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Exports down in January 2025, imports up

30 years of EU membership positive for international trade; Germany consistently Austria's most important trading partner

Vienna, 2025-04-08 – In January 2025, the value of exports of goods decreased by 1.7% to €15.80 bn, according to preliminary results by Statistics Austria. At the same time, imports of goods increased by 1.5% to €15.49 bn compared to January 2024. The resulting trade balance asset amounted to €0.31 bn.

“At the beginning of 2025, Austria's exports fell again and imports increased slightly compared to the previous year. As the value of exports nevertheless exceeded that of imports, the trade balance was slightly positive at 310 million euro. With a share of around two thirds, Austria conducts most of its international trade with member states of the European Union. January 2025 marks the 30th anniversary of Austria's accession to the European Union and trade with EU member states has intensified significantly since January 1995. For example, both imports and exports with Austria's most important trading partner, Germany, have tripled”, says Statistics Austria Director General Tobias Thomas.

January 2025: positive trade balance with EU

Austria imported goods worth €9.97 bn from **European Union member states** in **January 2025**, and goods worth €10.83 bn were exported to these countries. Compared to January 2024, intra-EU imports decreased by 1.4% and intra-EU exports increased by 1.5%. There was a positive trade balance with European Union member states of €0.86 bn.

Imports from **non-EU countries** amounted to €5.51 bn in January 2025, showing an increase of 7.3% year-on-year; extra-EU exports decreased by 8.0% to €4.96 bn. The resulting negative trade balance with non-EU countries amounted to €0.55 bn (see table).

Machinery and vehicles leading in both import and export

Three 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 3.6% to €13.09 bn on the export side. Chemical products (+3.2%; +€0.09 bn) and other manufactured goods (+1.9%; +€0.03 bn) recorded increases. The highest absolute declines in exports were observed for machinery and vehicles (–10.1%; –€0.60 bn).

In terms of imports, there were increases in three of the four most important product groups – together they recorded an increase of 0.3% to €11.82 bn. The strongest absolute increases were seen in other manufactured goods (+5.3%; +€0.11 bn) and processed goods (+4.5%; +€0.10 bn). Machinery and vehicles (–4.8%; –€0.25 bn) also recorded absolute declines on the import side. Outside of the four most important product groups, imports of fuels and energy also fell (–4.4%; –€0.06 bn). The import value of the gas subgroup fell by 21.9%, while the volume imported fell by 28.4%. The import value of crude oil and petroleum products fell by 3.2%, while the import volume rose by 0.9%.

30 years of EU accession: strong increases in trade with EU member states

Austria joined, together with Finland and Sweden, the European Union in January 1995, bringing the number of member states at that time to 15. Following the withdrawal of the United Kingdom in 2020, a

total of 27 states belonged to the European Union at the beginning of 2025. The number of member states has therefore almost doubled since Austria's accession.

Compared to the month of accession, both import (+276.8%) and export values (+346.9%) for trade with the EU in January 2025 were around four times higher. At the level of the individual member states, import trade with Estonia stood out in particular, which increased almost seventy-fold compared to January 1995, while on the export side, trade with Romania was almost 50 times higher than before. Germany has been Austria's most important trading partner in international trade for the last 30 years. In absolute terms, Austria's most important trading partner also recorded the highest increases compared to the month of accession, tripling both import and export values (imports: +218.1%, +€3.36 bn; exports: +256.8%, +€3.31 bn).

At product level, trade in machinery and vehicles with the countries of the current EU benefited the most. Compared to 30 years ago, it tripled in both directions (imports: +252.8%, +€2.35 bn; exports: +252.9%, +€2.39 bn). However, the share of this product group in EU-27 trade decreased (import share: from 35.1% to 32.8%; export share: from 39.0% to 30.8%). In contrast, the share of the chemical products group showed a strong increase, particularly on the export side (import share: from 12.8% to 14.8%; export share: from 9.0% to 17.6%).

The share of trade from the European Union has never been below 64% (in both directions) since accession, although it has declined over the years (1995: imports 76.2%; exports 74.8%; 2024: imports 66.5%; exports: 67.0%).

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

International trade in goods, January 2025

2025 ¹	Import	Export	Trade balance ²	In- (+) or decrease (-) compared to previous year (in%)	
				Import	Export
Total	15 485 384	15 795 021	309 636	1.5	-1.7
EU-27 (Intra-EU imports/exports)	9 971 348	10 834 544	863 196	-1.4	1.5
Third states (Extra-EU imports/exports)	5 514 036	4 960 477	-553 560	7.3	-8.0

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).

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.

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