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Bovine and pig population further declined in 2024

On 1 June 2024, 1.2% fewer bovine animals and 2.0% fewer pigs were kept in Austria than in the previous year

Vienna, 2024-08-21 – A total of 1.80 million bovine animals and 2.52 million pigs were held in Austria on the reference date 1 June 2024, according to Statistics Austria. This represents a decrease of 1.2% or 21 900 bovine animals and 2.0% or 51 300 pigs compared to the same day in previous year. Roughly speaking, the number of cattle and pigs has been on a downward trend for decades: In 1994, almost a quarter more cattle and almost a third more pigs have been kept in Austria.

Fewer animals in the age group of less than two-year-old bovines

The number of **bovine animals less than one year old** dropped by 1.4% to 565 900 animals compared to 1 June 2023 (see table 1). Within this group, the stock of calves for slaughter fell by 2.4% to 35 300 and that of other calves and young bovine animals declined by 1.3% to 530 600.

The stock of bovine animals aged **one to less than two years old** fell by 2.4% to 415 500 animals. This includes a 3.4% decrease in male cattle (to 157 200 animals) as well as reductions in heifers for production and breeding (–1.9% to 194 000) and heifers for slaughter (–1.3% to 64 400).

Compared to June 2023, the number of **bovine animals two years old and over** declined by 0.5% to 822 500 animals. However, some categories saw an increase: the stock of bulls and oxen rose by 7.4% to 21 800, heifers for production and breeding increased by 2.8% to 91 100 and heifers for slaughter grew by 7.4% to 14 400. In contrast, the number of dairy cows fell by 1.2% to 539 400 and that of other cows by 1.4% to 155 800.

The number of **holdings** with bovine animals on the reference date dropped by 1.9% to a total of 51 000. The average livestock density remained at 35 animals per holding, as in the year before.

Total number of pigs for fattening for the first time below one million

As of 1 June 2024, the number of **piglets and young pigs** fell by 1.9% to 1.31 million, **pigs for fattening** decreased by 2.1% to 997 600 and **pigs for breeding** dropped by 2.1% to 212 300 (see table 2).

In detail, the number of piglets decreased by 1.8% to 606 200 and that of young pigs fell by 1.9% to 705 300. Among pigs for fattening, animals weighing 50 to less than 80 kg declined by 1.7% to 495 400, those weighing 80 to less than 110 kg decreased by 1.4% to 403 300 and pigs weighing more than 110 kg dropped by 7.0% to 98 900. In the group pigs for breeding, young breeding sows declined by 2.8% to 41 100 and older breeding sows by 1.9% to 166 500. The number of breeding boars also fell by 4.6% to 4 700 compared to the previous year.

The Austrian **federal provinces** most significant for pig production (Upper Austria, Lower Austria and Styria) accounted for 94.0% of the total stock (2023: 93.9%).

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

Table 1: Number of bovine animals on 1 June 2024

Category	01.06.2023	01.06.2024	Change in %
Bovine animals in total	1 825 752	1 803 870	-1.2
Bovine animals less than 1 year old	573 717	565 886	-1.4
Bovine animals 1 to less than 2 years old	425 719	415 480	-2.4
Bovine animals 2 years old and over	826 316	822 504	-0.5
Holdings with bovine animals	52 030	51 022	-1.9

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

Table 2: Number of pigs on 1 June 2024

Category	01.06.2023	01.06.2024	Change in %
Pigs in total	2 572 700	2 521 429	-2.0
Piglets and young pigs below 50 kg live weight	1 336 368	1 311 517	-1.9
Pigs for fattening, 50 kg live weight and above	1 019 428	997 592	-2.1
Pigs for breeding, 50 kg live weight and above	216 904	212 320	-2.1

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

Information on methodology, definitions: 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 date 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.

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