

Standard-documentation - Meta information

Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

Producer prices in agriculture and forestry

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Executive Summary

The basket of goods for producer price statistics in agriculture and forestry currently includes around 216 products from the animal, crop and forestry sectors. The prices are weighted according to Laender (federal provinces) prices without value added tax, which are aggregated to give a federal average price.

Prices which the producer receives on the first marketing stage ("farm gate") for his (animal, vegetable) products. These prices are net prices, excluding VAT and transport costs. Both monthly and annual average prices are calculated.

The price data are collected in close collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism (BMNT), Agrarmarkt Austria (AMA) and the Austrian Chamber of Agriculture (LKÖ).

Slaughterhouses, cattle markets, agricultural producer- and consisting marketing, Austrian Chamber of Agriculture in the Laender, agricultural and forestry holdings, Agrarmarkt Austria are the most important data sources.

Producer price statistics (PP statistics) provide the basis for:

- calculating value of agricultural and forestry product fields as part of the Economic Accounts for Agriculture and Forestry (EAAF);
- compiling revenue indices as part of the Agriculture and Forestry Indices;
- analysing time series in connection with agricultural and socioeconomic issues.

Market requirements in the agricultural sector influence both product and price development and thus also PP statistics. As a result, PP statistics are subject to a continuous updating process. This process relates to both the basket of goods (products, target definitions) and methodological principles, and takes place in line with EU guidelines. The work required for this process is carried out in consultation with national experts and subsequently documented.

In product-specific working groups, taking into account producer and marketer, all products of the shopping basket as well as their price-determined elements are discussed regularly and adapted accordingly to the market conditions.

Monthly and annual results are published on the internet.

Producer prices in agriculture and forestry – Main Features

Subject Matter	Prices in agricultural and forestry which the producer receives on the first marketing stage for his products. These prices are net prices, excluding value added tax and transport costs. Both monthly and annual average prices are calculated.
Population	Agricultural and forestry producers
Type of statistics	Secondary statistics (including direct questioning of marketing bodies and producers' organisations)
Data sources/Survey techniques	Slaughterhouses, cattle markets, agricultural producer- and consisting marketing, Austrian Chamber of Agriculture in the Laender, agricultural and forestry holdings, Agrarmarkt Austria
Reference period or due day	Month/Year
Periodicity	Monthly and annual
Survey participation (in case of a survey)	The price survey is based on the principle of voluntariness
Main legal acts	None. However, PP statistics are indirectly governed by Regulation (EC) No 138/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 December 2003 on the economic accounts for agriculture in the Community.
Most detailed regional breakdown	Laender (federal provinces)
Availability of results	Monthly results: t+35 Annual results: t+45
Other	-

1. General information

1.1 Objective and purpose, history

The compilation of comprehensive agricultural producer price statistics commenced in 1970 on the basis of an agreement between the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, the chambers of agriculture in the individual Laender (federal provinces), and the former Austrian Statistical Central Office. The aim of this effort was to set up an instrument, standardized throughout Austria, to show price developments for products on the agricultural markets (time series) as well as levels of income in agriculture and forestry (indices). To this end, a working group was established that comprised representatives from the Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism, the Austrian Chamber of Agriculture (previously known as the Standing Committee of Presidents of the Chambers of Agriculture), the provincial chambers of agriculture, the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, and the Federal Institute of Agricultural Economics (previously known as the Agricultural Institute). A price reporting system was subsequently set up, which was standardized for all the Laender (excluding Vienna). The results of the producer price statistics for agriculture and forestry were published for the first time in January 1972.

At a national level too, there was increasing public interest in producer price statistics due to EU accession. In order to comply with both national and international specifications, the concept of producer price statistics was fundamentally revised and adapted to meet current requirements when Austria acceded to the EU. The objective of this revision was to produce price statistics that fulfil all requirements of the very different users – at both a national and international level – and that provide the data required for their purposes.

For that purpose, a steering committee was established in 1996. The committee was chaired by the Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism (BMNT) and also comprised representatives from the Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO), Agrarmarkt Austria (AMA), the Austrian Chamber of Agriculture, LBG Wirtschaftstreuhand- und Beratungsgesellschaft mbH. (LBG), the Federal Institute of Agricultural Economics (AWI) and Statistics Austria. The basket of goods used at the time and the price recording system were fundamentally revised by product-specific working groups. Finally, the changes were presented to the steering committee and approved by the committee. The relevant working groups have been and are still convened as and when required, i.e. when fundamental changes occur in the PP system.

The data on agricultural and forestry producer prices serves the following national and international purposes:

- compilation of the Economic Accounts for Agriculture (EAA) (although these accounts are governed by Regulation (EC) No 138/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 December 2003 on the economic accounts for agriculture in the Community, they take the specific attributes of agriculture into account);
- basis for decisions on agricultural policy taken as part of the Common Agricultural Policy
- instrument for monitoring trends on the agricultural markets, in national and international comparisons;
- contribution to the report on the state of affairs in Austrian agriculture under § 9 of the Agricultural Act (Green Report);
- calculation of the agricultural indices (national and international), including estimates for the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat).

1.2 Contracting entity

- Ordered pursuant to § 4 (1) of the [Federal Statistics Act 2000](#)
- Agreement with the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (2003)

1.3 3 Main users

Main national users of the statistics

- Federal Ministries
- Federal Chancellery
- Political Institutions (National Council, Federal Council)
- Representations of interests (e.g. chambers, social partners)
- Austrian Federal Institutions
- Statistics Austria; Regional Economy and National Economy directorates
- Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO)
- Federal Institute of Agricultural Economics (AWI)
- Agrarmarkt Austria (AMA)
- Private enterprises and individuals (LBG Consulting GmbH)
- University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences
- Federal Institute for Less Favoured Mountainous Areas

Main international users of the statistics

- Statistical Office of the European Communities
- European Commission, Directorate General for Agriculture
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- Embassies

1.4 Legal basis

National legal basis: None.

The compilation of producer price statistics for agriculture and forestry is governed by the 2003 agreement between the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (principal) and Statistics Austria (agent).

EU legal basis: None.

None. However, PP statistics are indirectly based on Regulation (EC) No 138/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 December 2003 on the economic accounts for agriculture in the Community

The results are made available to Eurostat on the basis of a gentlemen's agreement.

2. Concepts and Processing

2.1 Statistical concepts and methodology

2.1.1 Statistical purpose

Monthly producer prices at the first marketing stage (excluding value added tax) for precisely defined agricultural and forestry products (Laender)

2.1.2 Observed unit / reporting unit / presentation unit

Agricultural and forestry production marketed by producers/producers' organisations/sales events.

Animals and animal products

- Pigs, carcass; pigs for production and breeding
- Cattle, carcass; cattle for production and breeding
- Horses, lambs, sheep (live)
- Poultry; eggs; cows' milk
- Honey; fish; game

Crop products

- Cereals; grain legumes; oil seeds
- Potatoes; sugar beets
- Hay; straw
- Fresh vegetables; vegetables for processing
- Fruit; wine

Forestry products

- Long wood; saw logs
- Pulpwood; groundwood
- Firewood

2.1.3 Data sources, coverage

- Slaughterhouses pursuant to § 3 para. 3 of the Cattle Reporting Regulation
- Auctions of breeding and production animals
- Pig and piglet sales organisations
- Sheep and goat breeding associations
- Poultry fattening and slaughter plants
- Egg packaging and delivery centres
- Dairy product establishments

- Buyers of cereals and oil seeds
- Sugar and starch industry
- Field vegetable and horticultural holdings
- Fruit and vegetable producers' organisations
- Fruit and vegetable processing industry
- Viticultural establishments and wine growers' cooperatives
- Fish farmers' association
- Beekeepers' association
- Forestry establishments and wood processing industry
- Farmers

The coverage varies depending on data source and product.

2.1.4 Reporting unit and respondents

The survey units comprise the marketing and administrative organisations in the various agricultural sectors:

- Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management
- Agrarmarkt Austria
- Austrian Chamber of Agriculture
- Provincial chambers of agriculture
- Agricultural associations and producers' organisations

The respondents comprise price reporters selected by the survey units.

2.1.5 Survey format

No surveys are conducted by Statistics Austria, since it is primarily secondary statistical data that forms the basis for further calculations. For a small number of products, however, representative prices are requested directly from the experts at the provincial chambers of agriculture and the trade associations:

- Production cattle, horses, sheep, goats, game
- Eggs (agricultural goods), fish, honey
- Hay, straw, poppy seed

2.1.6 Sample characteristics

Not relevant.

2.1.7 Survey techniques / data transmission

Data acquisition

- Use of administrative data
- Internet (market reports)
- Use of questionnaires
- Telephone interviews

Data transfer

- e-mail
- Post
- Telephone and fax

2.1.8 Survey questionnaire (including explanatory notes)

Questionnaires on the following product groups are supplied to respondents at the provincial chambers of agriculture:

- [Production livestock, other livestock for slaughter](#) (horses, sheep, lambs; available in German only)
- [Game](#) (available in German only)
- [Field crops](#) (available in German only)
- [Vegetables](#) (available in German only)
- [Fruit](#) (available in German only)
- [Wine](#) (available in German only)
- [Wood](#) (available in German only)
- [Eggs](#) (available in German only)

2.1.9 Survey participation

The data used to compile PP statistics is forwarded on a voluntary basis under an agreement between the BMNT, the Austrian Chamber of Agriculture and Statistics Austria.

2.1.10 Variables surveyed and derived, indicators (including definitions)

Net prices at the first marketing stage, unit of quantity and quantity sold.

The definitions of the products in the basket of goods were formulated in collaboration with the BMNT, the Austrian Chamber of Agriculture, LBG Wirtschaftstreuhand- und Beratungsgesellschaft mbH, the Institute of Economic Research, the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, and Agrarmarkt Austria.

During working group meetings at Eurostat, requirements of PP statistics – including the requirements relating to the Common Agricultural Policy – are discussed by the Directorate General for Agriculture, Eurostat and the member states, and implemented as far as possible.

Current product and price definitions:

Pigs for slaughter

- Prices free slaughterhouse minus transport costs
- Prices per kg of slaughtered body weight, warm weight
- Grades S, E, U, R, O, P
- Grades (S-P) overall

Breeding pigs

- Prices from the buyer (auction) to the producer
- Prices per animal

Piglets

- Prices from the buyer (auction, brokerage) to the producer
- Prices per kg of live weight

Cattle for slaughter

- Prices free slaughterhouse minus transport costs
- Prices per kg of slaughtered body weight, cold weight
- Grades E, U, R, O, P
- Grades (E-P) overall

Calves for slaughter

- Prices free slaughterhouse minus transport costs
- Prices per kg of slaughtered body weight, cold weight
- Weight categories: <95 kg, >95 kg

Breeding and production cattle

- Prices from the buyer (auction) to the producer
- Prices per animal

Sheep and lambs

- Prices from the buyer to the producer
- Prices per kg of live weight

Broiler poultry

- Contract prices
- Prices per 100 kg of live weight

Cows' milk

- Price paid by dairies
- Prices per 100 kg with 4.2% fat and 3.4% protein
- Prices per 100 kg with 3.7% fat and 3.4% protein

Eggs

- Contract goods: by type of farming (barn, free range, organic production) and size categories (S, M, L and XL)
- Direct sales: (to end consumers) Barn System; size category L
- Prices from the buyer to the producer
- Prices per 100 eggs

Cereals and oil seeds

- Prices from the cooperatives or the trade to the producer
- Prices per tonne

Table potatoes

- Prices from the buyer to the producer
- Prices per 1000 kg

Starch potatoes

- Contract prices in the starch industry
- Prices per 1000 kg

Sugar beets

- At real sugar content of the given harvest
- At 16% sugar content (standard quality)
- Price paid by the sugar factory

Fresh vegetables

- Prices from the trade or end consumer to the producer
- Prices per 100 kg

Vegetables for processing

- Contract prices in the processing industry
- Prices per 100 kg

Fresh fruit

- Prices from the trade or end consumer to the producer
- Prices per 100 kg

Wine

- Prices from the cooperative or the trade to the producer
- Prices per 100 l

Wood

- Long wood: log length >6 m of strengths 1b, 2b and 3a, grade B
- Saw logs: log length <6 m of strengths 1a, 1b, 2b and 3a, grade B
- Industrial wood: pulpwood and groundwood
- Firewood: hard and soft
- Prices ex drivable forest road

2.1.11 Classifications used

No specific classifications. The product descriptions and definitions described above under *Data surveyed and depicted* apply.

2.1.12 Regional breakdown of the results

Austria, Laender (federal provinces)

2.2 Production of statistics, processing, quality assurance measures

2.2.1 Data capture

The prices are aggregated using Excel to give monthly and annual results. The calculations are product-specific and take the given market and organisational structures into account. In principle, the weighted average is used in PP statistics. Product-specific annual structural data is used as the weighting basis for products where the quantity marketed cannot be recorded.

Price editing for animals and animal products

Pigs, cattle and calves for slaughter

Slaughterhouse prices by grade of goods are available on a monthly basis and are weighted at provincial and national level (current sales). The relevant transport costs are deducted from this figure.

Annual provincial average: weighted average of the monthly prices (weighting: current sales data).

Annual national average: weighted average of the monthly prices (weighting: current sales data).

Cattle for fattening, male from 220 kg, cows in calf, heifers, and horses, sheep and lambs

Provincial prices are reported monthly by the provincial chambers of agriculture and are

weighted with the annual stock data from the livestock census results to give a national average.

Annual provincial average: arithmetic average of the monthly prices.

Annual national average: annual provincial average weighted with the annual stock data from the livestock census results.

Cattle and pigs for breeding, piglets and production calves

Current price and sales data is provided by regional sales events. The weighted monthly prices for the Länder and Austria are calculated on the basis of this data.

Annual provincial average: weighted average of the monthly prices (weighting: current sales data).

Annual national average: weighted average of the monthly prices (weighting: current sales data).

Eggs, contract goods (contracts between producers and producers' association)

Contract prices are calculated as a national average and are supplied weekly by farming type (barn, free range and organic) and size category (S, M, L and XL) by the producers' association. Average monthly and annual prices are calculated arithmetically.

Eggs, direct sales, barn System; size category L

Provincial prices are reported monthly by the provincial chambers of agriculture and are weighted with the annual data from the laying hens register to give a national average.

Annual provincial average: arithmetic average of the monthly prices.

Annual national average: annual provincial average weighted with the annual stock data from the livestock census results.

Poultry (chickens, turkeys)

Contract prices (contract between fattening farms and abattoirs) are calculated as a national average for fattening animals and are supplied monthly by the Austrian Chamber of Agriculture.

Annual national average: arithmetic average of the monthly prices.

Milk

Data on the prices paid by dairies is collected by AMA and supplied on a monthly basis (weighted national average).

Annual average (national): calculated by AMA on the basis of the dairies' accounting data.

Honey

National average from industry goods and direct marketing (beekeepers' association).

Annual national average: arithmetic average of the monthly prices.

Fish

National average for carp and trout (fish farmers' association).

Annual national average: arithmetic average of the monthly prices.

Game

Provincial prices are weighted with the data from the annual hunting statistics to give a national average.

Annual provincial average: arithmetic average of the monthly prices.

Annual national average: annual provincial average weighted with the annual hunting statistics results.

Price editing for crop products

Broad beans, poppy seed, oil pumpkin seeds, hay and straw

Provincial prices from the provincial chambers of agriculture are weighted with the data from the annual harvest statistics to give a national average.

Annual provincial average: arithmetic average of the monthly prices.

Annual national average: annual provincial average weighted with the production data from the annual harvest statistics.

Cereals, oil seeds

Data on prices and market performance is collected by AMA from representative buyers and used to calculate provincial prices and the national average on a monthly basis.

Annual provincial average: weighted average of the monthly prices (weighting: market performance data).

Annual national average: weighted average of the monthly prices (weighting: market performance data).

The annual averages are calculated using the monthly data for July to December (maize: October-December) in line with the harvest and delivery cycle.

Sugar beets

On conclusion of the sugar beet promotion, the sugar industry provides a weighted national average price (annual average) for the beets delivered and processed.

Duration of promotion: October-December.

Starch potatoes, table potatoes

Monthly data on the amounts paid and quantity processed is provided by the potato processing plants at the start of the promotion. The monthly national average is calculated from this data.

Duration of promotion: August-December.

Annual national average: calculated and provided by the processing plants on conclusion of the promotion.

Vegetables, fresh market

Weighted provincial prices are provided by the respondents for vegetables at the provincial chambers of agriculture and weighted with the cultivated area data from the annual harvest statistics to give a national average.

Annual provincial average: monthly prices seasonally weighted with the percentages of sales.

Annual national average: annual provincial average weighted with the cultivated area data from the annual harvest statistics.

Vegetables, for processing

Industry contract prices and quantities are available.

Annual national average: monthly prices weighted with the quantities accepted.

Fruit

Weighted provincial prices are provided by the respondents for fruit at the provincial chambers of agriculture and weighted with the production data from the annual harvest statistics to give a national average.

Annual provincial average: monthly prices seasonally weighted with the percentages of sales.

Annual national average: annual provincial average weighted with the production data from the annual fruit harvest.

Wine

Prices are provided for the key wine growing provinces of Burgenland, Lower Austria and Styria by the respondents for wine at the respective provincial chambers of agriculture and weighted with the data from the annual wine production to give a national average.

Annual provincial average: arithmetic average of the monthly prices.

Annual national average: annual provincial average weighted with the data from the annual wine harvest.

Wood

Weighted provincial prices are provided monthly by the forestry directorates at the provincial chambers of agriculture and weighted with the data from the annual felling quantity to give a national average.

Annual provincial average: arithmetic average of the monthly prices.

Annual national average: annual provincial average weighted with the data from the annual felling quantity.

2.2.2 Coding

Not relevant.

2.2.3 Editing and verification of data sources used

Completeness is checked using internal records on the seasonal marketing of products in the basket of goods. The plausibility of the prices is examined using reports on the various agricultural markets and via regular contact with experts in the field. Furthermore prices are related to their spatial and temporal development with consideration of their price-determining characteristics (e.g. amount, quality, environmental influences).

2.2.4 Imputation (where responses are missing or data incomplete)

Not relevant.

2.2.5 Grossing up procedures (weighting)

Not relevant.

2.2.6 Compilation of the final data set, (other) models and statistical estimation techniques used

Not relevant.

2.2.7 Other quality assurance measures

As a dynamic system, PP statistics are subject to continuous adjustment in line with the constantly changing conditions of the agricultural markets. The most important quality insurance measure is therefore to analyse these different developments in consultation with experts and to integrate them in producer price statistics in a suitable form. Producer prices are used by specialists in the Economic Accounts for Agriculture and Forestry and also for index calculation and are therefore subjected to another review by these specialists in accordance with their intended purpose. A continuous exchange of information takes place with this body of experts.

Further measures:

- Enhancing product and market knowledge by studying relevant specialist literature
- Monitoring trends in the different agricultural sectors
- Continuous adjustment in consultation with all key experts and with users

2.3 Publication (accessibility)

2.3.1 Preliminary results

Only relates to cereal prices. These prices are corrected retrospectively at the end of the marketing year for cereals, when the final accounts are available.

2.3.2 Final results

Monthly results: t+35.

Annual results: t+90.

2.3.3 Revisions

Preliminary data in the cereal subsectors is revised.

2.3.4 Publication media

Results are published in the following publication media from Statistics Austria:

Printed publications

- [Summary reports](#) (reports available in German only)
- Publication of Statistik der Landwirtschaft (Agricultural statistics)
- Detailed results in the [Statistische Übersichten](#) (Statistical overviews)
- [Statistisches Jahrbuch Österreichs](#) (Statistical Yearbook of Austria)
Table with annual average prices (Chapter 10)

Internet, Statistics Austria website

- [Monthly results](#)
- [Statistische Übersichten](#) (Statistical overviews)
- Agricultural prices from Austria (annually and monthly) are available in [STATcube](#) since 1998
- [Eurostat database](#) (area: agricultural products)

2.3.5 Treatment of confidential data

Not relevant

3. Quality

3.1 Relevance

PP statistics fulfil both national and international requirements. Any additional requests (time series, product definitions) from users are, wherever possible and reasonable, taken into account and satisfied by the provision of information (by telephone or e-mail) or special evaluations.

Regular discussions and working group meetings with experts guarantee that any new developments are taken into account and thus ensure the compilation of high quality price statistics.

3.2 Accuracy

Organisational and marketing structures in the agricultural sector enable prices to be calculated for a wide variety of products on the basis of current accounting data. This data includes the actual price paid as well as the quantity marketed. For other products where no information is available on quantity, product-specific weighting schemes (using basic statistics) are used to calculate average prices and thus ensure a high degree of accuracy.

3.2.1 Sampling effects

Not applicable as no sample survey conducted.

3.2.2 Non-sampling effects

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3.2.2.1 Quality of data sources used

Price recording in the context of administrative data

It can be assumed that the data is of a very high quality since it is collected by market regulatory bodies and forwarded to the Commission (DG for Agriculture) pursuant to market regulatory laws.

Price recording by survey conducted by the experts at the provincial chambers of agriculture

Here too, it can be assumed that the data is of a very high quality since the respondents have a strong interest in the price statistics results. The high level of acceptance of this data by other institutions can also be cited as further evidence of its quality.

Basic statistics used to compile the weighting schemes

See the relevant standard documentation on crop and/or animal production principles.

3.2.2.2 Coverage (misclassifications, undercoverage / overcoverage)

Not applicable.

3.2.2.3 Missing responses (unit non-response, item non-response)

Marketing and administrative organisations in the individual agricultural sectors possess records relating to current market conditions. These records are available for price statistics purposes. Missing responses therefore have no relevance.

3.2.2.4 Measurement errors (entry errors)

Not relevant.

3.2.2.5 Processing errors

Not relevant.

3.2.2.6 Model assumption effects

Not relevant.

3.3 Timeliness and punctuality

Price recording for all products is concluded within 30 days after the end of the reporting month. The results are finalised and published in the following days (up to a maximum of one week).

3.4 Comparability

3.4.1 Comparability over time

Monthly and annual time series are available since 1974. Due to different development of products and markets, time series analyses for some product groups are limited (time- or product based). A full comparability is guaranteed from 1995, the year when Austria acceded to the EU.

3.4.2 Comparability over region

With regard to the product- and price definitions the survey is comparable at EU level as well as regional at Laender level.

3.4.3 Comparability over other domains

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3.5 Coherence

Not relevant.

4. Outlook

Both the basket of goods (products, target definitions) and methodological principles relate to a continuous updating process. The work required for this process is carried out in consultation with national experts considering the EU guidelines.

Glossary

List of abbreviations

PP statistics	Producer Price statistics
EAAF	Economic Accounts for Agriculture and Forestry
EU	European Union
AMA	Agrarmarkt Austria
BMNT	Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism
AWI	Bundesanstalt für Agrarwirtschaft (Federal Institute of Agricultural Economics)
WIFO	Austrian Institute of Economic Research
EAA	Economic Accounts for Agriculture
ESA	European System of Accounts
LKÖ	Austrian Chamber of Agriculture
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization

Reference to supplementary documentation/publications

- Handbook for agricultural price statistics

Annex

- Questionnaire “livestock”
- Questionnaire “game”
- Questionnaire “field crops”
- Questionnaire “vegetables”
- Questionnaire “fruit”
- Questionnaire “wine”
- Questionnaire “wood”
- Questionnaire “eggs”