

Standard-documentation Meta information

(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

Aquaculture Production Survey

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Executive Summary

Statistics on aquaculture production record data on the production of food fish, juveniles and fish eggs and on the structure of the enterprises engaged in this production. They are compiled annually as primary statistics in the form of a full survey. This involves contacting all enterprises that can be assumed to have been engaged in such production in the previous calendar year.

The survey was first conducted nationally in 1996 (on the 1995 production year). It has been based on the ministerial decree in Federal Law Gazette (BGBl.) II No. 344/2012 since 2012 (on the 2011 production year; also start of the validity of this documentation) and has been implemented in a far more comprehensive form than in previous years. The associated changes in survey modalities (extended range of characteristics, survey at enterprise level, etc.) have also resulted in striking breaks in the time series. Consequently, results up to the 2010 production year can only be compared with the results of subsequent years to a limited extent, if at all.

The annual population is formed by the active enterprises in Statistics Austria's Aquaculture Production Database (AQ-DB), which also contains all data from previous surveys. The Veterinary Information System (VIS) and other sources are used to update this basic data and add other enterprises as promptly as possible before the survey commences (see [Figure 1](#)).

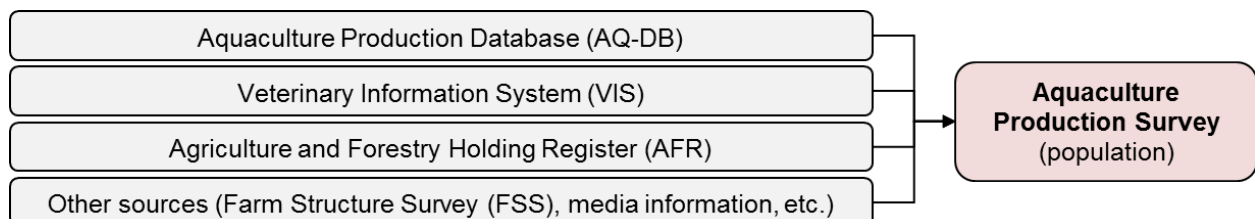


Figure 1: Data sources forming the population of the Aquaculture Production Survey

The basic problem when forming the annual population is that the data sources available do not contain a clear characteristic that would indicate actual aquaculture production (within the meaning of the EU regulation). Although all enterprises contacted for the first time can be linked to aquaculture, none of the data sources shown in [Figure 1](#) clearly indicates whether this is also connected to market activity. Depending on the sources used and developments there, the population of the number of enterprises fluctuates fairly significantly in some years, but usually hovers around the 1 000 mark.

Participation in the survey is mandatory for all respondents and is based on the following principles:

Aquaculture – i.e. in the present case the farming of fish – implies some form of intervention in the rearing process to enhance production, such as regular stocking, feeding and protection from predators. Farming also implies individual or corporate ownership of, and/or rights resulting from contractual arrangements to, the stock being cultivated.

However, fish which are exploited by the public as a common property resource, with or without appropriate licences, are included in the **fisheries** sector.

Aquaculture production refers to the volume of fish produced under the circumstances described above which – whether live or raw or in processed form (e.g. smoked or as a fish dish) – has been sold or distributed on the basis of a contract including this performance (e.g. in connection with the stocking of waters in the wild).

Aquaculture Production Survey – Main Features	
Subject matter	Survey of production in aquaculture facilities and associated production conditions (such as, for example, types of facilities and causes of production losses)
Population	Domestic enterprises with farming of aquaculture facilities
Type of statistics	Primary statistical survey
Data sources/Survey techniques	<p><u>Data sources</u>: population (master data) formed from the Veterinary Information System (VIS) and Agriculture and Forestry Register (AFR) using domestic enterprises that are registered with at least one aquaculture establishment</p> <p><u>Survey format</u>: full survey (conducted using questionnaires sent by post; all relevant documents are also available in electronic format (PDF, in German only) from the Statistics Austria website)</p> <p><u>Return of questionnaires</u>: 50% by post; 20% each by email and telephone; 10% by fax</p>
Reference period or due day	Calendar year
Periodicity	Annual
Survey participation (in case of a survey)	Obligatory
Main legal acts	<p><u>National</u>: Federal Law Gazette (BGBl.) II No. 344/2012 [in German] Decree of the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management relating to statistics on aquaculture production 2012, of 15 October 2012</p> <p><u>EU</u>: Regulation (EC) No 762/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008 on the submission by Member States of statistics on aquaculture and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 788/96</p>
Most detailed regional breakdown	Austria
Availability of results	Within a year of the end of the reporting period
Other	<p>The definition of enterprise in aquaculture production goes beyond that of ONACE Section A 03.22 Freshwater aquaculture. The decisive factor is whether or not market activities were performed in connection with the aquaculture activity.</p> <p>Definitions:</p> <p><u>Production year</u>: calendar year (t) in which production takes place</p> <p><u>Survey year</u>: calendar year (t+1) in which the survey on the production year takes place</p>