

Press release: 13 447-213/24

2.7% more game shots in hunting season 2023/24

At the same time, 3.1% more game losses than 2022/23

Vienna, 2024-10-11 – The total number of game shot in Austria's hunting season 2023/24 was 760 600, which is 2.7% more than in the 2022/23 hunting season. As Statistics Austria further reports, 2.8% more furred game and 1.9% more feathered game were shot. Game losses increased by 3.1%. The number of valid annual hunting permits rose by 2.0% compared to the previous hunting season.

Furred game shot: more wild boars, foxes and hares

In the 2023/24 hunting season, a total of 654 000 furred game were shot (+2.8%; see table 1). At 426 100 (+1.9%), most of these were hoofed game, including 294 400 roe deer (+1.1%), 58 800 red deer (+1.8%), 47 800 wild boars (+9.1%) and 20 300 chamois (–2.8%). The majority of the other furred game shot (227 900; +4.6%) were hares (104 300; +2.5%), foxes (65 400; +7.7%), martens (23 800; +5.2%), badgers (11 700; +12.2%) and weasels (8 100; +27.3%).

More game birds shot

The number of feathered game shot increased by 1.9% compared to the 2022/23 hunting year to around 106 600 (see table 1). Pheasants (53 600 shoots, +2.5%) were the largest group of feathered game shot, ahead of wild ducks (32 400; +0.6%). In addition, more partridges (2 600; +25.2%) were shot, while the number of shots fell in case of wild pigeons (12 500; –2.3%), black grouse (1 500; –1.8%) and wild geese (1 000; –5.9%).

Increase in game losses

Road traffic, unfavorable weather conditions or diseases led to a total of 122 900 game losses in the 2023/24 hunting year. This is 3.1% more than in the previous year (see table 2). The most affected species were roe deer (73 000; +2.1%), hares (25 300, +2.3%), pheasants (8 000; +3.6%) and foxes (3 500; +6.3%). With a share of 56.4% of all game losses, a total of 69 400 animals (–1.2%) were killed due to road traffic. The remaining 43.6% were reported as other losses, which showed a noticeable increase of 9.4% to 53 600 compared to the previous year.

Significant increase in guest hunting permits

The number of valid annual hunting permits (see table 3) in the hunting season 2023/24 was 137 400 (+2.0%). With an increase of 28.7%, the number of guest hunting permits issued with different periods of validity rose to 13 500. In a ten-year comparison, the number of valid annual hunting permits grew by 15.1% and the number of guest hunting permits by 6.9%.

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

Table 1: Game shootings in the hunting year 2023/2024

Game shootings	2022/2023	2023/2024	Change in %
Game shootings in total	740 811	760 560	+2.7
Thereof furred game	636 187	653 995	+2.8
Thereof feathered game	104 624	106 565	+1.9

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

Table 2: Game losses in the hunting year 2023/2024

Game losses	2022/2023	2023/2024	Change in %
Game losses in total	119 198	122 930	+3.1
Thereof furred game	109 533	112 825	+3.0
Thereof feathered game	9 665	10 105	+4.6

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

Table 3: Valid hunting permits 2023/2024

Hunting permits	2022/2023	2023/2024	Change in %
Valid hunting permits in total	145 214	150 899	+3.9
Valid annual hunting permits	134 701	137 367	+2.0
Guest hunting permits	10 513	13 532	+28.7

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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