

## Austria: Economy gets off to a strong start in 2018

On the back of both domestic demand and net exports, the Austrian economy sees strong first-quarter growth



Source: Shutterstock

### Positive momentum

First-quarter GDP growth came in at 0.8% quarter-on-quarter, according to a flash estimate from the Austrian Institute of Economic Research, carrying momentum into 2018. Fourth-quarter GDP growth was revised upwards slightly while full-year GDP growth for 2017 was revised up to 3.0% year-on-year from 2.9% YoY, a level last seen in 2011.

First-quarter growth remained broad-based. Private as well as public consumption expenditure increased by 0.3% each, similar to the previous quarter, while investment momentum remained strong, with continued demand for gross fixed capital formation (+0.8%). Foreign trade and industrial production also supported GDP growth, but both components slowed in the first quarter.

### Looking ahead

We expect momentum to continue to slow down somewhat in the months to come. However, this will simply be a levelling off from recent highs and growth should remain robust throughout the year.

## Author

### Inga Fechner

Senior Economist, Germany, Global Trade

[inga.fechner@ing.de](mailto:inga.fechner@ing.de)

## Disclaimer

This publication has been prepared by the Economic and Financial Analysis Division of ING Bank N.V. ("ING") solely for information purposes without regard to any particular user's investment objectives, financial situation, or means. *ING forms part of ING Group (being for this purpose ING Group N.V. and its subsidiary and affiliated companies).* The information in the publication is not an investment recommendation and it is not investment, legal or tax advice or an offer or solicitation to purchase or sell any financial instrument. Reasonable care has been taken to ensure that this publication is not untrue or misleading when published, but ING does not represent that it is accurate or complete. ING does not accept any liability for any direct, indirect or consequential loss arising from any use of this publication. Unless otherwise stated, any views, forecasts, or estimates are solely those of the author(s), as of the date of the publication and are subject to change without notice.

The distribution of this publication may be restricted by law or regulation in different jurisdictions and persons into whose possession this publication comes should inform themselves about, and observe, such restrictions.

Copyright and database rights protection exists in this report and it may not be reproduced, distributed or published by any person for any purpose without the prior express consent of ING. All rights are reserved. ING Bank N.V. is authorised by the Dutch Central Bank and supervised by the European Central Bank (ECB), the Dutch Central Bank (DNB) and the Dutch Authority for the Financial Markets (AFM). ING Bank N.V. is incorporated in the Netherlands (Trade Register no. 33031431 Amsterdam). In the United Kingdom this information is approved and/or communicated by ING Bank N.V., London Branch. ING Bank N.V., London Branch is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and is subject to regulation by the Financial Conduct Authority and limited regulation by the Prudential Regulation Authority. ING Bank N.V., London branch is registered in England (Registration number BR000341) at 8-10 Moorgate, London EC2 6DA. For US Investors: Any person wishing to discuss this report or effect transactions in any security discussed herein should contact ING Financial Markets LLC, which is a member of the NYSE, FINRA and SIPC and part of ING, and which has accepted responsibility for the distribution of this report in the United States under applicable requirements.

Additional information is available on request. For more information about ING Group, please visit [www.ing.com](http://www.ing.com).