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Turnover in industry and construction decreased by 4.5% in January 2026

Number of persons employed and hours worked also declined

Vienna, 2026-04-29 – According to Statistics Austria, more than 82 000 enterprises in industry and construction generated a turnover of €28.4 bn in January 2026, employing approximately 938 000 persons. This represents a turnover decrease of 4.5% compared to the same month of the previous year. Worldwide road freight transport volume of Austrian enterprises increased by 0.3% in the first quarter of 2026 compared to the first quarter of the previous year.

“The economic climate remained challenging for Austria’s industry and construction sector at the beginning of the year. In January 2026, turnover for Austrian industrial and construction enterprises was 4.5% lower compared to the same month of the previous year. The construction sector suffered a sharp decline in turnover of 15.8%. In addition to the lack of momentum for months, weather effects further reinforced the negative trend in January 2026. Employment and hours worked also declined in industry and construction,” says Manuela Lenk, Director General for Statistics at Statistics Austria.

Decrease in industry and construction turnover in January 2026

In January 2026, a total of 82 115 enterprises in the entire industry and construction sector reported a **turnover** of €28.4 bn in nominal terms. This corresponds to a decrease of 4.5% (working day adjusted: –1.6%) compared to January 2025. The number of employees decreased by 1.8 % to 937 994. Turnover in industry also decreased compared to the same month of the previous year by 2.9 % to €25.3 bn. The turnover in construction fell by 15.8% to €3.1 bn (see table 1). Both in industry and construction, employment (–1.3% and –3.1%, resp.) and number of hours worked (–4.4% and –7.2%, resp.) declined.

Industry production fell in January 2026

Compared to January 2025, industry (sections B to E of ÖNACE 2025) decreased by 2.5 % to €25.2 bn in nominal terms in January 2026. Seven out of the ten largest divisions reported negative developments compared to the previous year (see table 2). A substantial production decrease was observed in manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers (–11.9% to €1.3 bn), followed by manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c. (–5.6% to €2.1 bn) and in manufacture of food products (–5.0% to €2.0 bn). Figures of the division electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply were nearly identical compared to previous year by 0.1% to €6.8 bn.

Increase in road freight transport of Austrian enterprises in the first quarter 2026

According to a flash estimate, Austrian enterprises transported 80.6 million tonnes of goods worldwide by road in the first quarter of 2026, which is an increase in transport volume by 0.3% in comparison to the first quarter last year (80.4 million tonnes; see table 3). Multiplied by the distance travelled worldwide, this resulted in a transport performance of 6.7 billion tonne-kilometres (bn tkm; +6.3% compared to the first quarter of the previous year). Transport performance increased on Austrian territory (+7.8% to 4.8 bn tkm) and outside of Austria (+2.8% to 1.9 bn tkm). The increases in transport performance were related to growing

figures in own account transport, i.e. when enterprises transport goods for their own purposes. Transports for hire or reward remained almost stable. The number of laden journeys decreased by 1.0% to 5.8 million.

Table 1: Enterprises' results – January 2026

Structure of ÖNACE 2025 ¹	Enter-prises	Employees	Gross earnings in million Euro	Turnover in million Euro	Turnover-changes	
	End of January 2026		January 2026		nom. in % ²	wd. a. in % ³
Industry	42 096	691 006	3 036.7	25 327.4	-2.9	0.0
Manufacturing	33 731	637 092	2 769.2	17 963.9	-2.4	-
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	5 482	31 947	182.1	6 630.2	-1.9	-
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	2 883	21 967	85.4	733.3	-19.5	-
Construction	40 019	246 988	1 012.8	3 077.3	-15.8	-13.0
Industry and construction in total	82 115	937 994	4 049.7	28 404.7	-4.5	-1.6

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA.

1) Rounding differences not compensated. – 2) Nominal changes compared to the same period of the previous year. – 3) Working-day adjusted changes compared to the same period of the previous year.

Table 2: Branches of industry – value of sold production – January 2026

Industry	Sold production in million Euros	Sold production – changes in % ¹
	January 2026	
Industry in total	25 166.2	-2.5
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	6 822.7	0.1
Manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c. ²	2 074.9	-5.6
Manufacture of food products	2 012.0	-5.0
Manufacture of basic metals	1 964.1	-0.6
Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers	1 341.7	-11.9
Manufacture of fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment	1 256.9	-6.0
Manufacture of electrical equipment	1 078.5	-2.4
Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products	900.4	4.3
Manufacture of beverages	897.3	2.9
Manufacture of chemical products	738.4	-9.3

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA.

1) Nominal changes compared to the same period of the previous year. – 2) n.e.c.: not elsewhere classified.

Table 3: Quarterly results of worldwide road freight transport volume (in million tonnes) of Austrian enterprises 2022 to 2026

Reporting year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	total
2026 ¹	80.6	-	-	-	.
Compared to previous year in %	0.3	-	-	-	.
2025 ¹	80.4	92.8	92.8	93.5	359.4
Compared to previous year in %	-0.6	-1.7	-2.5	-2.8	-2.0
2024	80.9	94.4	95.2	96.2	366.6
Compared to previous year in %	-4.8	-3.9	-3.1	7.9	-1.1
2023	85.0	98.2	98.3	89.1	370.6
Compared to previous year in %	-4.4	-6.0	-4.0	-5.8	-5.1
2022	89.0	104.5	102.3	94.6	390.4
Compared to previous year in %	1.0	-2.1	-8.9	-1.8	-3.2

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA.

1) Values for the first quarter 2026 and fourth quarter 2025 are flash estimates.

For detailed results and further information on [short-term business statistics](#) in Austria please refer to our website. A more detailed presentation and description of the most important [nominal short-term statistics data](#) is also available. Additionally, the [economic monitor](#) of Statistics Austria provides an overview of the economic development in Austria with about 80 business indicators. Further information about [road freight transport of Austrian enterprises](#) can be found on our website.

Information on methodology, definitions:

Short-term statistics:

The main results presented here are based on the one hand on the primary statistical data of the short-term statistics survey in industry and construction and on the other hand on a model-based approach to data supplementation. The latter tries to integrate the characteristic relationships of the monthly business survey and to make efficient use of the information from the various administrative sources. In that way, the structure of the **population (thus 100%)** of the short-term statistics in industry and construction can be presented at activity level as a combination of primary data, secondary data and model-based calculation. Detailed methodological descriptions can be found on our [website](#) under "Documentation" (available in German only). The **enterprise** results are based on all single- and multiple-operational enterprises that can be classified in industry and construction. Data of so-called **establishments** show the results of those establishments whose main area of activity is in industry and construction, irrespective of the economic focus of the enterprises above the establishments.

The term industry in this context corresponds to manufacturing excluding construction (ÖNACE 2025 – sections B to E) and also contains commercial enterprises. Thus, this term is not identical with the term industry according to the classification system of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber.

Road freight transport:

The survey of road freight transport of Austrian enterprises includes worldwide transport services performed by road freight vehicles registered in Austria (lorries with two or more tonnes load capacity or road tractors). Foreign vehicles are not covered. Data is collected using a vehicle- and time-related sample survey. Sampled vehicles are allocated to one week per owner such that owners have to report at most one week per quarter. For data from 2026 onwards, an advanced calculation of distances travelled is used, which can lead to structural breaks in time series. **Flash estimates** for **transport volume** (weight of goods transported in tonnes) and **transport performance** (product of transport volume and kilometres driven) are published on our website one month after the end of the reference quarter. Detailed results are released five months after the end of the reference quarter.

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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