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# Increase in number of pigs in 2024

## Fewer bovines, sheep and goats than in the previous year

Vienna, 2025-02-14 – On 1 December 2024, a total of 1.82 million bovines were kept in Austria, 0.8% fewer than a year earlier, as Statistics Austria reports. Sheep and goat numbers also fell in the same period, while the number of pigs increased by 0.7% to 2.53 million. In 2024, more pigs, sheep and poultry were slaughtered, but fewer bovines, goats and equids such as horses and donkeys.

### **Bovine population: Fewer bovine animals aged one to under two years**

1.82 million cattle were kept across Austria on the reference date 1 December 2024. Compared to the 1 December 2023, this represents a decrease of 0.8% or 15 400 animals. The stock of **bovine animals less than one year old** increased by 0.3% to 579 200 (see table 1). While the number of calves for slaughter fell to 39 000 (–6.1%), that of other calves and young bovine animals rose to 540 100 (+0.8%).

With a total of 415 100 animals, the stock of **bovine animals aged one to less than two years old** dropped by 2.7%. Declines were recorded for male bovines (–4.0% to 156 700) as well as for heifers for slaughter (–2.3% to 62 600) and heifers for production and breeding (–1.7% to 195 800).

In the age group of **bovine animals two years old and over**, the number fell by 0.7% to 825 800. Compared to December 2023, the stocks for male bovines (+3.3% to 24 500 animals), heifers for slaughter (+4.8% to 16 600) as well as heifers for production and breeding (+2.0% to 94 200) rose, while the number of dairy cows (–1.3% to 535 800) and other cows (–1.3% to 154 700) declined.

The number of **holdings** with bovine animals on the reference day decreased by 1.9% to 50 400 compared to the previous year. The average livestock density remained at 36 animals per holding.

### **Pig population: More pigs for fattening**

With an increase of 0.7% or 18 000 animals the pig population rose to a total of 2.53 million as of 1 December 2024. Compared to the previous year, the number of **piglets and young pigs** declined by 0.4% to 1.24 million and that of **pigs for breeding** by 1.2% to 204 600. The number of **pigs for fattening** on the other hand increased by 2.4% to a total of 1.09 million (see table 2).

In a detailed comparison, the number of piglets rose by 1.5% to 614 500, while that of young pigs dropped by 2.3% to 627 600. Compared to December 2023, increases were recorded in all three weight groups of pigs for fattening. The stock of animals weighing 50 to less than 80 kg rose by 1.5% to 512 700, that weighing 80 to less than 110 kg by 2.5% to 441 700 and pigs weighing more than 110 kg increased by 5.9% to 133 400. Among pigs for breeding there were 0.3% more young breeding sows (41 000) and 1.4% fewer old breeding sows (160 400). The stock of covered sows fell to 139 700 (–3.4%).

The share of the Austrian federal provinces most relevant for pig production (Upper Austria, Lower Austria and Styria) slightly increased to 94.1% of the total stock (2023: 93.8%).

The number of **holdings** with pigs on the reference day declined by 6.5% to 16 600 compared to the previous year. The average livestock density was 153 pigs per holding (2023: 142 pigs).

### **Sheep and goat population decreased again**

The total numbers of sheep (–0.2% to 390 900) and goats (–1.2% to 95 800) fell once more (see table 2), while the stock of ewes and ewe lambs put to the ram increased by 0.3% to 232 900, that of other sheep

declined by 1.1% to 158 000. Compared to the previous year, the number of goats mated or goats that have already kidded fell by 3.6% to 60 600 animals, while the stock of other goats rose by 3.3% to 35 200.

### Slaughterings: Decline in bovines, more pigs

In 2024, a total of 608 900 bovines were slaughtered in Austria, 1.9% less than in the previous year. This corresponds to a carcass weight of 203 500 tonnes of beef (-0.5%). The number of pigs slaughtered increased slightly by 0.1% to 4.66 million in the same period. The carcass weight produced rose to a total of 457 800 tonnes of pork (+0.8%). There was also an increase in sheep slaughtered, the number rose to 339 200 (+2.1%) and the carcass weight to 6 900 tonnes of sheep meat (+1.4%). In contrast, there was a decline in goats, with slaughterings falling to 68 900 (-14.2%) and the carcass weight to 736 tonnes of goat meat (-7.0%). A decrease was also recorded in equid slaughterings, with the number dropping to 276 (-41.0%) and the carcass weight to 64 tonnes (-38.1%).

Considering all the animal species mentioned, a total of 669 000 tonnes of red meat (+0.4%) was produced in 2024. In addition, 106.21 million (+4.8%) poultry slaughterings were recorded, resulting in a total carcass weight of 162 000 tonnes (+7.6%) for all types of preparation (see table 3).

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

**Table 1: Number of bovine animals on 1 December 2024**

Category	01.12.2023	01.12.2024	Change in %
<b>Bovine animals in total</b>	1 835 469	<b>1 820 026</b>	-0.8
Bovine animals less than 1 year old	577 237	<b>579 166</b>	+0.3
Bovine animals 1 to less than 2 years old	426 555	<b>415 097</b>	-2.7
Bovine animals 2 years old and over	831 677	<b>825 763</b>	-0.7
<b>Holdings with bovine animals</b>	51 401	<b>50 401</b>	-1.9

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Bovine livestock, Agrarmarkt Austria, Rinderzucht Austria, Consumer health information system.

**Table 2: Number of pigs, sheep and goats on 1 December 2024**

Category	01.12.2023	01.12.2024	Change in %
<b>Pigs in total</b>	2 516 455	<b>2 534 439</b>	+0.7
Piglets and young pigs below 50 kg live weight	1 247 627	<b>1 242 086</b>	-0.4
Pigs for fattening, 50 kg live weight and above	1 061 829	<b>1 087 784</b>	+2.4
Pigs for breeding, 50 kg live weight and above	206 999	<b>204 569</b>	-1.2
<b>Holdings with pigs</b>	17 756	<b>16 608</b>	-6.5
<b>Sheep in total</b>	391 868	<b>390 939</b>	-0.2
<b>Goats in total</b>	96 941	<b>95 811</b>	-1.2

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Livestock survey.

**Table 3: Number of slaughtering in total and carcass weight 2024**

Category	Slaughterings in total, head	Change in %	Carcass weight in tonnes	Change in %
Equids	276	-41,0	64	-38.1
Bovine animals	608 941	-1,9	203 474	-0.5
Pigs	4 661 336	+0,1	457 837	+0.8
Sheep	339 194	+2,1	6 900	+1.4
Goats	68 869	-14,2	736	-7.0
Poultry	106 212 835	+4,8	161 975	+7,6

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Slaughter statistics, poultry production.

**Information on methodology, definitions:** The statistics on **livestock** 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.

The data on the **stock of pigs, sheep and goats** was collected by a separate livestock sample survey at around 7 000 holdings.

**Slaughtering:** These statistics provide information on the number of domestic and foreign origin livestock slaughtered in Austria (examined/fit for human consumption; not examined) and the corresponding carcass weight. It is based on data from the consumer health information system, the Carinthian veterinary administration, the Austrian meat control, the Austrian sheep and goat trading exchange and poultry slaughterhouses with at least 5 000 poultry slaughtered per calendar year.

**Examined/fit for human consumption slaughtering:** Animals slaughtered in slaughterhouses, meat examined and fit for human consumption.

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