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# Export growth in Q1 2026

## Trade balance negative again despite increase in exports

Vienna, 2026-06-09 – According to preliminary calculations by Statistics Austria, the total value of imports of goods was nominally at €50.67 bn, while exports of goods amounted to €49.48 bn in the first quarter of 2026. Compared to the first 3 months of the previous year imports increased by 3.0% and exports increased by 3.4%. This led to a trade balance deficit of €1.19 bn, following a negative trade balance of €1.37 bn in the same period the previous year.

"Austria's foreign trade grew slightly stronger on the export side than on the import side in the first quarter of 2026. Despite this overall positive trade performance, the trade balance remained negative. This was mainly driven by the further widening of the trade deficit with China, while the trade surplus with the United States was smaller than in the same period of the previous year," says Manuela Lenk, Director General Statistics at Statistics Austria.

In the first 3 months of 2026, with the exception of the United States (−18.7%) and the Netherlands (−6.2%), trade with the 10 most important import partners showed absolute increases in imports. Besides the increase with China (+17.7%), the largest absolute increases were seen in imports from Germany (+2.3%), Switzerland (+10.7%), Italy (+6.2%) and Poland (+9.1%). In trade with the 10 most important export partners only the trade with the United States (−14.6%) showed decreases. The strongest growth was seen in exports to Germany (+4.2%), the United Kingdom (+14.7%), Switzerland (+7.9%) and Italy (+5.6%).

Austria imported goods worth €33.12 bn (+2.6%) from European Union member states in the first quarter of 2026. The value of goods exported to EU countries recorded an increase of 4.2% compared to the same period of the previous year and amounted to €33.73 bn. The positive trade balance with the European Union amounted to €0.61 bn, following a significantly smaller surplus of €0.07 bn in the period January to March 2025.

International trade of goods with third countries showed an increase in imports (+3.8% to €17.55 bn) and in exports (+1.8% to €15.75 bn) compared to the same period last year. This resulted in a negative trade balance with third countries of €1.80 bn (see table 1).

The main factor behind this negative trade balance with third countries was trade with China (trade balance: −€3.62 bn). Particularly machinery and vehicles showed imports from China that were nearly four times as high (+20.7% to €2.71 bn) as exports (+14.5% to €0.74 bn). The largest trade surplus with a partner country was recorded with the United States (trade balance: +€1.31 bn), although the surplus declined by €0.11 bn compared with the same period of the previous year. Trade in the machinery and vehicles product group was particularly significant in this regard. Imports fell by 19.7% to €0.47 bn, while exports rose by 8.8% to €1.81 bn.

### March 2026: imports and exports rose

According to preliminary calculations by Statistics Austria, the value of exported goods rose by 9.5% to €18.17 bn in March 2026 compared to March of the previous year. The value of imports rose by 7.1% to €18.73 bn. This results in a negative trade balance of €0.56 billion.

Austria imported goods worth €12.20 bn from **European Union** member states in March 2026, and goods worth €12.34 bn were exported to these countries. Compared to March 2025, intra-EU imports increased by 5.8% and intra-EU exports increased by 8.2%. There was a positive trade balance with European Union member states of €0.15 bn.

Imports from **non-EU countries** amounted to €6.54 bn in March 2026, showing an increase of 9.7% year-on-year; extra-EU exports, however, increased even more sharply by 12.3% to €5.83 bn. Nevertheless, this resulted in a negative trade balance with non-EU-countries amounted to €0.71 bn (see table 2).

## Increases in imports and exports of machinery and vehicles

Overall, exports declined in 2 of the 10 product groups in March 2026. The 4 **most important product groups** in Austria's international trade – machinery and vehicles, processed goods, chemical products and other manufactured goods – together showed an increase of 8.6% to €15.08 bn on the export side. The highest absolute increases in exports across all groups were recorded for machinery and vehicles (+10.8%; +€0.67 bn) and other goods (+76.8%; +€0.25 bn).

In terms of imports, there was no decline in any of the 4 most important product groups. The biggest absolute increases, on the other hand, were recorded for machinery and vehicles (+11.3%; +€0.67 bn) and processed goods (+11.2%; +€0.29 bn). The 4 most important product groups in imports together showed an increase of 9.4% to €14.87 bn. Apart from the 4 most important product groups, fuels and energy recorded small increases in imports (+0.2%; +€0.003 bn). This was mainly due to crude oil and petroleum products, where the import value rose by 7.2%, while the imported volume declined (−8.4%). Imports of gas fell by 32.5% in value while volume declined by 18.7%.

## Machinery and vehicles are the most important export goods in trade with Australia

After the European Union concluded negotiations on a comprehensive free trade agreement with Australia in March, this trading partner has now come more into focus. In March 2026, Australia ranked 30th in terms of exports with a 0.5% share (€0.09 bn); on the import side, it ranked 61st with a 0.1% share (€0.02 bn).

Compared to March 2025, imports increased by 77.9% in value and export values by 13.2%. The product group fuels and energy (+69.6% to €0.008 bn), accounting for 41.1% of the total—primarily comprising the subgroup coal, coke, and briquettes —dominated imports. Half of Austrian exports to Australia (share: 50.1%) consisted of machinery and vehicles (+63.4% to €0.04 bn) compared to the previous year.

Trade with this partner has consistently shown a trade surplus every month since 1995 (trade balance in March 2026: €0.07 bn). Trade in machinery (balance: €0.01 bn) as well as metal products (balance: €0.01 bn) contributed to this result, among other factors.

## Table 1: International trade in goods, January to March 2026

| 2026[1] | Import | Export | Trade balance[2] | In- (+) or decrease (-) compared to previous year (in%) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Import | Export |
| **Total** | **50 669 823** | **49 480 122** | **−1 189 701** | **3.0** | **3.4** |
| EU-27 (Intra-EU imports/exports) | 33 122 137 | 33 733 632 | 611 496 | 2.6 | 4.2 |
| Third states (Extra-EU imports/exports) | 17 547 686 | 15 746 490 | −1 801 196 | 3.8 | 1.8 |

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, monthly international trade in goods statistics. – Values in 1 000 euro. – Rounding differences not balanced. – 1) Preliminary results – 2) Trade balance = exports minus imports (import or export surplus).

## Table 2: International trade in goods, March 2026

| 2026[1] | Import | Export | Trade balance[2] | In- (+) or decrease (-) compared to previous year (in%) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Import | Export |
| **Total** | **18 734 327** | **18 171 052** | **−563 275** | **7.1** | **9.5** |
| EU-27 (Intra-EU imports/exports) | 12 199 006 | 12 344 040 | 145 034 | 5.8 | 8.2 |
| Third states (Extra-EU imports/exports) | 6 535 321 | 5 827 012 | −708 309 | 9.7 | 12.3 |

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, monthly international trade in goods statistics. – Values in 1 000 euro. – Rounding differences not balanced. – 1) Preliminary results – 2) Trade balance = exports minus imports (import or export surplus).

For detailed results and further information, please refer to our website. Visualisations of the international trade data are available in the ITGS-Atlas.

**Information on methodology, definitions:** The available result of the foreign trade statistics (ITGS: International Trade in Goods Statistics) contains data of the statistics of the trade in goods with third countries (EXTRASTAT) associated with the customs declaration and the primary statistics of the trade in goods with the EU member states (INTRASTAT) as well as additional estimates on the INTRASTAT data collected, which cover the non-response to the survey and values not collected due to thresholds. Foreign trade statistics usually take into account the physical movement of goods that cross the Austrian border.

**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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