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Austrian international trade shows growth in the first half of 2026

Trade volume exceeds 100 billion euros in both directions

Vienna, 2026-09-08 – According to preliminary calculations by Statistics Austria, the total value of imports of goods was nominally at €103.78 bn, while exports of goods amounted to €100.06 bn in the first half of 2026. Compared to the first 6 months of the previous year imports increased by 5.9% and exports increased by 5.4%. This led to a trade balance deficit of €3.72 bn, following a negative trade balance of €3.10 bn in the same period the previous year.

“After a rather weak start to 2026, Austria’s foreign trade picked up steam in the first half of the year. Imports and exports both rose by more than 5%, exceeding over €100 bn in each direction of trade. While exports to countries such as the United States and China declined, growth in export trade with key trading partners such as Germany and Italy contributed to positive overall growth,” says Manuela Lenk, Director General Statistics at Statistics Austria.

In the first 6 months of 2026, with the exception of Switzerland (−7.8%), the United States (−7.4%) and the Netherlands (−3.9%), trade with the 10 most important import partners showed absolute increases in imports. Besides the increase with Germany (+5.7%), the largest absolute increases were seen in imports from China (+22.0%), Italy (+7.3%), Czech Republic (+10.4%) and Poland (+7.1%). In trade with the 10 most important export partners only the trade with the United States (−4.0%) and China (−6.7%) showed decreases. The strongest growth was seen in exports to Germany (+5.9%), Italy (+10.0%), Switzerland (+12.2%) and United Kingdom (+15.1%).

Austria imported goods worth €68.10 bn (+5.9%) from European Union member states in the first half of 2026. The value of goods exported to EU countries recorded an increase of 6.6% compared to the same period of the previous year and amounted to €68.59 bn. The positive trade balance with the European Union amounted to €0.49 bn, following a significantly smaller surplus of €0.05 bn in the period January to June 2025.

International trade of goods with third countries showed an increase in imports (+5.9% to €35.68 bn) and in exports (+3.1% to €31.47 bn) compared to the same period last year. This resulted in a negative trade balance with third countries of €4.21 bn (see table 1).

The main factor behind this negative trade balance with third countries was trade with China (trade balance: −€7.63 bn). Particularly machinery and vehicles showed imports from China that were four times as high (+26.8% to €5.71 bn) as the declining exports (−6.8% to €1.37 bn). In the first half of 2026, China ranked 10th in exports with a 2.3% share (€2.34 bn) and 2nd in imports with a 9.6% share (€9.98 bn). Compared to the first half of 2025, imports increased by 22.0% in value; while export values fell by 6.7%. The product group “machinery and vehicles”, accounting for 57.3% of imports, dominated the import figures, primarily driven by the subgroup “electrical machinery and equipment”. More than half of Austria’s exports to China (58.5%) consisted of machinery and vehicles compared to the previous year.

The largest trade surplus with a partner country was recorded with the United States (trade balance: +€2.71 bn), although the surplus declined by €0.03 bn compared with the same period of the previous year. Exports to the United States declined by 4.0% to €6.48 bn in the first 6 months of 2026. The sharpest decline was seen in chemical products, particularly medical and pharmaceutical products, whose trade volume declined by nearly a third (−29.0%). On the export side, they ranked third among the most important trading partners, behind Italy, while on the import side, they ranked sixth, behind the Czech Republic. Austria's imports from the U.S. fell by 7.4% compared to the same period last year, reaching €3.77 bn.

June 2026: imports and exports rose

The value of exported goods rose by 15.4% to €17.70 bn in June 2026 compared to June of the previous year. The value of imports rose by 10.4% to €17.73 bn. This results in a negative trade balance of €0.03 bn.

Austria imported goods worth €11.34 bn from **European Union** member states in June 2026, and goods worth €12.13 bn were exported to these countries. Compared to June 2025, intra-EU imports increased by 8.3% and intra-EU exports increased by 15.7%. There was a positive trade balance with European Union member states of €0.78 bn.

Imports from **non-EU countries** amounted to €6.39 bn in June 2026, showing an increase of 14.4% year-on-year; extra-EU exports, however, increased even more sharply by 14.8% to €5.57 bn. Nevertheless, this resulted in a negative trade balance with non-EU-countries amounted to €0.81 bn (see table 2).

Increases in imports and exports of machinery and vehicles

Overall exports declined only in 1 of the 10 product groups in June 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 16.7% to €14.90 bn on the export side. The highest absolute increases in exports across all groups were recorded for machinery and vehicles (+17.2%; +€0.98 bn) and chemical products (+21.8%; +€0.52 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 (+10.6%; +€0.60 bn) and chemical products (+14.1%; +€0.32 bn). The 4 most important product groups in imports together showed an increase of 10.7% to €14.00 bn. Apart from the 4 most important product groups, imports of fuels and energy rose by nearly a quarter (+24.9%; +€0.24 bn). This was mainly due to crude oil and petroleum products, where the import value rose by 35.9%, while the imported volume declined (−8.1%). Imports of gas fell by 4.9% in value while volume declined by 2.8%.

Table 1 International trade in goods, January to June 2026

2026[1]	Import	Export	Trade balance[2]	In- (+) or decrease (-) compared to previous year (in%)	
				Import	Export
Total	**103 778 968**	**100 058 601**	**−3 720 367**	**5.9**	**5.4**
EU-27 (Intra-EU imports/exports)	68 096 143	68 585 364	489 221	5.9	6.6
Third states (Extra-EU imports/exports)	35 682 825	31 473 237	−4 209 588	5.9	3.1

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, June 2026

2026[1]	Import	Export	Trade balance[2]	In- (+) or decrease (-) compared to previous year (in%)	
				Import	Export
Total	**17 731 017**	**17 701 820**	**−29 197**	**10.4**	**15.4**
EU-27 (Intra-EU imports/exports)	11 344 703	12 128 524	783 820	8.3	15.7
Third states (Extra-EU imports/exports)	6 386 314	5 573 296	−813 018	14.4	14.8

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).

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).

Who is Statistics Austria?

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 Statistics, and Franz Haslauer, Director General Finance.

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