

Press release: 13 179-207/23

Slightly more game shot in the 2022/2023 hunting season

Significantly fewer game losses in the past hunting year

Vienna, 2023-10-12 – In the hunting year 2022/23, the total number of game shot, according to Statistics Austria, was 740 800, 0.2% higher than in the previous season. Thereby, 0.2% fewer furred game and 2.5% more feathered game were shot. Compared to the hunting year 2021/22, there were 3.7% fewer game losses. The number of annual hunting permits issued increased by 1.2% year-on-year.

More hares, fewer wild boars and foxes shot

In the past hunting year, 0.2% less furred game (636 200) was shot (see table 1). Most of them were hoofed game (418 200, +0.1%), among them 291 300 roe deer (+2.0%), 57 700 red deer (+2.6%) and 20 900 chamois (+6.9%). In the case of wild boar, there was a significant decrease of 15.3% to 43 800. Most of the other furred game (218 000; -0.8 %) were hares (101 700; +13.8%), foxes (60 700; -13.2%) and martens (22 600; -3.9%).

Half of game birds shot were pheasants

104 600 feathered game were shot in the hunting year 2022/23, 2.5% more than in the previous season (see table 1). More than half of these were pheasants (52 300; +12.0%), followed by wild ducks (32 200; -9.4%), wild pigeons (12 800; -0.5%), partridges (2 100; +15.1%), wild geese (1 100; -26.7%) and black grouses (1 500; +2.2%).

Game casualties dropped

Game may suffer losses due to road traffic, unfavourable weather conditions or diseases (see table 2). For the hunting year 2022/2023, 119 200 losses of all kinds were reported (-3.7% compared to 2021/22), including 71 500 roe deer (-0.9 %), 24 700 hares (-4.1%) and 7 800 pheasants (-7.6%).

More annual hunting permits issued

With a total of 134 700, the amount of valid annual hunting permits slightly increased (+1.2%). Furthermore, 10 500 guest hunting permits (-2.1%) were released.

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

Table 1: Game shootings in the hunting year 2022/23

Game shootings	2021/2022	2022/2023	Change in %
Game shootings in total	739 479	740 811	+0.2
Thereof furred game	637 395	636 187	-0.2
Thereof feathered game	102 084	104 624	+2.5

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, hunting statistics, federal province offices.

Table 2: Game losses in the hunting year 2022/23

Game losses	2021/2022	2022/2023	Change in %
Game losses in total	123 757	119 198	-3.7
Thereof furred game	113 464	109 533	-3.5
Thereof feathered game	10 293	9 665	-6.1

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, hunting statistics, federal province offices.

Information on methods, definitions: Hunting in Austria is regulated by legislation at federal province level, defining the hunting year, which varies from region to region. In Carinthia, Lower Austria, Salzburg and Vienna it corresponds to the calendar year, while the hunting year in Burgenland lasts from 1 February to 31 January and in the remaining four federal provinces from 1 April to 31 March.

Hoofed game shot (except wild boars) is negotiated and defined territory-related between the district authorities concerned, hunting provision or hunting holder as well as a body representing the interests of the hunters. This is issued by the ordinance of the federal provinces. For all other game species, a hunting plan is generated; however, it is not under any legal regulation. Furthermore, hunting seasons and closed seasons are prescribed.

Tasks and goals of the game law focus in particular on game keeping, the hunting and biotope protection as well as sustainable utilisation of wildlife, all in all on an improvement of the quality of life respectively the living conditions of diverse wildlife species. Additionally, stocks regarded as excessive – in view of agricultural and forestry interests – are reduced by hunting.

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