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Further decline in per capita meat consumption in 2023

Consumption fell by 10.9 kg in a ten-year comparison

Vienna, 2024-09-02 – According to the latest supply balances from Statistics Austria, 86.6 kg of meat was consumed per capita in 2023. This represents a decrease of 1.7 kg compared to the previous year, or 10.9 kg compared to ten years ago. At 76.0 kg per capita, milk consumption was also lower than in 2022 (-3.0 kg).

Austrian farms produced a total of 5.0 million tons of animal products in 2023, amounting to the same level of the previous year. 4.0 million tons of cow's, sheep's and goat's milk (+1% compared to 2022), 2.35 billion eggs (-1%) and 5 200 tons of fish ($\pm 0\%$) were produced for domestic and foreign markets. At 852 900 t, gross domestic production of meat (in carcass weight, i.e. including bones and fat) was 3% below the level of the previous year.

To cover the domestic demand, 375 200 t of meat (+3%), 75 800 t of drinking milk including yoghurt and fermented milk products (-8%), 135 900 t of cheese including processed cheese (+3%) and 77 500 t of fish ($\pm 0\%$) were imported. In the same period, 493 500 t of meat (-2%), 578 100 t of drinking milk including yoghurt and other fermented milk products (+2%) and 171 800 t of cheese including processed cheese (-3%) were exported.

Thus, 791 100 t of meat (-1%), 694 400 t of drinking milk including yoghurt and fermented milk products (-3%), 220 100 t of cheese including processed cheese (+5%), 48 600 t of butter ($\pm 0\%$), 2.3 billion eggs (+1%) and 71 200 t of fish (+9%) were available for domestic consumption in 2023.

Domestic agriculture covered 182% of the demand for drinking milk including yoghurt and sour milk drinks, 117% for cheese including processed cheese, 108% for meat, 90% for eggs, 67% for butter and 7% for fish.

Foreign trade in agricultural products continues to rise

Compared to 2022, the volume of agricultural foreign trade (both plant and animal products) increased further from 32.4 billion to 34.0 billion euros. The volume of agricultural foreign trade corresponds to an 8% share of the total foreign trade volume, which amounted to a total of 403.5 billion euros in 2023. The value of agricultural imports rose from 16.2 billion to 17.4 billion euros, that of exports from 16.2 billion to 16.7 billion euros. The main trading partners were the Member States of the European Union with an 83% share of imports and 79% of exports respectively.

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

Per capita consumption of selected foods

Product	Unit	2022	2023	Change
Meat ¹	kg	88.3	86.6	-1.7
thereof: Pork	kg	47.5	46.4	-1.1
Poultry	kg	21.9	22.3	+0.4
Beef and Veal	kg	15.4	14.8	-0.6
Milk ²	kg	79.0	76.0	-3.0
Milk products ³	kg	37.3	38.6	+1.3
thereof: Cheese and processed cheese	kg	23.1	24.1	+1.0
Cream	kg	7.7	7.9	+0.2
Butter	kg	5.4	5.3	-0.1
Fish	kg	7.2	7.8	+0.6
Eggs	pieces	248	248	±0

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, supply balances.

1) Beef, veal, pork, poultry, horse, game, lamb and offal. Consumption includes the entire carcass (including bones and fat). – 2) Raw milk and drinking milk including yoghurt and fermented milk products. – 3) Cream, cheese, processed cheese, butter, concentrated milk, whole milk powder and skimmed milk powder.

Information on methodology, definitions: Supply balances are based on the principle that the supply of a product or product group must correspond to its use. This principle enables a summary of quantitative and qualitative information on agriculture and its downstream food sector. By including foreign trade and changes in stocks, a meaningful picture of a product or product group can be created for a country. In this context, the balance sheets also provide information on parameters such as the degree of self-sufficiency or per capita consumption.

In order to capture the entirety of a product, the most important processed products, which are also included in foreign trade, are likewise included in the balance of the respective primary agricultural product. These amounts of processed product are converted into the raw state (i.e. the primary product) using coefficients so that they can be included in the balance at a comparable unit level. When preparing the supply balances, a variety of aspects are considered in order to be able to recognize and take into account short and long-term developments for the individual products or product groups. Depending on the product or product group, analyses are carried out from production through to the various forms of use, such as use in the food industry or the technical-chemical industry. The supply balances therefore consider use in a holistic context, which includes the industrial utilisation of agricultural products in addition to consumption as food and animal feed.

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

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