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More cattle, sheep and goats, but fewer pigs in 2021; slight increase in slaughterings

Vienna, 2022-02-16 – As of 1 December 2021, a total of 1.87 million **cattle** was kept in Austria, 0.8% or 14 700 animals more than in 2020, as Statistics Austria reports. The number of **pigs** decreased by 0.7% or 20 900 animals to a total of 2.79 million. In the same period the stock of **sheep** rose by 2.2% to 402 000 and that of **goats** by 8.5% to 101 000 animals. The number of examined **slaughterings** in 2021 remained almost unchanged compared to 2020 for cattle, while pig slaughterings increased. There were fewer slaughters than in the previous year for calves, sheep, goats and equids.

Number of cattle increased slightly

Compared to 1 December 2020, the stock of **young cattle less than one year old** increased by 2.1% to 611 000 animals. The number of calves for slaughter rose to 154 000 (+2.1%) and that of other calves and young cattle to 457 000 animals (+2.1%; see table 1).

With a plus of 1.6% the number of **young cattle one to less than two years old** increased to 421 000 animals. The stock of bulls and oxen (+3.4% to 161 000) grew as well as that of heifers for production and breeding (+0.5% to 180 000) and heifers for slaughter (+0.5% to 80 000 animals).

A decline of 0.5% to 838 000 animals was recorded in the group of **cattle aged at least two years**. Compared to the previous year, the number of heifers for slaughter (-1.1% to 18 700), heifers for production and breeding (-1.1% to 86 700) and other cows (-2.6% to 186 000) fell. While the stock of bulls and oxen (+0.4% to 20 500) and dairy cows (+0.3% to 526 000) rose.

The number of **farms keeping cattle** on the reference day decreased by 2.5% to 53 700. The average livestock density rose to 35 cattle per holding (2020: 34 cattle).

Total pig stock decreased

Compared to 2020, declines were recorded for the stocks of **pigs for breeding** (-1.1% to 228 000 animals) and **piglets and young pigs** (-1.5% to 1.38 million). The number of **pigs for fattening** (+0.2% to 1.17 million) slightly increased (see table 2).

In detail, the number of piglets (-1.4% to 655 000) and young pigs (-1.6% to 728 000 animals) dropped. While the number of pigs for fattening weighing 50 to less than 80 kg fell (-3.7% to 537 000), the number of fattening pigs weighing 80 to less than 110 kg (+4.4% to 484 000) and pigs with at least 110 kg of weight rose (+2.1% to 153 000). Among breeding sows, both the number of young breeding sows (-2.1% to 45 200) and that of old breeding sows (-1.0% to 179 000) declined. The total number of covered breeding sows fell to 158 000 animals (-2.7%).

At regional level, the share of the three most relevant **Laender** (federal states) for pig production – Upper Austria, Lower Austria and Styria – slightly increased to 93.7% of the total stock (2020: 93.6%).

More sheep and goats

The number of **sheep** increased in both categories, the number of ewes and ewe lambs put to the ram (+2.0% to 240 000 animals) and other sheep (+2.4% to 162 000). With a plus of 6.7%, compared to December 2020, the stock of **goats** that have already kidded and mated goats rose to 63 800 animals and that of other goats increased by 11.5% to 36 800 animals (see table 2).

Total number of slaughterings increased slightly in 2021

Compared to the previous year, the number of examined pig slaughterings rose by 1.2% to 5.12 million in 2021. While cattle slaughterings remained almost unchanged at 591 000 (+/-0.0%), the number of examined slaughtered calves (-1.1% to 55 600), sheep (-7.8% to 167 000), goats (-5.3% to 10 900) and equids (-1.6% to 419) decreased compared to 2020 (see table 3).

At regional level, Upper Austria reported the highest share of examined slaughterings concerning cattle (32.4%), goats (33.5%) and equids (47.3%). However, the most pig slaughterings (40.3%) took place in Styria, whereas Lower Austria was leading in sheep slaughterings (44.4%) and Tyrol in calve slaughterings (22.4%).

For more detailed results and further information concerning statistics of livestock and slaughterings please refer to our website.

Information on methods, definitions

Livestock: These statistics 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 the Association of Austrian Cattle Breeders. The administrative data were consolidated by the Federal Institute of Agricultural Economics, Rural and Mountain Research, which also subsequently processed the results.

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

Slaughterings: The statistics are based on data from the consumer health information system or the Carinthian veterinary administration.

Table 1: Number of cattle on 1 December 2021

Categories	1 December 2020	1 December 2021	Change in %
Cattle in total	1 855 432	1 870 100	+0.8
Young cattle less than 1 year old	598 598	611 007	+2.1
Young cattle 1 to less than 2 years old	414 397	421 075	+1.6
Cattle 2 years and older	842 437	838 018	-0.5
Holdings with cattle	55 019	53 656	-2.5

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA; Database: Agrarmarkt Austria; Association of Austrian Cattle Breeders; Calculations: The Federal Institute of Agricultural Economics, Rural and Mountain Research; STATISTICS AUSTRIA.

Table 2: Number of pigs, sheep and goats on 1 December 2021

Categories	1 December 2020	1 December 2021	Change in %
Pigs in total	2 806 461	2 785 587	-0.7
Piglets and young pigs below 50 kg live weight	1 404 047	1 383 058	-1.5
Pigs for fattening, 50 kg live weight and above	1 171 833	1 174 531	+0.2
Pigs for breeding, 50 kg live weight and above	230 581	227 998	-1.1
Sheep in total	393 764	402 345	+2.2
Goats in total	92 758	100 601	+8.5

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Livestock Survey.

Table 3: Examined slaughterings 2021 in head

Categories	2020	2021	Change in %
Equids	426	419	-1.6
Calves	56 262	55 646	-1.1
Cattle	590 402	590 524	+/-0.0
Pigs	5 056 515	5 115 428	+1.2
Sheep	181 512	167 387	-7.8
Goats	11 505	10 896	-5.3

S: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Consumer health information system; Carinthian veterinary service.

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