

Press release: 13 140-168/23

# Bovine and pig population further decreasing

## 1.83 million cattle and 2.57 million pigs were kept in Austria on 1 June 2023

Vienna, 2023-08-24 – A total of 1.83 million bovine animals and 2.57 million pigs were held in Austria on the reporting date of 1 June 2023, according to Statistics Austria. This is 0.9% or 16 400 fewer bovine animals and 2.3% or 60 500 fewer pigs than on the same day in the previous year.

### Slight increase in bovine animals one to less than two years old

Compared to 1 June 2022, the number of **bovine animals less than one year old** decreased by 3.1% to 573 700 animals (see table 1). In detail, the stock of calves for slaughter fell by 7.0% to 36 100 and that of other calves and young bovine animals sunk by 2.8% to 537 600.

The number of bovine animals aged **one to less than two years old** increased by 0.9% to 425 700 animals, compared to the previous year. The number of male cattle (+1.7% to 162 700) rose as well as that of heifers for production and breeding (+0.1% to 197 800) and heifers for slaughter (+1.2% to 65 200).

The stock of **bovine animals two years old and over** declined by 0.2% to 826 300 animals. Compared to June 2022, the number of bulls and oxen rose by 8.7% to 20 300 animals. Increases were also recorded in the stock of heifers for production and breeding (+2.4% to 88 600) and heifers for slaughter (+2.1% to 13 400). With a decrease of 0.6% the number of dairy cows declined to 546 000 and that of other cows by 1.6% to 158 000.

Compared to the previous year, the number of **holdings** with bovine animals on the reference day decreased by 2.9% to a total of 52 000. The average livestock density was 35 animals per holding.

### Number of pigs declined in all categories

On the reference day 1 June 2023 there was a total of 1.34 million **piglets and young pigs** (–2.2%), 1.02 million **pigs for fattening** (–2.3%) and 216 900 **pigs for breeding** (–3.2%) recorded in Austria (see table 2).

In a detailed comparison, the number of piglets fell by 1.7% to 617 600 and that of young pigs by 2.6% to 718 700. Within pigs for fattening, the number of animals weighing 50 to less than 80 kg decreased to 504 000 animals (–2.0%), that of animals weighing 80 to less than 110 kg to 409 100 (–1.6%) and the stock of pigs weighing more than 110 kg to 106 300 (–6.3%). Within pigs for breeding, the number of covered breeding sows fell by 3.2% to 147 100 and that of not covered sows by 3.3% to 64 900. The stock of breeding boars also decreased (–2.6% to 4 900).

The share of Austrian federal provinces most relevant for pig production (Upper Austria, Lower Austria and Styria) was 93.9% of the total stock (2022: 93.7%).

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

**Table 1: Number of bovine animals on 1 June 2023**

Category	01.06.2022	01.06.2023	Change in %
<b>Bovine animals in total</b>	1 842 174	<b>1 825 752</b>	-0.9
Bovine animals less than 1 year old	592 212	<b>573 717</b>	-3.1
Bovine animals 1 to less than 2 years old	421 922	<b>425 719</b>	+0.9
Bovine animals 2 years old and over	828 040	<b>826 316</b>	-0.2
<b>Holdings with bovine animals</b>	53 561	<b>52 030</b>	-2.9

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Bovine livestock, Agrarmarkt Austria, Rinderzucht Austria, Consumer Health Information System.

**Table 2: Number of pigs on 1 June 2023**

Category	01.06.2022	01.06.2023	Change in %
<b>Pigs in total</b>	2 633 223	<b>2 572 700</b>	-2.3
Piglets and young pigs below 50 kg live weight	1 365 736	<b>1 336 368</b>	-2.2
Pigs for fattening, 50 kg live weight and above	1 043 310	<b>1 019 428</b>	-2.3
Pigs for breeding, 50 kg live weight and above	224 177	<b>216 904</b>	-3.2

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Pig livestock, Consumer Health Information System.

**Information on methodology:** These statistics 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.

Since 2012, the number of **pigs** for the reference day 1 June is calculated using a regression model, based on data from the Consumer Health Information System, instead of a sample survey conducted directly at holdings as in previous years.

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

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