

A Value Added Tax (VAT) was introduced in 1973. Effective January 1, 1984, the general rate was increased to 20 per cent. A reduced rate of 10 per cent applies for necessities such as foodstuffs, agricultural products, books, the health care field, while a luxury rate of 32 per cent is imposed on "non-essential" goods, e.g., automobiles, photo equipment, jewellery and furs.

Free Trade Zones

Free trade zones are maintained in Graz, Innsbruck, Linz and Vienna. The latter two have extensive free port facilities on the Danube River.

Trade Fairs

Austria offers a broad selection of fairs, trade shows, congresses. Most of them are held in Vienna, sometimes in spring but mostly during the fall season.

Congresses normally have an international character, whereas most Austrian fairs are local in nature or have a wholesaler-retailer orientation. Larger fairs are held in Vienna, Graz, Klagenfurt, Salzburg, Innsbruck and Wels. Specific advice and recommendations can be obtained from the Commercial Division of the Canadian Embassy.