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Substantial decrease in livestock

As of 1 December 2022, 1.86 million bovine animals and 2.65 million pigs were kept in Austria; fewer cattle and pigs were slaughtered in 2022

Vienna, 2023-02-15 – As of 1 December 2022, 1.86 million cattle were kept in Austria, down 0.5 % or 9 000 animals from 2021, as Statistics Austria reports. During the same period, the number of pigs decreased by 4.9 % or 135 400 animals to a total of 2.65 million, and sheep and goats decreased by 0.4 % to 400 700 and 1.6 % to 99 000, respectively. Fewer cattle, pigs and equids were slaughtered in 2022, but more sheep and goats.

Number of one to less-than-two years old bovine animals increased slightly

For the following data on cattle population, it should be noted that due to methodological adjustments in the calculation of the type of use of the bovine animals (slaughter or production and breeding cattle, dairy or other cows), the stocks of the corresponding animal categories are only partially comparable with the previous year's result.

The number of **bovine animals less than one year old** decreased by 2.3 % to 597 000 animals (see table 1). In detail, the stock of calves for slaughter fell to 44 000 (-71.5 %), while that of other calves and young bovine animals rose to 553 000 animals (+21.0 %).

With an increase of 2.2 %, the number of **bovine animals in the age of one to less than two years** rose in December 2022 to 430 100 animals. The number of male bovines (+3.1 % to 166 000) and heifers for production and breeding (+10.7 % to 199 300) recorded increases, while that of heifers for slaughter dropped (-19.0 % to 64 800 head).

The stock of **bovine animals two years old and over** slightly declined by 0.5 % to 834 000 animals. Compared to 2021, the number of heifers for slaughter fell (-21.2 % to 14 800) as well as that of other cows (-15.0 % to 157 800). On the other hand, the stock of male bovines (+6.5 % to 21 800 animals) and heifers for production and breeding (+2.7 % to 89 000) rose as well as that of dairy cows (+4.6 % to 550 600 head).

The number of **holdings** with bovine animals on the reference day decreased by 2.1 % to 52 500, compared to 2021. The average livestock density was 35 animals per holding, as in the previous year.

Pig livestock decreasing

Compared to 1 December 2021, population declines were recorded in all animal categories. The number of **piglets and young pigs** fell by 4.8 % to 1.32 million. The stock of **pigs for fattening** decreased by 4.5 % to a total of 1.12 million animals and that of **pigs for breeding** by 7.0 % to 212 000 (see table 2).

In a detailed comparison, the number of piglets declined by 2.9 % to 635 800 and that of young pigs by 6.5 % to 680 500. Within pigs for fattening, the number of animals weighing 50 to less than 80 kg fell (-3.4 % to 519 000) as well as that of animals weighing 80 to less than 110 kg (-5.9 % to 455 300) and that of pigs weighing more than 110 kg (-3.8 % to 147 500). Among pigs for breeding, the number of young breeding sows decreased by 9.0 % to 41 200 and that of old breeding sows by 6.5 % to 167 200. The stock of covered sows fell to 146 500 (-7.2 %).

The share of the Austrian federal provinces most relevant for pig production (Upper Austria, Lower Austria and Styria) increased slightly to 94.0 % of the total stock (2021: 93.7 %).

Slightly fewer sheep and goats

The number of ewes and ewe lambs put to the ram decreased by 2.5 % to 234 000 animals compared to December 2021, while that of other sheep rose by 2.7 % to 166 700. The stock of goats mated or that have already kidded increased by 1.5 % to 64 700 animals. The number of other goats fell by 6.9 % to 34 300 animals (see table 2).

Total number of slaughtering declined in 2022

In 2022, the number of pigs slaughtered in slaughterhouses (meat fit for human consumption) fell by 4.3 % to 4.88 million. Compared to 2021, declines were also recorded in the number of slaughtered bovines (-0.8 % to 639 000 head) and equids (-1.4 % to 412 head). On the other hand, the number of slaughtered sheep (+1.1 % to 169 100) and goats (+8.1 % to 11 300 head) increased. From a regional perspective, the majority of bovine animals slaughtered (31.3 %) nationwide was in Upper Austria, which also took the top spot for goats (34.9 %) and equids (45.9 %). Styria reported the largest proportion of slaughtered pigs (40.4 %), while Lower Austria was the leader for sheep (47.0 %).

Furthermore, a total of 20 300 pigs, 152 700 sheep and 57 000 goats were slaughtered unexamined in 2022.

The overall resulting volume of red meat was 695 000 tonnes. In addition, 101.83 million poultry were slaughtered in 2022, resulting in a total volume of 143 600 tonnes of poultry meat (see table 3).

For detailed results and further information on [livestock](#) and [slaughtering](#) please refer to our [website](#).

Table 1: Number of bovine animals on 1 December 2022

Category	1 December 2021	1 December 2022	Change in %
Bovine animals in total	1 870 100	1 861 071	-0.5
Bovine animals less than 1 year old	611 007	596 990	-2.3
Bovine animals 1 to less than 2 years old	421 075	430 130	+2.2
Bovine animals 2 years old and over	838 018	833 951	-0.5
Holdings with bovine animals	53 656	52 545	-2.1

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Bovine livestock, Agrarmarkt Austria, Rinderzucht Austria, Consumer health information system.

Table 2: Number of pigs, sheep and goats on 1 December 2022

Category	1 December 2021	1 December 2022	Change in %
Pigs in total	2 785 587	2 650 151	-4.9
Piglets and young pigs below 50 kg live weight	1 383 058	1 316 367	-4.8
Pigs for fattening, 50 kg live weight and above	1 174 531	1 121 790	-4.5
Pigs for breeding, 50 kg live weight and above	227 998	211 994	-7.0
Holdings with pigs	19 638	19 201	-2.2
Sheep in total	402 345	400 664	-0.4
Goats in total	100 601	99 019	-1.6

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Livestock survey, Consumer health information system.

Table 3: Number of slaughtering in total and carcass weight 2022

Category	Slaughtering in total in head	Carcass weight in tonnes
Equids	412	91
Bovine animals	638 990	210 121
Pigs	4 905 003	477 663
Sheep	321 802	6 490
Goats	68 335	636
Poultry	101 825 868	143 579

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Slaughter statistics, poultry production.

Information on methodology:

The statistics on **livestock** are based on Regulation (EC) No 1165/2008 concerning livestock and meat statistics; implemented under Ordinance Federal Law Gazette II No. 163/2012 (available in German only) issued by the Federal Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Environment and Water Management.

The **bovine livestock** was determined through an evaluation of the central cattle database pursued by Agrarmarkt Austria in combination with data from Rinderzucht Austria. The detailed processing was carried out by Statistics Austria.

The data on the **stock of pigs, sheep and goats** was collected by a separated livestock sample survey at around 7 000 holdings directly.

Slaughtering: These statistics provide information on the number of domestic and foreign origin livestock slaughtered in Austria (examined/fit for human consumption; not examined) and the corresponding carcass weight. It is based on data from the consumer health information system, the Carinthian veterinary administration, the Austrian meat control, the Austrian sheep and goat trading exchange and poultry slaughterhouses with at least 5 000 poultry slaughtered per calendar year.

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