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Wholesale prices rose by 5.4% in March 2026

Fuel and heating oil prices pushed the index up

Vienna, 2026-04-07 – According to preliminary data from Statistics Austria, the Wholesale Price Index (WPI 2025) rose by 5.4% in March 2026 compared with March 2025 and reached 105.4 points. Compared with the previous month, February 2026, prices increased by 3.9%.

“Wholesale prices in Austria increased substantially in March 2026, rising by 5.4% compared with the level recorded a year earlier. The strongest influence came from mineral oil products and fuels. While prices for mineral oil products rose by more than 35%, fuels also moved close to the 30% mark, after both categories had shown declining price developments in 2025. Such high increases occurred in February 2023 for the last time,” says Manuela Lenk, Director General Statistics at Statistics Austria.

Mineral oil prices recorded the strongest increase compared to the previous year

The primary factor behind the sharp increase in wholesale prices from March 2025 to March 2026 was the significant rise in prices for other liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (+35.6%), motor spirit (+27.2%), watches and jewellery (+15.7%), coffee, tea, cocoa and spices (+12.6%), information and communication equipment (+11.3%) as well as waste and scrap (+10.1%).

Non-iron metals (+9.7%), other machinery and equipment (+8.3%), flat glass (+8.0%), flowers and plants (+7.6%), wood in the rough, products of primary processing of wood (+6.9%), and solid fuels (–6.4%) also proved to be substantial contributors to the overall increase. In addition, notable price increases were recorded for tobacco products (+6.3%) meat and meat products and iron and steel (each +5.7%), live animals (+5.6%) and for books, magazines and newspapers (+5.5%).

Price decreases were recorded during this period for grain, seeds and animal feed (–14.9%), plastics and rubber in primary forms (–3.5%), hides and leather (–3.4%), stationery (–2.7%) as well as for radio, television, recording and reproduction equipment (–1.6%).

Significant price surges also in the month-to-month comparison

Compared with the previous month, February 2026, the wholesale price index rose by 3.9%. The exceptionally strong increase from February 2026 to March 2026 was primarily driven by prices for other liquid and gaseous fuels and related products (+39.8%), motor spirit (+29.5%), plastics and rubber in primary forms (+10.6%) as well as information and communication equipment (+7.8%). Prices also rose for live animals (+5.8%), iron and steel (+4.3%), fertilisers and agrochemical products (+4.0%), non-iron metals (+3.3%) and waste and scrap (+2.3%). By contrast, fruits and vegetables (–4.6%) became cheaper over the same period.

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

Information on methodology, definitions: The wholesale price index (WPI) tracks the monthly price development of goods sold by wholesalers. Since January 2026, the index has been published with 2025 as the base year. Previous time series can be continued concatenated. Each index series is labelled with the base year, i.e. the average annual measure of the current wholesale price index 2025 is standardised to 100.0 for the base year 2025.

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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