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2025 fewer cattle and pigs in Austria

More sheep and goats compared to 2024

Vienna, 2026-02-16 – A total of 1.81 million bovines were kept in Austria on the reference date 1 December 2025, 0.3% fewer than a year earlier, as Statistics Austria reports. The number of pigs fell by 2.2% to 2.48 million during the same period, while the number of sheep and goats increased. In 2025, more pigs and chicken were slaughtered, but fewer bovines, sheep, goats and equids such as horses and donkeys.

Bovines: More bovine animals aged one to under two years

On the reference date 1 December 2025, a total of 1.81 million bovines were kept in Austria. Compared to December 2024, this represents a decrease of 0.3% or 5 300 animals. The stock of **bovine animals less than one year old** decreased by 1.4% to 571 000 (see table 1). The number of calves for slaughter fell to 36 000 (–7.9%) and that of other calves and young bovine animals to 535 000 (–1.0%).

The stock of **bovine animals aged one to less than two years old** rose by 1.8% to a total of 422 500 animals. Increases were recorded for male bovines (+2.2% to 160 100) as well as for heifers for slaughter (+1.5% to 63 500) and heifers for production and breeding (+1.6% to 198 800).

In the age group of **bovine animals two years old and over**, the number declined by 0.5% to 821 300. Compared to December 2024, the stock of male bovines remained unchanged ($\pm 0.0\%$; 24 500 animals). The stocks of heifers for slaughter (+3.9% to 17 300) and dairy cows (+0.1% to 536 200) increased, while the numbers of heifers for production and breeding (–1.2% to 93 000) and other cows (–2.9% to 150 200) dropped.

Compared to the previous year, the number of **holdings** with bovine animals on the reference date decreased by 2.1% to 49 300. The average livestock density was 37 animals per holding (December 2024: 36 bovines).

Pigs: Declines in almost all pig categories

With a total of 2.48 million animals, the number of pigs decreased by 2.2% or 55 400 animals on the reference date 1 December 2025 compared to the previous year. The number of **piglets and young pigs** declined by 1.6% to 1.22 million and that of **pigs for breeding** by 2.9% to 198 700. The stock of **pigs for fattening** fell by 2.7% to a total of 1.06 million (see table 2).

In a detailed comparison, the number of piglets dropped by 2.3% to 600 600 and that of young pigs by 1.0% to 621 300. Among pigs for fattening the stock of animals weighing 50 to less than 80 kg fell by 2.2% to 501 300 and that weighing 80 to less than 110 kg declined by 4.8% to 420 600, while the number of pigs weighing more than 110 kg rose by 2.4% to 136 600. Among pigs for breeding, there were 0.1% fewer young breeding sows (40 900) and 3.4% fewer old breeding sows (154 900). The stock of covered sows fell to 136 600 (–2.2%).

The share of the Austrian federal provinces most relevant for pig production (Upper Austria, Lower Austria and Styria) remained unchanged with 94.1% of the total stock, compared to the previous year.

The number of **holdings** with pigs on the reference date declined by 4.7% to 15 800. The average livestock density was 157 pigs per holding (2024: 153 pigs).

More sheep and goats

With an increase of 2.7% the total number of sheep on the reference date 1 December 2025 rose to 401 500 animals (see table 2). The number of ewes and ewe lambs put to the ram increased by 0.3% to 233 600 and that of other sheep by 6.2% to 167 900. Compared to the previous year, the goat population rose by 1.7% to 97 400. The number of breeding female goats increased by 1.5% to 61 600 and that of other goats by 2.0% to 35 900.

Slaughterings 2025: more pigs, fewer bovines

In 2025, 4.77 million pigs were slaughtered in Austria, 2.3% more than in 2024. The total carcass weight produced thus rose to 471 600 tonnes of pork (+3.0%). In contrast, bovine slaughterings fell by 3.6% year-on-year to 587 100 in 2025. The carcass weight amounted to 198 300 tonnes of beef (-2.5%). The number of sheep slaughtered in 2025 fell to 319 300 (-5.9%), the carcass weight declined to 6 500 tonnes of sheep meat (-5.3%). Declines were also recorded for goats, with slaughterings falling to 60 400 (-12.2%) and the carcass weight to 658 tonnes of goat meat (-10.6%). The number of equid slaughterings dropped to 212 (-23.2%) and the carcass weight to 47 tonnes (-25.4%, see table 3).

Considering all the animal species mentioned, a total of 677 200 tonnes of red meat (+1.2%) was produced in 2025. Furthermore, 108.14 million (+3.4%) chicken slaughterings were recorded, resulting in a total carcass weight of 161 300 tonnes of chicken meat (+7.3%).

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

Table 1: Number of bovine animals on 1 December 2025

| Category | 01.12.2024 | 01.12.2025 | Change in % |
|---|------------|------------------|-------------|
| Bovine animals in total | 1 820 026 | 1 814 683 | -0.3 |
| Bovine animals less than 1 year old | 579 166 | 570 955 | -1.4 |
| Bovine animals 1 to less than 2 years old | 415 097 | 422 478 | +1.8 |
| Bovine animals 2 years old and over | 825 763 | 821 250 | -0.5 |
| Holdings with bovine animals | 50 401 | 49 345 | -2.1 |

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

Table 2: Number of pigs, sheep and goats on 1 December 2025

| Category | 01.12.2024 | 01.12.2025 | Change in % |
|---|------------|------------------|-------------|
| Pigs in total | 2 534 439 | 2 479 050 | -2.2 |
| Piglets and young pigs below 50 kg live weight | 1 242 086 | 1 221 906 | -1.6 |
| Pigs for fattening, 50 kg live weight and above | 1 087 784 | 1 058 482 | -2.7 |
| Pigs for breeding, 50 kg live weight and above | 204 569 | 198 662 | -2.9 |
| Holdings with pigs | 16 608 | 15 820 | -4.7 |
| Sheep in total | 390 939 | 401 540 | +2.7 |
| Goats in total | 95 811 | 97 436 | +1.7 |

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Livestock survey.

Table 3: Number of slaughtering in total and carcass weight 2025

| Category | Slaughterings in total, head | Change in % | Carcass weight in tonnes | Change in % |
|----------------|------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| Equids | 212 | -23.2 | 47 | -25.4 |
| Bovine animals | 587 071 | -3.6 | 198 336 | -2.5 |
| Pigs | 4 768 871 | +2.3 | 471 612 | +3.0 |
| Sheep | 319 349 | -5.9 | 6 538 | -5.3 |
| Goats | 60 445 | -12.2 | 658 | -10.6 |
| Chicken | 108 142 137 | +3.4 | 161 350 | +7.3 |

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Slaughter statistics.

Information on methodology, definitions: These statistics are based on regulation (EU) No 2023/2745 concerning animal production statistics; implemented under Ordinance Federal Law Gazette II No. 420/2024 (available in German only) issued by the Federal Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Regions 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.

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 Manuela Lenk, Director General Statistics, and Franz Haslauer, Director General Finance.

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