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# 2024 cereal harvest 6% lower than in the previous year

## Less soy beans and rape, more oil pumpkin; strong increase in sugar beet and potato production

Vienna, 2024-12-23 – According to Statistics Austria, 4.86 million tonnes of cereals were harvested in 2024, 6% less than in the previous year and 8% less than the ten-year average. The harvest volume of oilseeds and dry pulses such as soya and rape was 447 400 tonnes (–8% compared to 2023). Production of root crops such as sugar beet and potatoes is expected to increase by almost a quarter (24%) to 4.04 million tonnes.

### Dry spring and wet autumn and caused cereals harvest to shrink

The cereal harvest (without grain maize) amounted to 2.80 million tonnes, which corresponds to a significant decrease of 9% compared to both the previous year and the ten-year average. The wet autumn made it more difficult to grow winter crops, the area of which declined in favour of summer and autumn crops. The initially very warm and dry spring led to reduced tillering, i.e. to a low formation of side shoots, but extensive rainfall from the end of April allowed good grain filling.

The wheat harvest amounted to 1.56 million tonnes. This is 9% less than in 2023 and 5% below the ten-year average. In the case of rye, a sharp decline in acreage (–16% compared to 2023) and low yields led to a production low of 127 900 tonnes (–27% compared to 2023). Due to the poor market situation, the area of grain maize also fell by 2% compared to 2023. In addition, heat and drought in the sensitive flowering phase led to yield deficits, which pushed the grain maize production down to a value of 2.06 million tonnes (–2% compared to 2023, –5% compared to the ten-year average). Barley production fell by 6% year-on-year to 716 100 tonnes in 2024 despite an increase in area under cultivation (+2%).

### Less soy beans, more oil pumpkin; sugar beet harvest up by almost a quarter

Due to the overall low yield level, only 447 400 tonnes of dry pulses and oilseeds were harvested (–8% compared with 2023, +1% to the ten-year average). The area under soy beans remained at a high level, but production fell to 246 300 tonnes (–9% compared with 2023). A significantly higher area under cultivation than in 2023 (+16%) and the above-average yield of oil pumpkin led to a 47% increase in production to 22 800 tonnes of dried kernels compared with the weak previous year's harvest. In line with the long-standing trend, the area of rape and turnip rape continued to decline (–11% compared to 2023) and production fell to a new low of 70 700 tonnes (–18% compared to 2023).

For root crops, a 24% increase in the production volume of 4.04 million tonnes is expected compared to the previous year as a result of the strong increase in the area of sugar beet (+7 300 hectare), which means that the harvest will also be well above the ten-year average (+14%). According to current estimates, the sugar beet harvest of 3.35 million tonnes is expected to be a quarter higher than last year. However, the sugar content will be low due to the rainy autumn. For potatoes, the area also increased noticeably (+6% compared to 2023) and the harvest volume increased by 17% (compared to 2023) to 693 600 tonnes.

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

**Information on methodology:** The survey on field crop harvest is based on the yield survey by Agrarmarkt Austria and on yield estimates by around 2 000 voluntary harvest consultants. As area basis for calculating

production, the cultivation areas from the evaluation of multiple applications from Agrarmarkt Austria, as of October 2024, were used.

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