

Standard-documentation Meta information

(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

Pig census (sample survey)

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Executive Summary

Pig production has played a significant role in Austrian agriculture for many decades. As in all sectors of agriculture, structural adjustments are also constantly taking place in the pig sector, which are illustrated and documented by the time series from the pig censuses.

Based on the relevant legislative framework, half-yearly sample surveys of the pig population are conducted at specified due days. Pig censuses have a long tradition in Austrian official statistics. Since 1946 there have been sample surveys as well as full surveys at irregular intervals. The last survey was a full survey and was conducted for the reporting year 1999. Since 2000 only sample surveys have been carried out. Data transfer and processing have increasingly been performed electronically since 1977. The list of characteristics has changed over the course of time and since 1993 has corresponded to the relevant EU requirements.

The results of the pig censuses serve not only to meet international obligations but also national purposes and interests; they are used, for example, for agricultural and environmental policy, science and research as well as for business consultancy and calculations.

The object of these statistics is to record the number of domestic pigs broken down into specified categories. The number of pigs per holding is a significant indicator of structural change and, in combination with the regional classification of the holding, an indicator of the concentration and intensification of pig husbandry with consequences for the available land in the region.

The sample survey of holdings involved in pig husbandry has been used as the data source. The entire country of Austria is covered, although intensive pig production is concentrated in a few areas of Lower and Upper Austria as well as in Styria. These regions concentrate on intensive maize cultivation, which is used as fodder for pig production. The increasing spatial concentration in this agricultural sector is also furthered by the pork cycle, a term used to describe the phenomenon of more or less regular fluctuations of prices in the pig market. According to this concept, it is the large holdings in locations with favourable production conditions that are more likely to be able to survive low price phases than small producers or those in more unfavourable locations.

The selection framework for the sample was based on the holdings (involved in pig husbandry) listed in the Agriculture and Forestry Register (LFR). The LFR is regularly updated based on current data from statistical surveys as well as administrative data. The selection of holdings is made according to a stratified sampling plan that aims to deliver as accurate as possible a depiction of the total national pig population with as low as possible a sampling error. As a result of obligatory participation in the survey, there was a response rate of almost 100%. The scope of the survey allows analysis at federal province level (in the full surveys conducted in earlier years there were also regional analyses that were broken down in greater depth).

During the data processing stage the data was checked for plausibility. Implausible information was investigated and, if necessary, corrected based on existing data material (e.g. LFR, VIS) and telephone enquiries.

Statistics Austria publishes the results of the pig census in a report in *Statistische Nachrichten* [Statistical News], in the *Statistisches Jahrbuch* [Statistical Yearbook] and in the publication *Ergebnisse der land- und forstwirtschaftlichen Statistik* [Agriculture and Forestry Statistics] in the form of print publications as well as in readable and downloadable files on its website.

Pig census (sample survey) – Main Features	
Subject matter	Census of pigs according to specified categories
Population	Holdings involved in pig husbandry according to the Agriculture and Forestry Register (LFR)
Type of statistics	Primary statistical survey
Data sources/Survey techniques	Sample
Reference period or due day	Due days: 1 June and 1 December of the respective year
Periodicity	Half-yearly; 1 June (individual survey) and 1 December (as part of the General Livestock Census (AVZ))
Survey participation (in case of a survey)	Obligatory
Main legal acts	<u>National</u> : Federal Law Gazette (BGBI.) II No. 147/2009 Ordinance issued by the Federal Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management relating to statistics on the livestock population <u>EU</u> : Regulation (EC) No. 1165/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 concerning livestock and meat statistics and repealing Council Directives 93/23/EEC, 93/24/EEC and 93/25/EEC
Most detailed regional breakdown	Laender (federal provinces)
Availability of results	t+105 (due day 1 June) t+75 (due day 1 December)
Other	The definition of holding in the pig census extends beyond that in ÖNACE Section A. All agricultural holdings that fulfil the above criteria must be surveyed, irrespective of whether agriculture is practised as a main or secondary activity.