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Slight increase in cows' milk production in 2023

More goats' milk, less ewes' milk produced than in the previous year

Vienna, 2024-06-25 – According to Statistics Austria, dairy cows in Austria produced almost 4.0 million tonnes of raw milk in 2023, 1.0% more than in the previous year. The production raw goats' milk rose by 2.1% to 26 600 tonnes, while ewes' milk production fell by 1.3% to 11 500 tonnes.

Cows' milk production increased by 1.0%

The approximately 546 400 dairy cows kept in Austria (+0.5%) produced around 3 981 800 tonnes (+1.0%) of raw milk in 2023. This corresponds to an average annual milk yield of 7 300 kg per animal (+0.5%).

Almost 89% of the raw milk produced went to dairy and processing companies (3 534 600 tonnes; +1.0%). After deducting a small loss, the remaining raw milk was used on farms: 260 500 tonnes (6.5% of the total production) were used as feed for calves or other domestic animals and 146 800 tonnes (3.7% of production) were used in either raw or processed form for human consumption on farms directly or for farm-gate sale (see table 1).

2.1% more goats' milk produced

40 600 dairy goats (+0.7%) produced around 26 600 tonnes of raw milk (+2.1%) in 2023. The average annual milk yield was 656 kg per animal (+1.4%). The majority of goat's milk production, namely 87.9% or 23 400 tonnes was used for human consumption. After deducting the loss, the remaining amount was used for animal feed or other purposes (3 000 tonnes or 11.1% of production, see table 2).

Ewes' milk production fell by 1.3%

In Austria, around 27 800 dairy sheep (–2.8%) were kept in 2023. With an average annual milk yield of 415 kg per animal (+1.7%), a total of around 11 500 tonnes of raw milk (–1.3%) were produced.

The largest part of the production, 85.9% or 9 900 tonnes, was used for human consumption. 1 500 tonnes (13.1% of production) were used for other purposes, such as animal feed. The remainder (1.0%) was recorded as loss (see table 3).

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

Table 1: Cows' milk production and usage

Category	2022	2023	Change in %
Milk cows in heads ¹	543 817	546 416	+0.5
Average production of raw milk per milk cow in kg ¹	7 250	7 287	+0.5
Total production of raw cows' milk in t	3 942 501	3 981 759	+1.0
Use of raw cows' milk in t / delivered ²	3 500 266	3 534 616	+1.0
Use of raw cows' milk in t / utilised on the agricultural holding / for human consumption	142 307	146 787	+3.1
Use of raw cows' milk in t / utilised on the agricultural holding / for animal feed ³	260 503	260 539	±0.0
Loss of raw cows' milk in t ⁴	39 425	39 817	+1.0

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, milk statistics 2023, federal chambers of agriculture, AMA, VIS, Rinderzucht Austria. – Rounding differences not compensated.

1) Calculated average per year. – 2) The amount of raw cows' milk delivered to dairy enterprises and other processing units, status: 07.05.2024. – 3) Raw cows' milk fed to calves and other domestic or farm animals. – 4) 1% of the raw milk produced.

Table 2: Goats' milk production and usage

Category	2022	2023	Change in %
Milk goats in heads ¹	40 372	40 638	+0.7
Average production of raw milk per milk goat in kg ¹	647	656	+1.4
Total production of raw goats' milk in t	26 105	26 642	+2.1
Use of raw goats' milk in t / for human consumption ²	23 589	23 414	-0.7
Use of raw goats' milk in t / for animal feed and other purposes ³	2 255	2 962	+31.3
Loss of raw goats' milk in t ⁴	261	266	+2.1

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, milk statistics 2023, federal chambers of agriculture, VIS, ÖBSZ. – Rounding differences not compensated.

1) Calculated average per year. – 2) Raw goats' milk used directly at/from the agricultural holdings or delivered to dairy enterprises and other processing units. – 3) Raw goats' milk fed to kids and other domestic or farm animals. – 4) 1% of the raw milk produced.

Table 3: Ewes' milk production and usage

Category	2022	2023	Change in %
Milk ewes in heads ¹	28 625	27 828	-2.8
Average production of raw milk per milk ewe in kg ¹	408	415	+1.7
Total production of raw ewes' milk in t	11 688	11 541	-1.3
Use of raw ewes' milk in t / for human consumption ²	10 178	9 913	-2.6
Use of raw ewes' milk in t / for animal feed and other purposes ³	1 393	1 513	+8.6
Loss of raw ewes' milk in t ⁴	117	115	-1.3

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, milk statistics 2023, federal chambers of agriculture, VIS, ÖBSZ. – Rounding differences not compensated.

1) Calculated average per year. – 2) Raw ewes' milk used directly at/from the agricultural holdings or delivered to dairy enterprises and other processing units. – 3) Raw ewes' milk fed to lambs and other domestic or farm animals. – 4) 1% of the raw milk produced.

Information on methodology: The milk statistics determine the raw milk yield of the previous calendar year and provide results relating to the milk used for human consumption or as animal feed. The data also forms the basis for further calculations, for instance in conjunction with supply balance sheets or the economic accounts for agriculture.

The survey of the overall raw milk yield and its use for human consumption is conducted in accordance with the criteria and definitions of the European Commission Decision of 18 December 1996 laying down provisions for the implementation of Council Directive 96/16/EC. The statistics for milk production and use are provided annually by Statistics Austria in cooperation with the federal chambers of agriculture, the Agrarmarkt Austria (AMA – the Austrian paying agency for agriculture and rural development), the consumer health information system (VIS) and relevant professional associations (Rinderzucht Austria, ÖBSZ – Austrian Federal Association for Sheep and Goats).

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