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Per capita consumption of animal products continues to decline in 2021

Pork consumption below 50 kg per capita for the first time

Vienna, 2022-08-31 – In 2021, the average Austrian consumed a total of 226.2 kg of animal products (meat, milk, eggs and fish), which corresponds to a decrease of 8.1 kg since the previous year. Pork is becoming less important, while poultry has increased slightly, as shown in the current supply balances from Statistics Austria.

Austrian farms produced 4.9 million tonnes of animal products in 2021, which was a slight increase to the level of the previous year. 3.87 million tonnes of cow, sheep and goat milk (± 0 % compared to 2020), 2.24 billion eggs (+3 %) and 5 000 t of fish (+6 %) were produced for the domestic and foreign market. For meat, **gross domestic production** (in carcass weight, i.e. with bones and fat) which amounted to 905 000 t was 1 % below the level of the previous year.

793 000 t of meat (-2 %), 698 000 t of drinking milk including yoghurt and fermented milk products (-6 %), 208 000 t of cheese (-3 %), 48 000 t of butter (-1 %), 2.1 billion eggs (-1 %) and 71 000 t of fish (+9 %) were available for **domestic consumption** in 2021.

The **degree of self-sufficiency** provides information on the extent to which domestic production is able to cover domestic consumption. It reached 178 % for drinking milk (including yoghurt), 147 % for beef and veal, 118 % for cheese (including processed cheese) and 108 % for pork. For the following products, the degree of self-sufficiency was below 100 %, i.e. the demand could not be completely covered by domestic production: eggs (92 %), poultry meat (78 %), butter (72 %) and fish (7 %).

The calculated **per capita consumption** in 2021 was 77.9 kg of milk, 23.2 kg of cheese, 5.4 kg of butter, 14.5 kg eggs (equivalent to 233 pieces) and 88.5 kg of meat. Of this, 58.9 kg of meat was available for human consumption, the remaining third of the per capita consumption was e.g. bones or processed into dog and cat food.

Imports of meat (355 000 t; +6 %), drinking milk (72 000 t; +2 %), cheese (133 000 t; +2 %) and fish (79 000 t; +12 %) were made to cover domestic demand. In the same period, 532 000 t of meat (+7 %), 562 000 t of drinking milk (-4 %) and 170 000 t of cheese (+9 %) were **exported**.

Foreign trade in agricultural products continues to rise

Compared to 2020, the volume of agricultural foreign trade (both plant and animal products) increased from €25.5 billion to €27.7 billion euros. This corresponds to a share of 8.1 % of the total foreign trade volume, which amounted to 344.0 billion euros in 2021. The value of agricultural imports rose from 12.8 billion to 13.9 billion euros, that of exports from 12.8 billion to 13.8 billion euros. The main trading partners were the Member States of the European Union with a share of 83 % of imports and 74 % of exports.

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

Per capita consumption of animal products in 2020 and 2021 by product group, in kg

Product group	2020	2021	Change
Meat ¹	90.8	88.5	-2.3
Milk ²	83.0	77.9	-5.1
Dairy products ³	38.6	37.3	-1.3
Eggs	14.6	14.5	-0.1
Fish	7.3	8.0	+0.7

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, supply balances.

1) Beef, veal, pork, poultry, horse, game, lamb and offal. Consumption includes the entire carcass. – 2) Raw and drinking milk. – 3) Cream, cheese, processed cheese, butter, concentrated milk and milk powder.

Information on methodology, definitions: The supply balances represent a synopsis of quantitative and qualitative information on agriculture and the food sector. In order to capture the totality of a product, the supply balance of a basic agricultural product (e.g. meat, eggs) also takes into account its most important processed products (e.g. sausages, egg-containing products) – provided that these are not the subject of separate balances. This makes it possible to obtain an overall view of the country's supply of a product.

The supply balances are calculated for the most important food and animal feed products, taking into account national circumstances (production and marketing structures of agriculture and the food sector, differentiated data situation and availability, determination and application of technical coefficients in detailed balances, technical requirements for foreign trade, etc.). They are published in product-specific detailed balances as a statement of supply and use.

If you have any questions on this topic, please contact:

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