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Government debt in Austria has risen again in the first half of 2026

Debt level end of June 2026 at €438.9 billion

Vienna, 2026-09-30 – According to Statistics Austria, quarterly government debt amounted to €438.9 billion at the end of the first half of 2026, representing an increase of €20.5 billion compared to the end of 2025. The debt ratio – the ratio of government debt to gross domestic product (GDP) – rose from 80.7% to 83.6%. The government deficit in the first half of 2026 was at €11.1 billion or 4.3% of quarterly GDP.

"In the first half of 2026, Austria's government revenue rose by 4.2% to €129.7 billion, outpacing the growth in government expenditure, which increased by 1.9% to €140.9 billion. The rise in expenditure on public sector wages and salaries was significantly lower than in the first half of 2025 and also lower than inflation during this period. As government expenditure in total rose at a slower rate than revenue, the government deficit was reduced from €13.7 billion in the first half of 2025 to the current figure of €11.1 billion. However, at 4.3% of GDP, the deficit remains high," says Manuela Lenk, Director General Statistics at Statistics Austria.

Government revenue rose more sharply than expenditure in the first half of 2026

Government revenue increased by 4.2% or €5.2 billion in the first half of 2026 compared with the first half of 2025, reaching €129.7 billion. Around 85.7% of total government revenue was accounted for by taxes and social contributions. While tax revenue grew more moderately in the first half of the 2026 (+3.2%) than in the corresponding period of the previous year, revenue from social contributions continued to record strong growth (+5.3%). The more moderate development of tax revenue was mainly attributable to the lower increase in revenue from wage tax (+3.1%). In addition, revenue from energy and mineral oil tax declined.

Both government sales of goods and services, which increased by 5.4%, and property income, which rose by 14.4%, contributed substantially to higher revenues. By contrast, current transfers decreased.

Government expenditure increased by 1.9% in the first half of 2026

Government expenditure rose by 1.9% or €2.7 billion in the first half of 2026 compared with the first half of 2025, reaching €140.9 billion. The increase was therefore significantly lower than in the corresponding period of the previous year. Both wages and salaries in the public sector, which increased by 1.3%, and social benefits in cash (+2.7%), particularly the lower expenditure on pensions, noticeably moderated expenditure growth.

However, at €3.9 billion euros, subsidies remained at a similar level to that of the first half of the previous year. Interest expenditure continued to rise, amounting to a total of €4.3 billion in the first half of 2026.

Public debt stood at €438.9 billion at the end of June 2026

The largest increase in public debt was recorded in the central government sector, where liabilities rose by €20.5 billion, mainly to finance the ongoing deficit of €12.2 billion and to build up liquidity reserves. Higher

intra-governmental transfers, particularly revenue-sharing transfers, supported revenues in the state and local government sectors during the first half of 2026.

The state government sector recorded a surplus of €0.9 billion. Higher revenue from intra-governmental transfers are received often before the corresponding expenditure is incurred, resulting in a surplus. Debt slightly increased by €0.2 billion.

The local government sector increased its liabilities by €1.7 billion, primarily to finance a deficit of €1.4 billion. Most of the increase was attributable to the city of Vienna, including its extra-budgetary units.

In contrast, liabilities in the social security sector declined, resulting in a preliminary surplus of €1.5 billion in the first half of 2026. This reflects, among other factors, the effects of the increase in health insurance contributions for pensioners compared with 2025.

By instrument, public debt on 30 June 2026 consisted of €391.4 billion in debt securities, €45.4 billion in loans and €2.1 billion in deposits.

Detailed results and further information on public finances are available on our website.

Table 1: Government revenue and expenditure – key data of government, first half of the years 2023 to 2026

	First half of 2023	First half of 2024	First half of 2025	First half of 2026
Government revenue in bn Euro	**113.3**	**119.9**	**124.5**	**129.7**
of which				
Tax revenue	60.5	62.8	65.6	67.7
Social contributions	36.2	39.1	41.2	43.4
Output	10.6	11.4	11.7	12.4
Other revenue	6	6.7	6	6.2
Government expenditure in bn Euro	**120.5**	**131.3**	**138.2**	**140.9**
of which				
Social benefits	53.9	59.3	63.4	65.5
Of which monetary social benefits	43.8	48.1	51.4	52.8
Compensation of employees	25.1	27.7	29.3	29.7
Intermediate consumption	15.5	16.4	16.7	17.5
Subsidies	4.9	4.3	4	3.9
Investments	7.5	8.4	8.1	8.9
Interest payments	2.5	3.4	3.9	4.3
Other expenditure	11.1	12	12.9	11
Deficit/surplus in bn. Euro	**−7.2**	**−11.4**	**−13.7**	**−11.1**

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Public Finance. – Compiled on 30 September 2026. – Rounding differences not settled.

Table 2: Quarterly government debt by subsectors of the government, comparison end of Q2/2026 and Q4/2025

Subsectors of the government	in bn Euro		in % of GDP	
	Q4/2025	Q2/2026	Q4/2025	Q2/2026
General Government	418.4	438.9	80.7	83.6
Central Government	358.7	379.1	69.2	72.2
State Government	31.4	31.7	6.1	6.0
Local Government	26.9	28.6	5.2	5.5
Social Security Funds	1.4	–0.6	0.3	–0.1

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Public Finance. – Compiled on 30 September 2026. – Rounding differences not balanced.

Information on methods, definitions:

Government **debt** is defined in the EU regulation No. 220/2014. The connection for the classifications in this EU regulation is the European System of Accounts (ESA 2010, EU regulation No. 549/2013). The sub-sectors of the government include the municipalities ("core units") as well as the matching extra budgetary units and chambers.

The government **revenue and expenditure** are also categorised according to the European System of Accounts (ESA 2010, EU regulation No. 549/2013). Government deficit consists of the difference of government expenditure and revenue. The presented tax revenues and social contributions do also include those taxes and social contributions which are unlikely to be withdrawn.

For the estimation of the government debt, claims against other governmental units are deducted (intergovernmental claims or consolidated presentation). Hence, for the interpretation of the changes in government debt, the development of liabilities and of intergovernmental claims need to be taken into account. This is true for the general government in total as well as for the contributions of the single subsectors to the total government debt.

National accounts, and thus the government deficit, are subject to regular revisions. At the time of the publication of the provisional results on 31 March, preliminary data are available for central government, state governments, local governments, social security funds, and major extra-budgetary entities. For the publication of the final results on 30 September, final data from government entities are incorporated into the statistics.

Compared with the provisional results for the reporting year 2025, published on 31 March 2026, the government deficit was revised by EUR 0.09 billion, from EUR −21.5 billion to EUR −21.4 billion.

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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