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Retail turnover up in March 2026

Turnover rose both in nominal and real terms

Vienna, 2026-05-07 – According to preliminary data from Statistics Austria, Austrian retail turnover in March 2026 was 3.2% higher in nominal terms than in March of the previous year. Adjusted for inflation (in real terms), this corresponds to an increase of 1.1%.

“In March 2026, the Austrian whole retail sector generated 3.2% more turnover in nominal terms than in March of the previous year. Taking inflation into account, this represents an increase of 1.1%. Turnover in food retail was 2.6% higher in nominal terms and 0.6% higher in real terms than the previous year. Turnover in non-food rose by 3.1% in nominal and by 2.0% in real terms. At petrol stations, the sharp rise in fuel prices had an impact on turnover. Although nominal turnover in March was 10.9% higher than a year earlier, price-adjusted turnover fell by 4.1%,” says Manuela Lenk, Director General Statistics at Statistics Austria.

Table 1: Turnover in retail trade March 2026

Selected sectors	Change turnover compared with the period last year in %	
	in nominal terms	in real terms
Retail trade (excluding automotive retail; incl. service stations)	3.2	1.1
Retail trade (excluding automotive retail and service stations)	2.8	1.4
Food	2.6	0.6
Non-Food	3.1	2.0
Retail sale of automotive fuel in specialised stores	10.9	-4.1

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, short-term statistics trade, preliminary and unadjusted data (neither seasonally nor working day adjusted)

The preliminary calculations of retail turnover for March 2026 were carried out based on 55% of turnover volume.

Trade turnover in February 2026 was below the previous year

According to final data, **trade** turnover in **February 2026** was up by 0.4% in nominal terms compared with the previous year, which corresponds to a decrease of 0.9% in real terms. The automotive trade increased by 4.5% in nominal terms and 3.3% in real terms compared with February 2025. Wholesale trade recorded a decrease in turnover with -1.2% in nominal terms and -2.5% in real terms. Turnover for retail trade increased by 1.0% in nominal terms compared with the previous year, resulting in a minus of 0.2% in real terms (see table 2).

Table 2: Turnover in trade February 2026

Selected sectors	Change turnover compared with the period last year in %	
	in nominal terms	in real terms
Trade	0.4	-0.9
Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	4.5	3.3
Wholesale trade, except motor vehicles and motorcycles	-1.2	-2.5
Retail trade, except motor vehicles and motorcycles	1.0	-0.2

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, short-term statistics trade, unadjusted data (neither seasonally nor working day adjusted)

Turnover increase for services in February 2026

In **February 2026**, Austrian **service enterprises** recorded a 2.4% turnover increase in nominal terms compared with February of the previous year. The highest increases in turnover were recorded in accommodation and food service activities with +5.9% and real estate activities with +4.1%. The sector professional, scientific and technical activities reported a decline in turnover of 2.3% (see table 3).

Table 3: Turnover in services February 2026

Selected sectors	Change turnover compared with the period last year in %
	in nominal terms
Services	2.4
Transportation and storage	2.2
Accommodation and food service activities	5.9
Information and communication	1.6
Real estate activities	4.1
Professional, scientific and technical activities	-2.3
Administrative and support service activities	2.1

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, short-term statistics services, unadjusted data (neither seasonally nor working day adjusted)

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

Information on methodology, definitions:

The monthly short-term statistics for trade and services in Austria reflects turnover trends in these economic sectors. The base year for the index is 2021.

The nominal turnover index shows changes in revenue without adjustment for inflation, while the real turnover index takes inflation into account. Prices for trade are adjusted using the Wholesale Price Index and the Consumer Price Index. For services, the price-adjusted turnover index is based on the Producer Price Index for Services. As the latter is always published after the short-term statistics, revisions may occur as soon as new values become available. The turnover index for trade and services is calculated on the basis of enterprises' reported turnover and advance VAT returns.

Statistics Austria publishes the short-term statistics for trade and services at the same time as Eurostat, approximately 60 days after the end of the respective reporting month. In the retail sector, these data revise the preliminary retail turnover index published after around 30 days.

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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