the value in brackets, the range of sampling error is more than $\pm 20\%$ at 95% statistical confidence.

Information on methodology, definitions: In accordance with Regulation (EU) No 70/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 January 2012 (amendment of Regulation (EG) No 1172/98), all EU member states have to collect statistical data on freight transport conducted by freight vehicles registered in the respective countries since 1999. Like in Austria, data collection is usually arranged as a sampling survey. Thereby, small vehicles may be excluded, which is carried out differently among the member states. The states transfer the statistical data regularly to the statistical office of the European Union, Eurostat. From this data pool, Eurostat provides results (so-called **D tables**) in accordance with Regulation (EG) No 6/2003 to the national statistical authorities to complete their own national statistics. Included are all reported journeys which start or/and end in or transit through Austria and which were conducted with freight vehicles registered in one of the reporting countries (EU-27 without Malta, including Norway and Switzerland). Journeys of smaller freight vehicles (mostly up to 3.5 tonnes loading capacity or 6 tonnes permissible maximum weight) are not included. As the results are derived from sampling surveys, there can be partly significant sampling errors. Additionally, data from the Austrian **toll collection system** – which are provided by the Autobahnen- und Schnellstraßen-Finanzierungs-Aktiengesellschaft (ASFINAG) – are used for weighting the results from the D tables. Furthermore, results from countries that are not included in the D tables can be provided.

Transport volume: weight of goods transported in tonnes.

Transport performance: product of transport volume and kilometres driven.

Domestic transport performance: product of transport volume and kilometres driven on Austrian territory.

Statistics Austria is the central organisation for official data and statistics on society, the economy, the state and the environment. As a national statistical institute, it is committed to the statutory principles of independence, impartiality and objectivity. Statistics Austria is headed by Tobias Thomas, Director General Statistics, and Franz Haslauer, Director General Finance.

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