

Press release: 13 498-265/24

Food fish production increased by 9.6% in 2023

5 170 tonnes of fish sold, of which 483 tonnes were organic

Vienna, 2024-12-18 – According to Statistics Austria, a total of 5 170 tonnes of fish for human consumption was produced in Austrian aquaculture facilities in 2023. This is 9.6% or 451 tonnes more than in 2022. The number of enterprises active in this area only rose by 0.2% in the same period to a total of 545.

In 2023, the sales volume of edible fish from domestic aquaculture increased by 9.6% to 5 170 tonnes. Rainbow and salmon trout (+13.5% to 1 920 tonnes) were sold the most, followed by brook trout (+2.7% to 679 tonnes), common carp (–0.4% to 557 tonnes), brown and lake trout (+8.4% to 554 tonnes), African catfish (+14.7% to 494 tonnes), elsässer char (+17.4% to 486 tonnes) as well as arctic char (–5.9% to 264 tonnes).

Of the 5 170 tonnes of fish produced and sold in 2023, 483 tonnes were organic. The quantity of organic fish sold was surveyed separately for the first time in 2023. Demand for organic fish was particularly high for common carp (131 tonnes out of a total of 557 tonnes), brook trout (103 tonnes out of a total of 679 tonnes), brown and lake trout (83 tonnes), rainbow and salmon trout (74 tonnes) as well as arctic char (70 tonnes).

Furthermore, around 12.1 million eggs (–29.7%) and 37.2 million juveniles of all ages (+21.5%) were sold in 2023. Salmonids were the most represented fish species, such as rainbow and salmon trout (3.0 million eggs and 5.3 million juveniles), brown and lake trout (4.3 million eggs and 3.4 million juveniles) as well as brook trout (2.6 million eggs and 2.2 million juveniles).

Even though the total aquaculture production increased, aquaculture producers also mentioned production losses, mainly due to predators such as otters, herons and cormorants, followed by environmental factors (like heat waves, water shortage, floods) and associated problems with water quality.

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

Table 1: Production of fish for human consumption¹ in tonnes 2021 to 2023

Year	Salmonidae	Cyprinidae	Others	Total production
2023	3 933.1	621.4	615.7	5 170.2
2022	3 565.2	617.0	536.5	4 718.7
2021	3 611.2	679.6	629.7	4 920.4

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Aquaculture production. – Rounding differences are not equalised.

1) Meaning of ready-to-eat, under market conditions, independent of the actual further use; in live weight.

Table 2: Thereof production of organic fish for human consumption¹ in tonnes 2023

Year	Salmonidae	Cyprinidae	Others	Total production
2023	342.3	138.2	2.8	483.2

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Aquaculture production. – Rounding differences are not equalised.

1) Meaning of ready-to-eat, under market conditions, independent of the actual further use; in live weight.

Table 3: Production of fish eggs in 1 000 pieces 2021 to 2023

Year	Salmonidae	Cyprinidae	Others	Total production
2023	11 540.0	456.0	140.0	12 136.0
2022	15 978.6	1 245.7	45.9	17 270.2
2021	16 920.8	5 953.4	10 046.4	32 920.6

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Aquaculture production. – Rounding differences are not equalised.

Table 4: Production of juvenile fish in 1 000 pieces 2021 to 2023

Year	Salmonidae	Cyprinidae	Others	Total production
2023	26 081.3	522.3	10 558.1	37 161.7
2022	19 560.8	837.9	10 191.6	30 590.4
2021	22 405.0	1 452.0	1 124.7	24 981.7

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Aquaculture production. – Rounding differences are not equalised.

Information on methodology, definitions: The survey on aquaculture production is based on Ordinance Federal Law Gazette II No. 344/2012 (available in German only) issued by the Federal Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Environment and Water Management.

Aquaculture refers to the rearing or keeping of aquatic animals (fish, crustaceans, shrimp etc.) with the aim of increasing production beyond what is possible under natural conditions using appropriate techniques. The aquatic animals in question remain the property of a natural or legal person or the subject of legal claims arising from contractual obligations (e.g. in connection with the stocking of wild waters) throughout the rearing or keeping process, including harvesting or catching.

Aquaculture production means the quantity of fish, crabs, shrimp etc., produced under the previously mentioned circumstances and sold or delivered (live, raw or processed). Quantities for self-supply, trade (purchase and direct resale) as well as quantities from fishing (incl. angling/sport fishing) do not count as aquaculture production and are therefore excluded from the survey.

Statistics Austria is the central organisation for official data and statistics on society, the economy, the state and the environment. As a national statistical institute, it is committed to the statutory principles of independence, impartiality and objectivity. Statistics Austria is headed by Tobias Thomas, Director General Statistics, and Franz Haslauer, Director General Finance.

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