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Energy consumption decreased by 4% in 2023

Industry consumption decreased by 7%, private consumption by 5%

Vienna, 2024-10-31 – In 2023, the total final energy consumption in Austria decreased by 4% year-on-year to 1 034 petajoules (PJ), around 2% below the level of the pandemic year 2020, according to the latest energy balance from Statistics Austria.

“In 2023, warmer weather, the lower level of production in industry and the increased switch from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources caused final energy consumption in Austria to fall below the pandemic-related low level of the year 2020” says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

Final energy consumption in industry decreased by around 7% to 291 PJ, while it decreased by around 3% to 101 PJ in the services sector. Energy use in road traffic fell by 1% to a total of 300 PJ. By contrast, energy use in aviation increased by 40% to 37 PJ, the second highest figure in the history of Austrian aviation. Consumption by private households fell by around 5% to 274 PJ, mainly due to warmer weather and the corresponding reduction in the use of heating energy sources.

Renewable energy sources with a share of 18% in final energy consumption

The lower energy consumption is also reflected in the individual energy sources. For example, the use of oil products decreased due to the lower use as heating fuels, although the decline was mitigated by an increased use in the transport sector. For example, the use of gasoil for heating purposes by private households fell by around 19% to 28 PJ. On the one hand, this reflects the development of heating degree totals, which were 3% lower in 2023 than in 2022. On the other hand, the increased switch from fossil to renewable energy sources contributed to this development.

In the transport sector, there was a slight increase in the consumption of fossil fuels (1% to 310 PJ), with the increase in air traffic (+11 PJ) outweighing the decline in road traffic (-9 PJ).

In addition to the reduced demand in private households as a heating energy source (-9% to 49 PJ), natural gas was also used to a lesser extent in industry for the generation of process heat (-13% to 97 PJ).

In the case of biofuels, consumption increased by 2% year-on-year to 106 PJ. The decline is visible in the use of firewood (-3% to 52 PJ) and in the use of wood pellets (-11% to 18 PJ), in line with the development of heating degree totals, which was compensated by the increased use of biofuels in the transport sector. The increase of biofuels for road transport was mainly due to the increase in the addition of bioethanol to motor gasoline from 4% to 7% or 2 PJ to 4 PJ and the increased use of pure biodiesel in freight transport (+23% to 21 PJ).

Across all economic sectors, petroleum products (36%) accounted for the largest share of final energy consumption in 2023, followed by electrical energy (21%), renewables (18%) and gas (16%), with the share of renewable energy sources being higher than the share of natural gas for the first time since 1970.

First net electricity exports since 2000, Electricity production from hydropower increased, photovoltaics continues to grow strongly

At 549 PJ, domestic production of raw energy in 2023 was around 7% higher than in the previous year. Production of the fossil fuels natural gas and crude oil declined by 11% and 10%, respectively, to 20 PJ each. Renewable energy production increased by 10% to 482 PJ, mainly due to higher production from hydropower (+17% to 146 PJ).

The total production of electric energy increased by 9% to 254 PJ, in particular for electrical energy from hydropower (+17 % to 146 PJ), wind power (+11 % to 29 PJ) and photovoltaics (+69 % to 23 PJ), meaning that Austria achieved an electricity surplus for the first time since 2000.

As in the previous year, high growth rates were recorded in the utilisation of ambient heat from heat pumps (+17% to 24 PJ). For district heating, both production and final consumption showed a decline of around 4% to 79 PJ and 68 PJ, respectively, in line with the development of heating degree totals.

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

Information on methodology, definitions: The final energy balance for Austria is compiled on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK), the energy balances for the federal provinces on behalf of the federal provinces. The energy balance enables a comprehensive comparison of the supply (e.g. from production and imports) and use of energy and relates to one calendar year. About 80 different energy sources (e.g. electricity, district heating) and groups of energy sources (e.g. renewables, gas) are considered. In addition, the energy consumption in the individual economic sectors is shown. Data from own surveys, from business statistics of Statistics Austria, but also various administrative data sources form the basis for the calculation of the energy balances.

Heating degree totals are calculated from the sum of the daily differences between room temperature and average outside temperature during the entire heating period. They therefore are an indicator of heating energy demand. Other factors that determine the development of energy consumption are the general economic development, the permanent resident population and the number of motor vehicles.

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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