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Austria's international trade in May 2026: imports and exports increased

Trade with EU member states slightly down

Vienna, 2026-08-07 – According to Statistics Austria, the value of Austria's exports rose by 0.2% to €15.68 bn in May 2026 compared to May of the previous year. The value of imports rose by 1.1% to €16.32 bn. This resulted in a negative trade balance of €0.64 bn.

"Austria's international trade showed stable performance in May 2026, with imports increasing by 1.1% and exports rising by 0.2% compared with the same month of the previous year. The overall positive development on the import side was driven primarily by energy imports, whose value increased by 34.4%. On the export side, chemical products were the main contributor to growth, with their trade value rising by 11.9%. Trade with the EU-27 resulted in a slightly positive trade balance, although trade with EU Member States declined slightly overall. At the same time, Austria's overall trade balance remained negative," says Manuela Lenk, Director General Statistics at Statistics Austria.

Austria imported goods worth €10.57 bn from **European Union** member states in May 2026, and goods worth €10.61 bn were exported to these countries. Compared to May 2025, intra-EU imports decreased by 0.1% and intra-EU exports by 0.5%. There was a positive trade balance with European Union member states of €0.04 bn.

Imports from **non-EU countries** amounted to €5.74 bn in May 2026, showing an increase of 3.4% year-on-year; extra-EU exports increased by 1.8% to €5.07 bn. The resulting negative trade balance with non-EU-countries amounted to €0.67 bn (see table 1).

Increases in imports and exports of chemical products

Overall, exports declined in half of the 10 product groups in May 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 0.8% to €13.03 bn on the export side. The highest absolute increases in exports across all groups were recorded for chemical products (+11.9%; +€0.29 bn) and other goods (+12.5%; +€0.05 bn), while trade in machinery and vehicles (−3.2%; −€0.18 bn) saw the largest absolute declines in this category.

In terms of imports, one of the 4 most important product groups saw a decline. Trade in other manufactured goods (−1.6%; −€0.04 bn) declined. The biggest increases, on the other hand, among these groups were recorded for machinery and vehicles (+4.4%; +€0.24 bn) and processed goods (+4.7%; +€0.11 bn). The 4 most important product groups in imports together showed an increase of 2.7% to €12.87 bn. Apart from the 4 most important product groups, fuels and energy recorded the highest absolute increases in imports (+34.4%; +€0.33 bn). This was mainly due to crude oil and petroleum products, where the import value rose by 49.0%, while the imported volume decreased (−14.7%). Imports of gas rose by 17.6% in value while volume increased by exactly the same amount.

Since the provisional application of the Mercosur Agreement beginning in May 2025, Austria's trade in goods with the Mercosur partner countries—Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Bolivia—has come increasingly into focus. As of May 2025, imports from these countries totaled €0.05 bn, while exports

totaled €0.11 bn. The most important traded goods were raw materials (+86.2% to €0.01 bn) in import respectively chemical products (+22.6% to €0.04 bn) on the export side. By far the most important partner country here was Brazil.

January to May 2026: imports and exports increased

From January to May 2026, the total value of imports of goods was nominally at €85.04 bn, while exports of goods amounted to €82.32 bn. Thus, imports increased by 3.8% and exports increased by 3.5% compared to the first 5 months of the previous year. The trade balance deficit fell to a value of €2.72 bn, compared to a negative trade balance of €2.38 bn in the same period the year before.

In the first 5 months of 2026 – with the exception of the United States (−11.3%), Switzerland (−5.5%) and the Netherlands (−4.4%) – trade with the 10 most important import partners showed absolute increases in imports. Besides the increase with China (+20.3%), the largest absolute increases were seen in imports from Italy (+7.8%), Germany (+1.4%), Czechia (+9.3%) and Poland (+6.8%). In trade with the 10 most important export partners, 2 countries showed decreases and 8 countries showed increases: exports decreased to the United States (−6.6%) and China (−7.1%), while the strongest growth was seen in exports to Germany (+3.6%), Switzerland (+12.0%), Italy (+8.2%) and the United Kingdom (+16.2%).

Austria imported goods worth €55.67 bn (+3.4%) from European Union member states from January through May 2026. The value of goods exported to EU countries recorded an increase of 4.5% compared to the same period of the previous year and amounted to €56.29 bn. The positive trade balance with the European Union amounted to €0.62 bn, after a positive trade balance of €0.04 bn in the period January to May 2025.

International trade of goods with third countries showed an increase in imports (+4.5% to €29.37 bn) and exports (+1.3% to €26.03 bn) compared to the same period last year. This resulted in a negative trade balance with third countries of €3.34 bn (see table 2).

The main factor behind this negative trade balance with third countries was trade with China (trade balance: −€6.26 bn). Particularly machinery and vehicles showed imports from China that were four times as high (+24.6% to €4.67 bn) as exports (−5.9% to €1.15 bn). The largest trade surplus with a partner country this period was recorded with the United States (trade balance: +€2.34 bn), with the surplus down by €0.008 bn compared with the same period last year. Trade in the machinery and vehicles product group was particularly significant in this regard. Imports fell by 14.0% to €0.76 bn, while exports rose by 9.3% to €3.05 bn.

Table 1 International trade in goods, May 2026

2026[1]	Import	Export	Trade balance[2]	In- (+) or decrease (-) compared to previous year (in%)	
				Import	Export
Total	**16 315 282**	**15 679 819**	**−635 462**	**1.1**	**0.2**
EU-27 (Intra-EU imports/exports)	10 571 829	10 607 572	35 742	−0.1	−0.5
Third states (Extra-EU imports/exports)	5 743 453	5 072 248	−671 205	3.4	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, January to May 2026

2026[1]	Import	Export	Trade balance[2]	In- (+) or decrease (-) compared to previous year (in%)	
				Import	Export
Total	**85 040 035**	**82 320 493**	**–2 719 542**	**3.8**	**3.5**
EU-27 (Intra-EU imports/exports)	55 666 660	56 291 343	624 683	3.4	4.5
Third states (Extra-EU imports/exports)	29 373 375	26 029 150	−3 344 225	4.5	1.3

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. In contrast, exports and imports of goods according to the concepts of National Accounts (NA) and Balance of Payments (BoP) record transactions between residents and non-residents. Further information on the reconciliation of international trade statistics with the results of the National Accounts can be found in the standard documentation of the Annual National Accounts (available in German only).

Statistics Austria is the central organisation for official data and statistics on society, the economy, the state and the environment in Austria. 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 Statis-tics, and Franz Haslauer, Director General Finance.

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