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17.0% increase in new car registrations in Q1 2026

27.2% increase in March, with significant growth in alternative drive systems

Vienna, 2026-04-10 – According to Statistics Austria, 77 235 new passenger cars were registered in the first quarter of 2026. This represents an increase of 17.0% or 11 218 vehicles compared to the period January to March 2025. A total of 100 509 new motor vehicles were registered (+17.6%).

“In March 2026, the new car market in Austria grew significantly. New car registrations were more than a quarter higher than in March 2025, reaching 33 018 – the highest March figure since 2018. Since the start of the year, a total of 77 235 new passenger cars have been registered. The 17.0% increase compared with the first quarter of the previous year is primarily due to strong demand for petrol hybrids and electric cars, while new registrations of conventionally powered passenger cars have stagnated,” says Manuela Lenk, Director General Statistics at Statistics Austria.

In the first quarter of 2026, substantially more new registrations compared to the first quarter of the previous year were observed for passenger **cars with alternative drive systems** (49 075; +11 189; +29.5%). Petrol-hybrid passenger cars (28 460) recorded the highest growth at +42.0% or +8 411 vehicles. New registrations of electric passenger cars (17 347) rose by 22.4% or 3 170 cars. In contrast, fewer diesel-hybrid passenger cars (3 268; −391; −10.7%) were newly registered. 63.5% of all new passenger cars registered in the first quarter of 2026 were fitted with an alternative drive system; in the first quarter of the previous year, the figure was 57.4%.

In contrast, 28 160 new registrations of **conventionally powered passenger cars** were recorded, roughly matching the previous year’s figure (+29; +0.1%). More petrol-powered cars (20 429; +842; +4.3%) and fewer diesel-powered cars (7 731; −813; −9.5%) were registered than in the first quarter of 2025. Overall, conventionally powered passenger cars accounted for 36.5% of all new car registrations.

In the first quarter of 2026, two-thirds of all new passenger car registrations were accounted for by legal entities, companies, or local authorities (65.8%), while one-third of new passenger cars were registered by private vehicle owners (34.2%). The share of private owners was highest for passenger cars with petrol-hybrid drive systems (38.8%), followed by petrol-powered passenger cars (37.1%), electric passenger cars (30.6%), passenger cars with diesel-hybrid drive systems (28.0%), and diesel-powered passenger cars (20.1%).

The leading passenger **car makes** between January and March 2026 were VW (share: 14.9%), Skoda (11.1%), Audi (7.1%), and BMW (6.0%). New car registrations were up on the previous year for Peugeot (+45.3%), Skoda (+23.4%), VW (+22.0%), Seat (+14.7%), Audi (+13.9%), Mercedes (+11.7%), Cupra (+5.4%) and Toyota (+3.5%). New car registrations for BMW (−4.8%) and Dacia (−0.7%), however, declined.

In the **commercial vehicle** sector, compared with the first quarter of 2025, there was an increase in registrations for lorries category N1 (8 940; +1 708; +23.6%), articulated lorries (1 017; +124; +13.9%), and tractors used for agriculture and forestry (1 825; +222; +13.8%). By contrast, fewer new registrations were observed for lorries category N2 (95; −35; −26.9%) and lorries category N3 (712; −67; −8.6%).

In the **two-wheeler market**, new motorcycle registrations rose by one-fifth (6 600; +1 046; +18.8%). The number of newly registered mopeds (2 091; +738) increased by 54.5% compared to the same period last year.

March 2026: new passenger car registrations up by more than a quarter

In March 2026 alone, 33 018 new passenger cars were registered. That is 27.2% more than in March of the previous year. Of these, one-quarter were electric cars (8 206; +2 084; +34.0%; share: 24.9%) and one-quarter were petrol-powered cars (8 181; +835; +11.4%; share: 24.8%). With 37.2% new registrations of petrol-hybrid cars accounted for a substantially higher share (12 282; +4 036; +48.9%). Diesel cars (2 953; −29; −1.0%) accounted for 8.9%, and diesel-hybrid cars for 4.2% (1 396; +143; +11.4%). A total of 45 552 new motor vehicles were registered in March 2026, an increase of 27.2% or 9 747 motor vehicles compared to March 2025.

Table 1: Registrations of new passenger cars by fuel type or power source

Fuel type or power source	March 2026	% share	% change[1] vs. 2025	January to March 2026	% share	% change[1] vs. 2025
Petrol	8 181	24.8	11.4	20 429	26.5	4.3
Diesel	2 953	8.9	−1.0	7 731	10.0	−9.5
Electric	8 206	24.9	34.0	17 347	22.5	22.4
Petrol/electric (hybrid)	12 282	37.2	48.9	28 460	36.8	42.0
Diesel/electric (hybrid)	1 396	4.2	11.4	3 268	4.2	−10.7
Other alternative drives	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total passenger cars	**33 018**	**100.0**	**27.2**	**77 235**	**100.0**	**17.0**
Petrol and diesel cars	11 134	33.7	7.8	28 160	36.5	0.1
Cars with alternative drives	21 884	66.3	40.1	49 075	63.5	29.5

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Motor vehicle statistics. – Rounding differences not balanced. – 1) Change compared to the same period of the previous year.

Table 2: Registrations of new motor vehicles

Vehicle type	March 2026	% share	% change[1] vs. 2025	January to March 2026	% share	% change[1] vs. 2025
Passenger cars category M1	33 018	72.5	27.2	77 235	76.8	17.0
Motorcycles category L3e	5 121	11.2	18.1	6 600	6.6	18.8
Mopeds category L1e	1 480	3.2	87.1	2 091	2.1	54.5
Lorries category N1	3 331	7.3	29.4	8 940	8.9	23.6
Lorries category N2	46	0.1	−9.8	95	0.1	−26.9
Lorries category N3	318	0.7	−9.1	712	0.7	−8.6
Tractors (agricul., forestry)	872	1.9	19.0	1 825	1.8	13.8
Articulated lorries	452	1.0	68.7	1 017	1.0	13.9
Motor caravans	186	0.4	−7.0	411	0.4	−10.7
Other motor vehicles	728	1.6	31.6	1 583	1.6	9.9
Total motor vehicles	**45 552**	**100.0**	**27.2**	**100 509**	**100.0**	**17.6**

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Motor vehicle statistics. – Rounding differences not balanced. – 1) Change compared to the same period of the previous year.

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

Information on methodology, definitions: Motor vehicle statistics (registrations of new and used vehicles as well as the stock of vehicles) are secondary statistics, compiled on the basis of data files sent to Statistics

Austria by Austria's association of insurance companies (VVO). VVO, in turn, receives data by the insurances' registrations offices, responsible for registrations, de-registrations and rectifications of motor vehicles and trailers. All new registrations, i.e. all brand-new registrations, are collected as part of the new vehicle registration statistics, regardless of the duration of the registration (including so-called "short term registrations", e.g. one day registrations).

Motor vehicles with alternative drive systems replace crude oil as an energy source with their respective drive system, either entirely or in part (Kraftfahrgesetz (KFG) as amended, §2 section 47). This includes the following drive systems: electric (BEV), petrol/electric and diesel/electric (hybrid, including plug-in), natural and liquid gas (mono- and bivalent operation) and hydrogen (fuel cell).

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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