

Extensive fruit growing 2020

Impressum

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Content

Impressum **2**

Content..... **3**

Extensive fruit growing **4**

Number of trees as base for production..... 4

Drawing conclusions on total number of fruit trees..... 5

Table directory..... **7**

Extensive fruit growing

Number of trees as base for production

Based on EU-Regulation 543/2009 and the national Regulation on plant production statistics (BGBl II Nr. 83/2012) Statistics Austria is obliged to determine the production amounts of extensive fruit growing ("Streuobst") from agricultural holdings. The production is calculated by multiplying the average yield per tree – according to the voluntary harvest reporters – with the number of existing trees. Since the beginning of harvest records the number of trees has been surveyed irregularly; between these surveys the number was adapted from time to time by experts' estimations in order to obtain a usable base for the harvest calculations.

Until the eighties, various surveys, such as the farm structure survey, microcensus or land use survey, served as basis. After an interruption of 20 years, the most important fruit species, Apples, Pears and Plums, were recorded in the course of the farm structure survey 2010. Based on these records, a comprehensive update of the tree number within the agricultural sector could be managed in 2012. The survey results gave a good foundation, which due to incomplete consideration of fruit species and presumed under-coverage has been complemented by additional estimations.

The latest update of the tree population was made in the course of the **farm structure survey 2020**, when, for the first time, all important tree species, including the category "Others" were recorded anew. That is why a full set on basis data is available again. Beginning with 2022, these results build an important basis for the calculation of extensive fruit production in the frame of crop statistics (Table 1).

Compared with the former published figures, a decline of 18 % of the total population is recorded within the last 10 years. This value falls within the range of expert's estimations of 2-3 % reduction per year and thus is lower as would have been expected considering the continuous decline of overaged trees alone. This indicates that the backward trend is already slowing down a little due to new plantations – not least thanks to aimed funding programs. However, a detailed comparison of the figures on regional level or by fruit species is only possible to a limited extent due to the different methods.

Table 1 Extensive fruit growing 2020, number of fruit trees

Federal province	In total	Apple	Pear	Plum	Cherry	Apricot	Walnut	Other ¹
Burgenland	79 218	33 630	7 468	9 685	6 569	5 740	7 015	9 111
Carinthia	243 194	116 626	41 921	37 347	17 946	4 713	18 658	5 983
Lower Austria	575 680	191 230	165 214	91 626	36 580	26 923	30 738	33 369
Upper Austria	660 542	249 830	198 334	94 358	44 830	15 550	40 118	17 522
Salzburg	86 394	31 356	13 317	19 099	7 578	3 318	3 723	8 003
Styria	549 436	283 827	65 579	77 908	38 511	11 193	42 233	30 185
Tyrol	81 938	36 226	14 492	13 701	6 373	4 298	2 754	4 094
Vorarlberg	25 803	12 364	7 564	2 352	1 579	259	1 137	548
Vienna	941	276	124	168	98	66	115	94
Austria	2 303 146	955 365	514 013	346 244	160 064	72 060	146 491	108 909

S: Statistics Austria, Farm structure survey 2020.

1) Includes also not elsewhere classified, mixed tree populations.

Additional information: Extensive fruit growing as considered in the farm structure survey includes **exclusively tree populations of active agricultural holdings**. The private sector, which involves also former agricultural tree populations, is excluded.

Drawing conclusions on total number of fruit trees

Based on the figures of agricultural extensive fruit growing according to the farm structure survey 2020, an estimate of the total number of fruit trees was made in cooperation with experts from ARGE Streuobst. This was done taking into account the historical development, regional studies (mapping) and the expertise of regional experts. The point-shaped landscape elements recorded by Agrarmarkt Austria were also used for comparison purposes.

The central aspect in determining the total tree number was the estimation of the agricultural share, the quantification of which subsequently allows conclusions to be drawn about the entire tree number. While in agriculture in the last 10 years due to overageing, poor maintenance and felling as well as relocation of land to the private sector, declines, albeit to a slowed extent, have consistently been recorded, in the private sector minor

declines or even stable conditions can be assumed. A better state of maintenance, ongoing replanting and "shifts" of agricultural land into the private sector (e.g. due to farm closure or handover) play a major role here. On the other hand, especially in orchards close to settlements, the tree populations are endangered by increasing building development, since these are often located on designated construction sites.

The decline in the entire fruit tree number over the last 10 years is estimated at 11 %, which is a clear easing compared to the previous historical development.

Table 2 Extensive fruit growing 2020, number of fruit trees in total (estimated)

Federal province	In total¹	Agricultural sector	Non agricultural sector¹
Burgenland	283 000	79 218	204 000
Carinthia	405 000	243 194	162 000
Lower Austria	959 000	575 680	384 000
Upper Austria	1 065 000	660 542	405 000
Salzburg	123 000	86 394	37 000
Styria	845 000	549 436	296 000
Tyrol	410 000	81 938	328 000
Vorarlberg	86 000	25 803	60 000
Vienna	19 000	941	18 000
Austria	4 196 000	2 303 146	1 893 000

S: Statistics Austria, Farm structure survey 2020 (agriculture); Statistics Austria/ARGE Streuobst, estimation of total number.

1) Figures rounded.

Table directory

Table 1 Extensive fruit growing 2020, Number of fruit trees	5
Table 2 Extensive fruit growing 2020, Number of fruit trees in total (estimated)	6