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Freight traffic on the Danube hits record low in 2025

Transport volume fell to 5.8 million tonnes

Vienna, 2026-03-27 – According to Statistics Austria, 5.8 million tonnes of goods were transported on the Danube in 2025, a decrease of 11.6% compared to 2024. The transport volume fell below the previous historic low of 2023 (6.0 million t). The sharp fall in the volume of goods transported is primarily due to a decline in shipments of international goods receipt and transit transport.

While the number of transports of goods on the Danube rose by 12.0% to 6 219 in 2025 compared to the previous year, the overall transport volume declined by 11.6% or 0.8 million t, to a new all-time low of 5.8 million t. The average load factor per transportation fell to 53.9% (2024: 66.0%). The multiplication of the transported tonnage by the domestic and international distances covered results in a total transport performance of 5.2 billion tonne-kilometres (bn tkm) for 2025. This is 20.0% or 1.3 bn tkm less than in 2024.

International goods receipt and dispatch on similar level for the first time

In the past, the transport volume in international goods receipt used to be considerably higher than in international goods dispatch (see website). In 2025, 21.9% (−0.7 million t) fewer tonnes were received on waterways than in the previous year, whereas dispatch increased by 21.5% (+0.4 million t). Subsequently, the transported tonnage in international goods receipt and dispatch are nearly on the same level for the first time (see table).

As in 2024, the biggest absolute decrease in transport volume in international goods receipt in 2025 can be observed in shipments from Romania (−0.3 million t or −58.9% to 0.2 million t) and the biggest rise occurred in shipments from Ukraine (+0.1 million t or +47.2% to 0.4 million t).

The increase in international goods dispatch is driven by shipments to eastern countries (Hungary, Slovakia, Serbia, Romania, Croatia, Ukraine and Bulgaria). In total, 1.7 million t of goods were transported to these countries, which is an upturn of 33.6% or 0.4 million t.

Transit transport fell by 44.4% (−0.5 million t) to 0.7 million t, while inland transport – which is less significant in terms of volume – rose marginally by 6.6% (+0.03 million t) to 0.4 million t.

Goods loaded and unloaded in Austrian ports declined

The waterborne transshipment – i.e. the total of goods loaded and unloaded by water – in Austrian ports was at 5.5 million t in 2025, slightly below the value of 2024 (−3.4% or −0.2 million t). For the individual ports, divergent developments occurred. The ports of Linz (−6.3% to 2.8 million t) and the port of Enns (−25.2% to 0.4 million t) recorded a decline, the Viennese ports (+8.0% to 1.3 million t) and the port of Krems (+2.1% to 0.3 million t) recorded an increase. All other ports combined show a transport volume of 0.8 million t, which was a rise of 2.9% or 0.02 million t.

Goods transport on the Danube 2024 and 2025 by type of transport

Type of transport	2024	Comparison 2023/24 in percent	2025	Comparison 2024/25 in percent
Transport volume in tonnes				
Inland transport	385 083	6.1	41 490	6.6
International goods receipt	3 022 735	10.2	2 360 773	−21.9
International goods dispatch	1 914 610	−3.8	2 358 719	21.5
Transit	1 229 972	33.0	683 981	−44.4
Total	**6 579 400**	**8.8**	**5 813 962**	**−11.6**
Transport performance in 1 000 tonne kilometres				
Inland transport	43 594	−4.2	38 956	−10.6
International goods receipt	3 017 918	22.2	2 279 688	−24.5
International goods dispatch	1 686 730	−3.3	1 916 986	13.7
Transit	1 772 554	37.1	981 611	−44.6
Total	**6 520 796**	**17.4**	**5 217 240**	**−20.0**

S: STATISTIK AUSTRIA, inland waterways statistics.
Data including the Rhine-Main-Danube-Canal. – Rounding differences may occur.

For detailed results and further information please refer to our website.

Information on methodology, definitions:

Number of transportations: For vessel convoys (e.g. pushed convoy with several pushed barges), each loaded vessel unit is counted separately as a single transportation.

Transport volume: Amount of transported goods in tonnes.

Transport performance: The transport volume multiplied by the distance travelled in kilometres.

Values related to **transit transport** were checked for possible under-reporting on a monthly basis, based on the lockings reported by the lock Aschach minus the journeys in receipt downstream and dispatch upstream and compensated if necessary.

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 Manuela Lenk, Director General Statistics, and Franz Haslauer, Director General Finance.

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