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Imports and exports fell slightly again in September

Value of exports exceeded imports by €609 million in September 2024

Vienna, 2024-12-06 – In September 2024, the value of exports of goods decreased by 2.9% to €15.99 bn, according to preliminary results by Statistics Austria. At the same time, imports of goods decreased by 8.0% to €15.38 bn compared to September 2023. The resulting trade balance asset amounted to €0.61 bn or €609 million.

“The weak global economy continues to have an impact on Austria’s foreign trade. In September 2024, exports fell by 2.9% year-on-year to €15.99 billion. International demand for machinery and vehicles, the most important product group in Austria’s foreign trade, is currently particularly low. Exports here fell by 7.9% in September,” says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

September 2024: positive trade balance with EU, export decreases for machinery and vehicles

Austria imported goods worth €9.95 bn from **European Union member states** in **September 2024**, and goods worth €10.89 bn were exported to these countries. Compared to September 2023, intra-EU imports decreased by 8.5% and intra-EU exports by 2.6%. This resulted in a positive trade balance with European Union member states of €0.94 bn.

Imports from **non-EU countries** amounted to €5.43 bn in September 2024, showing a decrease of 7.1% year-on-year; extra-EU exports decreased slightly by 3.5% to €5.10 bn. The resulting negative trade balance with non-EU countries amounted to €0.33 bn (see table 1).

Six of the ten product groups saw a decline in exports this month. The four most **important product groups** in Austria’s international trade – machinery and vehicles, processed goods, chemical products and other manufactured goods – together showed a decrease of 2.9% to €13.59 bn on the export side. The largest absolute decline in exports was recorded for machinery and vehicles (–7.9%; –0.52 bn) followed by other manufactured goods (–7.4%; –0.13 bn) Chemical products however achieved the strongest absolute increase in exports (+12.6%; +0.31 bn).

On the import side, three of the four most important product groups showed decreases. This amounted to a collective decline by 6.8% to €12.15 bn. The largest absolute decreases were also recorded by the machinery and vehicles group (–12.9%; –€0.76 bn) followed by processed goods (–5.4%; –€0.13 bn). Other manufactured goods only achieved a slight increase in imports, but at the same time the strongest absolute increase (+5.6%; +€0.13 bn). Apart from the four most important product groups, fuels and energy also continued to record absolute declines in imports (–21.9%; –€0.32 bn). In particular, the import value of gas fell by 5.8%, while the imported volume decreased by 8.8%. The subgroup petroleum and petroleum products decreased by 22.2% in value and by 2.6% in import volume.

January to September 2024: imports declined by 9.5%, exports by 4.1%

In the period **January to September 2024**, the total value of imports of goods was nominally at €140.31 bn, while exports of goods amounted to €143.79 bn. Thus, imports decreased by 9.5% and exports by 4.1% compared to the first nine months of the previous year. The trade balance asset rose to a value of €3.48 bn, compared to a deficit of €5.08 bn in the same period the year before.

In the first nine months of 2024, trade with the ten most important **import partners** showed only absolute decreases in imports. Besides the decrease with Germany (–8.0%), the largest absolute declines were seen in imports from Switzerland (–37.5%), Italy (–5.5%) and the Czech Republic (–7.5%). In trade with the ten

most important **export partners**, two countries showed increases and eight countries showed decreases. Exports increased to the United States (+14.0%) and China (+7.3%), while the sharpest declines were seen in exports to Germany (–4.2%), Italy (–5.0%) and the Czech Republic (–7.5%).

Austria imported goods worth €93.49 bn (–6.4%) from **European Union member states** in the first three quarters of 2024. The value of goods exported to EU countries recorded a slight decrease of 5.9% compared to the same period of the previous year and amounted to €96.49 bn. The positive trade balance with the European Union amounted to €3.00 bn, after an asset of €2.58 bn in the period January to September 2023.

International trade of goods with **third countries** showed a decrease in imports (–15.0% to €46.81 bn) as well as in exports (–0.3% to €47.30 bn) compared to the same period last year. This resulted in a positive trade balance with third countries of €0.48 bn (see table 2).

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

Table 1: International trade in goods, September 2024

2024 ¹	Import	Export	Trade balance ²	In- (+) or decrease (-) compared to previous year (in%)	
				Import	Export
Total	15 376 876	15 985 792	608 916	–8.0	–2.9
EU-27 (Intra-EU-Imports/-Exports)	9 947 109	10 890 474	943 365	–8.5	–2.6
Third states (Extra-EU-Imports/-Exports)	5 429 768	5 095 319	–334 449	–7.1	–3.5

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, monthly international trade in goods statistics. – Values in 1 000 euro. – Rounding differences not balanced. – 1) Preliminary results – 2) Trade balance = exports minus imports (import or export surplus).

Table 2: International trade in goods, January to September 2024

2024 ¹	Import	Export	Trade balance ²	In- (+) or decrease (-) compared to previous year (in%)	
				Import	Export
Total	140 307 922	143 790 551	3 482 629	–9.5	–4.1
EU-27 (Intra-EU-Imports/Exports)	93 494 564	96 494 990	3 000 426	–6.4	–5.9
Third states (Extra-EU-Imports/-Exports)	46 813 359	47 295 561	482 203	–15.0	–0.3

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, monthly international trade in goods statistics. – Values in 1 000 euros. – Rounding differences not balanced. – 1) Preliminary results. – 2) Trade balance = exports minus imports (import or export surplus).

Information on methodology, definitions: The available result of the foreign 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. Foreign trade statistics usually take into account the physical movement of goods that cross the Austrian border.

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.

Further enquiries:

For information on results and methodology, please contact:

Deimante Ropeikaite, phone: +43 1 711 28-8020 | e-mail: itgs@statistik.gv.at

For interview requests, please contact the press office: presse@statistik.gv.at

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STATISTICS AUSTRIA | Federal Institution under Public Law | Guglgasse 13 | 1110 Vienna | www.statistik.at

Press: Phone: +43 1 711 28-7777 | E-mail: presse@statistik.gv.at

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