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Content

# Preface

Norbert Totschnig,
Federal Minister

Austrian farmers do so much for our society–but above all, they take care of our livelihoods and our food every day. To this end, they cultivate our meadows, fields, and mountain pastures, tend our cultivated landscape and ensure the restructuring and development of climate-fit forests. Strong price fluctuations on the markets, increasing social demands, pest infestation and climate change are just a few examples of the challenges that our farmers face on a daily basis.

This is why I initiated the VISION 2028+ strategy process. This should offer stability, provide orientation and guarantee planning and supply security for agriculture and rural areas. Around 3,000 people were involved, including many farmers, numerous stakeholders, institutions and a scientific advisory board. ogether, we have developed a clear vision for our agriculture and rural areas, set thematic priorities in seven fields of action, and developed 170 measures. The path to a future-fit agriculture has thus a solid foundation.

My aim is to ensure that we will still have a competitive, active agricultural and forestry sector and a vital rural area in 20 years. To achieve this, we need to support farmers in further developing their own sustainable business model. When it comes to the future of our food, the focus must continue to be on safe, natural and sustainable quality food. By combining tradition and innovation, we can preserve our small-scale agriculture and continue to produce food to the highest quality, animal welfare and environmental standards in the future.

Norbert Totschnig, MSc
Federal Minister for Agriculture, Forestry,
Regions and Water Management

# Annual priorities of the BML

As every year, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management (BML) focusses on new priorities in the facts and figures presented. A central focus is on regional development: Only 14 per cent of the national territory are actually settlement area due to the high proportion of mountainous terrain. Within this limited area, it is important to ensure attractive living spaces with a high quality of life, especially in rural areas. In addition to EU-wide funding programmes, many local people are committed to their communities and do inspiring pioneering work. This is why Federal Minister Norbert Totschnig honoured "Regional Pioneers" for their achievements this year as part of the RegionIMpuls tour.

Farmers are essential for a strong rural area. In Austria, family farms are well positioned: 23.4 percent of all farm managers are under 40 years old, making Austria the EU country with the highest number of young farm managers. The promotion of farm takeovers is therefore having an impact. Since 2024, the individual measures have also been clearly presented on a new focus page at landwirtschaft.at/hofuebernahme.

The protection of our living spaces constitutes also an important focus. On the one hand, this refers to an environmentally friendly agriculture that protects the natural habitat. The fact that 88,343 farms participate in the Austrian Agri-environmental Programme (ÖPUL) shows a strong commitment to more nature conservation and biodiversity. On the other hand, protecting our habitats also means protecting them against natural hazards: Extreme weather events are increasing with climate change, making floods, mudslides, avalanches and rock falls greater threats. The protective function of forests is therefore crucial, which is why their preservation and improvement are central concerns of the "Forest Protect Us" action programme (Aktionsprogramm Schutzwald), see schutzwald.at.

The most important areas of responsibility of the BML are presented on the following pages. Statistics on agriculture, forestry and logging, regional policy, spatial planning, drinking water supply and more provide comprehensive insights.

# Living Space Regions

Spatial development policy and spatial planning coordinate the different, often competing social, economic, ecological and cultural demands placed by the society in the common living space. The goal is the sustainable and balanced development of the Austrian national territory.

In the field of national spatial development and spatial planning the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management (BML) sets technical impulses. They refer first and foremost to the implementation of the Austrian Spatial Development Concept (ÖREK) 2030.

Regional policy aims at permanently increasing the quality of life in all regions and at adjusting them on the long run.

The BML is in charge of the coordination in the fields of regional policy and spatial planning. For this purpose, the Federal Ministry takes appropriate measures and coordinates EU funding programmes. This is intended to address current challenges such as climate change, demographic change, digitalisation and increased international competition between locations.

The coordination takes place in close cooperation with all Federal Ministries as well as with the Federal Provinces. The office of the Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning (ÖROK), a joint organisation of the federal government, the Federal Provinces, the Association of Austrian Cities and Towns, the Association of Austrian Municipalities and the economic and social partners, is an important partner of the BML with its task of coordination.

The BML coordinates, in co-operation with the Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning (ÖROK), the EU cohesion policy in Austria. This is particularly the use of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) within the framework of the ERDF Regional Programme Austria and the regional cooperation programmes with other EU Member States (INTERREG).

Furthermore, the BML is the lead organisation representing Austrian interests in legal matters for the EU funding period 2021–2027.

## 1. Population and demographic change

Austria's population is permanently growing. Around 1900, approximately 6 million people lived in Austria within the present federal territory. By the end of the 1950s, Austria had 7 million inhabitants, and by the year 2000 already 8 million. As of 1 January 2024, the population in Austria was over 9.1 million.

And Austria's population is still growing. For the year 2030 Statistics Austria forecasts a population of about 9.37 million, for 2050 around 9.85 million, and for 2080 around 10.24 million, respectively, as an annual average.

In 2050, the proportion of the population aged under 20 is expected to decrease to 1.81 million (18.4 % of the total population), the proportion of the population aged 20–65 to 5.29 million (53.8 % of the total population) and the proportion of the population aged over 65 to increase to 2.74 million (27.9 % of the total population). Furthermore, the number of private households is forecast to increase to 4.19 million in 2050, with the number of single-person households in particular rising to 1.65 million.

### 1. Population in Austria

| Population figures and structure | 2000 | 2023 | 2050[1] |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Population on annual average** | **8,011,566** | **9,130,697** | **9,850,000** |
| Share 0 to 19 years (in percent) | 23.1 | 19.3 | 18.4 |
| Share 20 to 64 years (in percent) | 61.5 | 60.9 | 53.8 |
| Share 65 years and more years (in percent) | 15.4 | 19.9 | 27.9 |
| **Population movements** | | | |
| Live births | 78,268 | 77,605 | 83,974 |
| Deaths | 76,780 | 89,760 | 108,029 |
| Migration balance[2] | 17,272 | 66,629 | |
| **Private households and families** | | | |
| Private households total (in 1,000) | 3,237 | 4,119 | 4,193 |
| of which single households (in 1,000) | 977 | 1,573 | 1,650 |
| Families total (in 1,000) | 2,265 | 2,509 | |
| of which families with children (in 1,000) | 1,423 | 1,417 | |

1) Main variant of the population forecast
2) Difference to international immigration and emigration
Source: © STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Population statistics.

## 2. Permanent settlement area in Austria

Permanent settlement area means the area potentially amendable to settlement, where humans live, work, manage their natural resources and recreate. Due to the high share of mountainous areas in Austria, the delimitation of a permanent settlement area is essential for spatial planning. The permanent settlement area is the space, which remains after the deduction of forests, Alpine grassland, wasteland and waters. It comprises the area, which is available for agriculture, settlements and traffic areas.

In 2024, Austria has, with a national territory of 83,884 km", a permanent settlement area of 32,706 km², which are 39 % of the federal territory. In Tyrol it makes up 13 % of the provincial territory, whereas it comprises 80 % of the territory of the city of Vienna. The population in the permanent settlement area amounts all over Austria on average to around 280 persons/km².

The settlement area, thus the currently populated area, covers 11,555 km², which are 14 % of the federal territory. In Tyrol, it corresponds to 7 % of the provincial territory and in Vienna to 62 % of the territory of the city. The population in the settlement area in Austria amounts on average to around 793 people/km² in 2024. As a result of the high share of mountainous areas, the population density in Alpine valleys has an above-average level. Expressed figuratively: "It is narrow in the valley, whereas there is a lot of space on the mountain."

### 2. Permanent settlement area of the Federal Provinces

Territorial status 2024, in Austria

| | Area | Permanent settlement area | | Settlement area | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Federal Provinces | in km² | in km² | in % | in km² | in % |
| Burgenland | 3,950 | 2,489 | 63 | 505 | 13 |
| Carinthia | 9,537 | 2,468 | 26 | 1,082 | 11 |
| Lower Austria | 19,180 | 11,592 | 60 | 2,661 | 14 |
| Upper Austria | 11,983 | 6,844 | 57 | 2,681 | 22 |
| Salzburg | 7,154 | 1,555 | 22 | 734 | 10 |
| Styria | 16,400 | 5,212 | 32 | 2,403 | 15 |
| Tyrol | 12,648 | 1,631 | 13 | 881 | 7 |
| Vorarlberg | 2,602 | 583 | 22 | 350 | 13 |
| Vienna | 415 | 333 | 80 | 257 | 62 |
| **Austria** | **83,884** | **32,706** | **39** | **11,555** | **14** |

Rounded values
Source: © STATISTICS AUSTRIA, as of: 14 May 2024.

## 3. Urban and rural areas

Politically-administratively speaking Austria is subdivided into nine Federal Provinces, 94 political districts with 15 statutory cities and 79 rural districts as well as 2,093 communities (as of 1 January 2024). 1.352 municipalities have fewer than 2,500 inhabitants. The majority are small municipalities in rural areas.

Cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants are the federal capital Vienna with 2 million, Graz with 302,660, Linz with 212,001, Salzburg with 157,400, Innsbruck with 132,174 and Klagenfurt on Lake Wörthersee with 104,862.

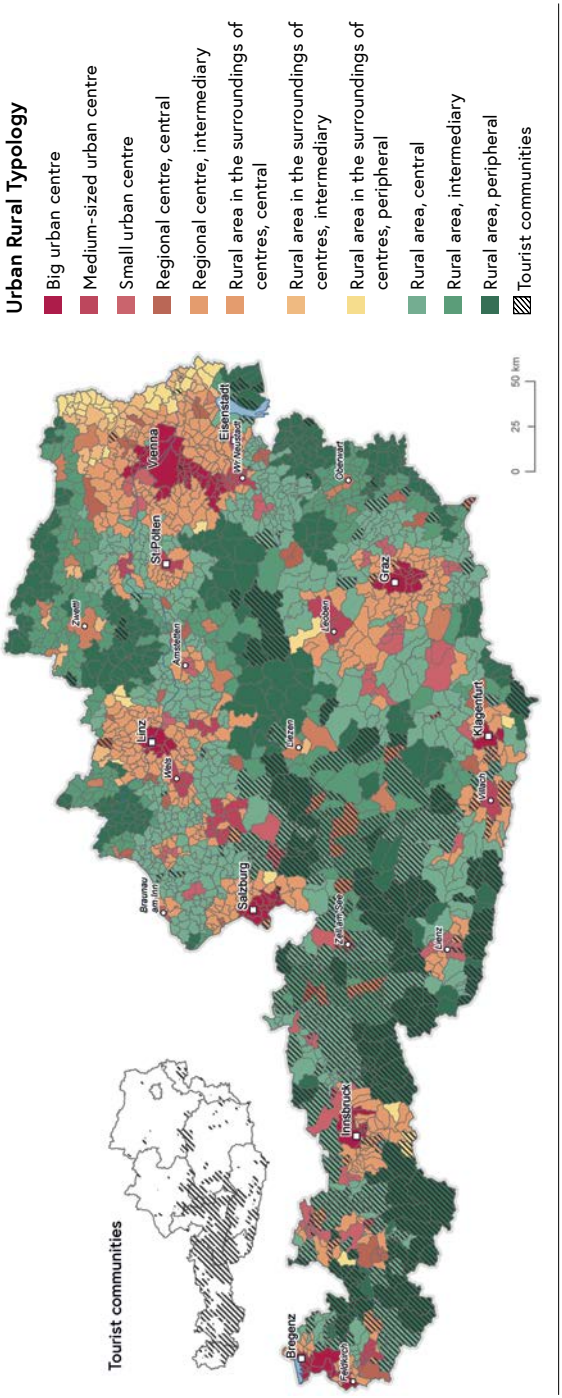
When categorising urban and rural areas, it should be stated that presently there exists no standard definition of "rural areas". The allocation to rather "urban" or rather "rural" takes place according to the space typology.

An Austrian space typology is the urban rural typology of Statistics Austria with four main classes: "Urban centres (urban regions)/regional centres/rural areas in the surroundings of centres (external zone)/rural areas". On the basis of the number of inhabitants and accessibility in central/intermediate/peripheral areas, the subdivision into further 11 classes takes place. In addition to that, municipalities with above-average tourism have been identified.

The European Commission's spatial typologies are the "Urban Rural Typology" as well as the "Degree of Urbanisation". The "Urban Rural Typology" is a typology on the basis of the NUTS 3 level, which comprises in Austria 35 NUTS 3 regions. On the basis of the Urban Rural Typology, which is based on 1 km² cell analyses of population density, a subdivision into the three categories takes place: "predominantly urban", "intermediate" and "predominantly rural". The "Degree of Urbanisation" classifies territorial units at "Local Administrative Units", which correspond in Austria to the municipalities' level. The municipal areas are subsequently categorised into the three spatial types: "cities/smaller towns and suburbs/rural areas".

In spatial planning a "region" means a territorial unit, which is, as far as its size is concerned, between a municipality and a Federal Province. In the priority "My Region–Home. Future. Living Environment."(meine-regionen.at), the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management (BML) deals with the major challenges of regions and sets priorities on strengthening the regional economy and innovative power, safeguarding regional services of general interest and on the reduction of land consumption and sealing.

3. Urban Rural Typology including tourism criterion according to municipalities in Austria




Source: © STATISTICS AUSTRIA, as of: 2 September 2021.

## 4. Soil consumption and land use

Soils constitute the basis of food production, clean drinking water, natural areas and settlement development. Due to a great number of different claims of utilisation, our environment is under enormous pressure. Population growth, prosperity, mobility and economic activities: All that is related to increasing soil consumption. Apartments, business settlements and infrastructural facilities, such as shopping centres, are often built outside or at the border of existing settlements, “on greenfield sites”.

Negative effects, such as the desolation of town centres, urban sprawl, vacant apartments and unexploited business premises in town centres are increasing. Dispersed settlements render the infrastructural costs of communities more expensive, as longer distances increase the cost of maintenance and further development. In particular in conurbation areas and in regions with a low supply of permanent settlement area, building land is rapidly becoming more expensive due to the great demand.

Increasing soil consumption is predominantly to the detriment of agricultural areas. Due to the conversion of agricultural land and the associated sealing of soils with asphalt or concrete, there is an irretrievable loss of naturally grown soils for food, animal feed, and seed production. These uses frequently take place on favourable agricultural areas, which, on the long run, threatens the self-supply with local food.

The protection of the finite resource of soil constitutes thus the basic framework for the sustainable development of regions and offers at the same time the opportunity of safeguarding crisis-proof living environments worth living in.

The task of soil protection requires a large number of actors at federal, provincial, regional, municipal and city levels and can only be successful by means of the support of all, and with a coordinated and integrated approach. The Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management (BML) takes care of this coordinating task within the framework of the priority issue “Reduction of land consumption/soil protection” and implements spatially effective measures within its own sphere of influence. Examples include the commissioned studies “Soil consumption in Austria” and “Land consumption by compensatory measures”.

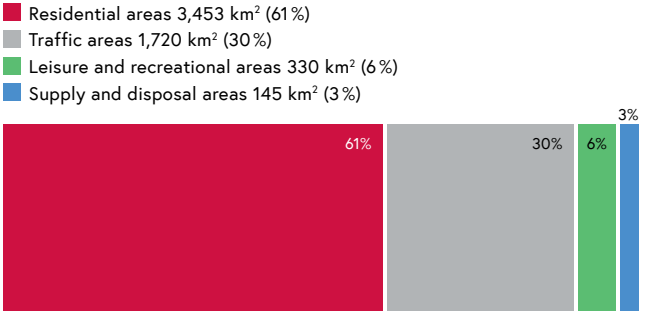
The soil strategy for Austria , which was developed by the Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning (ÖROK) builds on this and presents a strategy for a joint and implementation-orientated approach.

As of 2022, a total of 5,648 km² of land was utilised in Austria. This corresponds to 6.7 % of the federal territory amounting to 83,884 kilometres and 17.3 % of the permanent settlement area. Around 30 % of this utilised share is made up of traffic areas, 61 % of settlement areas, 6 % of leisure and recreational areas and 3 % of supply and disposal areas. These areas have been altered and/or built on as a result of human intervention for settlement, transport, leisure, supply and disposal purposes, and are therefore no longer available for agricultural and/or forestry production or as a natural habitat.

2,964 km² of which, i.e. around 52 % of the land used, have been sealed. Sealed means that the surfaces are covered with a layer that is completely impermeable to water and air. The sealing is around 47 % for residential areas within building land zoning and around 45 % for those outside zoning. Around 74 % of the traffic areas are sealed, 17 % of leisure and recreational areas, and 12 % of supply and disposal areas.

### 4. Land use in Austria [1)]

Total: 5,648 km²= 100 %, share in %




1) The 5,648 km² of land use by the reference year 2022 corresponds to 6.7 % of Austria's Federal territory of 83,884 km².
Source: Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning (Österreichische Raumordnungskonferenz ÖROK), land use and sealing in Austria, reference year 2022.

## 5. The ERDF/IGJ Programme Austria

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) supports the "Investment in Growth and Jobs 2014–2020" (IWB) objective. Within the framework of this goal, a total of 694 million euros is available for the Austria-wide ERDF/IGJ programme 2014–2020 for the co-financing of projects. This amount includes also the ERDF funds to the amount of 158 million euros additionally provided by the EU to combat the consequences of the COVID 19 crisis (REACT-EU).

The ERDF/IGJ funding is granted in combination with both private and national public funding of the federal government and the Federal Provinces. The total investment volume approved to date amounts to around 3.1 billion euros. By the middle of July 2024, a total of 1,740 projects with an ERDF volume of 644.8 million euros were approved. The ERDF/IGJ funds are used for the programme priorities and fields of measures mentioned in the table (see Table No 5).

For the purposes of thematic concentration, the ERDF/IGJ programme in Austria focuses its investments on the promotion of research, technological development and innovation, SMEs and the reduction of $CO_2$ emissions in all sectors of the economy. Particular attention has to be paid to the promotion of sustainable urban development and support for urban-rural development as well as local development strategies. National and regional strategies have been considered in preparation and programming processes, among them the Austrian FTI (Forschung, Technologie und Innovation = RTI Strategy for Research, Technology and Innovation) Strategy 2020 "Der Weg zum Innovation Leader" (The Path to Innovation Leader) or the regional innovation strategies of the Federal Provinces.

More at 2014-2020.efre.gv.at.

## 5. ERDF [1]/IGJ [2]-Programme Austria 2014–2020

Planned data and authorisations in million €

| | Financial plan | Authorisations | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Programm priorities and/or measures** | **EU funds in million €** | **EU co-financed costs in million €** | **EU funds in million €** | **EU funds in % from the plan** | **national public financing in million €** |
| **1 ERDF [1]/IGJ [2] Austria 2014–2020** | **694.0** | **3,141.9** | **644.8** | **93** | **234.2** |
| 1A P1–Strengthening the regional competitiveness by means of research, technological development and innovation | 194.5 | 711.9 | 186.1 | 96 | 86.4 |
| 1B P2–Strengthening the regional competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises | 174.5 | 1,198.5 | 168.3 | 96 | 47.6 |
| 1C P3–Promotion of the reduction of $CO_2$ emissions in all branches of the economy | 98.1 | 228.1 | 72.7 | 74 | 11.3 |
| 1D P4–Sustainable urban development | 34.9 | 69.8 | 34.3 | 98 | 35.2 |
| 1E P5–Urban-Surrounding-Development & Local Development Strategies/CLLD [3] | 16.8 | 34.5 | 15.2 | 90 | 15.6 |
| 1F P6–Technical assistance | 17.6 | 35.2 | 17.6 | 100 | 17.6 |
| 1G P7–REACT-EU [4] | 157.7 | 763.9 | 150.7 | 96 | 20.5 |

1) ERDF = European Regional Development Fund
2) IGJ = Investment in Growth and Jobs
3) CLLD = Community-Led Local Development
4) REACT-EU = ERDF funds of the EU to combat the consequences of the Covid 19 crisis
Source: ATMOS II Monitoring System, as of: 27 July 2024.

## 6. The IGJ-ERDF/JTF Programme Austria 2021–2027

The programme "Investments in employment, growth and the transition to a low-carbon economy in Austria 2021-2027" was officially launched in October 2022. The EU funds to the amount of 597.4 million euros are available from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Just Transition Fund (JTF). The programme aims at supporting sustainable growth of the economy, pursuing both goals productivity increase as well as resource saving and decarbonisation at the same time. The improvement of the quality of life of people is another objective of the programme.

The programme contains four priority axes and, at the level below, ten measures addressing the political goals aimed at by the EU "a smarter Europe", "a greener Europe" and "a Europe closer to the citizens".

**Priorities and allocation of funds to the programme priorities**

- P1: **Innovation** Innovation by further development of research, technology and innovation capacities, and competitiveness of SMEs. For this purpose 309 million euros (59 % of the ERDF programme budget) are available.
- P2: **Sustainability** by means of subsidising energy efficiency and GHG reduction. For this purpose 157 million euros (30 %) from the ERDF are available.
- P3: **Territorial development** by means of integrated sustainable urban and rural development. 55 million euros (11 % of the ERDF budget) are earmarked for this priority
- P4: **Transition to a climate-neutral economy:** 76 million euros are earmarked for this purpose from the Just Transition Fund (JTF) for those regions, which are most severely affected by the effects of the transition to a climate-neutral economy.
- Cross-cutting issues, which can be subsidised within the framework of all priorities: **Digitalisation** and the **circular economy.**

More at efre.gv.at.

### 6. IGJ [1]-ERDF [2]/JTF [3]-Programme Austria 2021–2027

Planned data in million €

| Programme priorities | Funds | Financial plan | Authorisations | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | EU funds in million € | EU co-financed costs in million € | EU funds in million € | EU funds in % from the plan | national public financing in million € |
| **1 IGJ [1]-ERDF [2]/ JTF [3] Austria 2021–2027** | | **597.4** | **369.2** | **59.3** | **10** | **24.8** |
| P1–Innovation | ERDF | 309.3 | 310.8 | 39.1 | 13 | 10.2 |
| P2–Sustainability | ERDF | 156.6 | 1.0 | 0.4 | 0 | 0.6 |
| P3–Territorial Development | ERDF | 55.5 | 18.7 | 7.5 | 13 | 10.9 |
| P4–Transition | JTF | 76.0 | 38.7 | 12.3 | 16 | 3.1 |

1) IGJ = Investment for Growth and Jobs
2) ERDF = European Regional Development Fund
3) JTF = Just Transition Fund
Source: Financial table Programme, ERDF Steering Group, as of 11 June 2024.

## 7./8. The ETC programmes Austria

European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) (also called: INTERREG), is an ERDF goal or goal of the EU Cohesion Policy 2014–2020. The ETC provides a framework for the implementation of joint projects between national, regional and local actors from various Member States.

In the programme periods of the European Structural and Investment Funds 2014–2020 and 2021–2027, Austria has been participating within the framework of the objective ETC in a total of seven "transboundary, bilateral" programmes (see Table No 7), three "transnational" programmes as well as in EU-wide network programmes (see Table No 8).

## 7. ETC [1] Programmes 2014–2020 and 2021–2027–transboundary, bilateral cooperation

Plannned data and authorisations in million €

| | | Period 2014–2020 | | | | | Period 2021–2027 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Financial plan | | Authorisations [3] | | | Financial plan | | Authorisations [3] | | |
| ETC [1] Programme | Austrian Federal Provinces | Programme funds total | ERDF [4] funds total | ERDF [4] funds | ERDF [4] funds in % of the plan [2] | Projects Number | Programme funds total | ERDF [4] funds total | ERDF [4] funds | ERDF [4] funds in % of the plan [2] | Projects Number |
| Alpenrhein-Bodensee-Hochrhein (ABH) | V | 56.6 | 39.6 | 37.5 | 95 | 103 | 68.0 | 47.6 | 21.6 | 49 | 31 |
| Austria-Bavaria (AT-BAY) | UA, S, T, V | 64.3 | 54.5 | 60.2 | 111 | 87 | 76.9 | 61.5 | 32.5 | 56 | 40 |
| Austria-Czech Republic (AT-CZ) | UA, LA, VIE | 115.1 | 97.8 | 103.4 | 106 | 100 | 108.5 | 86.8 | 38.5 | 47 | 30 |
| Austria-Hungary (AT-HU) | B, LA, VIE, ST | 95.9 | 78.8 | 78.7 | 100 | 65 | 62.0 | 49.6 | 16.2 | 35 | 22 |
| Slovak Republic-Austria (SK-AT) | B, UA, VIE | 89.3 | 75.9 | 80.7 | 106 | 58 | 69.4 | 55.5 | 14.0 | 27 | 9 |
| Slovenia-Austria (SI-AT) | B, CA, ST | 57.2 | 48.0 | 50.1 | 104 | 59 | 57.3 | 45.8 | 25.7 | 60 | 47 |
| Italy-Austria (IT-AT) | CA, S, T | 96.8 | 82.2 | 87.5 | 106 | 189 | 91.3 | 73.1 | 23.6 | 35 | 38 |

1) ETC = European Territorial Cooperation
2) The absorption of funds of more than 100 % is due to the fact that there were overbookings in the course of the last project authorisations as the planned funds of most of the projects are not fully exploited and that the financial reflows can be used for the new projects
3) Including small projects; 4) ERDF = European Regional Development Fund
Source: Information from regional coordination offices, as of: May 2024.

## 8. ETC [1] Programmes Austria 2014–2020 and 2021–2027–transnational and networks

| | | Financial plan | | | | Authorisations | | | | Participations from Austria | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Programme funds total | | ERDF [2] funds for projects | | ERDF [2] funds for projects approved | | | | Projects with Austrian participation | | Austrian project partners (including multiple participation) | | of which: Lead Partners | |
| Programme | Participating countries | in million € | | in million € | | in million € [4] | | in % of the plan [5] | | Number | | Number | | Number | |
| Programming period [3] | | 21–27 | 14–20 | 21–27 | 14–20 | 21–27 | 14–20 | 21–27 | 14–20 | 21–27 | 14–20 | 21–27 | 14–20 | 21–27 | 14–20 |
| INTERREG Alpine Space | AT, FR, DE, IT, LI, SI, CH. | 143 | 140 | 99 | 110 | 63.6 | 113 | 34 | 103 | 78 | 64 | 39 | 137 | 3 | 10 |
| INTERREG Central Europe | AT, DE, CZ, SK, PL, HU, SI, IT, HR. | 281 | 299 | 208 | 232 | 176 | 236 | 85 | 102 | 104 | 89 | 75 | 141 | 3 | 14 |
| INTERREG Danube Region [6] | AT, DE, CZ, SK, SI, HU, HR, RO, BG, BA, RS, ME, MD, UA. | 281 | 275 | 199 | 190 | 130 | 197 | 65 | 104 | 71 | 106 | 53 | 183 | 11 | 34 |
| INTERREG Europe | 21–27: EU-27, NO, CH.<br>14–20: EU-28 + NO + CH. | 481 | 426 | 351 | 338 | 206 | 345 | 59 | 102 | 11 | 22 | 11 | 24 | 3 | 4 |
| URBACT III + IV | 21-27: EU-27, NO, CH, AL, BA, ME, RS, MK.<br>14–20: EU-28 + NO + CH. | 110 | 96 | 79 | 70 | n.a. | 73 | n.a. | 105 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| **Total** | | **1,296** | **1,236** | **936** | **939** | **575.6** | **964** | **62** | **519** | **264** | **283** | **178** | **487** | **20** | **62** |

n.a. = not available
1) ETC = European Territorial Cooperation 2) ERDF = European Regional Development Fund; 3) Programming period 2021-2027 respectively 2014-2020; 4 ) in million euros excluding technical assistance; 5) The absorption of funds of more than 100 % is due to the fact that there were overbookings in the course of the last project authorisations as the planned funds of most of the projects are not fully exploited and the financial reflows can be used for the new projects; 6) Danube Region Programme 2021-2027, Danube transnational Programme 2014-2020.
Source: Programme Monitoring Systems, Survey National Contact Point, as of: July 2024.

## 9./10. LEADER in Austria

The LEADER programme is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and is part of the Austrian CAP Strategic Plan 2023–2027. LEADER aims at supporting the regions in their independent development by involving the local population.

In Austria, 83 LEADER regions were recognised as of July 2023, including 77 existing and 6 new regions. Each LEADER region has drawn up a comprehensive Local Development Strategy (LDS). The implementation of the LDS falls within the responsibility of the Local Action Group (LAG), which is made up of representatives of local public organisations, private groups, and private individuals. Each LEADER region has its own management team to support the implementation of the LDS. The local population is actively involved in both the creation of the LDS and its implementation in accordance with the bottom-up approach.

More than 1,100 projects from the RD 14–20 period and a selection of projects from the RD 07–13 period can be found in the project database of the "Netzwerk Zukunftsraum Land" at zukunftsraumland.at/projekte. Details on LEADER implementation can be found on the BML website.

### 9. LEADER in Austria

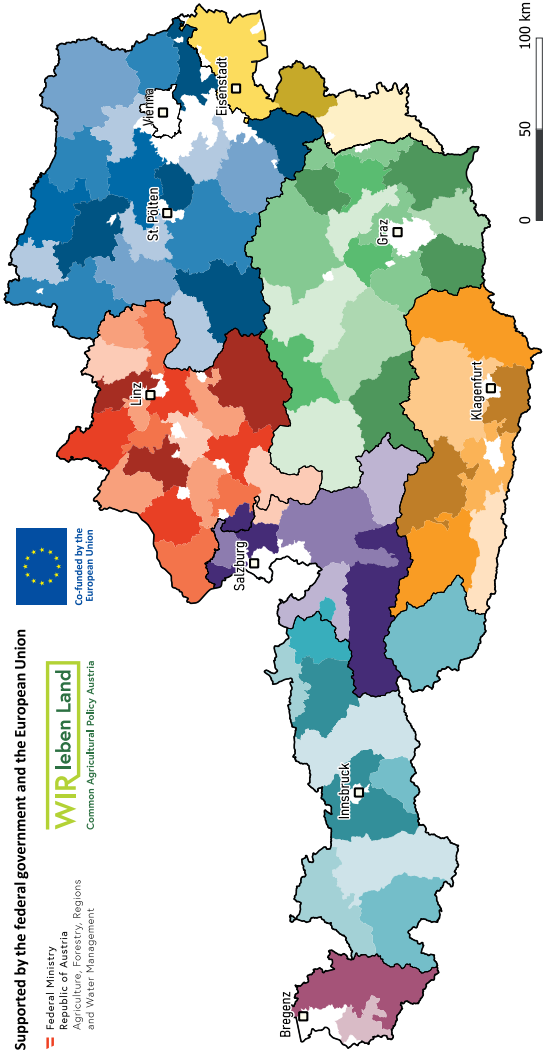
| Programme LE 2014–2020 [1] and CAP-Strategic Plans 2023–2027 | |
|---|---|
| **Funds earmarked in the CAP Strategic Plans 2023–2027** (62 % EAFRD[2]/38 % national Federal Government / Federal Provinces) | € 210 million |
| **Local Action groups (LAG)** | 83 |
| **Area covered** | 80,163 km² |
| **Share of rural areas** [3] | 97 % |
| **Population covered** | 5.2 million |
| **Share of the population in rural areas** [3] | 88 % |

### LEADER in the period from June 2015 to May 2024

| Programme LE 2014–2020 [1], in Austria | |
|---|---|
| **Authorised projects** | 5,862 |
| **Authorised amount of funding** | € 354.2 million |
| **Paid subsidies** | € 249 million |

1) LE 14-20 = Austrian Rural Development Programme 2014-2020. The programming period has been extended until 2022 within the framework of the Common Agricultureal Policy of the EU with a respective increase in funds.
2) EAFRD = European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
3) Definition of "Rural Area" according to Austrian Rural Development Programme LE 14-20
Source: BML, as of: 6 May 2024.

### 10. LEADER Regions in Austria




Supported by the federal government and the European Union
Federal Ministry Republic of Austria Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management
WIR leben Land
Common Agricultural Policy Austria
Co-funded by the European Union

Source of basic data: © BEV, 2019; Statistics Austria–data.statistics.gv.at, 2024. Source technical data: BML. Layout and design of the base map: LFRZ GmbH, 2019; BML, Dir. III/7, 2024. Layout and design of the base map: LFRZ GmbH, 2019; BML, Dir. III/7, 2024.
As of: June 2024.

# High-quality agriculture

Domestic family farms care for Austria's unique cultivated landscape, supply people with high-quality food and are committed to climate change mitigation. Dynamic rural areas ensure quality of life and guarantee food security. Austria's agriculture has developed very well in recent years. Nevertheless, many holdings face specific challenges. All of Austria benefits from support granted to farmers. Regionality and diversity prepare the ground for premium-quality and resource-efficient production.

An agricultural policy focus already lies on the programming period for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of 2021–2027. With the so-called Strategic Plans, the European Commission pursues a new, innovative approach. Each EU Member State has to draw up an individual plan covering all areas: Direct payments, rural development and measures for individual branches (e.g. wine, bees). This allows EU Member States greater flexibility to design their tailor-made national agricultural policies. Only fundamental parameters, like the objectives of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), general areas of support or the basic requirements, are to be determined on EU level. Instead of verifying compliance with requirements as before, the European Commission will give priority to results and performance.

The Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management (BML) is presently preparing the national CAP Strategic Plan for the 2023–2027 period and endeavours to ensure stable, reliable framework conditions for family farms. The focus is to be on climate measures as well as on sustainable, diverse agricultural and forestry practices and on vital rural areas.

## Farm Structure Survey 2020

Every ten years the EU Member States have to conduct a complete Agricultural Structure Survey (agricultural census). The results of Austria's 2020 Farm Structure Survey indicate that family farms, which account for 93 % of all farms, remain the backbone of Austria's agriculture and forestry.

**Key results of the Farm Structure Survey 2020**

- In 2020, Austria featured 154,953 agricultural and forestry holdings. Over the past decade, the number of holdings declined by 11 %.
- In 2020, 420,018 persons worked in the agricultural and forestry holdings.
- Marked plus for organic farming: 24,291 holdings or 23.4 % (2022) managed their farms according to organic farming principles. In 2010, 15.1 % did so.
- The number of farms managed by women increased slightly: 35 % of the agricultural and forestry holdings are "female". In 2010, the share was 34 %.
- 93 % are family farms: 4 out of 5 persons working on farms are family members.
- 36 % were run as full-time farms, 57 % were part-time farms.
- With 49 %, land use is marked by forestry. Agricultural utilisations account for 38 % of Austria's land.
- Agricultural and forestry holdings are small-structured. The trend towards slightly larger holdings continued. The average utilised agricultural area (arable land, permanent crops, permanent grassland) increased from 18.8 ha in 2010 to 23.6 ha in 2020.
- Animal husbandry has a small-scale structure in comparison to the international level. 82,001 holdings held farmed animals. On average, 34 head of cattle, 112 pigs, 33 sheep and 12 goats were kept per holding.

Detailed results of the Austrian Agricultural Structure Survey 2020 are available at statistik.at, EU-wide results at ec.europa.eu/eurostat.

## 1. Factor income of the agricultural industry

The real agricultural factor income describes the net value added at factor cost. The latter is calculated from the value of the agricultural production at producer prices, less all intermediate inputs, depreciation and other production levies. Other subsidies are added.

In Austria, the real agricultural factor income per worker fell by slightly less than a quarter (–21.1 %) in 2023 after a sharp rise by 25.2 % in the year before. The substantial drop in income was partly due to the continued decrease in the agriculture labour input (–1.6 %). In a comparison with the previous year, the factor income generated in the agricultural sector fell by 16.3 % in nominal terms, which is due to a decline of 2.9 % in the output of the agricultural sector at basic prices.

With approximately 10.235 billion euros, the total output of Austria's agricultural industry is presumably 2.9 % below the level of the previous year, which is mainly due to the sharp drop in the value of plant production (–12.0 %). The output of almost all groups of plants (with the exceptions of vegetable growing and horticulture (+13.7 %) and wine (+5.3 %) decreased, especially that of cereals (–37.6 %), of oilseeds and protein crops (minus a fifth), and of fruit (–11.8 %).

The value of animal production increased moderately (+5.7 %). Livestock production (926 million euros) increased slightly by –0.9 %, while the production value of pig farming increased by +14.6 % and amounted to 1,025 million euros.

The expenditure of domestic agriculture for intermediate inputs was estimated to amount to approximately 5.9 billion euros (–3.1 %) and the significant depreciation for fixed assets to around 2.6 billion euros (+9.6 %). According to preliminary calculations the public funds to be considered in the determination of the agricultural income (according to the EAA terminology "subsidies on products" and "other subsidies") amounted to approximately 1.46 billion euros (–15.1 %).

## 1. Factor income of the agricultural industry in 2023[1)]

in Austria

| Results of the Economic Accounts for Agriculture (EAA) | 2022 in mio. € | 2023 in mio. € | Change 2023/22 in % |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Crop output at basic prices** | **5,059** | **4,451** | **–12.0** |
| Cereals[2)] | 1,532 | 955 | –37.6 |
| Oilseeds and industrial crops[3)] | 558 | 450 | –19.4 |
| Products from vegetable growing and horticulture[4)] | 885 | 1,006 | 13.7 |
| Fruit incl. grapes | 415 | 366 | –11.8 |
| Wine | 681 | 717 | 5.3 |
| Other plant products[5)] | 988 | 956 | –3.9 |
| **Animal output at basic prices** | **4,484** | **4,739** | **5.7** |
| **Animals** | 2,129 | 2,284 | 7.3 |
| Cattle | 918 | 926 | 0.9 |
| Pigs | 894 | 1,025 | 14.6 |
| Poultry | 246 | 255 | 3.7 |
| Other animals[6)] | 71 | 78 | 10.0 |
| **Animal products** | **2,355** | **2,455** | **4.2** |
| Milk | 1,904 | 1,986 | 4.3 |
| Eggs | 401 | 417 | 4.0 |
| Other animal products[7)] | 50 | 52 | 3.7 |
| **Production of agricultural goods** | **9,543** | **9,190** | **–3.7** |
| **Agricultural services and inseparable non-agricultural secondary activities** | **996** | **1,045** | **4.9** |
| Agricultural services | 415 | 417 | 0.4 |
| Inseparable non-agricultural secondary activities | 581 | 628 | 8.2 |
| **Value of agricultural production at basic prices** | **10,539** | **10,235** | **–2.9** |
| less intermediate inputs | 6,057 | 5,868 | –3.1 |
| **Gross value added at basic prices** | **4,482** | **4,367** | **–2.6** |
| less depreciations | 2,354 | 2,580 | 9.6 |
| **Net value added at basic prices** | **2,128** | **1,787** | **–16.0** |
| less other levies on production | 1,718 | 1,483 | –15.1 |
| plus other subsidies | 219 | 233 | 13.1 |
| **Factor income of the agricultural industry** | **3,628** | **3,037** | **–16.3** |

1) At basic prices (in million €), i.e. incl. subsidies on products and excl. taxes on goods.
2) Cereals incl. grain maize
3) Oilseeds, protein crops, sugar beet, other industrial crops
4) Vegetables, nursery plants, flowers and ornamental plants, plantations
5) Fodder plants, potatoes, other plant products
6) Sheep and goats, equidae, hunting
7) Honey, raw wool
Source: © STATISTICS AUSTRIA, as of July 2024, reporting year 2023 according to the second preliminary estimate. Federal Institute of Agricultural Economics, Rural and Mountain Research, calculation of subsidies and taxes on products.

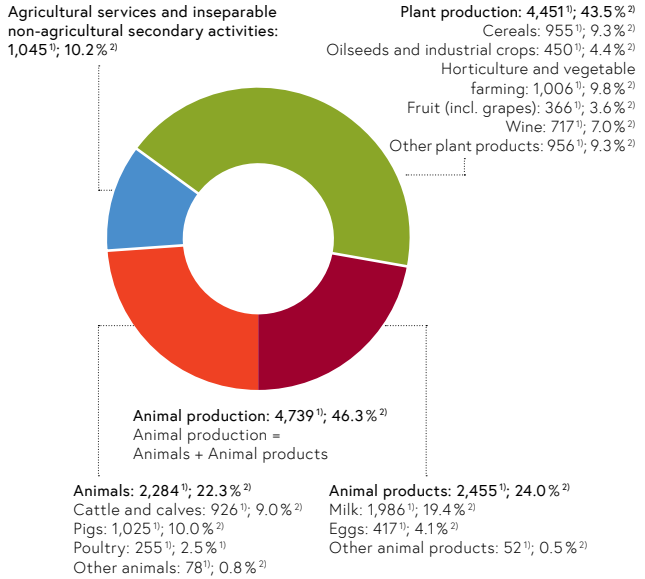
## 2. Output of agricultural activity

With roughly 10.235 billion euros, the total output of Austria's agricultural industry is 2.9 % below the 2022 level, which is mainly due to the extremely strong decline of the value of plant production (–13.2 %). The output of almost all groups of plants fell by a total of –13.2 %, with the sharpest decline in cereals (–39.0 %), followed by oilseeds and protein crops (–25.1 %, but also vegetables and fruit (–11.8 %). There were also losses in sugar beet (–10.1 %) and fodder plants (–6.8 %). Only potatoes recorded an increase in output of 18.2 %.

The output of animal production increased only slightly (+5.1 %). Cattle production only grew by 0.9 %. In pig farming, the production value rose to 1,025 million euros (+14.6 %). The overall increase of 5.1 % is due to the other animals (poultry, sheep and goats, solipeds).

### 2. Output of agricultural activity in 2023

at basic prices (total: 10,235 million € = 100%), in Austria




1) in million €
2) in % of the total output
Source: © STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Economic Accounts for Agriculture, as of: July 2024.

## 3. Beekeeping in Austria

The number of apiaries and bee colonies continued to rise in Austria in 2023. According to notifications to the Austrian Veterinary Information System (VIS) 35,528 bee-keepers with 494,346 bee colonies ensured the pollination of wild plants and agricultural crops in Austria. About 30 % of the entire human nutrition is derived from plants that are pollinated by bees. Without bees and other pollinating insects, the range of foods available to us would be severely limited.

With an average number of 14 bee colonies per establishment, the beekeeping sector is small-structured in Austria. Only few professional apiarists keep more than 150 bee colonies. About 99 % of all bee-keepers are part-time and spare-time apiarists. Their umbrella organisation is the association "Biene Österreich".

A bee colony consists of 20,000 to 50,000 bees and produces 20 to 25 kg honey per year. The domestic honey production covers approx. 49 % of Austria's demand. The annual per capita consumption amounts to around 1 kg.

### 3. Beekeeping in Austria 1)


1) From 2017 new recording method based on the notifications in the Austrian Veterinary Information System (VIS) for the relevant key date of October 31st.
Source: Biene Österreich, BML, as of: June 2024.

## 4. Agricultural and forestry holdings

According to the Farm Structure Survey (FSS) exactly 154,953 agricultural and forestry holdings were registered in Austria in 2020–about 11 % less than in 2010. 44,444 holdings, or 29 %, manage exclusively forest area. The utilised agricultural area (UAA) per holding has more than doubled in the course of the past 60 years. Nevertheless, Austria's agriculture continues to be small-structured (FSS 2020): 44.9 ha total area per holding, 23.6 ha of UAA per holding and 19.3 ha of arable land per holding.

In 2020, Austrian farms managed 2.6 million ha (36 % less than in 1951) of utilised agricultural area–about one third of the federal territory–as well as 3.4 million hectares of woodland, which corresponds to 47 % of the federal territory. 1.2 million ha (16 % of the federal territory) accounted for other areas.

Compared to 1960, the proportion reversed. At that time, 38 % of the cultivated area were still woodland and 49 % were utilised agricultural area. The share of forest area increased. Marginal land was afforested or turned into forests and land close to residential areas was sealed. 78 % of the agricultural and forestry holdings are located in less-favoured areas.

The data from the 2023 Farm Structure Survey will be published in early 2025.

### 4. Agricultural and forestry holdings 1951–2020 [1]

in Austria

| | | | Average size of holdings | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year | Holdings (number) | Total area (ha) | CA [2] (ha) | UAA [3] (ha) | TA [4] (ha) | CA [2] (ha) | UAA [3] (ha) |
| 1951 | 432,848 | 8,135,744 | 7,068,862 | 4,080,266 | 18.8 | 16.3 | 9.6 |
| 1960 | 402,286 | 8,305,565 | 7,193,636 | 4,051,911 | 20.6 | 17.9 | 10.4 |
| 1970 | 367,738 | 7,727,379 | 6,757,443 | 3,696,453 | 21.0 | 18.4 | 10.5 |
| 1980 | 318,085 | 7,650,959 | 6,546,245 | 3,509,987 | 24.1 | 21.2 | 12.0 |
| 1990 | 281,910 | 7,554,815 | 6,761,005 | 3,521,570 | 26.8 | 24.3 | 12.6 |
| 1995 | 239,099 | 7,531,205 | 6,686,268 | 3,426,873 | 31.5 | 28.2 | 15.3 |
| 1999 | 217,508 | 7,518,615 | 6,650,206 | 3,389,905 | 34.9 | 30.9 | 16.8 |
| 2010 | 173,317 | 7,347,536 | 6,285,645 | 2,879,895 | 42.6 | 36.4 | 18.8 |
| 2020 | 154,593 | 6,940,893 | 6,016,272 | 2,602,666 | 44.9 | 38.9 | 23.6 |

1) Minimum farm size considered: Up to 1970: 0.5 ha total area, from 1971 to 1990 minimum farm size 1 ha total area; since 1995 minimum farm size 1 ha UAA or 3 ha of forest area.
2) CA = Cultivated area
3) UAA = Utilised agricultural area
4) TA = Total area of holding
Source: © STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Farm Structure Surveys.

## 5. Agricultural holdings by type of gainful activity

In 2020, 93 % of the 154,953 agricultural and forestry holdings were family farms; only 2.7 % had the legal status of "group farms" and 4.2 % were held by legal entities. 36 % of the sole-holder farms were managed on a full-time basis and 57 % were operated by part-time farmers.

Around 56,000, or about one quarter, of the 245,000 full-time farms recorded in 1960 were still active in 2020. Many of the then full-time farmers took the opportunity to practice also non-agricultural activities and shifted to part-time farming in the course of that period.

Especially in periods of volatile agricultural prices and markets, small-structured holdings benefit from being able to rely on several sources of income. Targeted diversification, such as "Green Care" offers on farms with health-promoting, pedagogical or social objectives, enhances competitiveness and allows future-oriented, resilient development. Austria's farmers take a leading role in this development.

### 5. Agricultural holdings by type of gainful activity 1960–2020 [1]

in Austria

| Year | Full-time farms | Part-time farms | Group farms | Holdings held by legal entities | Total number of holdings |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1960 | 245,327 | 144,884 | | 12,075 | 402,286 |
| 1970 | 214,844 | 141,177 | | 11,717 | 367,738 |
| 1980 | 133,787 | 173,870 | | 10,428 | 318,085 |
| 1990 | 106,511 | 166,206 | | 9,193 | 281,910 |
| 1999 | 80,215 | 129,495 | | 7,798 | 217,508 |
| 2010 | 66,802 | 93,895 | 5,570 | 7,050 | 173,317 |
| 2020 | 55,875 | 88,433 | 4,135 | 6,510 | 154,953 |

1) The data from the 2023 Farm Structure Survey will be published in early 2025.
Source: © STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Farm Structure Surveys.

## 6. Management of the agricultural and forestry holdings

In the 2020 Farm Structure Survey (FSS), 420,018 persons with agricultural and forestry activities were surveyed. On average, the labour force amounted to 2.7 persons per agricultural and forestry holding in Austria. Of these, 95,322 worked full-time and 240,693 worked on a case-by-case basis. 336,015 of them (80 %) were family labourers.

The majority of the agricultural and forestry holdings are still managed by men. However, 53,632 (34.6 %) agricultural and forestry holdings already had female farm managers. In a comparison of the Federal Provinces, Upper Austria led with a 40 % share of women, ahead of Styria (38 %) and Salzburg (37 %). The share of women was lowest in the west of Austria, in Tyrol with 20 % and in Vorarlberg with 25 %.

In 2023, the gender ratio among IACS holdings was approximately one third female farm managers and two thirds male farm managers.

### 6. IACS [1] holdings by legal form and by sex

in Austria

| | Holdings | | | | | Holdings, total | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year | of natural persons | of spouses | of group farms | of partnerships | held by legal entities | Total number | M [2] in % | W [3] in % |
| 2020 | 85,166 | 13,508 | 5,862 | 870 | 1,184 | **106,590** | 67 | 33 |
| 2021 | 83,918 | 13,011 | 5,995 | 969 | 1,301 | **105,194** | 67 | 33 |
| 2022 | 83,174 | 12,776 | 6,142 | 1,033 | 1,345 | **104,470** | 67 | 33 |
| 2023 | 80,791 | 12,307 | 6,177 | 1,120 | 1,986 | **102,381** | 67 | 33 |
| **2023 (in %)** | **79** | **12** | **6** | **1** | **2** | **100** | **67** | **33** |

1) IACS = Integrated Administration and Control System. Not including farms with alpine pasturing and shepherding only and farms having their place of business abroad.
2) Distribution of holdings managed by men (M) or women (W).
Compiled by BML, Directorate II/1.
Source: BML, AMA, IACS data. As of: July 2024.

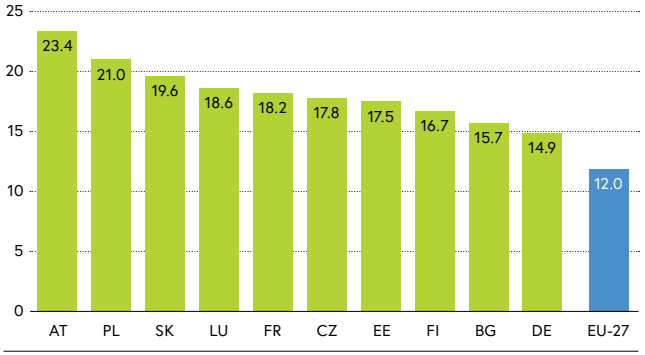
## 7. Farm takeover by young farmers

Austria has the youngest agricultural sector in the EU. In 2020, 23.4 % of Austria's farm managers were less than 40 years old. As compared to this, the EU average was 12.0 %. Austria's young farmers are well trained. 72.2 % of them have completed a skilled workers' or master craftsman training, a relevant "Matura" (national school-leaving exam entitling to university studies), or have a university degree. The goals are sustainable and comprehensive management and security of supply for the country.

There are targeted support programmes for young farmers up to the age of 40 who take over farms in Austria. This is achieved through a broad mix of measures based on the CAP Strategic Plan with the possibility of responding to farm differences and individual needs. The basis of the financial support upon farm takeover is the complementary income support, which is available during the first five years of farm management. Building on this, there is the setting-up premium ("Niederlassungsprämie"), which supports young farmers who are setting up an agricultural holding as head of the holding for the first time. In addition, there are tailor-made educational offers, such as skilled workers' courses in second-chance education and master courses as well as advisory services concerning farm takeover.
For more details, see landwirtschaft.at/hofuebernahme.

### 7. Farm managers less than 40 years old in agricultural holdings

Top 10 of EU countries (EU-27) in %, in 2020



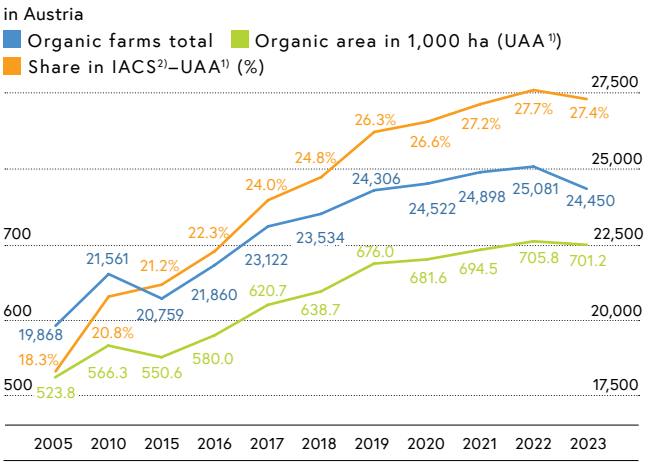

Source: European Commission, DG Agri, Context indicators 2023 "Age structure of farm managers".

## 8. Organic farms

An encouraging trend has been observed in organic farming in Austria: Both the number of holdings and the areas under organic farming were constantly rising until 2022. In 2023, almost 24,300 holdings were managed according to organic farming principles. They cultivated already about 701,200 ha of organic area.

Since 2005, the area under organic farming has increased by about one third. The share of organic area accounts for more than a quarter of the total agricultural area already. This puts Austria in the top position among the EU countries.

### 8. Subsidised organic farms 2005–2023




1) UAA = Utilised agricultural area
2) IACS = Integrated Administration and Control System
Source: BML, Dir. II/1, as of: June 2024.

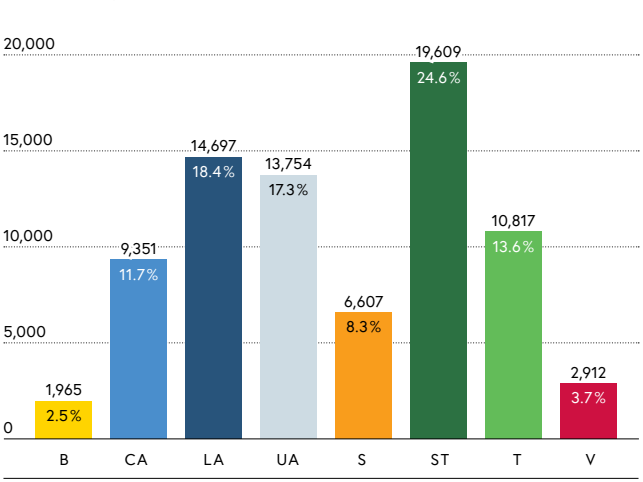
## 9. Holdings facing natural constraints

In 2023, 79,712 farms received compensatory allowances (CA) for areas facing natural constraints within the framework of rural development, a total amount of 263.81 (2022: 252.09) million euros. The number of CA holdings was highest in Styria (19,609), followed by Lower Austria (14,697), Upper Austria (13,754), Tyrol (10,817) and Carinthia (9,351).

In the context of the reorientation of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for the 2021–2027 period, the compensatory allowance will be a targeted and simple intervention also in the future. It is a key measure to maintain area-wide agricultural management and contributes to the preservation of Austria's cultivated landscape.

The concept of Austria's CA with its identification of handicaps for the individual farm is to be continued to ensure a suitable compensation for the efforts undertaken by farmers. The high level of support provided to mountain farms in most extreme locations will be continued, but some adaptations are required because farm sizes increase also in less-favoured areas. An adaptation to this development is to be implemented by means of an additional degression level. Generally, the CA is a proven tool and enjoys a high level of acceptance also in areas other than agriculture.

### 9. CA farms by Federal Provinces in 2023




1) CA = Compensatory allowance for areas facing natural constraints
Source: BML, as of: June 2024.

## 10. Alpine pastures and mountain grazing

Alpine pastures are traditional economic areas of alpine farming and mountain farming in Austria. The species-rich alpine pastures are the result of centuries of hard work by the alpine farmers. They look after these beautiful cultivated landscapes and, with the herding of grazing cattle on the mountain pastures, preserve a centuries-old tradition. Even today, alpine farming is a particularly labour-intensive form of agriculture. It is currently facing major challenges such as climate change, clashes between grazing livestock and recreationists and the return of large predators such as the wolf.

Support for alpine pasturing is a central pillar of the national CAP Strategic Plan for the funding period 2023–2027.

In 2023, 8,072 alpine pastures with an alpine forage area of roughly 323,500 ha were managed. The number of shepherd pastures increased slightly, by 45, compared to 2022. In 2023, 7,474 shepherds guarded the alpine cattle on 4,852 shepherd pastures. Shepherding is most commonly practised in the Federal Provinces of Tyrol and Salzburg.

Slightly below 260,400 LU from 23,476 farms were brought to alpine pastures. With 302,623 head of cattle, 50,414 head of dairy cows and 12,529 head of goats, the numbers of animals kept on alpine pastures declined only slightly compared to 2022. With 9,988 head, a negative development was also recorded for horses and small horses (–4.3 %). With 100,854 head, also the number of sheep kept on alpine pastures declined compared to the previous year– by 6,315 head (–5.9 %).

With 27 %, the share of animals kept on alpine pastures was highest among sheep in Austria; 16 % of the cattle and 9 % of the dairy cows were brought to alpine pastures. Of the horses and small horses recorded in IACS, 16 % spent the summer on alpine pastures, for goats it was almost 14 %. The three Federal Provinces with the highest shares of animals brought to alpine pastures were Tyrol, Vorarlberg and Salzburg.

In order to ensure that Austria's unique cultivated landscape remains freely accessible in the future, we rely on good cooperation on alpine pastures and meadows. The information website "Miteinander sicher auf Österreichs Almen" (meaning: "Safe together on Austria's alpine pastures") at sichere-almen.at aims to avoid conflicts of tourism and recreational sports with grazing livestock and shows ten rules for the proper handling of grazing livestock.

### 10. Alpine pastures and mountain grazing in Austria in 2023

| Federal Province, total | Carinthia | Lower Austria | Upper Austria | Salzburg | Styria | Tyrol | Vorarlberg | Austria |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Holdings with mountain-grazing, alpine pastures and shepherding (number)** | | | | | | | | |
| Holdings with mountain-grazing[1)] | 3,537 | 562 | 605 | 4,214 | 3,418 | 8,894 | 2,237 | **23,476**[1)] |
| Managed alpine pastures | 1,790 | 73 | 181 | 1,749 | 1,639 | 2,099 | 541 | **8,072** |
| Alpine pastures with shepherds | 573 | 50 | 97 | 1,043 | 803 | 1,773 | 513 | **4,852** |
| Staff for shepherding | 694 | 77 | 119 | 1,480 | 956 | 3,104 | 1,044 | **7,474** |
| **Alpine forage areas on alpine pastures (in ha)** | | | | | | | | |
| Alpine forage areas | 51,401 | 3,765 | 4,509 | 65,923 | 38,623 | 127,807 | 31,494 | **323,524** |
| **Animals kept on alpine pastures (in LU and head)** | | | | | | | | |
| Livestock units (LU) kept on alpine pastures | 36,859 | 3,610 | 3,735 | 57,772 | 32,648 | 96,621 | 29,101 | **260,346** |
| Horses and small horses | 1,674 | 29 | 74 | 3,059 | 855 | 3,344 | 953 | **9,988** |
| Cattle, total | 42,111 | 4,712 | 4,741 | 66,463 | 41,431 | 107,471 | 35,694 | **302,623** |
| of which dairy cows | 1,090 | 23 | 32 | 8,390 | 776 | 31,495 | 8,608 | **50,414** |
| Sheep | 11,900 | | 810 | 17,972 | 5,161 | 60,216 | 4,795 | **100,854** |
| Goats | 1,258 | | 62 | 2,258 | 336 | 6,905 | 1,710 | **12,529** |

1) Burgenland had eight holdings with mountain-grazing, Vienna one. There are therefore a total of 23,476 holdings in Austria.
Source: BMLRT, BML, AMA, IACS data. As of: June 2024.

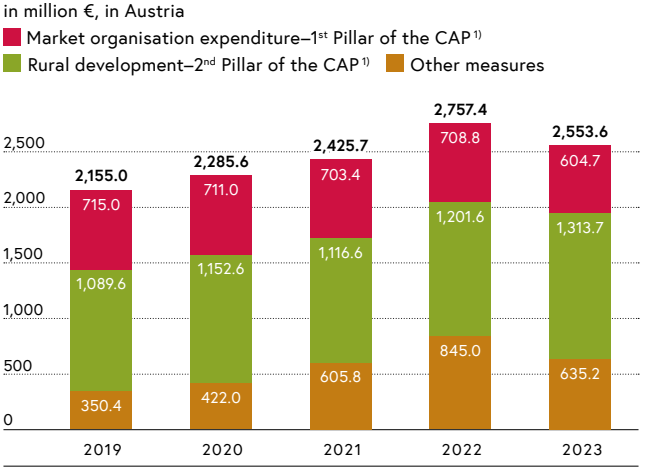
## 11. Payments for agriculture and forestry by year of measures

The payments to agricultural and forestry holdings contribute substantially to their yield and remuneration. They ensure stability and planning security for family farms and thereby guarantee supply with high-quality food and maintenance of intact rural areas.

The budget includes three sectors: Market organisation expenses, rural development and the other measures. In 2023, financial support totalled approximately 2,553.6 million euros. Of the payments for agriculture and forestry in the measure year 2023, the market organisation measures (Pillar 1 of the CAP) accounted for around one quarter of the payments (604.7 million euros); the largest share related to Rural Development (Pillar 2 of the CAP) with 1,313.7 million euros or 51.4 %. The other measures declined by around 25 %, thus reaching 635.2 million euros. Taking everything into account, the funding pot was reduced by almost 202 million euros (–7.3 %).

### 11. Payments for agriculture and forestry by year of measures 2019–2023

in million €, in Austria




1) CAP = Common Agricultural Policy
Source: BML, IACS data and statements of accounts of the Federal Government and the Provinces. As of: June 2024.

## 12. Payments for agriculture and forestry–Rural development

Payments for rural development are financed from EU, federal and provincial funds. In 2023, a total of almost 1,314 million euros, of which 699 million of EU funds, were granted to about 102,600 holdings and agricultural communities and about 2,000 other enterprises, institutes or persons. The expenses for rural development account for about 51.4 % of the 2023 agricultural budget (of a total of 2,554 million euros of EU, federal and provincial funds for agriculture and forestry).

Of this, about 526.6 million euros (40 %) accounted for the agri-environmental measures (ÖPUL), 263.8 million euros (20 %) for the compensatory allowance for areas facing natural constraints, 205.8 million euros (16 %) for material investments support, 115.5 million euros (8.8 %) for basic services and village renewal.

### 12. Payments for agriculture and forestry–Rural development 2020–2023

2nd Pillar of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP); in million €, in Austria

| Important selected support measures | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Knowledge transfer and information | 12.39 | 11.42 | 10.71 | 12.47 |
| Advisory services | 3.54 | 6.07 | 5.39 | 3.63 |
| Quality scheme | 24.18 | 24.38 | 24.77 | 25.84 |
| Material investments | 165.29 | 135.44 | 175.11 | 205.78 |
| Development of farms and enterprises | 28.83 | 28.45 | 34.89 | 32.49 |
| Basic services and village renewal | 101.67 | 103.06 | 104.12 | 115.52 |
| Investments for forests | 20.89 | 27.37 | 21.17 | 16.78 |
| Agri-environment and climate services (ÖPUL) | 281.31 | 273.85 | 312.53 | 340.33 |
| Organic farming (ÖPUL) | 127.37 | 125.90 | 129.78 | 128.80 |
| Natura 2000 and Water Framework Directive (ÖPUL) | 1.21 | 1.20 | 1.19 | 0.58 |
| Compensatory allowance for areas facing natural constraints | 257.28 | 255.30 | 252.09 | 263.81 |
| Animal welfare (ÖPUL) | 35.95 | 35.61 | 34.98 | 56.95 |
| Forest-environment and climate services | 0.06 | 0.10 | | |
| Cooperation | 11.99 | 16.22 | 13.72 | 17.26 |
| LEADER | 39.51 | 32.86 | 33.55 | 35.43 |
| Technical aid and national network | 41.16 | 39.39 | 47.93 | 58.08 |
| **RD 14–20 and RD 21–27 1), total** | **1,152.6** | **1,116.6** | **1,201.9** | **1,313.7** |

1) Austrian Rural Development Programmes 2014–2020 and 2021–2027.
Source: BML; Green Report, as of: July 2024.

## 13. Austrian Agri-environmental Programme (ÖPUL)

The Agri-environmental Programme (ÖPUL), Austria's programme for the promotion of an agriculture which is appropriate to the environment, extensive and protective of natural habitats, advocates the environmentally sound management of agricultural areas. The goal of ÖPUL is to achieve as comprehensive a participation of Austria's agricultural holdings as possible. ÖPUL's primary focus is the protection of water, air and soil resources as well as biodiversity, climate change mitigation, animal welfare, the tending of the cultivated landscape and the promotion of regional development.

ÖPUL 2023 is part of the implementation of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy in Austria. The basis is the Austrian CAP Strategic Plan 2023–2027. The latter was approved by the European Commission and is financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). ÖPUL 2023 (excluding eco-schemes) is approx. 50 % financed from EU funds (eco-schemes are 100 % EU-funded) and approx. 50 % from national funds. The national tranche is divided between the Federal Government and the Federal Provinces in a proportion of 60/40. ÖPUL 2023 is the 6th Agri-environmental Programme since Austria's accession to the EU in 1995.

ÖPUL 2023 offers 25 measures, most of them in all Federal Provinces. Participation of the holdings is voluntary. In-depth information on the individual sub-measures is available on the BML and AMA websites.

In 2023, ÖPUL paid 526.7 million euros (2022: 477.42 million euros) to 88,343 holdings (2022: 85,654 holdings). This corresponds to around 84 % (2022: 80 %) of all IACS holdings. The average payment per holding amounted to around 5,900 euros (2022: 5,500 euros). On average, holdings participated in three ÖPUL measures. In 2023, 1,803,400 ha (2022: 1,768,000 ha) or 80 % (2022: 79 %) of the utilised agricultural area in Austria (not including alpine pastures) were subsidised in ÖPUL. On account of the high share of participating holdings and the high proportion of land included in the agri-environment measure, Austria ranks among the EU's top Member States. In addition to the area-related measures in RD 2014–2020, ten project measures are offered in 2023 for which an overall amount of 522 million euros (2022: 471.3 million euros) was paid.

## 13. Austrian Agri-environmental Programme (ÖPUL [1])–by measures in 2023

Areas, holdings and remunerations, in Austria

| Sub-measures | Areas in hectares | Holdings participating Number | Remuneration (in mio. €) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1.) Environmentally sound management | 974,522 | 45,579 | 93.33 |
| 2.) Limitation of inputs | 255,702 | 22,842 | 16.63 |
| 3.) Hay farming | 123,364 | 11,927 | 18.58 |
| 4.) Management of mountain meadows | 2,556 | 1,655 | 1.32 |
| 5.) Preservation of endangered livestock breeds | 44,677 | 5,209 | 8.13 |
| 6.) Greening–catch crop cultivation | 258,992 | 22,625 | 36.41 |
| 7.) Greening–"Evergreen" system | 222,328 | 13,749 | 17.66 |
| 8.) Erosion control arable land | 144,160 | 12,127 | 8.37 |
| 9.) Near-ground slurry spreading | 8,745,309 | 8,093 | 10.88 |
| 10.) Erosion control in vineyards, fruit and hops | 37,315 | 4,902 | 9.39 |
| 11.) Non-use of herbicides in vineyards, fruit and hops | 11,618 | 1,459 | 2.89 |
| 12.) Non-use of insecticides in vineyards, fruit and hops | 20,659 | 2,199 | 5.14 |
| 13.) Use of beneficial organisms in greenhouses | **303** | **177** | **0.60** |
| 14.) Site-adapted alpine pasture management | 318,927 | 6,873 | 9.79 |
| 15.) Animal welfare–herding | 204,261 | 4,547 | 17.07 |
| 16.) Preventive groundwater protection–arable land | 224,118 | 4,592 | 15.31 |
| 17.) Humus preservation and soil protection on grassland eligible for conversion | 137,864 | 11,958 | 10.11 |
| 18.) Nature conservation | 83,463 | 19,574 | 55.34 |
| 19.) Results-oriented management | 3,155 | 280 | 2.42 |
| 20.) Animal welfare–pasture | 663,462 | 38,278 | 33.26 |
| 21.) Animal welfare–cattle housing | 99,801 | 7,030 | 15.98 |
| 22.) Animal welfare–pig housing | 56,268 | 1,314 | 7.71 |
| 23.) Natura 2000–agriculture | 1,402 | 629 | 0.58 |
| 24.) Water Framework Directive–agriculture | 14,344 | 592 | 0.71 |
| 25.) Organic farming | 515,915 | 22,446 | 128.80 |
| 114.) OF top-up–Management of mountain meadows | 1,104 | 2,183 | 0.05 |
| 115.) OF top-up–alpine grazing and herding | 4,421 | 293 | 0.18 |
| **ÖPUL area, holdings, payments** | **1,803,429** | **88,343** | **526.66** |
| **ÖPUL area with alpine pastures for animal feed** | **2,122,356** | | |

1) ÖPUL = Agri-environmental Programme (ÖPUL), Austria's programme for the promotion of an agriculture which is appropriate to the environment, extensive and protective of natural habitats.
Source: BML, Agrarmarkt Austria (AMA), as of July 2024.

## 14. Agricultural production

The cereal harvest (incl. maize grains) amounted to 5.2 million tonnes in 2023 and decreased only slightly, by 0.6 %, compared to the previous year. One of the reasons for this development was the mixed vegetation period, which led to diminished grain filling and smaller grain sizes of the stocks that were already depleted on account of the cold, dry winter. For root crops, there was a slight trend reversal after the cultivation low of the past years–a result of the expansion of the sugar beet cultivation area by almost 1,700 ha (+5.0 %). The sugar beet harvest declined by 2.4 %. The potato harvest declined by 13.4 %.

The quantity of milk delivered to dairies increased by 1.0 % in 2023. The gross indigenous production of beef decreased by 1.9 % and the gross indigenous production of pork decreased by 5.2 %.

However, Austria's family farms are doing well in international competition not for quantity but for their top quality. Regionality and obligatory designations of origin are therefore important priorities of agricultural policies.

### 14. Agricultural production 2021–2023

in 1,000 tonnes, in Austria

| Agricultural production | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | Change 2022/23 in % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wheat | 1,529 | 1,685 | 1,721 | 2.1 |
| Rye | 152 | 168 | 175 | 4.2 |
| **Bread cereals, total** | **1,692** | **1,865** | **1,907** | **2.3** |
| Barley | 738 | 758 | 763 | 0.7 |
| Oats | 89 | 84 | 60 | –29.1 |
| Grain maize (incl. corn-cob-mix) | 2,435 | 2,114 | 2,105 | –0.4 |
| **Feed grains, total** | **3,607** | **3,306** | **3,293** | **–0.4** |
| **Cereals, total (incl. maize)** | **5,300** | **5,170** | **5,200** | **0.6** |
| Winter rape | 86 | 91 | 86 | –5.8 |
| Soybean | 235 | 246 | 270 | 10.0 |
| Potatoes | 770 | 686 | 594 | –13.4 |
| Sugar beet [1] | 3,043 | 2,710 | 2,645 | –2.4 |
| **Total cow's milk production** | **3,830** | **3,943** | **3,982** | **1.0** |
| Dairy performance (in kg/cow and year) | 7,249 | 7,250 | 7,287 | 0.5 |
| Quantity of milk delivered to dairies | 3,403 | 3,499 | 3,535 | 1.0 |
| **Cattle, gross domestic production [1]** | **200** | **197** | **193** | **–1.9** |
| **Pigs, gross domestic production [1]** | **479** | **456** | **433** | **–5.2** |

1) Final figures for 2023.
Source: © STATISTICS AUSTRIA; Austrian Federal Institute of Agricultural Economics, Rural and Mountain Research, Agrarmarkt Austria (AMA); ZAR Annual Report. As of: June 2024.

## 15. Crops on arable land

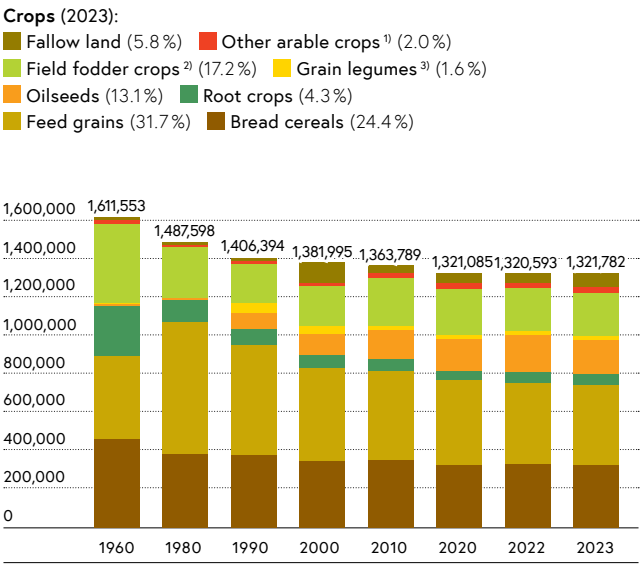
According to Statistics Austria, Austria featured around 1.322 million ha of arable farmland in 2023. This is a decline of arable land by 18 % compared to 1960. Compared to the previous year, 2022, the cultivation of bread grain was reduced, as was the cultivation of oilseeds by around 17,500 ha. The cultivation of root crops increased by around 900 ha (+1.5 %). Set-aside areas increased sharply by around 27,200 ha (+55 %).

The intensified cultivation of protein crops contributes greatly to making Europe more independent of soy imports. Regional cultivation saves resources, cuts transport distances and improves soil fertility. Austria is playing a leading role in this context: Over the past few years, soy cultivation has doubled in Austria.

In the fight against climate change and its impacts, adapted varieties that allow stable and high-quality yields in spite of the growing number of extreme weather events play an important role. For this reason, the Ministry of Agriculture and Saatgut Austria launched the research project "Klimafit".

### 15. Crops on arable land 1960–2023

Areas in hectare, total arable land in 2023 = 1,321,782 ha (100 %), in Austria




1) Not incl. fallow land.
2) Green forage
3) Protein crops
Source: © STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Agrarmarkt Austria, BML, as of: June 2024.

## 16. Seed production industry in Austria

Seed and planting material are subject to stringent national and international regulations. The Federal Office for Food Safety (baes.gv.at) implements the laws concerning seed quality assurance. Variety approval is subject to testing. The Austrian list of varieties is maintained by BAES on the basis of the Seed Act ("Saatgutgesetz") and is published annually in an updated edition.

In Austria, around 6,000 farmers propagate seeds of the different crops for Austrian seed companies or cooperatives on 38,400 hectares (2023). On about 22 % of the reproductive areas, certified organic seeds are grown. Austria is 100 % self-sufficient in cereal seed.

In 2023, the seed production industry employed approximately 1,000 persons in around 25 companies active in plant breeding, seed production and the direct sale of seed. Plant breeding and seed production are a central sector of Austrian agriculture.

Saatgut Austria is the representation of interest of the seed industry. The BML and the Federal Provinces promote a project of Saatgut Austria and of the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES) which aims at healthy and climate-fit varieties.

### 16. Seed production–Field certification areas of major crops 2020–2023

in hectares, in Austria

| Crops | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | Change 2023/22 in % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cereals (incl. maize) | 28,156 | 27,054 | 26,517 | 26,036 | –4.8 |
| Root crops | 1,970 | 1,963 | 1,878 | 1,794 | –0.8 |
| Grasses | 789 | 879 | 819 | 669 | –1.5 |
| Small-seeded legumes | 773 | 609 | 473 | 353 | –1.2 |
| Medium-/ Large-seeded legumes | 6,057 | 6,426 | 7,680 | 7,952 | 2.7 |
| Oil and fibre crops | 2,305 | 2,164 | 1,984 | 1,528 | –4.6 |
| Other forage crops | 10 | 189 | 76 | 61 | –0.2 |
| **Field certification areas** | **40,060** | **39,284** | **39,427** | **38,392** | **–10.3** |

Source: Federal Office for Food Safety (Bundesamt für Ernährungssicherheit - BAES). Green Report 2024. As of: July 2024.

## 17. Cereal supply in Austria

In the business year 2022/23, Austria's agricultural industry produced around 5.2 million tonnes of cereals (including grain maize). About 5.88 million tonnes thereof were used domestically, of which 2.95 million tonnes as animal feed, 0.10 million tonnes as seed and 1.59 million tonnes in the industry. The per capita consumption amounted to 91.6 kg.

The degree of self-sufficiency for cereals reached 88 %. For rye, the degree of self-sufficiency was 103 %, for durum wheat and common wheat 101 %. The total area under cereals was 741,200 hectares in 2023.

### 17. Supply balance sheet for cereals 2022/23

in tonnes, in Austria

| Balance sheet item | Durum wheat and common wheat | Rye | Barley, oats, grain maize | Other cereals | Cereals, total [3] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Production** | **1,685,232** | **167,637** | **3,262,054** | **52,846** | **5,170,497** |
| Opening stocks | 345,535 | 33,670 | 466,855 | 2,930 | 873,974 |
| Final stocks | 405,924 | 38,120 | 483,109 | 2,218 | 889,294 |
| Import [1] | 1,431,296 | 15,759 | 1,641,693 | 26,434 | 2,861,566 |
| Export [1] | 1,161,858 | 20,880 | 1,151,084 | 20,904 | 2,134,280 |
| **Domestic use** | **1,894,280** | **158,067** | **3,736,409** | **59,088** | **5,882,462** |
| Feed | 583,004 | 57,753 | 2,082,135 | 41,138 | 2,952,412 |
| Seed | 50,934 | 5,771 | 34,630 | 213 | 101,018 |
| Industrial use | 485,928 | 2,379 | 1,256,274 | - | 1,587,115 |
| Losses | 36,338 | 3,955 | 101,102 | 2,208 | 152,581 |
| **Food consumption (gross)** | **738,075** | **88,208** | **262,268** | **15,529** | **1,089,337** |
| Food consumption (net) [2] | 592,119 | 68,803 | 167,236 | 11,647 | 833,415 |
| Per capita in kg | 65.1 | 7.6 | 18.6 | 1.3 | 91.6 |
| **Degree of self-sufficiency in %** | **101** | **103** | **89** | **89** | **88** |

1) Including processed products (in cereal equivalent).
2) Flour meal equivalent or nutriment.
3) Including triticale and mixed grain.
Source: © STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Supply balance sheets. As of: June 2024.

## 18. Wine, fruit and vegetable production

In 2023, 2.33 million hectolitres of wine were produced, 7.8 % less than in the previous year. One third of the vineyards is stocked with red-wine varieties. For red wine, the quantity harvested decreased by 15.2 %. The top three varieties–Zweigelt (42 %), Blaufränkisch (19 %) and Blauer Portugieser (8 %)–account for 70 % of the red wine area. The white wine harvest also fell compared to the previous year (–2.4 %) and amounted to 1.66 million hectolitres. Grüner Veltliner is with almost 50 % of the white-wine area the most common white-wine variety, followed by the Weißburgunder varieties (11 %), Welschriesling (11 %), Rheinriesling (7 %), and Müller-Thurgau (6 %).

With 190,500 tonnes–a good fifth less than in the previous year (237,200 t)–fruit production was particularly poor in 2023. Pome fruit production fell to 162,900 t (–19.6 %) and stone fruit production decreased extraordinarily by as much as 3,000 t (–27.1 %). Soft fruit production saw a sharp decline as well and decreased by one sixth to 19,300 t.

The total production of field and garden vegetables amounted to 651,500 t in 2023 (–3.4 %) and fell by 22,800 tonnes compared to 2022. The area planted with vegetables amounted to 18,900 ha in 2023, a plus of 2.5 %.

### 18. Wine, fruit and vegetable production 2022–2023

in Austria

| Wine production [1] | 2022 | 2023 | Change 2022/23 in % |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Wine production in total (1,000 hl)** | **2,527** | **2,331** | **–7.8** |
| Yield (hl/ha) [2] | 59.0 | 54.7 | –7.3 |
| White wine production (1,000 hl) | 1,702 | 1,662 | –2.4 |
| Red wine and rosé wine production (1,000 hl) | 789 | 669 | –15.2 |
| Wine stock (1,000 hl) | 2,926 | 3,049 | 4.2 |
| **Commercial fruit production** | | | |
| **Commercial fruit production in total (1,000 t)** [3] | **237.2** | **190.5** | **–19.7** |
| Pome fruit production (1,000 t) | 202.5 | 162.9 | –19.6 |
| Stone fruit production (1,000 t) | 11.1 | 8.1 | –27.1 |
| Soft fruit production (1,000 t) | 23.1 | 19.3 | –16.6 |
| **Vegetable production** | | | |
| **Vegetable production (1,000 t)** | **674.3** | **651.5** | **–3.4** |
| Area under vegetables (1,000 ha) | 18.5 | 18.9 | 2.5 |

1) Wine production as per 30 November.
2) Due to changes in the data basis for the wine areas, these are not comparable with the years before. As from 2021: IACS (evaluation of the multiple applications of Agrarmarkt Austria).
3) Total amount always without aronia and elderberry.
Source: © STATISTICS AUSTRIA, as of: June 2024.

## 19. Food fish production

Within the framework of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), Austria's fisheries policy concentrates on strengthening aquaculture with the sustainable production of high-quality fish products. Aquaculture means the breeding or keeping of water organisms, such as fish, crayfish or prawns, with the objective of increasing production beyond the degree possible under natural conditions by means of suitable techniques.

In 2022, 568 aquaculture enterprises produced 4,719 tonnes of food fish in Austria (–4.1 % compared to 2021).

The Ministry of Agriculture takes numerous measures to enhance production and the degree of self-sufficiency. The Aquaculture Strategy 2020 fosters domestic sustainable fishery and quality production. At the international level, too, Austria vehemently advocates sustainable fishery and environmentally compatible catch quotas.

### 19. Food fish production 2021–2022 [1]

in Austria

| Fish species | Total production in kg live weight 2021 | 2022 | Change 2021/22 absolute | in % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rainbow trout, salmon trout | 1,735,662 | 1,691,319 | –44,343 | –2.6 |
| Brown trout, lake trout | 503,397 | 511,106 | 7,709 | 1.5 |
| Brook trout | 685,393 | 660,941 | –24,452 | –3.6 |
| Arctic char | 280,732 | 280,156 | –576 | –0.2 |
| Elsatian char | 394,340 | 414,024 | 19,684 | 5.0 |
| Danube salmon | 8,243 | 5,584 | –2,659 | –32.3 |
| Common carp | 616,703 | 559,824 | –56,879 | –9.2 |
| Tench | 5,334 | 4,687 | –647 | –12.1 |
| Grass carp | 37,654 | 32,936 | –4,718 | –12.5 |
| Silver carp | 11,741 | 10,078 | –1,663 | –14.2 |
| Pike-perch | 22,755 | 19,951 | –2,804 | –12.3 |
| European catfish | 45,869 | 39,858 | –6,011 | –13.1 |
| African catfish | 494,378 | 430,880 | –63,498 | –12.8 |
| Northern pike | 5,495 | 4,849 | –646 | –11.8 |
| Sturgeons | 13,382 | 15,271 | 1,889 | 14.1 |
| Other fish species [2] | 104,716 | 14,339 | –90,377 | –86.3 |
| **Total production** | **4,920,413** | **4,718,738** | **–201,675** | **–4.1** |
| **Number of fish farms** | **562** | **568** | **6** | **1.1** |

1) Meaning "ready-to-eat", under market conditions, irrespective of their actual, further use.
2) Including crayfish (511 kg) and shrimps (22,424 kg).
Source: STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Aquaculture production, as of: June 2024.

## 20. Animal husbandry

As per 1 December 2023, 1.84 million cattle were kept in Austria. Compared to the previous year this was a reduction by 1.4 %. The number of dairy cows declined by 1.4 % as well and dropped to 543,000 head.

As opposed to this, the total number of pigs fell by 5.0 % and amounted to 2.52 million. In detailed comparison, the number of piglets decreased by 4.8 % to 605,300 and the number of young pigs declined by 5.6 % to 642,300 head. Compared to 2022, the number of fattening pigs in the weight class 50 to under 80 kg decreased (–2.7 % to 505,000) as did the number of those weighing 80 to under 110 kg (–5.4 % to 430,800) and those weighing at least 110 kg (–14.6 % to 126,000). Among the breeding sows, the number of gilts declined by 0.7 % to 40,900 and the number of older sows declined by 2.7 % to 162,700. The total number of sows covered was 144,500 (–1.4 %).

In a year-on-year comparison, the number of cattle farms was down to 51,400, the number of pig farms declined to 17,800. The average stock density was 36 head of cattle, 142 pigs, 24 sheep and 10 goats per holding.

Meadows, pastures and alpine pastures in mountain areas provide the fodder for animal husbandry. This area-wide management deserves strong support, as it protects areas for living and maintains the cultivated area. The well-tended landscape is vital for people seeking recreation and for tourism.

### 20. Animal husbandry 2021–2023

in Austria

| | Animals in 1,000 [1] | | | Agricultural holdings with livestock in 1,000 [1] | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Animals** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** |
| Cattle | 1,870 | 1,861 | 1,835 | 53.7 | 52.5 | 51.4 |
| of which dairy cows | 526 | 551 | 543 | 26.2 | 27.0 | 25.8 |
| Pigs | 2,786 | 2,650 | 2,516 | 19.6 | 19.2 | 17.8 |
| Sheep | 402 | 401 | 392 | 16.4 | 16.2 | 16.3 |
| Goats | 101 | 99 | 97 | 10.3 | 10.3 | 10.2 |

1) Stocks according to livestock survey, as of December 1st each year.
Source: Livestock Survey (Viehbestandserhebung), Central Cattle Database, STATISTICS AUSTRIA, AMA. Calculations: Austrian Federal Institute of Agricultural Economics, Rural and Mountain Research–BAB, May 2024.

## 21. Horse husbandry in Austria

The horse industry is traditionally rooted in Austria. Horses are an important tourism and cultural factor. Equestrian sports, show jumping and trotting are traditionally based in Austria as well.

With an estimated horse population of 130,000 head (source: Pferd Austria, IWI 2019) and an overall economic effect of 2.24 billion to 2.33 billion euros, horses secure up to 24,800 jobs (19,200 FTEs). The supply of horses requires approximately 110,000 hectares of land, 170,000 t of feed grain and 200,000 t of hay. These farms generate their added value through the breeding of horses, horse livery stables and the production of special feed for the horse industry.

Agricultural horse husbandry is characterised by tradition and husbandry motives and represents an important business sector within agriculture. In 2023, 13,705 farms kept 79,704 horses. Most farms keep other farm animals in addition to horses.

Austria is a very traditional horse-breeding country with the horse breeds Noriker, Haflinger, Warmblood, Shagya-Arabian and Lipizzaner. The Haflingers, which are sure-footed and can be used well in alpine terrain, are popular. The endangered Noriker breed is promoted within the framework of the Agri-environmental measure ÖPUL.

The Lipizzaner breed enjoys international renown with the leading farm of the Spanish Riding School in Vienna (srs.at) and the Piber Lipizzaner stud farm (piber.com) in Styria. The classical horsemanship of the Spanish Riding School and the knowledge of Lipizzaner breeding have been included in the UNESCO list as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

### 21. Horse farming in agriculture and forestry in 2023

in Austria

| | Holdings | | Horses [1] | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Classes** | **Number** | **in %** | **Number** | **in %** |
| 1–3 horses [1] | 7,767 | 56.7 | 15,620 | 19.6 |
| > 4–10 horses [1] | 4,120 | 30.1 | 24,352 | 30.6 |
| > 11–20 horses [1] | 1,128 | 8.2 | 16,506 | 20.7 |
| > 20 horses [1] | 690 | 5.0 | 23,225 | 29.1 |
| **Total** | **13,705** | **100.0** | **79,704** | **100.0** |

1) Including ponies and donkeys.
Source: Green Report 2024, IACS, as of: June 2024.

## 22. Bovine livestock

According to the Farm Structure Survey 2020 about 82,000 (53 %) of the 154,953 holdings were engaged in livestock farming, compared to 63 % in 2010. As per 1 December 2023, around 1.84 million head of bovine animals were held in Austria. The highest numbers were recorded in Upper Austria, followed by Lower Austria and Styria. The same goes for dairy cows. The average Austrian dairy cattle farm keeps 21 dairy cows. The smallest dairy farms, with an average number of 12 dairy cows, are found in Tyrol, the biggest ones, with an average number of 37 dairy cows per farm, in Burgenland.

A comparison with the reporting date of the previous year shows: In 2023, bovine livestock declined slightly, by about 25,600 head (–1.3 %).

Only three Federal Provinces, namely Salzburg, Tyrol and Vorarlberg, saw a slight increase in the number of cattle: In Tyrol, the number of bovine livestock increased by 1,775 head (+1.0 %), in Salzburg their number increased by 344 head (+0.2 %) and in Vorarlberg the number of cattle increased by 70 head (+0.1 %). In all other Federal Provinces a decline in cattle numbers was recorded, with the sharpest fall in the absolute number of cattle in Upper Austria (–12,900 head). As the number of cattle decreased, also the number of agricultural holdings with livestock decreased by a national average of –2.2 percent.

### 22. Bovine livestock in 2023

Animals and agricultural holdings with livestock by Federal Provinces as of December 2023, in Austria

| | Cattle, total | | Cows, total | | Suckler cows | | Dairy cows | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FP [1] | Animals | Keepers | Animals | Keepers | Animals | Keepers [2] | Animals | Keepers |
| B | 16,059 | 323 | 5,361 | 236 | 2,244 | 171 | 3,117 | 84 |
| CA | 166,220 | 6,056 | 71,787 | 5,475 | 37,683 | 4,358 | 34,104 | 1,966 |
| LA | 409,837 | 8,911 | 131,102 | 6,631 | 28,127 | 3,641 | 102,975 | 3,987 |
| UA | 540,946 | 11,292 | 193,124 | 8,510 | 24,412 | 4,307 | 168,712 | 5,877 |
| S | 161,327 | 5,596 | 76,249 | 4,945 | 14,674 | 2,728 | 61,575 | 3,467 |
| ST | 296,448 | 9,276 | 116,010 | 7,565 | 35,565 | 4,931 | 80,445 | 3,842 |
| T | 179,829 | 7,803 | 76,765 | 6,816 | 10,740 | 2,338 | 66,025 | 5,295 |
| V | 64,736 | 2,137 | 29,351 | 1,851 | 3,277 | 695 | 26,074 | 1,308 |
| VIE | 67 | 7 | 29 | [3] | 24 | [3] | 5 | [3] |
| A [4] | 1,835,469 | 51,401 | 699,778 | 42,029 | 156,746 | 23,170 | 543,032 | 25,826 |

1 ) FP = Federal Provinces
2) Agricultural holdings keeping suckler cows according to IACS data.
3) Subject to statistical confidentiality.
4) A = Austria, total
Source: © STATISTICS AUSTRIA; AMA, Central Cattle Database 2023; Austrian Federal Institute of Agricultural Economics, Rural and Mountain Research - BAB.

## 23. Dairy products and cheese production

The production of fresh milk in Austria amounted to 743,200 tonnes (+0.1 %) in 2023. The production of butter decreased again compared to the previous year and amounted to 34,100 tonnes (–0.7 %). Fewer cows produced more milk with the average annual milk yield per animal increasing slightly to 7,287 kilogrammes. For sheep milk, the quantity of raw milk produced declined by 1.3 %, thus amounting to 11,500 tonnes, for goat milk it rose slightly, by 2.1 %, to 26,600 tonnes.

Austrian cheese production rose to a total of 238,600 tonnes in 2023 (2022: 225,700 tonnes).

The Ministry of Agriculture is committed to strengthen the position of dairy farmers in the value-added chain–for example by promoting quality labels and designations of origin. The model project of hay milk proved effective also economically. With the sheep and goat hay milk, two Austrian "traditional specialities guaranteed" are being protected.

### 23. Dairy products and cheese production 1990–2023

in Austria

**Dairy products production in 1,000 t**

| Year | Drinking milk [1] | UHT milk | Sweet cream [2] | Sour cream [2] | Butter |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1990 | 562.9 | 25.2 | n.a. | n.a. | 35.3 |
| 2000 | 518.6 | 134.1 | n.a. | n.a. | 35.9 |
| 2010 | 694.1 | 334.3 | 41.2 | 20.4 | 33.2 |
| 2020 | 753.3 | 429.2 | 45.0 | 25.7 | 38.4 |
| 2021 | 745.4 | 373.3 | 45.1 | 25.0 | 36.9 |
| 2022 | 742.2 | 385.1 | 46.9 | 24.5 | 34.4 |
| 2023 | 743.0 | 370.0 | 48.5 | 24.7 | 34.1 |

**Cheese production by ripe weight in 1,000 t**

| Year | Hard cheese | Semi-hard cheese | Soft cheese | Cream cheese | Curd [3] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1990 | 31.5 | 41.1 | 5.5 | 6.3 | 23.0 |
| 2000 | 24.4 | 51.4 | 6.1 | 10.3 | 26.4 |
| 2010 | 34.6 | 58.3 | 10.4 | 22.0 | 28.9 |
| 2020 | 46.5 | 68.6 | 30.4 | 30.5 | 30.1 |
| 2021 | 50.7 | 77.6 | 28.2 | 31.4 | 27.5 |
| 2022 | 48.6 | 80.8 | 33.4 | 33.4 | 29.5 |
| 2023 | 48.5 | 82.0 | 40.2 | 40.2 | 27.6 |

1) Drinking milk incl. "Mischtrunk", not incl. UHT milk.
2) Including UHT milk.
3) Farmer's curd cheese and industrial curds.
n.a. = no figures available
Source: Agrarmarkt Austria (AMA), as of: June 2024.

## 24. Supply balance sheet for major plant products

The supply balance sheets provide an overview of quantitative and qualitative information about agriculture and the food sector. To cover a product in its entirety the supply balance of an agricultural commodity (e.g. wheat and sugar) takes into account also the most important processed products (e.g. flour, starch and sugary products)–provided that they are not the subject of separate balance sheets. This is the only way of getting an overall view of foreign trade and the supply with a product.

The supply balance sheets are calculated for the most important foods and animal feeds taking into account the national circumstances (production and marketing structures of agriculture and the food sector, differentiated data situation and data availability, establishment and use of technical coefficients in detailed balance sheets, foreign trade provisions etc.). They are published in detailed, product-specific supply-use calculations.

In a long-term average, Austria is self-sufficient in the case of bread grain, potatoes, pulses, apples, onions, wine and beer.

However, many fruit and vegetable species cannot, or not in sufficient quantities, be produced in Austria. We therefore need to supplement the domestic harvest by imports.

The self-supply rate for fruit is 45 % in Austria, that for vegetables 58 %. Measured by the per-capita consumption, the most popular fruit are bananas, closely followed by apples and oranges. Among vegetables, tomatoes are the most popular variety.

Increasingly unpredictable weather conditions confront the agricultural industry with great challenges.

## 24. Supply balance sheet for major plant products in 2022/23

in Austria

| Plant products | Production in 1,000 tonnes | Domestic consumption in 1,000 tonnes | Food consumption in 1,000 tonnes | Human consumption per head in kg or litre | Degree of self-sufficiency in % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Cereals, total** | **5,170** | **5,882** | **833** | **91.6** | **88** |
| Sugar [1] | 389 | | 270 | 29.6 | |
| Potatoes [2] | 686 | 799 | 445 | 53.1 | 86 |
| Oilseeds | 430 | 757 | 64 | 7.0 | 57 |
| Vegetable oils | 201 | 346 | 121 | 13.3 | 35 |
| Legumes | 43 | 55 | 11 | 1.2 | 79 |
| Honey | 4.3 | | 8.8 | 1.0 | 49 |
| Wine (1,000 hl) | 2.5 | | 2.5 | 26.3 | 102 |
| Beer (1,000 hl) | 10.0 | | 9.5 | 104.1 | 106 |
| **Fruit, total** | **450** | **999** | **711** | **78.1** | **45** |
| Apples | 241 | 267 | 140 | 15.6 | 90 |
| Bananas | - | 131 | 139 | 14.7 | - |
| Pears | 53 | 68 | 26 | 2.9 | 78 |
| Plums | 22 | 29 | 23 | 2.6 | 76 |
| Peaches, nectarines | 2 | 26 | 25 | 2.8 | 9 |
| Oranges | - | 50 | 48 | 5.4 | - |
| Other berries | 14 | 47 | 37 | 4.1 | 30 |
| Cherries, mahaleb | 12 | 19 | 14 | 1.6 | 61 |
| **Vegetables, total** | **747** | **1,293** | **1,099** | **120.7** | **58** |
| Tomatoes | 60 | 339 | 314 | 34.9 | 18 |
| Onions | 169 | 131 | 94 | 11 | 129 |
| Carrots | 118 | 118 | 88 | 9.8 | 100 |
| Lettuces | 41 | 46 | 37 | 4.1 | 90 |
| Salad (other) | 10 | 40 | 35 | 3.9 | 24 |
| Cabbage (white and red) | 41 | 46 | 41 | 4.6 | 89 |
| Bell pepper, hot peppers | 15 | 50 | 45 | 5.0 | 31 |
| Brassica, Chinese cabbage and the like | 23 | 33 | 28 | 3.1 | 69 |
| Cucumbers (salad) | 38 | 56 | 52 | 5.8 | 68 |
| Melons | 2 | 47 | 40 | 4.4 | 4 |
| Mushrooms | 3 | 19 | 18 | 2.0 | 17 |

1) Domestic consumption and degree of self-sufficiency are subject to statistical confidentiality.
2) Per capita consumption without potato starch in potato equivalent.
Source: © STATISTICS AUSTRIA, as of: May 2024.

## 25. Supply balance sheet for major animal products

Austrians consume 58.6 kg of meat per year. For beef and veal, pork and, in particular, offal, the rate of self-supply by far exceeds 100 %. With 104 %, it ranges slightly above it also in the case of pork, whereas roughly 23 % of the poultry meat needed in Austria has to be imported.

The annual per capita consumption of drinking milk amounts to 70.4 litres with a degree of self-sufficiency of 176 %. Cheese is popular as well. On average, 22.5 kg are consumed per person and year. The degree of self-sufficiency for cheese is 103 %. For eggs, the per capita consumption is 15.3 kg eggs per year and the degree of self-sufficiency amounts to 94 %.

Per person and year, 7.2 kg fish are consumed. Being a landlocked country, the degree of self-sufficiency for fish amounts to only 8 % in Austria.

### 25. Supply balance sheet for major animal products in 2022

in Austria

| Animal products | Gross domestic production in 1,000 t | Domestic consumption in 1,000 t | For human consumption in 1,000 t | Human consumption per head in kg | Degree of self-sufficiency in % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Beef and veal | 201 | 139 | 93 | 10.3 | 144 |
| Pork | 447 | 430 | 303 | 33.5 | 104 |
| Mutton and goat's meat | 7 | 9 | 6 | 0.7 | 77 |
| Offals | 64 | 12 | 3 | 0.3 | 554 |
| Poultry meat | 152 | 198 | 118 | 13.0 | 77 |
| Miscellaneous | 8 | 11 | 7 | 0.8 | 70 |
| **Meat, total** | **878** | **799** | **531** | **58.6** | **110** |
| Eggs | 147.8 | 157.7 | 138.9 | 15.3 | 94 |
| Fish | 5.5 | 65.6 | 65.6 | 7.2 | 8 |
| Consumers milk | 1,121.5 | 637.5 | 637.5 | 70.4 | 176 |
| Cheese | 231.3 | 224.1 | 203.9 | 22.5 | 103 |
| Butter | 35.2 | 52.5 | 48.4 | 5.4 | 67 |
| Animal fats | 125.7 | 129.2 | 54.1 | 6.0 | 97 |

Source: © STATISTICS AUSTRIA, supply balance sheets, as of: June 2024.

## 26. Farm holidays

In 2023, a total of 8,081 agricultural holdings offered "farm holidays" ("Urlaub am Bauernhof") across Austria, providing 68,706 guest beds (approx. 10 % of the total number of tourist beds).

"Private accommodations on farms" decreased only slightly, by –0.4 %, with a reduction of beds by –4.3 %. In the category "holiday apartments and homes on farms", on the other hand, a significant increase of +7.5 % was recorded in the number of overnight stays; The number of beds in holiday apartments increased by +1.6 %. This means that occupancy rates increased in both categories.

### 26. Overnight stays on farms in 2023 [1]

in Austria

| Federal Provinces | Overnight stays | | Beds [2] | Holdings |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | in 1,000 | Changes 2023/22 in % | Number | Number |
| **Category "Private accommodations on farms" [3]** | | | | |
| B | 43.2 | –16.4 | 704 | 82 |
| CA | 80.0 | –0.2 | 2,032 | 285 |
| LA | 152.3 | 2.5 | 2,355 | 284 |
| UA | 109.6 | –2.1 | 2,179 | 260 |
| S | 320.2 | –1.7 | 5,135 | 594 |
| ST | 280.2 | –1.9 | 5,076 | 584 |
| T | 404.3 | 3.0 | 6,305 | 791 |
| V | 30.4 | 3.0 | 408 | 51 |
| **A, total** | **1,420.2** | **–0.4** | **24,194** | **2,931** |
| **Category "Holiday apartments and homes on farms"** | | | | |
| B | 20.6 | –9.4 | 376 | 49 |
| CA | 252.0 | 3.6 | 4,803 | 588 |
| LA | 85.1 | 4.8 | 1,772 | 238 |
| UA | 168.2 | 1.9 | 2,813 | 315 |
| S | 1,068.8 | 10.6 | 12,528 | 1,285 |
| ST | 266.1 | 4.4 | 4,755 | 625 |
| T | 1,309.9 | 8.3 | 15,120 | 1,771 |
| V | 199.3 | 4.3 | 2,345 | 279 |
| **A, total** | **3,369.9** | **7.5** | **44,512** | **5,150** |
| | | | **68,706** | **8,081** |

1) Including extra beds.
2) Including Overnight stays.
3) Category "Private accommodations on farms" includes 10 guest beds per farm, but not farm-based commercial enterprises and providers of holiday apartments or houses.
Source: © STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Tourism in Austria 2023, Bundesverband Urlaub am Bauernhof.

## 27. Food–Protected geographical indications and traditional speciality guaranteed

The protection of origin and of specialities for food is important. More and more people want to know where the food on their plates comes from and how it was produced. All the more important is it to offer customers clear guidance. At present, 17 Austrian products are protected by the EU quality labels "protected designation of origin"–PDO ("Geschützte Ursprungsbezeichnung", abbr. "g.U.") or "protected geographical indication"–PGI ("Geschützte geographische Angabe", abbr. "g.g.A.") and three products as "traditional speciality guaranteed"–TSG ("Garantiert traditionelle Spezialität", abbr. "g.t.S.").

Moreover, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has developed a register of the traditional foods. The objective is to identify and maintain the traditional knowledge about Austria's culinary heritage. For more detailed information, see traditionelle-lebensmittel.at.

### 27. Food–Protected Austrian designations

PDO [1], PGI [2] and TSG [3]

| Food | Ind [4] | Region |
|---|---|---|
| Wachauer Marille (Wachau apricot) | PDO | Wachau, LA |
| Tiroler Graukäse (Tyrolean grey cheese) | PDO | Tyrol |
| Gailtaler Almkäse (Gailtal Alpine pasture cheese) | PDO | Gail Valley, CA |
| Tiroler Bergkäse (Tyrolean mountain cheese) | PDO | Tyrol |
| Vorarlberger Alpkäse (Vorarlberg alp cheese) | PDO | Vorarlberg |
| Vorarlberger Bergkäse (Vorarlberg mountain cheese) | PDO | Vorarlberg |
| Waldviertler Graumohn (Waldviertel grey poppy seeds) | PDO | Waldviertel, LA |
| Tiroler Almkäse/Tiroler Alpkäse (Tyrolean Alpine pasture cheese/Tyrolean alp cheese) | PDO | Tyrol |
| Pöllauer Hirschbirne (Pöllauer Hirschbirne pear) | PDO | Pöllau Valley, ST |
| Steirische Käferbohne (Styrian runner bean) | PDO | Styria |
| Ennstaler Steirerkas (Ennstaler Steirerkas cheese) | PDO | Enns Valley, ST |
| Steirisches Kürbiskernöl (Styrian pumpkin seed oil) | PGI | Styria |
| Marchfeldspargel (Marchfeld asparagus) | PGI | Marchfeld, LA |
| Tiroler Speck (Tyrolean bacon) | PGI | Tyrol |
| Gailtaler Speck (Gailtal bacon) | PGI | Gail Valley, CA |
| Steirischer Kren (Styrian horseradish) | PGI | Styria |
| Lesachtaler Brot (Lesachtal bread) | PGI | Lesachtal, CA |
| Heumilch (Hay milk) | TSG | Austria |
| Schaf-Heumilch (Sheep hay milk) | TSG | Austria |
| Ziegen-Heumilch (Goat hay milk) | TSG | Austria |

1) PDO = Protected designation of origin
2) PGI = Protected geographical indication
3) TSG = Traditional speciality guaranteed
4) Indication
Source: BML, as of: 12 July 2024.

## 28. Direct marketing

Whether at farmers' markets or regional events: Farm products are in vogue. Direct marketing means the marketing of mainly own primary products or processed products in one's own name, for one's own account and on one's own responsibility. Each direct marketing farm is a food business operator and is responsible for the safety of the foods marketed by him/her.

Marketing channels include the farm-gate sale, farmers' markets and other markets, farmers' shops and shop in shop, delivery service and shipping, DIY harvests, supply of restaurateurs, traditional wine taverns ("Buschenschank"), alpine buffets, online shops and many more.

Direct marketing is essential for the continuation of many agricultural holdings which increase the added value on the farm by shortening the supply chain. Around 30,000 farms market part of their produce themselves: On average, they generate 33 % of their agricultural income from direct marketing.

The demand for farm produce is greater than the supply. 10 % of the farmers are planning to start direct marketing. Detailed information on direct marketing on farms is available on the information platform chance-direktvermarktung.at of the Austrian Rural Further Education Institute (LFI).

### 28. Direct marketing shares in 2023

Quantitative shares in %, in Austria

| Food | Direct marketing [1] | Food retail trade | Other purchasing sources |
|---|---|---|---|
| Drinking milk | 12.1 | 84.2 | 3.7 |
| Cheese | 0.6 | 97.2 | 2.1 |
| Butter, margarine | 0.3 | 98.2 | 1.5 |
| Fresh fruits | 2.2 | 96.3 | 1.5 |
| Fresh vegetables | 2.9 | 95.0 | 2.1 |
| Potatoes | 6.2 | 91.6 | 2.2 |
| Eggs | 12.6 | 85.4 | 2.0 |
| Meat incl. poultry | 3.3 | 88.4 | 8.2 |
| Sausages and ham | 1.8 | 91.0 | 7.2 |

Rounded figures.
1) Farm-gate sale, farmers' market, weekly market, market, delivery services.
Source: © RollAMA/AMA Marketing, n = 2,800 Austrian households. As of: June 2024.

## 29. Consumer and producer prices for meat

The chart shows the development of animal prices at the level of agriculture as well as that of meat prices for consumers since 2020. Producer prices–that's what farmers get for their animals–fluctuate substantially over time. Downward movements of producer prices were only to a minor extent passed on to consumers.

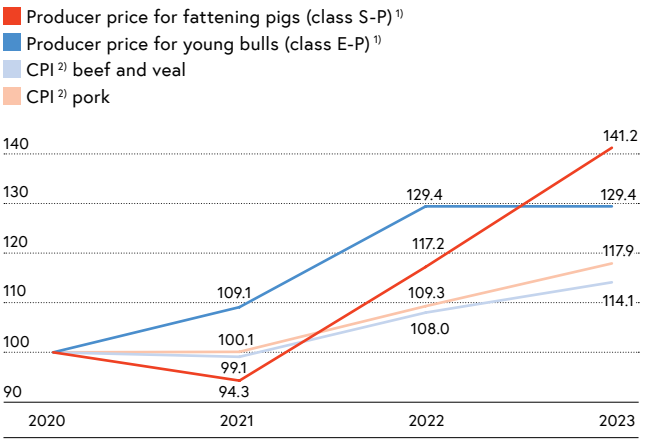
Farms, processing companies and trade at all levels as well as consumers are all parts of the food supply chain. Smaller operators in this chain are more prone to fall victim to unfair commercial practices. Farmers are particularly affected.

In 2018, during the Austrian Council Presidency, an EU Directive was negotiated which is to better protect agricultural producers against "unfair commercial practices". A few concrete measures to strengthen family farms have already been taken. The Ministry of Agriculture presented a fairness catalogue for enterprises and an anonymous online tool of the Austrian Federal Competition Authority for complaints.

Further information is available at fairness-buero.gv.at.

### 29. Development of consumer and producer prices for meat 2020–2023

Year 2020 = Index 100, in Austria



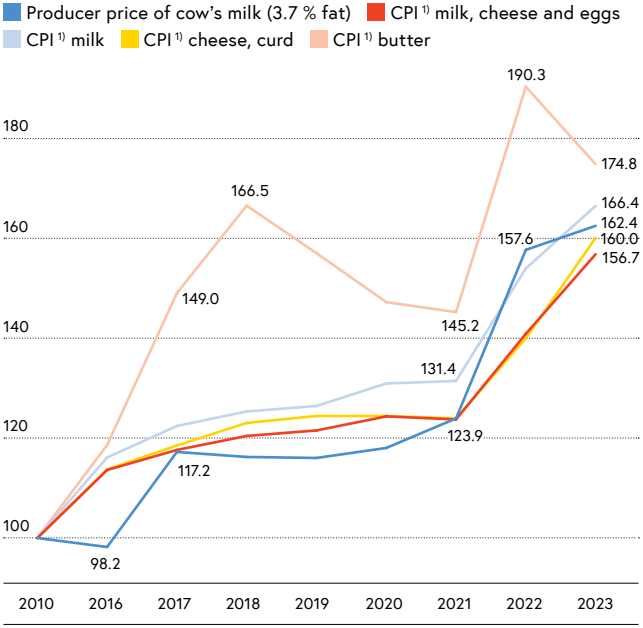

1) Free ramp slaughterhouse, in €/kg excl. VAT.
2) CPI = Consumer Price Index
Source: © STATISTICS AUSTRIA, as of: June 2024.

## 30. Consumer and producer prices for milk

The chart shows the development of milk prices at the level of agriculture and for consumers since 2010. Following the 2014 to 2016 dairy market crisis, the producer milk price recovered to some extent. At the end of 2023, it ranged 62.4 % above 2010 levels, whilst the consumer prices of dairy produce were 64.5 % above the 2010 price level.

### 30. Development of consumer and producer prices for milk 2010–2023

CPI from 2010 = Index 100, in Austria




1) CPI = Consumer Price Index
Source: © STATISTICS AUSTRIA; as of: June 2024.

## 31. Producer price indices for agricultural and forestry production

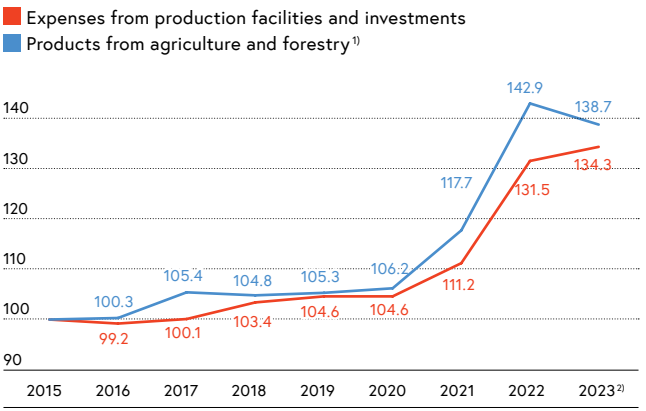
When compared to 2015, 2023 saw a 38.7 % increase in the preliminary prices that farmers received for their agricultural products.

Given the impacts of climate change, rapid technological developments and volatile international markets, agricultural holdings face major challenges. The prices of equipment and investment goods purchased for farm management increased by 34.3 % in the same period.

Therefore, the Austrian Ministry of Agriculture provides targeted support and a stable agricultural policy framework to ensure the continued existence of eco-social and small-structured agriculture. A key challenge for the future will be to offer small- and medium-sized holdings opportunities to take advantage of the progressing digitisation.

### 31. Producer price indices for agricultural and forestry production 2015–2023

Year 2015 = Index 100, in Austria




1) Including public funds.
2) Preliminary figures.
Source: © STATISTICS AUSTRIA, as of: June 2024.

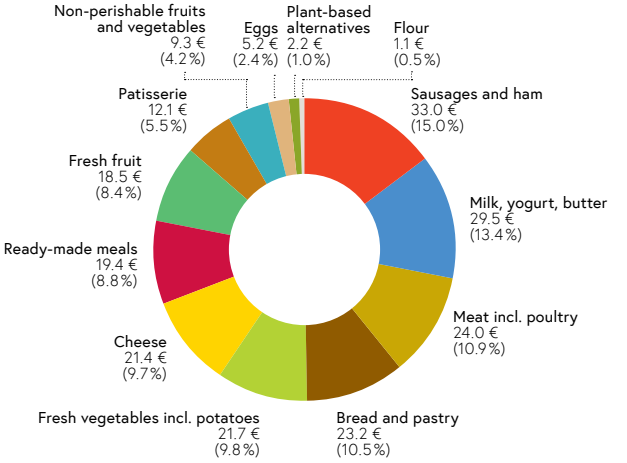
## 32. Monthly expenses for fresh foods and ready-made meals

On average, an Austrian household spent a monthly sum of 220.6 euros for fresh food and ready-made meals in 2023 (2022: 167.40 euros). Compared to the preceding year, Austrian household spending on fresh foods and ready-made products saw a significant, by 31.8 %, increase in value. With 33.0 euros, the highest monthly amount was spent on sausages and ham (15.0 %), followed by 29.5 euros for milk, yogurt and butter (13.4 %) and 24.0 euros for meat including poultry (10.9 %).

However, recent years have also shown that growing numbers of consumers deliberately pay attention to the quality and origin of foods. This positive trend emphasises that the hard work of family farms is acknowledged and highly appreciated by the entire population.

### 32. Monthly expenses for fresh foods and ready-made meals in 2023

Total: On average 220.6 euros monthly per Austrian household.




Source: RollAMA/AMA Marketing. Field work: Consumer Panel Austria GfK. Evaluation: KeyQuest Marktforschung.

## 33. Foreign trade in agricultural products and foods

In 2023, Austria's agricultural exports amounted to 16.658 billion euros (2022: 16.158 billion euros). However, agricultural imports increased as well, amounting to 17.368 billion euros. As a result, an agricultural trade deficit of –710 million euros was recorded. Beverages, milk and dairy products and cereal preparations are among the major export products. The biggest export surplus was achieved for beverages. The biggest import surplus was observed for fruit and vegetables.

### 33. Foreign trade in agricultural products and food in 1995 and 2023

in million €, in Austria

| According to Combined Nomenclature (CN) | Exports | | Imports | | Balance |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Product group** | **1995** | **2023** | **1995** | **2023** | **2023** |
| 1) Live animals | 69 | 164 | 32 | 285 | –121 |
| 2) Meat and meat products | 205 | 1,464 | 213 | 1,251 | 213 |
| 3) Fish | 2 | 80 | 73 | 440 | –360 |
| 4) Milk, dairy products, eggs and honey | 186 | 1,778 | 164 | 1,234 | 544 |
| 5) Other products of animal origin | 15 | 72 | 46 | 99 | –27 |
| 6) Live plants | 5 | 55 | 175 | 464 | –410 |
| 7) Vegetables | 39 | 233 | 246 | 800 | –568 |
| 8) Fruit | 63 | 314 | 377 | 1,414 | –1,100 |
| 9) Coffee, tea, spices | 44 | 234 | 207 | 611 | –377 |
| 10) Cereals | 100 | 625 | 44 | 747 | –122 |
| 11) Flour | 17 | 446 | 20 | 216 | 229 |
| 12) Oilseeds and seed | 49 | 452 | 61 | 646 | –194 |
| 13) Vegetal saps | 2 | 14 | 13 | 75 | –61 |
| 14) Plaiting materials | 1 | 5 | 1 | 6 | –2 |
| 15) Fats and oils | 44 | 401 | 97 | 790 | –389 |
| 16) Meat preparations | 49 | 739 | 104 | 588 | 151 |
| 17) Sugar and sugar products | 77 | 445 | 116 | 547 | –102 |
| 18) Cocoa and cocoa preparations | 108 | 633 | 188 | 724 | –91 |
| 19) Cereal preparations | 119 | 1,596 | 227 | 1,599 | –3 |
| 20) Vegetable and fruit preparations | 151 | 997 | 185 | 1,167 | –170 |
| 21) Other edible preparations | 75 | 1,261 | 206 | 1,125 | 137 |
| 22) Beverages | 248 | 3,470 | 149 | 1,154 | 2,315 |
| 23) Animal fodder | 90 | 1,161 | 152 | 982 | 179 |
| 24) Tobacco | 41 | 20 | 56 | 401 | –382 |
| **Total** | **1,799** | **16,658** | **3,152** | **17,368** | **–710** |

Source: © STATISTICS AUSTRIA, June 2024.

## 34. Major export destinations of Austrian agricultural products and foods

Three quarters of the exports of Austrian agricultural produce and foodstuffs go to other EU Member States. Austria's most important export destinations in 2023 were Germany (6.4 billion euros) and Italy (1.8 billion euros). Since Austria joined the EU in 1995 especially the exports to Germany, Italy and Hungary have increased, but also exports to non-EU countries, like Switzerland, have grown outstandingly.

### 34. Export of agricultural products and food in 2022/23

Exports of Austrian agricultural goods and food according to CN 01–24[1], in mio. €

| Rank/Export destination | 2022 | 2023 | 2023/22 in % |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1.) Germany | 5,859 | 6,401 | 9.2 |
| 2.) Italy | 1,726 | 1,792 | 3.8 |
| 3.) Hungary | 616 | 660 | 7.3 |
| 4.) Switzerland | 610 | 620 | 1.6 |
| 5.) Netherlands | 604 | 561 | –7.1 |
| 6.) Czech Republic | 470 | 502 | 6.7 |
| 7.) U. S. A. | 772 | 451 | –41.6 |
| 8.) France | 405 | 436 | 7.6 |
| 9.) Poland | 389 | 405 | 4.1 |
| 10.) Slovenia | 336 | 374 | 11.2 |
| 11.) Romania | 321 | 323 | 0.7 |
| 12.) Slovakia | 258 | 255 | –1.2 |
| 13.) Croatia | 204 | 255 | 25.0 |
| 14.) Russian Federation | 328 | 244 | –25.7 |
| 15.) United Kingdom | 205 | 239 | 16.9 |
| 16.) Spain | 203 | 220 | 8.2 |
| 17.) Turkey | 158 | 199 | 26.0 |
| 18.) Brazil | 228 | 193 | –15.4 |
| 19.) Belgium | 156 | 187 | 19.6 |
| 20.) Sweden | 140 | 148 | 5.4 |
| 21.) Greece | 124 | 147 | 18.6 |
| 22.) Corea, Republic (South Corea) | 133 | 120 | –9.5 |
| 23.) Ukraine | 78 | 110 | 41.5 |
| 24.) Australia | 115 | 100 | –13.1 |
| 25.) Bulgaria | 100 | 103 | 2.8 |
| 26.) Denmark | 100 | 92 | –8.2 |
| 27.) China, People's Republic | 120 | 87 | –27.4 |
| 28.) Serbia | 77 | 84 | 9.1 |
| 29.) Finland | 62 | 69 | 11.1 |
| 30.) Japan | 80 | 69 | –14.3 |
| **Total Exports from Austria** | **16,158** | **16,658** | **3.1** |

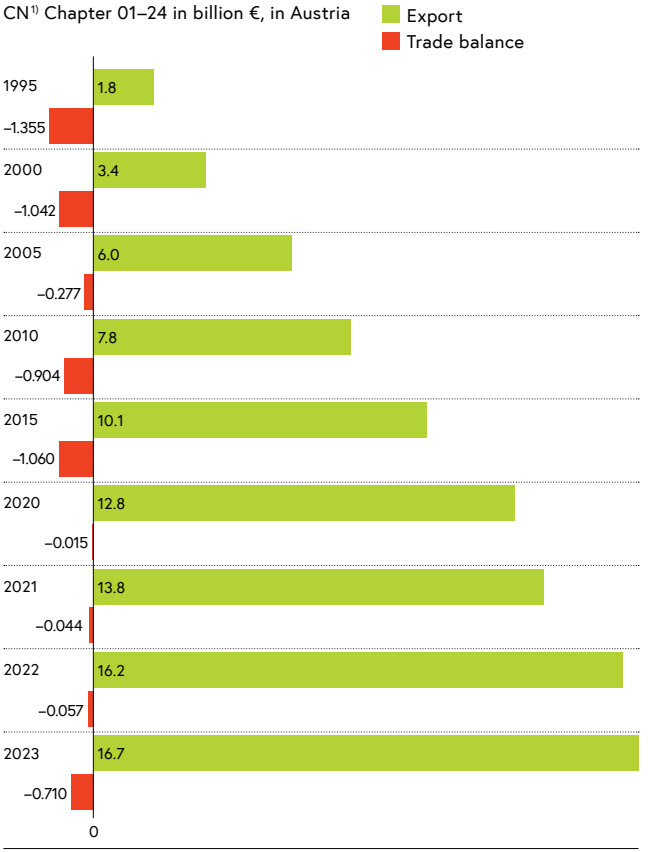
1) CN = Combined Nomenclature
Source: © STATISTICS AUSTRIA, as of: June 2024.

## 35. Development of agricultural exports and trade balance

Since 1995, Austria's agricultural exports have increased ninefold. In 2023, however, imports of agricultural products and foods rose more strongly than exports–consequently a trade deficit of 710 million euros appeared again in the agricultural trade balance of 2023.

This clearly shows that the consistent, longstanding quality policy of Austria's agricultural sector is bearing fruit. The targeted specialisation on high-quality niche products, obligatory designations of origin and the general trend towards regional products support this positive development.

### 35. Development of agricultural exports and trade balance



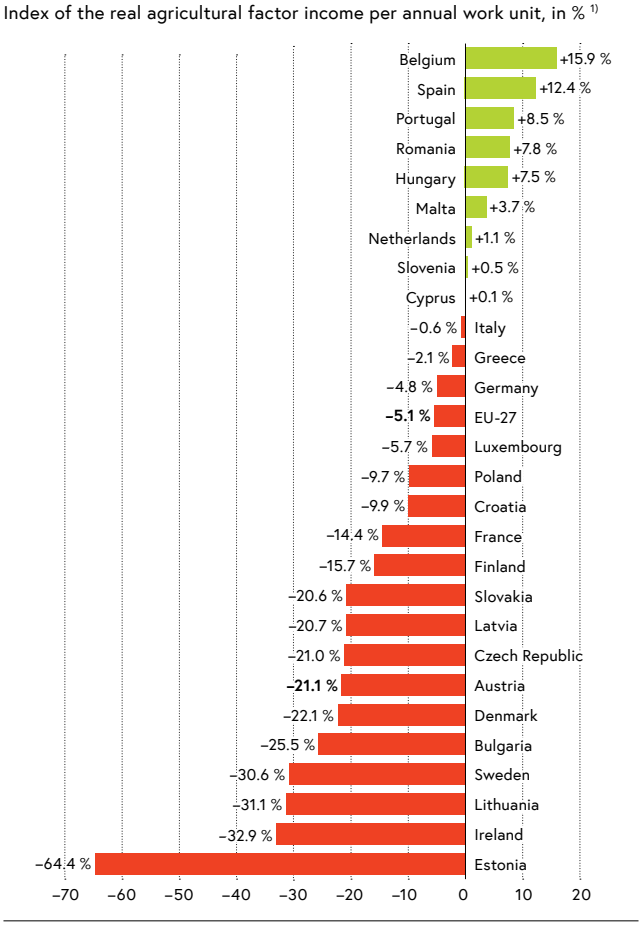

1) CN = Combined Nomenclature
Source: © STATISTICS AUSTRIA, as of: June 2024.



## 36. Agricultural factor income in EU comparison

The agricultural factor income is a productivity measure of the agricultural sector. It measures the value generated by the production factors–land, capital as well as labour–and accounted for about 199.15 billion euros in the EU-27 in 2023. The real factor income per annual work unit of the EU-27 was 39.8 % above the 2010 level in 2023 and decreased by 5.4 % compared to the previous year.

### 36. Agricultural factor income 2023/22 in EU comparison




1) Comparison of the indices of 2022 and 2023 in percent.
Source: EUROSTAT, preliminary figures, as of: June 2024.

## 37. Agricultural structure in the EU

In 2020, around 9.1 million farms were registered in the EU-27. They managed 157 million ha of utilised agricultural area, which corresponds to 17.4 ha per holding.

In Austria, 86 % of the 110,780 farms are family-run and small-structured with an average utilised agricultural area of 23.6 ha. 57 % of the areas are managed by farms with 20 to 100 ha. Merely 18 % of the agricultural areas are managed by holdings with more than 100 ha.

### 37. Agricultural structure in the European Union in 2020

| EU country | Agricultural holdings Number in 1,000 | Utilised agricultural area UAA in 1,000 ha | Utilised agricultural area ha/ holding | Live cattle 1,000 LU [1] | Standard output in mio. € |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **EU-27** | **9,071.0** | **157,415.70** | **17.4** | **55,388** | **359,767** |
| France | 393.03 | 27,364.63 | 69.6 | 12,511 | 64,325 |
| Spain | 914.87 | 23,913.68 | 26.1 | 4,501 | 45,132 |
| Germany | 262.78 | 16,595.02 | 63.2 | 8,203 | 46,612 |
| Poland | 1,302.33 | 14,874.12 | 11.4 | 4,650 | 26,842 |
| Romania | 2,887.07 | 12,762.83 | 4.4 | 1,526 | 12,094 |
| Italy | 1,133.02 | 12,523.54 | 11.1 | 4,509 | 56,615 |
| Hungary | 232.06 | 4,921.74 | 21.2 | 676 | 7,069 |
| Ireland | 130.22 | 4,920.27 | 37.8 | 5,227 | 6,851 |
| Bulgaria | 132.74 | 4,564.15 | 34.4 | 506 | 4,091 |
| Portugal | 290.23 | 3,963.94 | 13.7 | 1,116 | 7,001 |
| Greece | 530.75 | 3,916.64 | 7.4 | 449 | 7,744 |
| Czech Republic | 28.91 | 3,492.57 | 120.8 | 1,007 | 5,536 |
| Sweden | 58.79 | 3,005.81 | 51.1 | 1,008 | 5,645 |
| Lithuania | 132.08 | 2,914.55 | 22.1 | 493 | 2,299 |
| Denmark | 37.09 | 2,629.93 | 70.9 | 1,090 | 10,100 |
| **Austria** | **110.78** | **2,602.67** | **23.5** | **1,315** | **6,626** |
| Finland | 45.63 | 2,281.71 | 50.0 | 594 | 3,256 |
| Latvia | 68.98 | 1,968.96 | 28.5 | 306 | 1,356 |
| Slovakia | 19.63 | 1,862.65 | 94.9 | 329 | 1,992 |
| Netherlands | 52.64 | 1,817.90 | 34.5 | 2,695 | 24,874 |
| Croatia | 143.93 | 1,505.43 | 10.5 | 295 | 2,016 |
| Belgium | 36.00 | 1,368.12 | 38.0 | 1,650 | 8,407 |
| Estonia | 11.37 | 975.32 | 85.8 | 192 | 843 |
| Slovenia | 72.47 | 483.44 | 6.7 | 323 | 1,154 |
| Cyprus | 34.05 | 134.14 | 3.9 | 64 | 877 |
| Luxembourg | 1.88 | 132.14 | 70.3 | 141 | 324 |
| Malta | 7.65 | 9.80 | 1.3 | 11 | 86 |

1) LU = Livestock Units
Source: EUROSTAT, database extract of 19 June 2023.

## 38. Organic farms in the EU

In the EU-27, organic farming was practised on around 16.9 million hectares in 2022. In 2022, Austria was the EU country with the highest share (27 %) of organic area. In Austria, one in four hectares of land is managed according to organic farming principles.

### 38. Organic farms and their areas in the EU in 2022

| EU country | Organic area (total) [1] 1,000 ha | Share of organic area in UAA [2] % | Organic farms Number | Sales through organic food 2022 in retail trade [3] in million € |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Austria** | **705.8** | **27.67** | **26,251** | **2,496** |
| Estonia | 231.0 | 23.42 | 2,046 | 98 |
| Sweden | 597.2 | 19.94 | 5,079 | 2,607 |
| Portugal | 760.0 | 19.31 | 13,573 | 21 |
| Italy | 2,349.5 | 18.14 | 82,593 | 3,660 |
| Greece | 924.9 | 17.22 | 58,691 | 66 |
| Czech Republic | 563.5 | 15.96 | 5,053 | 233 |
| Latvia | 312.8 | 15.88 | 4,171 | 51 |
| Finland | 339.5 | 14.98 | 4,945 | 375 |
| Slovakia | 253.2 | 13.69 | 716 | n.a. |
| Denmark | 300.1 | 11.43 | 4,186 | 2,167 |
| Slovenia | 53.2 | 11.10 | 3,718 | 49 |
| **EU-27, total** | **16,898.5** | **10.96** | **419,112** | **45,099** |
| Spain | 2,675.3 | 10.83 | 56,024 | 2,532 |
| France | 2,875.5 | 10.06 | 58,413 | 12,076 |
| Germany | 1,631.0 | 9.83 | 36,688 | 15,310 |
| Lithuania | 271.3 | 9.32 | 3,002 | 51 |
| Croatia | 129.4 | 8.94 | 6,132 | 99 |
| Belgium | 103.4 | 7.60 | 2,638 | 955 |
| Cyprus | 7.7 | 6.30 | 1,292 | n.a. |
| Hungary | 320.5 | 6.31 | 5,129 | 30 |
| Luxembourg | 8.3 | 6.23 | 149 | 164 |
| Romania | 644.5 | 5.08 | 11,562 | 41 |
| Netherlands | 80.1 | 4.44 | 1,985 | 1,435 |
| Poland | 554.6 | 3.91 | 18,598 | 310 |
| Bulgaria | 110.4 | 2.20 | 4,260 | 38 |
| Ireland | 95.7 | 2.20 | 2,193 | 235 |
| Malta | 0.1 | 0.62 | 25 | n.a. |

n.a. = not available
1) Completely converted and in the process of conversion in 2022/23.
2) UAA = Utilised Agricultural Area
3) Sales in retail trade not available for all countries. EU total calculated.
Source: EUROSTAT; acc. to FiBL & IFOAM 2024: The World of Organic Agriculture 2024, data extract of: 20 June 2024; FIBL-AMI survey 2024.

# Austria–country of forests

Austria's forests are multi-talents and represent an important economic factor. They provide us with wood, a renewable raw material, and safeguard more than 300,000 jobs along the wood value chain. Both rural regions and urban centres profit of this. As wood is a climate-friendly building material, resource and energy source, forests also contribute substantially to climate change mitigation and to the energy transition. Moreover, forests provide habitats for two thirds of the domestic species and offer recreational areas for humans. They protect against natural hazards, are unique suppliers of pure drinking water and represent an unparalleled drinking water reservoir.

This makes their sustainable management all the more important. The concept of sustainable forest management has been practised in Austria for generations. It is firmly established in the Austrian Forestry Act, which, apart from the economic effect, also provides for the maintenance of the protective, beneficial and recreational effects of forests. Austria takes great efforts to promote sustainable forest management also on international level, for example through know-how and technology transfer. Furthermore, international delegations are regularly received in Austria to exchange views and expertise on topics like sustainable forest management, innovative wood use and many more, and to present best-practice examples.

The action programme "Wald schützt uns!" (meaning "Forests protect us!") is to ensure and extend the protective functions of forests in the future. 42 % of the forests or 1.6 million hectares have a protective effect and protect infrastructure and habitats. Without intact protective forests, many parts of Austria would not be available for settlement. In addition, huge investments in technical control systems would be necessary without them. Through targeted research and education also the know-how for necessary adaptations in protective forests is to be developed. The action programme "Klima.Sicherheit.Lebensraum" (meaning: "climate.security.living space") provides the basis for the implementation of concrete measures for natural hazard management.

With the Austrian Forest Fund, one of the largest packages of measures for domestic forests was adopted in 2020: 450 million euros for 10 measures that benefit forest managers, the entire value-added chain "forest-wood-paper", climate, and the general public. The objectives are to maintain healthy and climate-fit forests and to ensure the services that forests provide for the long term.

## Forests and timber as economic factors

The forestry and timber industry is an important economic factor for Austria and is of great significance for our regions. As a whole, the forest-wood-paper value chain, with over 300,000 employees, generates a gross value added of 27.8 billion euros. In 2022, the forestry and timber industry generated a foreign trade surplus of 5.24 billion euros.

## The Austrian Forest Inventory

Since 1961 the Austrian Research Centre for Forests has conducted the Austrian Forest Inventory. With more than 11,000 sample plots it is the largest investigation and status quo analysis of Austria's forests. Despite the challenges of climate change, the inventory shows positive results. For more information, see waldinventur.at.

### Key results of the Austrian Forest Inventory 2017–2022

- Austria's forest area totals over 4 million hectares and, with a 47.9 % share of forest in the national territory, is well above the EU average. The Federal Province with the largest share of woodland is Styria (62 %), followed by Carinthia (61 %) and Salzburg (52 %).
- Broadleaved forests and mixed forests as well as biodiversity are increasing. Pure coniferous stands decreased by 6 % over the past decade. Mixed broadleaved stands increased by 6 %.
- Between 2017 and 2022 deadwood increased by 4.2 % compared to the 2016–2021 period. Deadwood is an indicator of enhanced biodiversity in forests and serves animals, plants and fungi as a nesting, development, food or overwintering habitat.
- Due to negative natural influences such as damage caused by storm and bark beetle, the growing stock decreased slightly compared to the preceding period and amounted to 1.18 billion cubic metres in the total forest.
- Currently, 94 % of the increment is harvested. In Austria, wood increment exceeds consumption.
- The populations of cloven-hoofed game are partly too high, which can impair the healthy development of forest regeneration. On 420,000 hectares of Austria's forest, the existing regeneration has been affected by browsing.

## 1. Measures of the Austrian Forest Fund

The Austrian Ministry of Forestry ensures that forests and the services they provide are maintained for the long term. The measures of the Austrian Forest Fund ("Österreichischer Waldfonds"), which was established in 2020 and comprises an investment volume of 450 million euros, aim at the development of climate-fit forests, the promotion of biodiversity in forests, and the increased use of the resource of wood as an active contribution to climate change mitigation.

In order to reduce further infestation of forests with bark beetles, re-afforestation, tending measures, the establishment of wet and dry deposits for damaged wood as well as mechanical debarking are supported as forest protection measures. The Forest Fund also includes measures to prevent forest fire and research measures.

The Austrian Wood Initiative, which is implemented in the context of the Austrian Forest Fund, comprises multifarious measures to intensify the material and energetic use of the domestic and renewable raw material wood. It encompasses specific measures and activities that use the raw material wood efficiently and innovatively as a material, especially as a building material, and as a source of energy.

Detailed information on the Austrian Forest Fund and the Austrian Wood Initiative, with information on subsidisation, is available at waldfonds.at.

### 1. Measures of the Austrian Forest Fund

in Austria

| Measures |
|---|
| 1. Re-afforestation and tending measures after damage events |
| 2. Measures to regulate the tree species composition for the development of climate-fit forests |
| 3. Compensation for loss in value caused by bark beetle damage |
| 4. Establishment of wet and dry deposits of damaged wood |
| 5. Mechanical debarking as a forest protection measure |
| 6. Measures to prevent forest fire |
| 7. Research activities on the issue of "Wood gas and organic fuels" and research facility for the production of organic fuels |
| 8. Research activities on the issue of "Climate-fit forests" |
| 9. Measures to intensify the use of wood as a raw material |
| 10. Measures to promote biodiversity in forests |

Source: BMLRT, as of: July 2021.

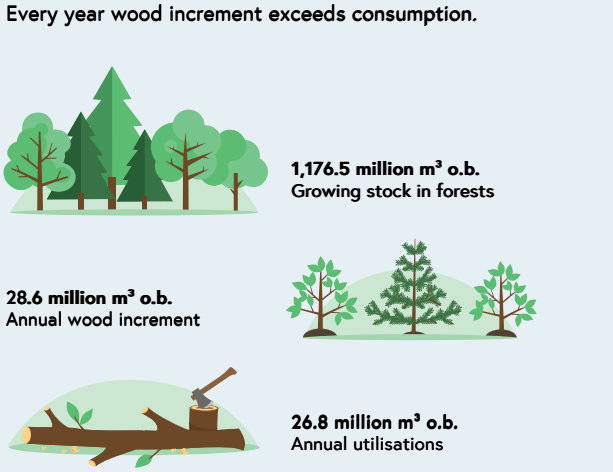
## 2. Timber in Austria

Growing stock in Austrian forests totals 1.18 billion solid cubic metres over bark. The sustainable raw material has big potential as a building material, energy source and for use in the bioeconomy. Presently, around 94 % of the increment are utilised.

Especially in view of climate change it is good to use more wood. If wood is used for building, other building materials, whose production is very energy-intensive and thus emits large amounts of $CO_2$, can be substituted (e.g. steel and concrete). In the long term, the carbon dioxide that has been absorbed during growth and is stored in the wood will be removed from the cycle. Furthermore, the coupled products accruing in processing are suited both for material and for energetic use.

### 2. Timber in Austria

in million solid cubic metres over bark ($m^3$ o.b.) [1), 2)]

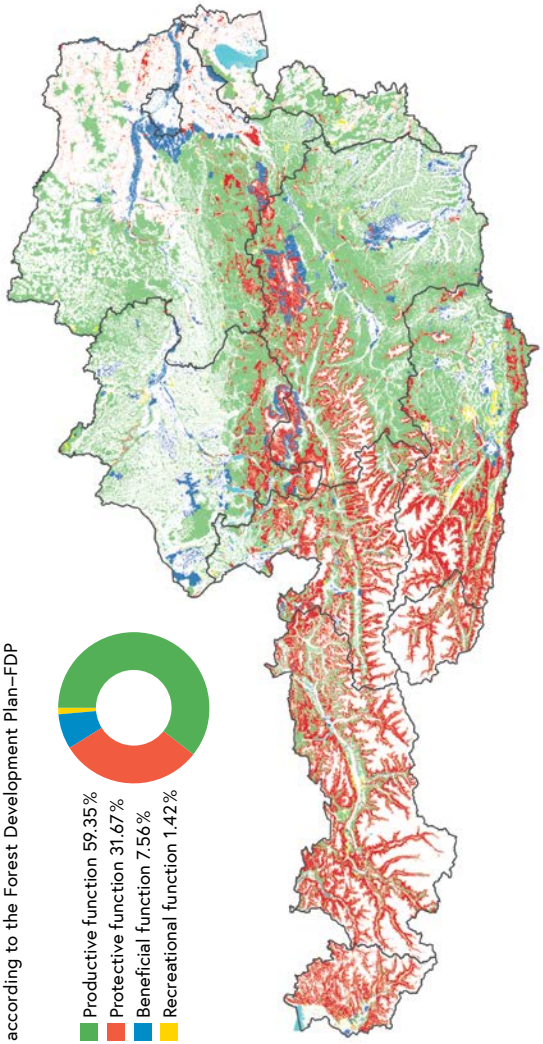



1) Solid cubic metre over bark ($m^3$ o.b.): Measured with bark, indication of the growing stock of a standing tree or a standing forest or stock of trees.
2) The data on growing stock, increment and utilisation relate to Austria's forests in yield.

Source: Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape 2024, Austrian Forest Inventory 2017/2022.

## 3. Key functions of Austrian forests

according to the Forest Development Plan–FDP




Source: BML, evaluation GIS & database WEP-AUSTRIA-DIGITAL 2024 (% of Austria's forest area), June 2024.

## 3. Key functions of Austrian forests

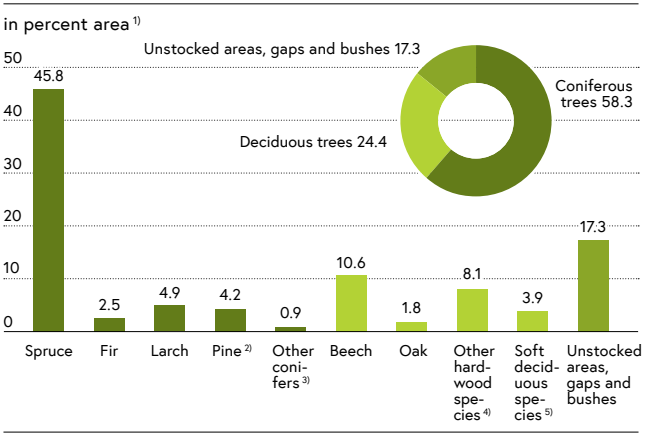
The key function of a forest is the one that is most important for the public on the relevant forest area. Austria-wide 59.35 % account for the productive function (sustainable production of wood), 31.67 % for the protective function (protection against natural hazards), 7.56 % for the beneficial function (impact on the environment) and 1.42 % for the recreational function (forest as a recreational area for persons visiting the forest). Information on the key functions is available in the Forest Development Plan at waldentwicklungsplan.at.

## 4. Distribution of tree species in Austria

The most common tree species in Austria is spruce (45.8 % of the area), followed by beech (10.6 %). Spruce is the all-rounder among the different types of wood and is, for example, used as structural timber. Beech is preferably used for interior construction and as a raw material in fibre production.

The share of coniferous wood is decreasing in Austria (58.3 %). The trend towards more broadleaved trees (24.4 %) continues, which improves both the climate-fitness and the biodiversity in forests. Climate change leads to a change in the distribution of tree species.

### 4. Distribution of tree species in Austria




1) The data on the tree species distribution relate to the total Austrian forest.
2) White pine and black pine.
3) Swiss pine, Douglas fir, Weymouth pine, etc.
4) Common hornbeam, ash, maple, elm, Spanish chestnut, black locust, etc.
5) Birch, common alder, grey alder, linden, aspen, white, grey, black and hybrid poplar, willow, etc.
Source: Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape 2024, Austrian Forest Inventory 2017/22.

## 5. Forest areas and growing stock of the Federal Provinces

With more than 1 million hectares of forest land, Styria– called the "Green Heart of Austria"–is the Province having the largest forest area and the biggest growing stock. Urban Vienna depends largely on the other Provinces as regards its supply with the sustainable raw material of wood.

Since 1961, the growing stock has risen from 0.78 billion solid cubic metres to 1.18 billion cubic metres in the total forest, which corresponds to an increase of 51.2 %. In the same period, the stock per hectare rose from 241 cubic metres per hectare to 350 cubic metres per hectare, an increase of 45.2 %.

The forest area has increased by around 330,000 ha since the first Austrian Forest Inventory in 1961. This corresponds, for example, to around eight times the area of Vienna or slightly more than the entire Mühlviertel. As the development of growing stock is also subject to ecological mechanisms, it can`t be increased indefinitely.

### 5. Forest areas[1)] and growing stock of the Federal Provinces

| Federal Province | Total forests [2)] in 1,000 ha | Percentage of forest cover | Forest in yield in 1,000 ha | Growing stock [3)] in 1,000 $m^3$ o.b. | Growing stock [3)] per ha in $m^3$ o.b. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Burgenland | 135 | 34 | 130 | 36,048 | 276 |
| Carinthia | 585 | 61 | 499 | 182,774 | 366 |
| Lower Austria | 774 | 40 | 737 | 233,660 | 317 |
| Upper Austria | 502 | 42 | 444 | 163,265 | 368 |
| Salzburg | 374 | 52 | 272 | 100,314 | 368 |
| Styria | 1,014 | 62 | 861 | 314,519 | 365 |
| Tyrol | 528 | 42 | 347 | 117,045 | 338 |
| Vorarlberg | 98 | 38 | 62 | 26,119 | 419 |
| Vienna | 9 | 22 | 9 | 3,363 | 373 |
| **Austria** | **4,018** | **48** | **3,359** | **1,176,456** | **350** |

1) In the form of samples, the Austrian Forest Inventory systematically covers the entire federal territory. Therefore, the determined forest area is the forest-area reference value. The results are based on the interim evaluation of the surveying period 2017/22.
2) Incl. protection forest without yield and forest land without yield.
3) The data on growing stock relate to the forests in yield.
Source: Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape 2024, Austrian Forest Inventory 2017/22.

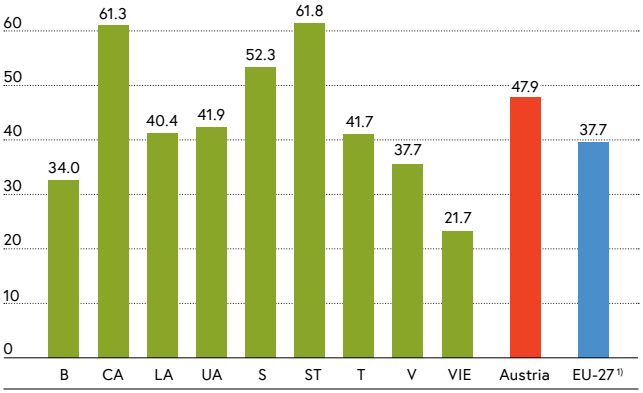
## 6. Distribution of forest area in the Federal Provinces

Austria is a country of forests and wood: Almost half of its national territory (47.9 %) is covered with forests. Over the past decade Austria's forest area has increased by more than 6 hectares per day and covers more than 4 million ha. The Federal Province having the largest share of woodland is Styria with 62 %, followed by Carinthia with 61 %, Salzburg with 52 % as well as Upper Austria and Tyrol with 42 % each. Austria's forests sequester about 800 million tonnes of carbon.

The forests in the European Union cover an area of more than 158 million ha (37.7 %). Unlike many other areas of the world, where deforestation continues to be a severe problem, the European Union's forest area is increasing. From 1990 to 2020, it increased by approximately 14 million hectares, which is in particular due to natural forest expansion and afforestation measures.

### 6. Distribution of forest area in the Federal Provinces

Forest area in percent of the total area, in Austria and in the EU-27




1) Source: European Parliament 2022.
Source: Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape 2024, Austrian Forest Inventory 2017/22.

## 7. Forest areas and ownership structure

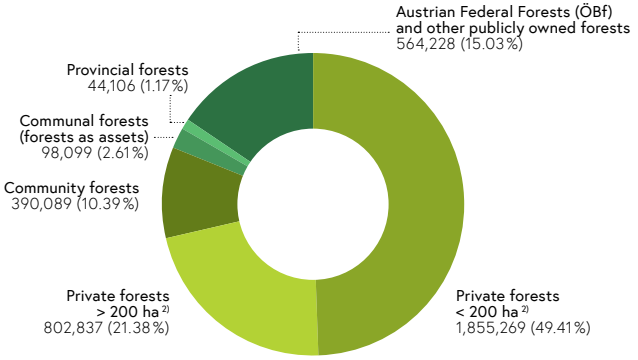
The Austrian forest is predominantly privately owned. About 140,000 owners share 81 % of the forest area. Almost 19 % is publicly owned, for example by the Austrian Federal Forests (Österreichische Bundesforste AG–ÖBf). In Austria, the most frequent type of ownership is the so-called "Kleinwald", defined as a privately owned forest covering less than 200 ha. In an international comparison, this structure is rather rare. In many countries, especially in Eastern Europe, the share of the national forest exceeds that of private forests.

Forests are often managed by families for many generations. But also the number of so-called "new" or "off-farm" forest owners who, for example, inherit a forest but no longer manage it themselves, is growing. Quite often they lack experience and expertise on forests.

At klimafitterwald.at, you will find comprehensive information and useful guidelines concerning forest management. This offer is particularly recommendable for new owners. Advisory institutions such as forestry associations, authorities, service providers and training centres are available in the regions. Cooperations and groups, like forest owner cooperatives and forest associations, often work together to organise marketing and management.

### 7. Forest areas and ownership structure in 2023

Types of ownership according to cadastral map in ha [1], in Austria
Total: 3,754,628 ha (100%)




1) Due to different surveying methods the forest areas identified in the cadastral map differ from those of the Farm Structure Survey (FSS) and of the Austrian Forest Inventory.
2) Incl. church-owned forests.
Source: BML, as of: June 2024.

## 8. Forest enterprises–Types of management and ownership structure

Austria's total forest area covers more than 4 million hectares of land, of which 3.4 million hectares are commercial forest.

More than half of this area is for private forests covering less than 200 ha. This shows that there are many, many small forest enterprises. They benefit from jointly organised activities that enable them to take advantage of synergy effects. Only about 1 % of all forest enterprises are larger than 200 hectares; they manage about 1.3 million hectares.

About 600,000 hectares are managed by the Austrian Federal Forests (Österreichische Bundesforste AG–ÖBf). In 1997, the Federal Forests were disincorporated from the federal budget and established as Österreichische Bundesforste AG. Its sole shareholder is the Republic of Austria. The activities of the Austrian Federal Forests are subject to the provisions of the Federal Forestry Act of 1996. This Act regulates the management of the areas of the Federal Forests (for example no sale of strategically important areas, like glaciers or national park areas), provides for rules applicable to nature conservation and environmental protection (e.g. preservation of drinking and industrial water resources, conservation of forests as protective areas and recreational areas), and requires sustainable, profitable forest management.

### 8. Forest enterprises–Types of management and ownership structure

in 1,000 hectares, in Austria

| Types of management | Forest enterprises total | Private forests up to 200 ha ("Kleinwald") | Forest enterprises over 200 ha | Austrian Federal Forests (Österreichische Bundesforste AG–ÖBf) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Forests in yield** | **3,359** | **1,907** | **1,017** | **436** |
| Production forests | 2,943 | 1,745 | 845 | 354 |
| Coppice forests | 77 | 40 | 35 | 2 |
| Protective forests in yield; high forests | 339 | 122 | 137 | 80 |
| **Forests without yield** | **659** | **239** | **258** | **161** |
| **Total forest area** | **4,018** | **2,146** | **1,275** | **597** |

Source: Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape 2024, Austrian Forest Inventory 2017/22.

## 9. Removal

In 2023, removals totalled 19.02 million cubic metres of timber harvested under bark. Of the total removal 9.07 million cubic metres accounted for sawlog > 20 cm (47.68 %) and 0.97 million cubic metres ($m^3$) for small sawlog (5.09 %), which are processed by sawmills. The 3.31 million $m^3$ of industrial wood (17.40 %) are used in the panel and paper industry. 5.67 million $m^3$ of raw timber are used for energy generation (29.82 %). With a total of 9.02 million $m^3$ (47.41 %), the volume of damaged wood was 24.20 % higher than it was in 2022. The main harmful factors were bark beetle with 4.03 million $m^3$ and storms with 3.29 million $m^3$.

### 9. Removal 2021–2023

in 1,000 cubic metres of timber harvested under bark, in Austria

| Removal | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Total removal** | 18,420 | 19,358 | 19,018 |
| Coniferous wood | 15,663 | 16,205 | 15,840 |
| Broadleaved wood | 2,757 | 3,153 | 3,177 |
| **Raw timber–material use** | 13,521 | 13,934 | 13,346 |
| Coniferous raw timber | 12,670 | 12,957 | 12,389 |
| Broadleaved raw timber | 850 | 977 | 957 |
| **Sawlogs** | 10,419 | 10,711 | 10,037 |
| Sawlogs MDM > 20 cm [1] | 9,337 | 9,650 | 9,068 |
| Coniferous wood | 9,066 | 9,344 | 8,790 |
| of which spruce/fir | 8,185 | 8,374 | 7,949 |
| of which pine | 392 | 453 | 422 |
| of which larch | 329 | 315 | 265 |
| Broadleaved wood | 271 | 307 | 277 |
| of which beech | 122 | 144 | 125 |
| of which oak | 70 | 78 | 65 |
| **Small sawlogs** | 1,082 | 1,060 | 968 |
| Coniferous wood | 1,073 | 1,038 | 962 |
| Broadleaved wood | 9 | 22 | 6 |
| **Industrial roundwood** | 3,101 | 3,223 | 3,309 |
| Coniferous wood | 2,531 | 2,576 | 2,637 |
| Broadleaved wood | 570 | 647 | 672 |
| **Raw timber–energetic use** | 4,899 | 5,424 | 5,671 |
| Coniferous wood | 2,993 | 3,248 | 3,451 |
| Broadleaved wood | 1,907 | 2,176 | 2,220 |
| **Intermediate felling** | 4,744 | 4,540 | 4,068 |
| Coniferous wood | 4,044 | 3,751 | 3,267 |
| Broadleaved wood | 700 | 789 | 800 |
| **Damaged wood** | 6,044 | 7,260 | 9,016 |

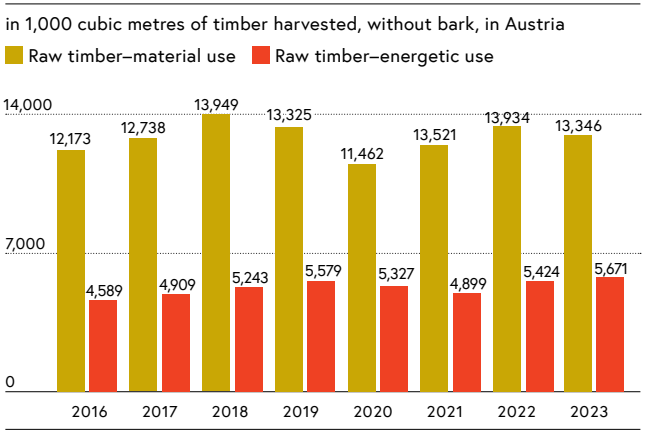
1) MDM = mid-diameter
Source: BML, as of: June 2024.

## 10. Removal–Raw timber by material and energetic use

In 2023, about 13.35 million cubic metres of timber harvested were removed for material use (e.g. as construction timber or material), and 5.67 million cubic metres of timber harvested for energetic use. During each of the past seven years more than twice as much wood was used for material purposes than for energy.

According to the Austrian Forest Inventory about 94 % of the increment in commercial forests are utilised.

### 10. Removal–Raw timber by material and energetic use 2016–2023




Source: BML, as of: June 2024.

## 11. Timber price development

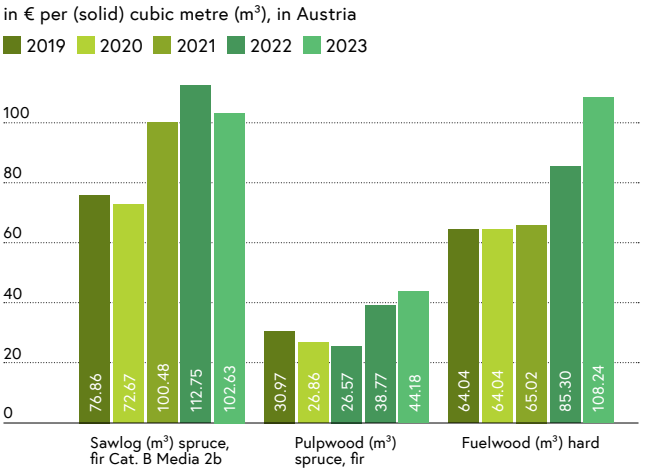
In 2023, sawmills paid an annual average price of 102.63 euros per cubic metre of sawlog spruce/fir, Cat. B Media 2b, which was 9 % less than in 2022.

The mixed price of spruce/fir pulpwood/mechanical pulpwood was with 46.36 euros per cubic metre 12.1 % above the average price of the preceding year. The price of pulpwood (spruce/fir) was with 44.18 euros per cubic metre 14 % above the price of the year before, and the price of mechanical pulpwood was with 52.55 euros per cubic metre 9.1 % above that of the previous year.

The price of fuelwood hard amounted to 108.24 euros, an increase by 26.9 %, that of fuelwood soft was 76.29 euros per solid cubic metre, an increase by 28.6 %.

Especially in Tyrol and Carinthia forest stands were severely damaged by bark beetle due to the lack of rain. The Austrian Forest Fund helps forestry cope with climate-related damage. The package of measures is to make it easier for affected forest owners to cope with the damage. For the long term we need to apply management strategies that make forests climate-fit so they will be able to withstand extreme conditions.

### 11. Timber price development 2019–2023




Source: © STATISTICS AUSTRIA, as of: June 2024.

## 12. Foreign trade in wood and articles of wood

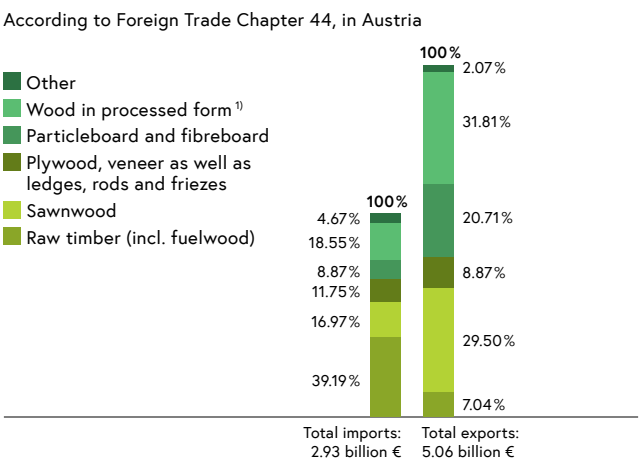
In wood processing, Austria is very successful also at the international level. The export of timber products is constantly generating foreign trade surpluses.

In 2023, the foreign trade surplus in the foreign trade in wood and articles of wood (acc. to Combined Nomenclature (CN), Chapter 44) amounted to about 2.13 billion euros.

Total exports amounted to 5.06 billion euros, total imports amounted to 2.93 billion euros.

The most important export categories were sawnwood and wood in processed form, such as windows, doors, parquet panels, planking, joinery and carpentry.

### 12. Foreign trade in wood and articles of wood in 2023




1) Windows, doors, parquet panels, planking, joinery and carpentry, pallets, ornamental objects and others.
Source: © STATISTICS AUSTRIA, as of: June 2024.

## 13. Use of wood for energy in Austria

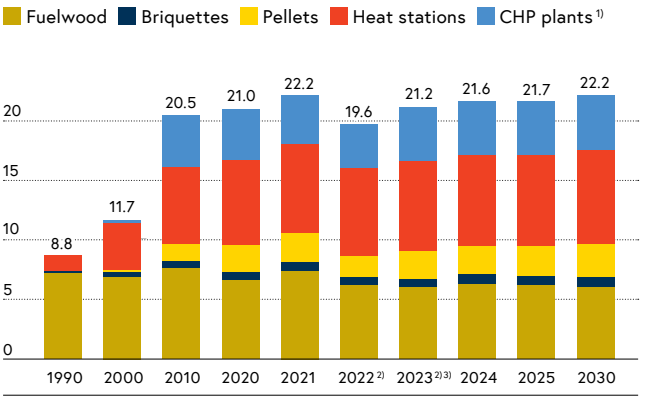
Biomass is Austria's major domestic renewable energy source and can support the transformation of the energy and economic system. It makes a significant contribution to achieving the climate goals. It can be used to replace fossil fuels, increase the security of supply and reduce the dependence on imports.

Innovative heating plants and CHP (combined heat and power) plants supply local and district heating networks with renewable energy.

Due to environmental, economic and geopolitical developments the consumption of wood fuels having a higher energy density, like briquettes and pellets, is expected to remain stable or to continue to rise. The use of fuelwood is stagnating or declining slightly.

### 13. Use of wood for energy in Austria

in million solid cubic metres per year, not including black liquor

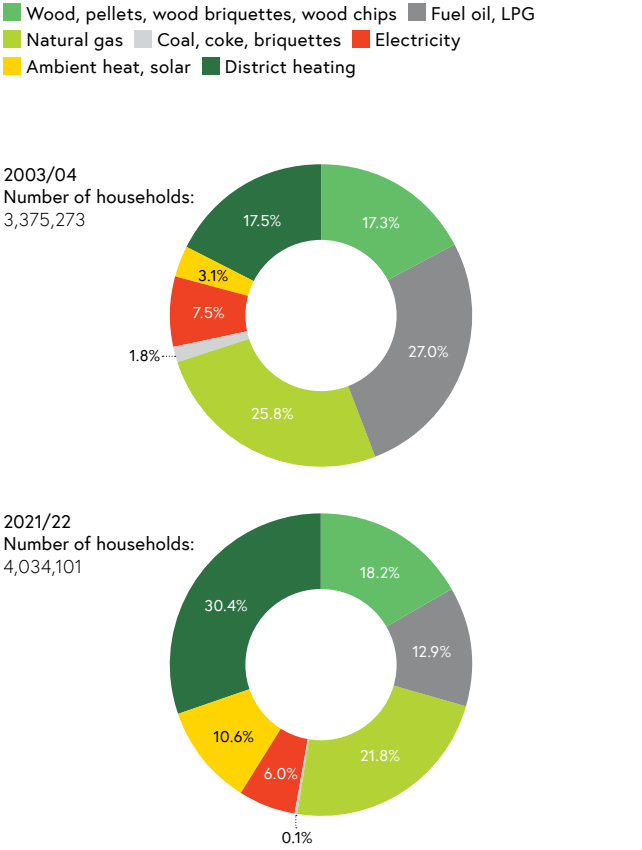



1) CHP plants = Combined heat and power generation plants, not including black liquor.
2) Preliminary figures for 2022-2023.
3) As from 2023 extrapolated trend. No responsibility is taken for the data.
Source: Austrian Energy Agency (AEA); own calculations based on data from STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Austrian Chamber of Agriculture, AEA. As of: June 2024.

## 14. Heating technologies used in Austrian households

The share of households with heating technologies based on wood, pellets, wood briquettes and wood chips increased 18.2 % in the period from 2003/04 to 2021/22. District heating connections also more than doubled, with over 1.2 million households supplied. In the same period, there was a strong decline in fossil heating systems (–43 %). For example, the share of households with fuel oil and liquid gas fell particularly sharply from 27.0 % (2003/04) to 12.9 % (2021/22).

### 14. Heating technologies used in Austrian households 1) 2)




1) Energy consumption for space heating
2) The survey year lasts from July of the previous year until June of the current year.
Source: © STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Energy consumption of households 2023.

## 15. Gross domestic consumption of renewable sources of energy

Of the gross domestic consumption of renewable energy sources, bioenergy was with a share of 52.2 % and about 250 PJ the most important one in 2023.

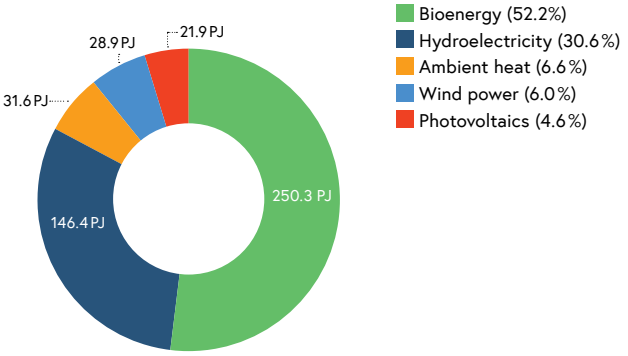
The remaining part of the renewable energy sources was shared by hydroelectricity, ambient heat (including geothermal energy), wind power and photovoltaics. Due to varying weather conditions hydroelectricity, which is the second-most important renewable source of energy, is subject to annual fluctuations and amounted to around 30.6 % in 2023. Bioenergy is capable of bearing a constant load, which makes it particularly important for the security of supply.

Wood and woody biomass (e.g. sawmill by-products, bark, etc.) represented by far the largest share of bioenergy. In addition, energy in the form of bioenergy can be stored and used when other renewable energy sources are not available to a sufficient extent. This makes it possible to compensate for seasonal and short-term fluctuations.

Heat pumps and photovoltaics have seen significant growth in recent years. Further increases are expected in these areas in the future.

### 15. Gross domestic consumption of renewable sources of energy in 2023

by sources of energy, in petajoule (PJ) (Total: 479.1 PJ = 100 %), in Austria




Source: Austrian Biomass Association, © STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Energy balance Austria 2023.

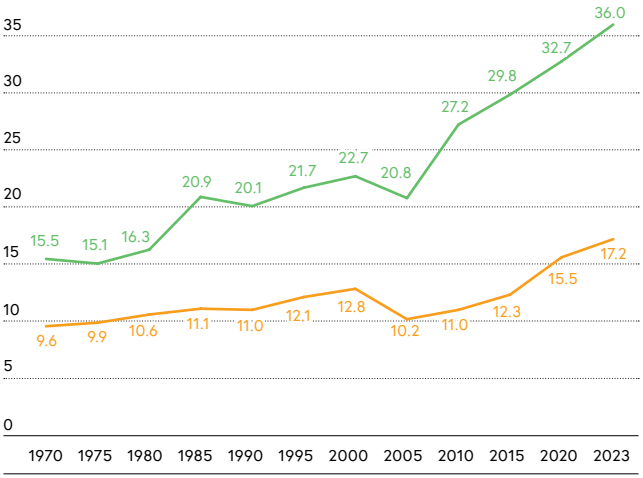
## 16. Renewable share in gross domestic energy consumption

The renewable share in gross domestic energy consumption has more than doubled since the 1970s and amounted to about 36 % in 2023. This development is above all due to the increase in energy from biomass.

The share of renewable energy sources excluding biomass did not significantly change over several years and only increased to around 17 % last year. Without biomass utilisation, Austria would not be able to meet its targets under the Renewable Energy Directive (RED). The increase in the share of renewable energy was only possible because the expansion of bioenergy rose faster than energy consumption.

### 16. Renewable share in gross domestic energy consumption 1970–2023

Renewable sources of energy in %, in Austria




Source: Austrian Biomass Association, © STATISTICS AUSTRIA, Energy balances 1970/2023.

## 17. Biomass Map Austria 2023




## 17. Biomass Map Austria 2023

In order to ensure a sustainable and regional energy supply it is of particular importance to enhance the infrastructure of Austria's bioenergy industry. In Austria, there are around 2,500 biomass heating stations and around 170 biomass CHP (combined heat and power) plants. In addition, 270 biogas and 20 biofuel plants make an important contribution to reduce the dependency from fossil fuels. The exit from fossil raw materials will also lead to an increase in the capacity of domestic pellets production and to investments in new facilities.

## 18. Natural forest reserves in Austria

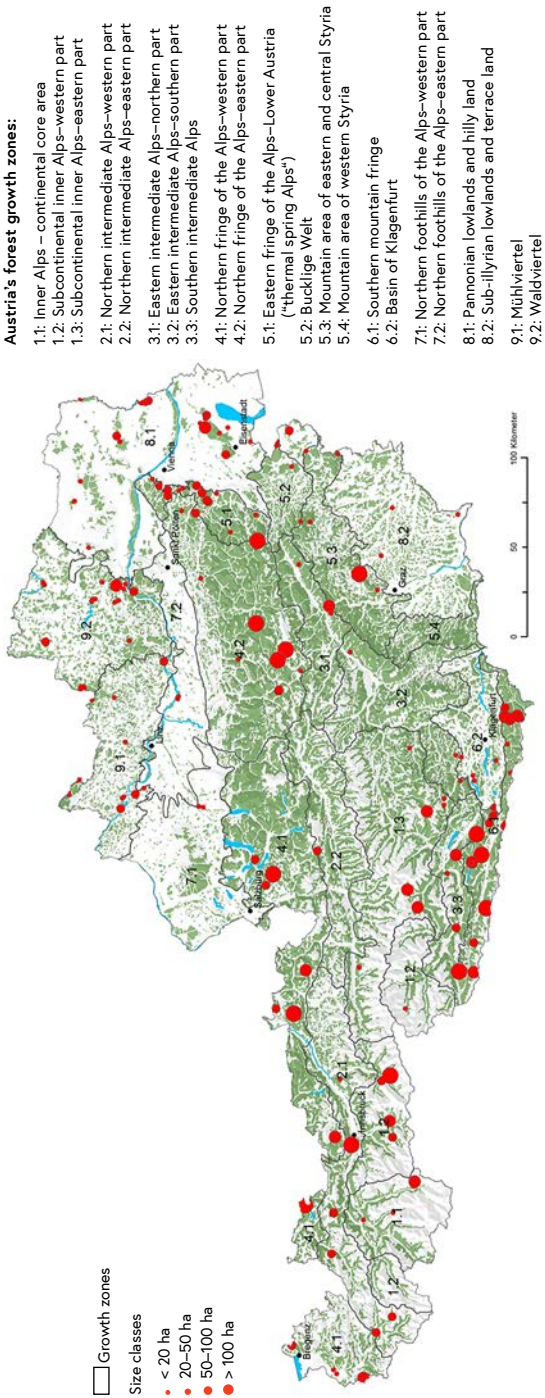
Natural forest reserves (NFR) are destined for the natural development of forest ecosystems. Forestry use, the processing of deadwood or the introduction of trees are not permitted. NFRs are a contribution to the preservation of the natural development of biological diversity. They serve research, teaching and education. The selection of the NFRs depends first and foremost on the existence of the potential natural forest communities.

**Natural forest reserves in Austria**

- In 1995, the Natural Forest Reserves (NFR) Programme was launched.
- 118 forest communities are of relevance to the NFR Programme. Each of them is to be represented by at least one reserve.
- Two thirds of the forest communities are presently part of the NFR Programme.
- Presently, the NFR Programme covers around 8,880 hectares, divided into 196 natural forest reserves.
- 7 modules are analysed: General features of the land, fixed-radius plot, deadwood, habitats, stability, regeneration, and vegetation.
- 2,200 surveys document the natural development of the forests.

More information at naturwaldreservate.at.

## 18. Natural Forest Reserves in Austria




Source: © Austrian Research Centre for Forests, as of: June 2024.

## 19. Forest area and growing stock in the EU

With a forest area of about 40,000 km², Austria ranked eleventh on a list of the EU countries and, with a total growing stock of 345 m³/ha, ranked second in terms of growing stock in the EU in 2020.

Since 1990, the European Union's forests have grown by 14 million hectares, meaning that the forest area increased from 145 to 159 million hectares (37.3 % of the total area).

### 19. Forest area and growing stock in the EU in 2020

| EU country | Land area [1] in 1,000 ha | Forest [2] in 1,000 ha | Forest areas available for wood supply: in 1,000 ha | Growing stock in mio. m³ | Growing stock in m³/ha |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Belgium | 3,028 | 722 | 664 | 168 | 253 |
| Bulgaria | 10,856 | 3,917 | 2,039 | - | - |
| Denmark | 4,199 | 665 | 614 | 129 | 210 |
| Germany | 34,866 | 11,419 | 9,942 | 3,505 | 353 |
| Estonia | 4,347 | 2,533 | 2,106 | 422 | 200 |
| Finland | 30,391 | 23,155 | 19,719 | 2,203 | 112 |
| France | 54,756 | 18,096 | 16,493 | 2,921 | 177 |
| Greece | 12,890 | 6,539 | 3,595 | - | - |
| Ireland | 6,889 | 848 | 607 | 102 | 168 |
| Italy | 29,414 | 11,432 | 8,454 | - | - |
| Croatia | 5,596 | 2,557 | 1,743 | 402 | 231 |
| Latvia | 6,218 | 3,519 | 3,199 | 618 | 193 |
| Lithuania | 6,295 | 2,263 | 1,936 | 474 | 245 |
| Luxembourg | 243 | 91 | 86 | - | - |
| Malta | 32 | 0 | 0 | - | - |
| Netherlands | 3,369 | 370 | 299 | 67 | 224 |
| **Austria** | **8,252** | **4,029** | **3,305** | **1,141** | **345** |
| Poland | 30,619 | 9,483 | 8,331 | 2,366 | 284 |
| Portugal | 9,161 | 4,855 | 2,199 | - | - |
| Romania | 23,008 | 6,947 | 5,586 | 1,865 | 334 |
| Sweden | 40,731 | 30,344 | 19,556 | 2,719 | 139 |
| Slovakia | 4,808 | 1,946 | 1,796 | 501 | 279 |
| Slovenia | 2,014 | 1,265 | 1,139 | 384 | 337 |
| Spain | 49,966 | 27,954 | 17,079 | 979 | 57 |
| Czech Republic | 7,721 | 2,677 | 2,304 | 682 | 296 |
| Hungary | 9,053 | 2,253 | 1,871 | 357 | 191 |
| Cyprus | 924 | 386 | 41 | - | - |
| **EU-27 total** | **399,646** | **180,265** | **134,703** | | |

1) Land areas not including water.
2) Forest and other forested areas.
Source: FOREST EUROPE, State of Europe's Forests 2020.

## 20. Forests, game and hunting in Austria

The hunting industry is regulated by provincial laws in Austria. Tasks and goals of hunting law focus in particular on the care and protection of game, hunting and biotope protection, and the sustainable utilisation of wildlife. The goal is to improve the habitats and the living conditions of the wildlife species.

The number of valid annual hunting permits was 134,700 in the hunting season 2022/23 (+1.2 %). In addition, 10,500 guest hunting permits were issued (–2.1 %). In the hunting year 2022/23, the total number of game shot was 740,800, a small increase (+0.2 %) compared to the previous hunting year.

By means of sustainable hunting, excessive game populations, respectively the annual growth, are reduced by hunting. Game may suffer losses due to road traffic, unfavourable weather conditions or diseases. For the hunting year 2022/23 119,200 game losses of all kinds were reported (–3.7 %), among them 71,500 roe deer (–0.9 %), 24,700 hares (–4.1 %), 3,200 foxes (–11.8 %) and 7,800 pheasants (–7.6 %).

Once every year, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management (BML) prepares the report on damage by game ("Wildschadensbericht"). The results of the Austrian Forest Inventory 2017–2022 compared to the previous period, 2007–2009, still show a deterioration as regards damage due to game browsing and damage caused by bark-peeling.

Close co-operation between forestry, hunting and natural hazard management is important. With the "Mariazell Declaration" the Austrian "Forest & Hunting Dialogue" (Forst und Jagd Dialog) in 2012 set itself the goal of promoting balanced forest and wildlife ecology nationwide. To this end, working group and steering group meetings as well as board meetings are held annually. In March 2023, the 10th annual balance was published in Mixnitz (Styria). On this occasion, the "Mariazell Prize" was also awarded for the first time to three exemplary hunting grounds (owners and leaseholders).

More at Der Forst & Jagd Dialog.

## 20. Game shootings and game losses by hunting years [1)]

in Austria

| Game shootings and game losses | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | Change in % |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Game shootings** | | | |
| Thereof furred game [2)] | 637,395 | 636,187 | –0.2 |
| Thereof feathered game [3)] | 102,084 | 104,624 | 2.5 |
| **Game shootings in total** | **739,479** | **740,811** | **0.2** |
| **Game losses** | | | |
| Thereof furred game [2)] | 113,464 | 109,533 | –3.5 |
| Thereof feathered game [3)] | 10,293 | 9,665 | –6.1 |
| **Game losses in total** | **123,757** | **119,198** | **–3.7** |
| **Total** | **863,236** | **860,009** | **–0.4** |

1) The "hunting year" is defined by the provincial laws. In Carinthia, Lower Austria, Salzburg, Burgenland and Vienna it corresponds to the calendar year, while the hunting year in Styria, Upper Austria, Tyrol and Vorarlberg lasts from 1 April to 31 March.
2) Furred game = red deer, roe deer, chamois, wild boar, hares, badgers, foxes, martens and others.
3) Feathered game = pheasants, wild ducks, wild pidgeons and others.
Source: © STATISTICS AUSTRIA, hunting statistics, offices of the Provincial Governments, as of: 12 October 2023.

# Natural hazard management

Especially along rivers, torrents and in mountain areas numerous Alpine natural hazards threaten the living environments and economic areas in Austria. Climate change causes additional hazards, such as storms, extreme precipitation, droughts, the explosive growth of insect pests and forest fires.

Floods, mudslides, avalanches, rock fall and slides can severely damage or even destroy buildings, infrastructure and economic assets. In extreme cases, they even pose a threat to human life and health. The management of the effects of natural hazards is therefore one of the most important security tasks of the state. Ongoing public investments in the prevention and protection infrastructure are services of general public interest and guarantee social and economic well-being.

Austria has an extensive and fully operational system of protection against natural disasters. Natural hazard management is a constitutional task of the federal government and is, within the competence of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management (BML), carried out by the Hydraulic Engineering Service (formerly the Federal Water Engineering Authority–BWV) and the Service in Torrent and Avalanche Control (WLV). The main local actors are municipalities, water associations and water cooperatives, but also the major infrastructure providers such as the highway and motorway financing company (ASFINAG) or the Austrian Federal Railways (ÖBB).

The measures include, in particular, technical protective infrastructure, protective forests and Hazard Zone Plans. These plans inform the population about the areas threatened by natural hazards that cannot, or can only to a limited extent, be used as settlement or economic areas.

Due to the impact of climate change, the number of natural disasters tends to rise in Austria. The growing vulnerability of the human living space can, in terms of risk management, only be addressed by sustainable further development and investments in the protection infrastructure and by the tending of our protective forests.

## 1. Key figures of hydraulic engineering

The Hydraulic Engineering Service emerged as an operational force from the Federal Hydraulic Engineering Service. It is responsible for structural flood protection measures in the assigned areas throughout Austria.

In 2023, the Hydraulic Engineering Service supervised around 773 projects all over Austria, and, with an amount of 102.64 million euros, it made available 48.75 % of the investment costs from federal funds. By means of these funds emergency measures, planning, construction and maintenance measures were financed.

The new construction measures will better protect in future another 10,298 persons against floods and have created or secured around 3,492 jobs.

### 1. Key figures of hydraulic engineering in 2023

in Austria

| **Projects** | **773** | **number** |
|---|---|---|
| Investment costs financed | 210.53 | million € |
| Federal share | 102.64 | million € |
| Average funding–Federal Government | 48.75 | % |
| Average funding–Federal Province | 29.66 | % |
| Persons protected by protective measures | 10,298 | number |
| Objects protected by protective measures | 2,747 | number |
| Jobs (created/secured) | 3,492 | Jobs |
| New area of waters | 8.5 | ha |
| New retention volume | 1.06 | million $m^3$ |

Source: BML, calculations: settlement agency of the Hydraulic Engineering Service, as of: June 2024.

## 2. Natural hazard management–Federal funds

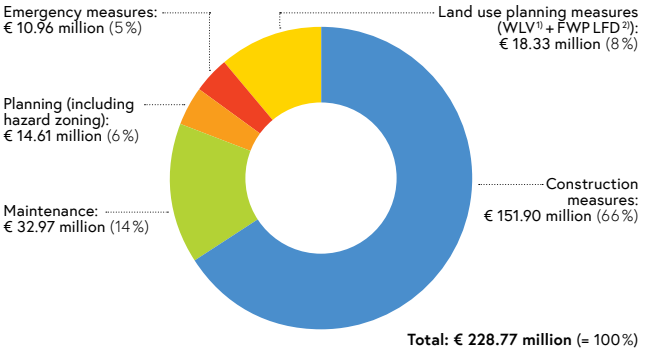
In Austria, measures to maintain the existing protection infrastructure and immediate disaster relief measures (emergency measures) are of great importance.

As a result of climate change, both surface runoff and the sediment masses transported by water bodies are increasing. The frequency of debris flows, rock falls and landslides, which require innovative protection concepts, is rising. Therefore, we do not only take measures, but also invest in the further development of the protection technology.

Moreover, the "Action Programme Protective Forest" was adopted on the basis of the Austrian Forest Strategy 2020+ and implemented on an ongoing basis. The great need for action results from the increasing threat by extreme events with a destructive effect on protective forests. Currently measures to fight against the massive bark beetle calamities as a consequence of storm and snow breakage events, which threaten object-protecting forests, are taking place. For more detailed information see: schutzwald.at.

### 2. Natural hazard management–Federal funds in 2023

Federal funds (Hydraulic Engineering Service + WLV [1]), in Austria




1) WLV = Forsttechnischer Dienst für Wildbach- und Lawinenverbauung (Forest Enginneering Service in Torrent and Avalanche Control)
2) FWP LFD = Land use planning projects (FWP = Flächenwirtschaftliche Projekte) with the Provincial Forestry Directorates (LFD = Landesforstdirektionen) being the lead agencies
Source: BML, as of: June 2024.

## 3. Natural hazard management–Federal investments

In 2023, the federal government invested more than 207 million euros in natural hazard management in Austria. The federal funds are distributed among the Federal Provinces, as required. In this way the implementation of 1,600 projects, which protect settlements and important infrastructure, has been rendered possible.

Most of the financial resources for flood protection and retention in 2023 were spent on projects in Tyrol, Vorarlberg and Styria. The Forest Engineering Service in Torrent and Avalanche Control invested the highest shares in projects in Tyrol, Salzburg and Carinthia.

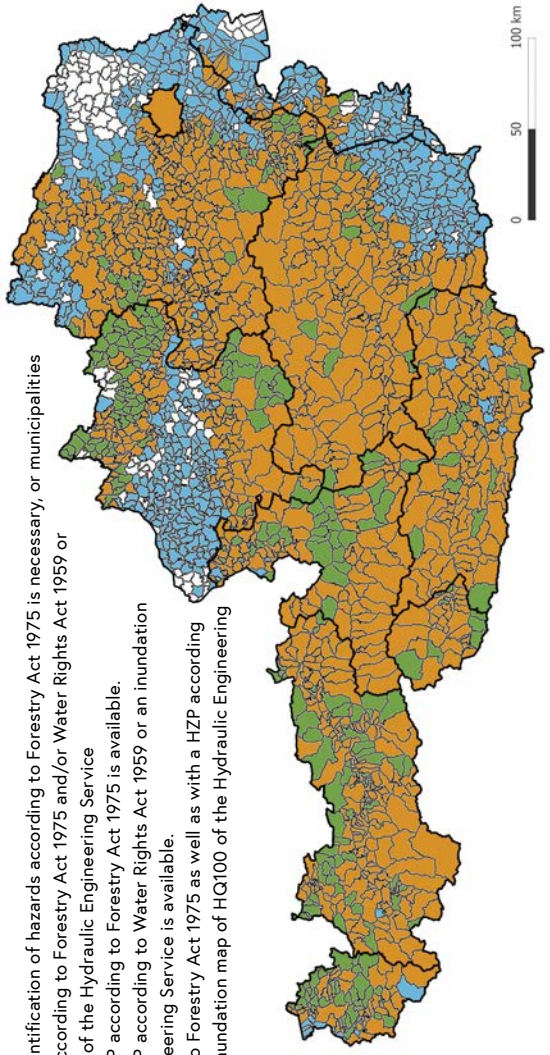
### 3. Natural hazard management–Federal Investments in 2023

in Austria

| Federal Province | Flood control Hydraulic Engineering Service | Torrent and Avalanche Control WLV [1] | Flood control Hydraulic Engineering Service | Torrent and Avalanche Control WLV [1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | in million € | | Projects/construction sites | |
| Burgenland | 5.663 | 0.651 | 82 | 4 |
| Carinthia | 9.571 | 14.090 | 75 | 147 |
| Lower Austria | 14.964 | 6.651 | 199 | 108 |
| Upper Austria | 13.362 | 10.152 | 82 | 71 |
| Salzburg | 8.461 | 21.687 | 50 | 99 |
| Styria | 15.825 | 13.125 | 136 | 88 |
| Tyrol | 17.361 | 27.713 | 54 | 175 |
| Vorarlberg | 16.488 | 11.124 | 90 | 159 |
| Vienna | 0.939 | 0.013 | 5 | 1 |
| **Austria** | **102.634** | **105.206** | **773** | **852** |
| **Austria total** | **207.840 million €** | | **1,625 projects** | |

1) WLV = Forsttechnischer Dienst für Wildbach- und Lawinenverbauung (Forest Engineering Service in Torrent and Avalanche Control)
Source: BML, as of: June 2024.

## 4. Hazard zoning in Austria's municipalities




Abbreviations: ForstG = Forestry Act (Forstgesetz), HZP = Hazard Zone Plan (Gefahrenzonenplan GZP), WRG = Water Rights Act (Wasserrechtsgesetz), HQ100 once-in-a-century flood.
Source: basic data: BML, Service in Torrent and Avalanche Control–WLV 2024. Technical data: BML, Hydraulic Engineering Service, WLV. Data evaluation and design of the technical data: BML, WLV; as of: June 2024.



## 4. Hazard zoning in Austria's municipalities

The Hazard Zone Plan (GZP) is an area-based expert opinion on the risks due to floods, torrents and avalanches. It serves as a basis for protection and retention measures, spatial planning, and the construction and emergency management sectors.

The map of Austria in the graphical representation shows, in which municipalities large-scale hazard zone plans are available for inspection. The maps can be retrieved on the Internet at waldatlas.at, hora.gv.at as well as on the webGIS of the Federal Provinces.

## 5. The digital torrent and avalanche cadastre of Austria

The digital torrent and avalanche cadastre constitutes a service for citizens as well as for municipalities, which is made available online by the Service in Torrent and Avalanche Control. In total around 12,500 torrent catchment areas, 7,100 avalanche catchment areas and approx. 1,400 hazard zone maps are already available. The service aims at the orientation of immediate natural hazards at the places of residence and work and is the basis for the land-use planning of each municipality.

5. The digital torrent and avalanche cadastre of Austria


**The cadastre contains:**

**Approx. 12,500**
**Torrent catchment areas**

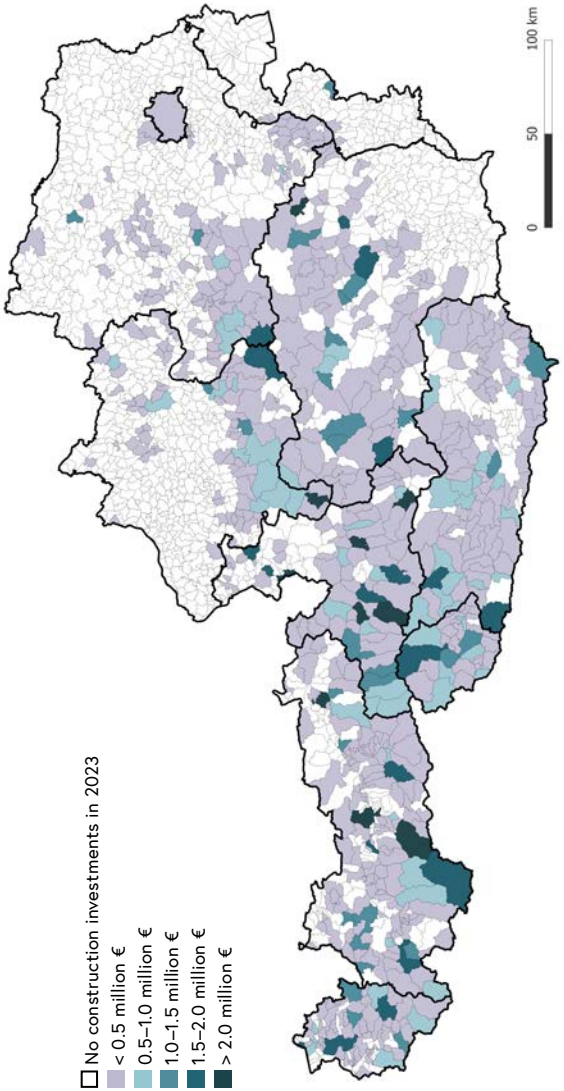
**Approx. 7,100**
**Avalanche catchment areas**

**1,433**
**Hazard zone maps**

Requests for citizens at
naturgefahren.at/service/karten.html or at waldatlas.at
Requests for municipalities at the online municipal portal of the Service in Torrent and Avalanche Control at gemeindeportal.die-wildbach.at

Source: BML, Service in Torrent and Avalanche Control–WLV, as of: May 2024.

## 6. Construction expenses of the Service in Torrent and Avalanche Control in Austria's municipalities in 2023




Source basic data: Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying BEV, 2023. Source technical data: BML, Service in Torrent and Avalanche Control–WLV. Data evaluation and design of the technical data: BML, Service in Torrent and Avalanche Control–WLV, as of May 2024.

## 6. Construction expenses of the Service in Torrent and Avalanche Control in Austria's municipalities

In the year 2023, the Austrian Service in Torrent and Avalanche Control considerably enhanced the protection of human lives, settlements and major infrastructure against natural hazards, such as torrents, avalanches, rock fall and landslides in 650 municipalities by means of targeted measures totalling to around 192 million euros.

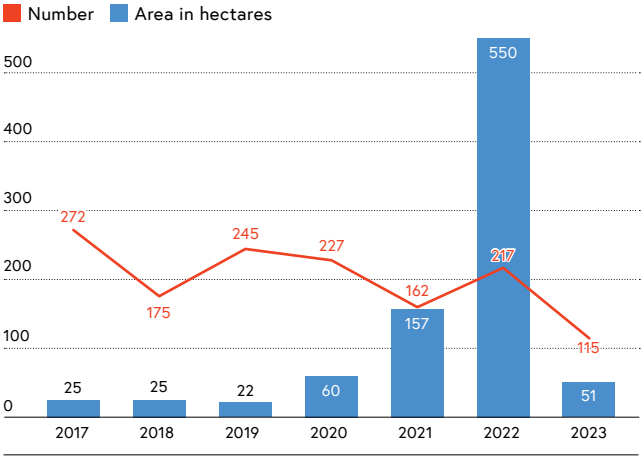
Zell am See, Innsbruck and Hallstatt were the three municipalities with the highest investments in 2023.

## 7. Forest fires in Austria

The risk of forest fires in Austria has increased steadily due to heat and drought caused by climate change. About 85 % of forest fires are related to human activities. Every year, on average, 220 forest fires with a total damage area of approx. 50 hectares occur.

Within the framework of a newly created forest fund, the Austrian federal government makes available a total of 11 million euros for forest fire prevention and forest fire fighting.

### 7. Forest fires in Austria 2017–2023




Source: Vienna University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences–Institute of Silviculture, as of: 14 May 2024.

## 8. Current and planned projects in the field of flood risk management

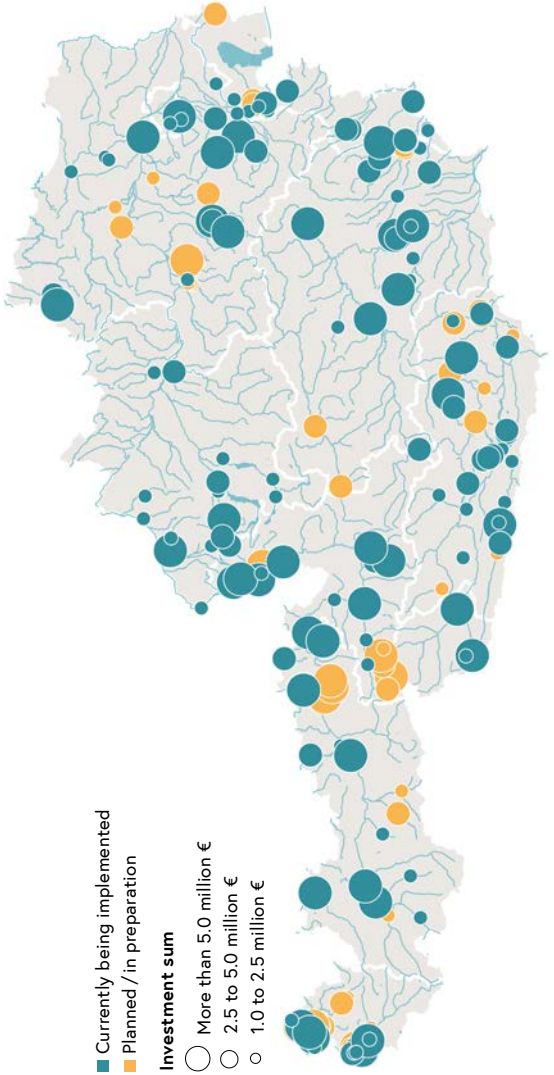
Our rivers and torrents are important habitats for many animals and plants, however, they also constitute a risk for settlements and infrastructure facilities in case of floods.

In order to ensure that we will be well protected against flooding, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management (BML) promotes the further development and the extension of flood prevention and protection measures in Austria.

The Austria map provides a survey of the flood risk management projects, which are in the stage of implementation or in the planning stage, with an investment sum of more than 1 million euros.

In the year 2023, 10,298 additional persons were better protected against floods. For more detailed information, please see bml.gv.at/wasser.

8. Current and planned hydraulic engineering projects in Austria with an investment sum of more than 1 million €




Source: BML, as of: June 2024.

## 9. Newly created flood retention areas in Austria

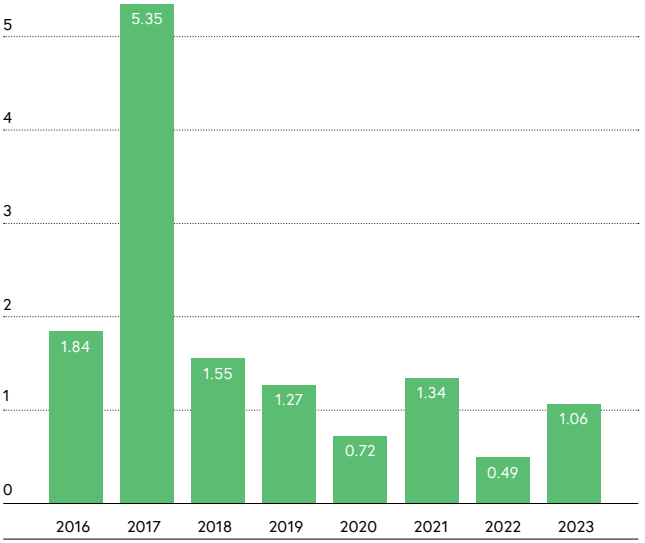
Nowadays, many flood risk measures in Austria aim at improving the water retention in rivers, and at safeguarding inundation areas as well as at reconnecting oxbow lakes and separated side arms to rivers.

In order to be able to improve also the water quality and aquatic habitats, more and more ecological measures are planned at the same time, and are, if possible, implemented. In many cases new near-natural river habitats and attractive places for local recreation and places, which can be used for leisure-time activities, are developed in addition to improved flood-related measures.

In the graph the annual sums of the retention volumes of the flood retention areas, created in Austria, are represented. In 2023, they amounted to 1.06 million m³.

### 9. Newly created flood retention areas 2016–2023

Retention volume in million m³, in Austria




Source: BML, as of: June 2024.

## 10. Safeguarding of natural flood retention areas in Austria

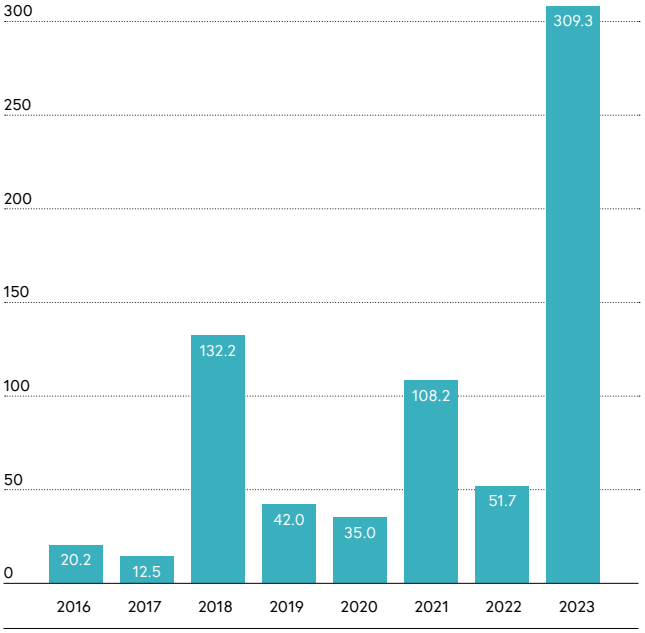
Proactive flood risk management aims at keeping important retention areas free from high-quality utilisations. By means of safeguarding retention areas this goal can be reached.

At the same time, a contribution to flood protection for our settlement areas is made.

In the graph the annual sums of the retention volumes of flood retention areas, safeguarded in Austria, are represented. In 2023, they amounted to 309.3 hectares.

### 10. Safeguarding of natural flood retention areas 2016–2023

Flood retention areas in hectares, in Austria




Source: BML, as of: June 2024.

## 11. Reference map of protective forests in Austria

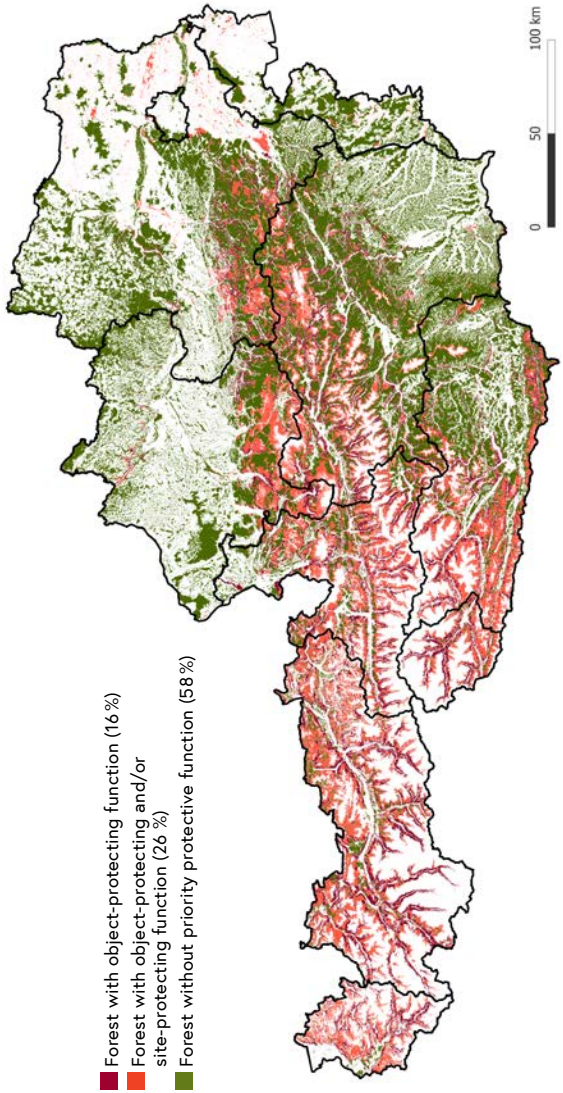
As part of the "Protective Forest" digitalisation initiative, the nationwide expert report represents a major milestone in the "Forest Protects Us!" action programme.

Based on several preliminary scientific projects by the Federal Research Centre for Forests and an evaluation by the local forestry authorities (district forestry inspectorates, Forestry Engineering Service in Torrent and Avalanche Control), the protective forest reference map shows the potential forest areas with a protective function.

Cartographic visualisation is an essential basis for impact-oriented use in investment and funding management. Special treatment in accordance with the Forestry Act is not shown. It is therefore not legally binding, but it raises awareness of the importance of protective forests in Austria. As an important planning tool, the protective forest reference map serves the purpose of integral natural hazard management and is intended to draw attention to the public interest in the protective function, particularly in forest management.

Further information and free online access at:
schutzwald.at/karten and waldatlas.at.

11. Reference map of protective forests in Austria




Source: BML, Dir. III/4, as of: June 2024.
Analysis and design of the technical data: Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape–BFW, Provincial Forestry Directorates–LFD, BML, Service in Torrent and Avalanche Control-WLV, as of: 2024.

# Basis of life water

Water is an indispensable asset for both nature and humans. It is a unique living environment and is used for almost all spheres of life. Austrian waters are lifelines for the regions. The sustainable safeguarding of the valuable resource of water is one of the core tasks of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management (BML). The Federal Ministry creates the framework conditions for the protection of water, in particular in view of drinking water supply from groundwater and spring water, for a resource-saving utilisation and for the protection against floods.

Water is the most important foodstuff. Austria disposes presently of sufficient drinking water of excellent quality. In our country, the daily per capita consumption of drinking water is relatively low, compared to other states, amounting on average to about 130 litres. Currently already about 93 % of the population profit from one of the more than 5.500 central drinking water suppliers. The total demand for drinking water is covered from groundwater, thus from wells and springs.

However, Austria has also taken enormous efforts for decades in order to encourage the population and the branches of industry, by means of awareness raising, to use this precious resource carefully and has invested at the same time considerably, with an amount of 16.2 billion euros, in the water infrastructure. To ensure safe drinking water supply even with lack of water resources, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management has worked out the “Plan for the Safeguarding of Drinking Water”.

Apart from the excellent drinking water supply, Austria has also a great wealth of beautiful rivers, brooks and lakes. These water landscapes are unique living environments for numerous animals and plants and are also very valuable as recreational areas for us humans. Therefore these living environments are permanently ecologically further improved. Austria’s bathing water quality has a top position in the EU ranking every year; Austria is currently on second place behind Cyprus.

However, water has also a different face, a menacing face: as an unpredictable force of nature, which brings about high tides and floods. In order to mitigate potential damage in the best possible way all over Austria, the BML is implementing together with the Federal Provinces and the municipalities flood control projects and conveys the people the respective awareness of danger.

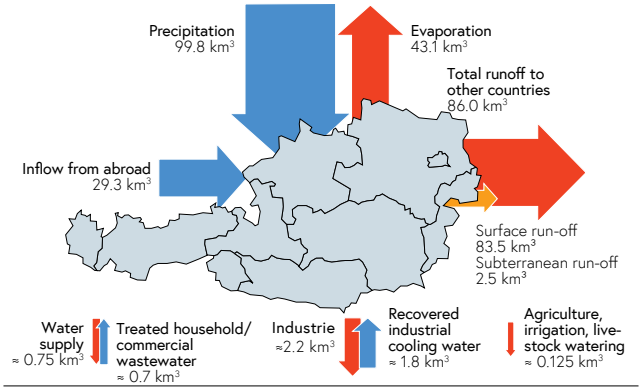
## 1. Austrian water balance

The most important basis for the sustainable use of water by any society is an exact knowledge of the water cycle. Every second around 18 billion litres of water evaporate on our planet. Only 0.4 % of the total water volume participates in the water cycle. The major part of it remains bound in reservoirs, such as oceans or ice caps.

Annual rainfall in Austria is around 1,190 mm, with areas along the main Alpine ridge characterised by high precipitation. In parts of western Austria, an average annual precipitation of more than 2,500 mm a year can be expected, while in the North East of the country only 600 mm or less are recorded each year. Our domestic water resources are stored and made available in most different ways. Precipitation and evaporation are always part of an everlasting cycle, meaning that not a single drop of water is wasted.

### 1. Austrian Water Balance

Medium values 1986–2015 in km³/year




Source: BMLRT, from the study Austrian Water Treasure 2022.

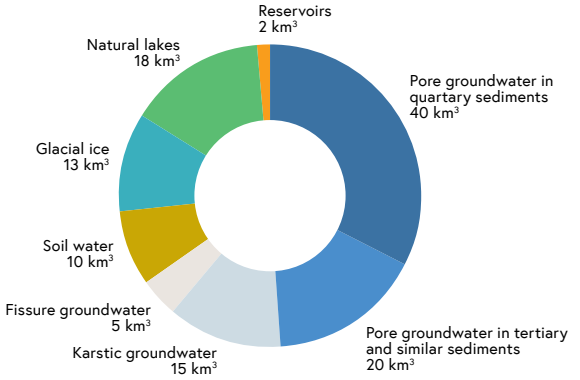
## 2. Water reservoir and water reserves in Austria

Although the supply of high-quality water is becoming an ever-increasing problem in many regions of the world, Austria is one of the most water-abundant countries of the world. The reserves, which are available subterraneanly in the groundwater and in the soil water, in natural lakes, in glacier ice, and in the reservoirs, amount in total to about 123 km³. If all the country's water resources were brought together, the result would be a water pillar covering the entire country with a height of 1.5 metres.

The term "pore groundwater" refers to groundwater in unconsolidated rock and bedrock, whose voids (effective porosity) are predominantly formed by pores. It is first and foremost generated from wells. The term "crevice groundwater" refers to groundwater in crevices and non-karstic rock, the extraction takes place from springs or wells. Typical karstic aquifers in Austria are the extensive Northern and Southern Limestone Alps, with their limestone and dolomite rocks, the carbonate rocks.

### 2. Water reservoirs and water resources in Austria

Reservoirs and resources, total: 123 km³




Source: BMLRT, as of: June 2022.

## 3. Dams and reservoirs in Austria

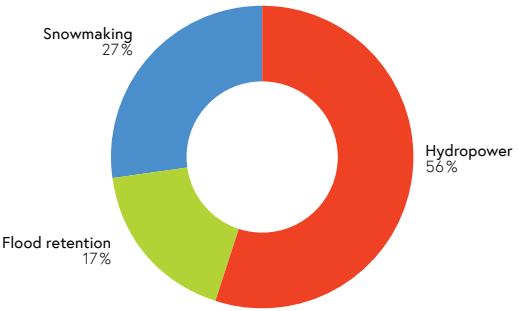
In Austria, water is stored by a total of 193 large dams (dam height H > 15 m or storage volume V > 500.000 m³) with a total usable volume of 1.6 km³. The major part of this water is used for electricity generation: Dams and reservoirs play a crucial role in the generation of renewable energy from hydropower and in storing surplus energy from wind and photovoltaic plants (power plant storage and pumped storage). This can currently be achieved by means of 109 dams.

Moreover, climate change contributes, in combination with an ever-denser settlement, to a decisive aggravation of the flood risk situation in Austria. 31 large flood retention basins, in which approximately 0.033 km³ water can be retained, make an indispensable contribution to the protection of settlement areas and their population.

Another adverse effect of climate change is the increasing tendency towards warm and low-precipitation winters, which requires the establishment of facilities for snow production in the interest of winter tourism, which is so important for Austria. For the generation of artificial snow, 53 large snowmaking reservoirs with a storage volume of about 0.005 km³ are available–this corresponds to about 0.3 % of the total available usable volume.

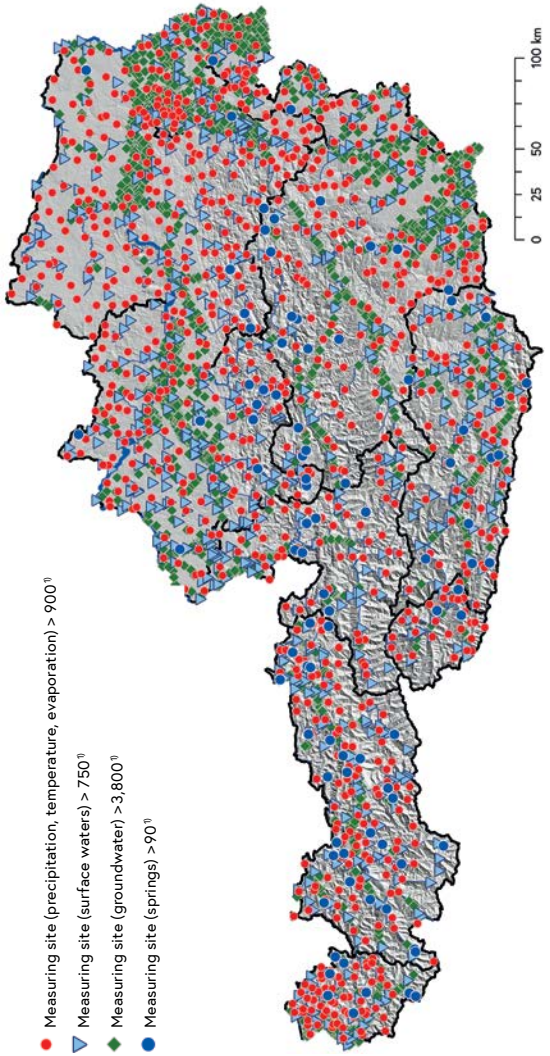
### 3. Purpose of use of big dams and reservoirs

in Austria




Source: BML, as of: June 2024.

## 4. Austrian Hydrographical Monitoring Network




1) Number of measuring sites with data available at ehyd.gv.at.
Source: Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management–BML, Dir. I/3, as of: June 2024.

## 4. The hydrographical monitoring network in Austria

The hydrographical monitoring network in Austria is operated under the responsibility of Directorate I/3 (Water Balance) at the BML, jointly with the hydrographical services of the Federal Provinces, the Austrian waterways operator viadonau, as well as more than 1,800 observers.

On several thousand measuring sites, numerous parameters, such as precipitation, flow rate at surface waters or groundwater level are continuously recorded. The data collection is laid down by law within the framework of the Water Rights Act as well as within the framework of the Water Cycle Survey Ordinance.

The hydrographical data collected are indispensable parameters for high and low tide forecasts. They are applied in water and energy supply, in agriculture and forestry, in civil engineering offices, in the insurance industry and in science and research, as for example in climate impact research. Thanks to this reliable database, planning instruments of water management, such as hazard zoning and flood risk management, can be used in a standardised and uniform way.

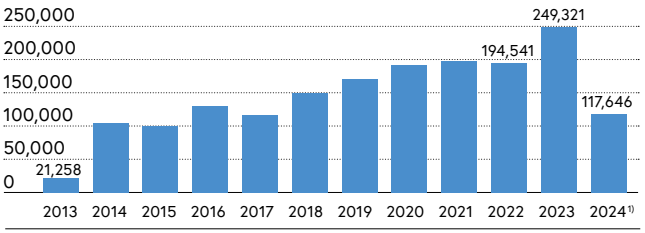
The hydrographical monitoring network and the hydrographical data constitute, as bases for planning and decisions, important elements of the Austrian water management. They make an important contribution to the overall national economy.

## 5. WebGIS-Portal eHYD

A major part of this hydrographical data treasure, consisting of monitoring time series over many years, and data transferred via remote data transmission, is available at the WebGIS-Portal eHYD (ehyd.gv.at) of the BML free of charge.

### 5. Application calls of eHYD

Total: 1,741,555 application calls until 14 june 2024




1) As of: 14 June 2024. Source: Computing and Technology Centre for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management (LFRZ), as of: 14 June 2024.

## 6. Water demand from groundwater and surface water

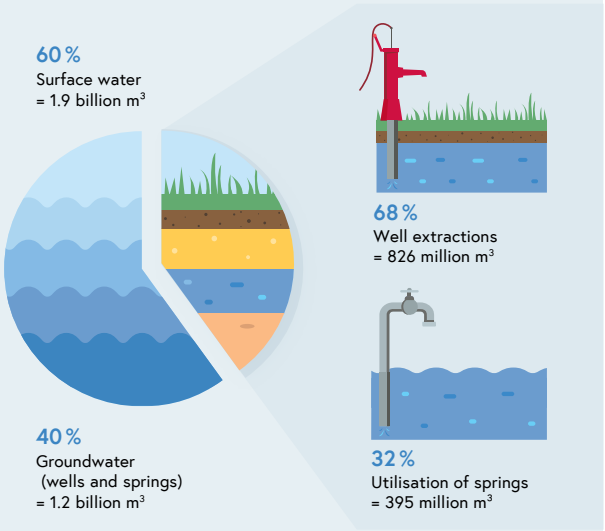
The total annual water demand in Austria amounts to about 3.1 billion m³. About 60 %–which are about 1.9 billion m³–are withdrawn from surface waters.

The major part of it is used as cooling water for trade and industry, a smaller part is used by agriculture and services (snowmaking).

About 40 % of the total water demand–which are about 1.2 billion m³–are covered by groundwater (68 % wells, 32 % springs). The highest share is used for water supply; a smaller share is assigned to trade and industry as well as to agriculture and services.

### 6. Water demand from groundwater and surface water

Total: 3.1 billion m³ (100 %)/year, in Austria




Source: BMLRT, Austria's Water Treasure–Foundations for sustainable types of water utilisation, summary, 2021.

## 7. Utilisation of groundwater according to branches of industry

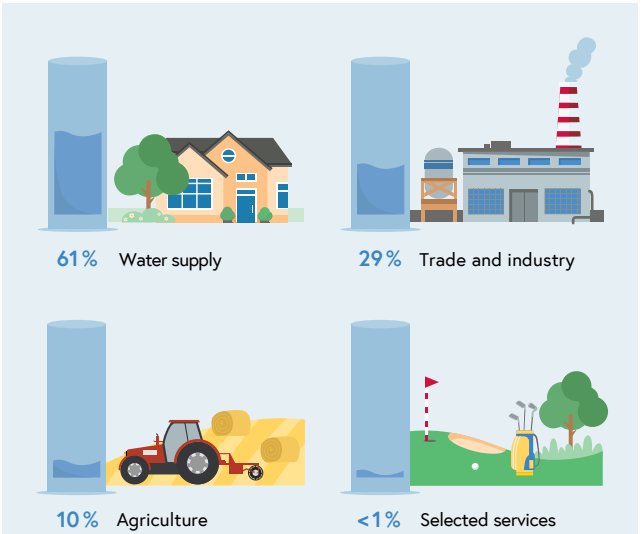
The water demand of the Austrian water supply is completely covered by groundwater from wells and springs. The current water demand of the water supply amounts to 753 million m³ per year and constitutes thus 61 % of the groundwater utilisations.

The total water extraction by the producing sector (trade and industry) amounts to about 2,210 million m³ per year, of which only 15 % are withdrawn from wells and 1 % from springs. With 353 million m³ per year, the producing sector has a share of about 29 % in the groundwater utilisations.

Currently agriculture uses on average 69 million m³ of water for irrigation, of which around 64 million m³ are withdrawn from groundwater. The water demand for animal husbandry differs considerably regionally and, amounting to 55 million m³ per year, makes up a low share in the total water demand. With a total demand of 118 million m³ per year, agriculture has a share of 10 % in groundwater utilisations.

### 7. Utilisation of groundwater according to branches of industry

In Austria




Source: BMLRT, Austria's Water Treasure–Foundations for sustainable types of groundwater utilisation, summary, 2021.

8. Intensity of groundwater utilisation by water extraction from wells–current situation


Source: BMLRT, Austria's Water Treasure–Foundations for sustainable types of water utilisation, 2021.

## 8. Intensity of groundwater utilisation

The intensity of the utilisation of groundwater is defined by comparing the long-term average of withdrawals of groundwater from wells and the available groundwater resource.

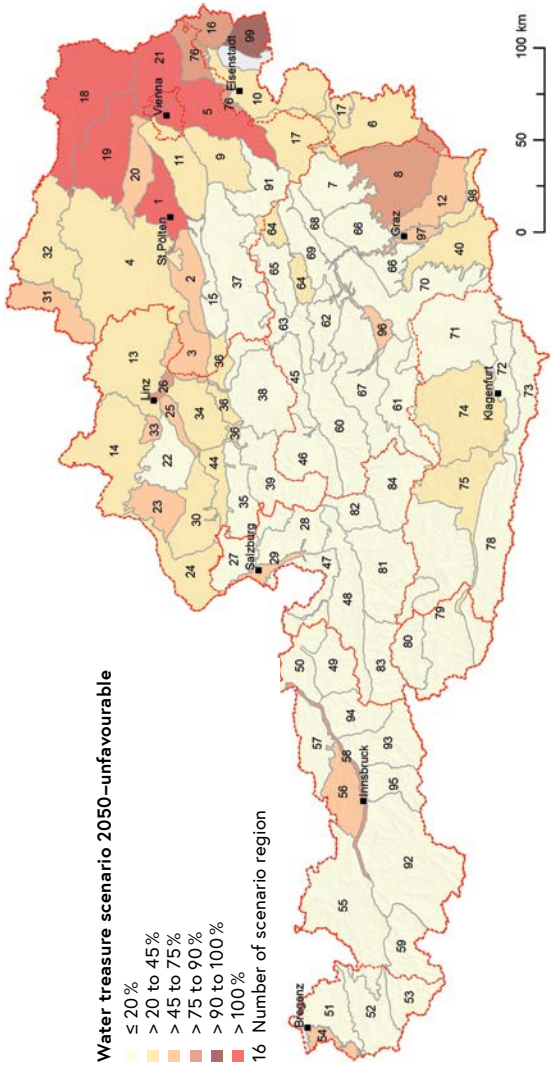
The current intensity of groundwater utilisation at regional level has shown that the current water demand is sufficiently covered by groundwater. In the North East, the East and in the South East of Austria there are higher utilisation intensities, however, none of the regions exceeds the 100 % mark.

## 9. Intensity of groundwater utilisation by withdrawals from wells–Water Treasure Scenario 2050

How high will our groundwater demand be in future? In the study "Austria's Water Treasure" various scenarios for the future groundwater utilisation–so-called Water Treasure Scenarios 2050–have been calculated.

The Water Treasure Scenario 2050 "unfavourable" proceeds on the assumption that the utilisation intensities will considerably increase in some regions. Partly an exceedance of the 100 % mark is expected. This means that in future in these regions the available water resources might not meet the water demand from wells any more without countermeasures. Particularly affected are the regions in the East of Austria.

9. Intensity of groundwater utilisation by withdrawals from wells–Water Treasure Scenario 2050 "unfavourable"




Source: BMLRT, Austria's Water Treasure–Foundations for sustainable types of water utilisation, 2021.

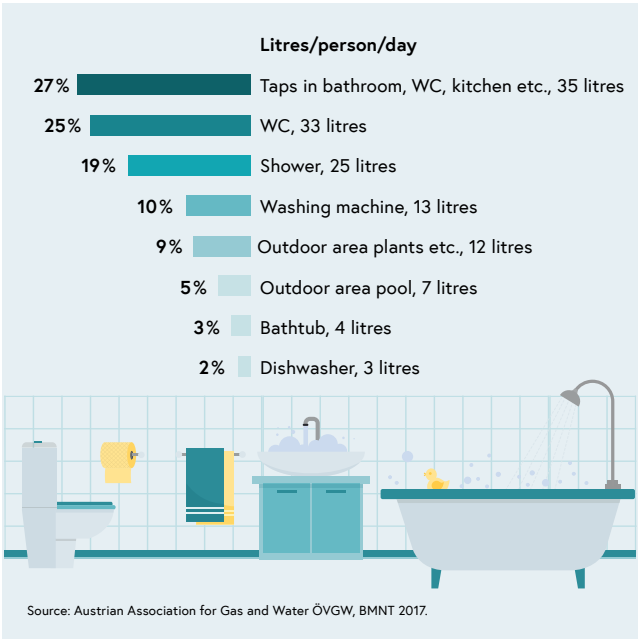
## 10. Per capita water consumption in Austrian households

In Austria, the daily water consumption amounts to an average of around 130 liters per capita. Thus annually approximately the volume of water of Lake Wolfgang is used by domestic households, the major part of it is used for WC flushing, daily body care and the kitchen.

However, the virtual water consumption, which describes the water demand for the production of food, clothes and industrial goods, which we are buying, amounting on average to 4,700 litres per capita and day, is considerably higher than the direct water consumption. In particular, also in view of climate change a careful use and the protection of water are indispensable.

### 10. Average per capita water consumption in Austrian households

Total: 130 litres per inhabitant per day (100 %)




Source: Austrian Association for Gas and Water ÖVGW, BMNT 2017.

## 11. Virtual water–Water footprint of a person in Austria

In Austria every person uses on average about 130 litres of water per day for drinking, cooking, washing or in household and garden. Moreover, we use, due to our daily consumption of food and other goods, water, which is required for the production of these goods. When referring to this hidden quantity of water we are talking about our "virtual" water. The more "virtual" water we use, the bigger is our so-called "water footprint".

The invisible or hidden use makes thus up many times of the direct consumption of water. It is estimated that in Austria about 4,700 litres of virtual water per day and person are used.

### 11. Virtual water–Water footprint of a person in Austria

Total: approx. 4,700 litres/per person per day (100 %)


Source: BMLRT 2021, Virtual Water 2021, Water Footprint–the water consumption of convenience goods.

## 12. Virtual water and water footprint of selected agricultural products

The examples show how much "virtual water" agricultural products contain and which share of the water footprint of a person in Austria per day their consumption has. How much water is needed for the production of an agricultural product depends very much on production and environmental factors and varies depending on the origin. Moreover, it makes a difference under which climatic conditions a crop is grown and whether the natural quantities of rain are sufficient or whether artificial irrigation is required.

As an effect of climate change with all its challenges for water supply, water will become a more and more important resource globally. And this is where, apart from other factors, our consumption behaviour comes into play. With a demand-oriented purchasing behaviour, which is as regional and seasonal as possible, and the avoidance of food waste, a significant reduction of the water footprint is possible. It is estimated that only by means of the avoidance of food waste in households about 280 litres of virtual water per person and day could be saved.

### 12. Virtual water and water footprint of selected products

| Products | Virtual water content on Ø for globally produced goods in litres/kg | Virtual water content on Ø for goods produced in Austria in litres/kg | Water foorprint [1] in litres/capita/day |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wheat | 1,800 | 800 | 405 |
| Potatoes | 287 | 150 | 38 |
| Tomatoes | 214 | 33 | 5 |
| Coffee | 16,000 | | 224 |
| Beef [2] | 15,400 | 8,300 | 484 |
| Cheese | 5,060 | 2,350 | 175 |
| Cotton [3] | | | 221 |

1) on the basis of the quantity available in Austria for consumption per person and day
2) Beef (boneless, fresh)
3) Cotton for textiles and clothing
Source: BMLRT, Virtual Water 2021, Water Footprint for Convenience Goods. All data are mean values of the years 2014–2018.

## 13. Degree of connection to wastewater disposal

Untreated wastewater constitutes a significant burden for water bodies. Therefore, wastewater is collected via the sewerage system, and treated and purified in municipal and industrial wastewater disposal plants. The purified water can subsequently be channelled back into the natural water cycle. Thus, wastewater treatment serves the sustainable use and resource-saving way of dealing with water as a resource.

In order to meet these requirements, the collection and the treatment of municipal wastewater are permanently improved and a high quality level is reached–also compared to international standards. The rate of connection to municipal sewage plants amounts to around 96 % in Austria.

Today's main challenges for treatment plants are substances that are not easily degradable, such as residues from pharmaceuticals or care products, which can pollute our water bodies in the form of micro-pollutants. Careful handling of wastewater also plays an important role in avoiding high costs for sewage treatment plants. The toilet should never be used to dispose of oil, used fats, medicines or hazardous substances such as paints or varnishes. These products must be disposed of at an appropriate collection point.

### 13. Development of the degree of connection to wastewater disposal

in Austria, based on to the total population of Austria

| Degree of connection | 1971 | 1981 | 1991 | 2001 | 2016 | 2020 | 2022 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PE [1] (in million) | 7.49 | 7.53 | 7.81 | 8.06 | 8.77 | 8.92 | 9.05 |
| Connected to the public sewerage network and municipal wastewater treatment plants > 50 $PE_{60}$ (%) [2] | 47.9 | 57.9 | 71.0 | 86.0 | 95.2 | 96.0 | 96.2 |
| Connected to small and domestic wastewater treatment plants (%) | 16.4 | 16.1 | 9.8 | | | | |
| Connected to cesspits (%) | 28.5 | 20.3 | 17.8 | 14.0 [3] | 4.8 [3] | 4.0 [3] | 3.8 [3] |
| With other types of disposal (%) | 7.2 | 5.7 | 1.5 | | | | |

1) PE = Population equivalent, in million, rounded to the second decimal point, Source: © STATISTICS AUSTRIA.
2) Degree of connection according to feedback by the Federal Provinces. $PE_{60}$ = Organic population equivalent
3) The data collected by STATISTICS AUSTRIA have not permited a breakdown into domestic wastewater treatment plants, cesspits and other types of disposal since the year 2020.
Source: Publication of the BML "Municipal Wastewater Report 2024".

## 14. Subsidies for water management in residential areas

Subsidies for water management in residential areas comprise the construction and the rehabilitation of the required infrastructure for a sufficient drinking water supply and a well-organised wastewater disposal.

Investments in the water infrastructure have high significance, in terms of environmental policy, but also in terms of the national economy. These subsidies, provided by the federal government, trigger off investments amounting to multiple times the sum originally spent. This increases the value-added in Austria and creates important jobs, especially in rural areas.

### 14. Subsidies for water management in residential areas in 2023 [1]

in Austria

| Type of plant | Projects | Investment costs in € | Cash value of subsidies in € |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) | 716 | 387,215,619 | 79,161,046 |
| thereof with pipeline information system [2] | 236 | 2,421,017 | 6,356,033 |
| Small-scale wastewater treatment plants | 17 | 1,928,581 | 578,574 |
| Small-scale sewage disposal plants subsidised on a flat-rate basis | 249 | 4,288,802 | 505,068 |
| **Sewage disposal, total** | **982** | **393,433,002** | **80,244,688** |
| Water supply facilities (WSF) | 970 | 522,099,515 | 80,591,811 |
| thereof with pipeline information system [2] | 261 | 5,994,141 | 2,912,352 |
| Individual water supply facilities | 2 | 394,919 | 118,476 |
| Individual water supply facilities subsidised on a flat-rate basis | 58 | 1,671,703 | 214,299 |
| **Water supply, total** | **1,030** | **524,166,137** | **80,924,586** |
| Research on water management in residential areas | 6 | 2,271,480 | 1,390,657 |
| **Total** | **2,018** | **919,870,619** | **162,559,931** |

1) Investments and federal subsidies
2) not included in total
Source: BML, Kommunalkredit Public Consulting (KPC), publication "Umweltmaßnahmen des Bundes – Maßnahmen der Wasserwirtschaft 2023", April 2024.

## 15. Effects of the projects in the field of water supply facilities

Subsidies for Austrian drinking water facilities ensure that the Austrian population is supplied with hygienically perfect drinking water at fees, which are affordable for all. Thus, these investments contribute to a high quality of life and to welfare in all Austrian regions.

Important goals are to ensure the security of supply with high quality drinking water and to adapt the drinking water supply to the longer lasting and more severe dry periods caused by climate change.

Moreover, the maintenance measures for aging infrastructure are of special importance here, because one third of the public drinking water pipelines are more than 50 years old. In addition, facilities for the exploration of water resources, water tanks, containers and treatment plants must be renewed over time. Increasingly relevant are, moreover, measures for blackout prevention in the field of critical infrastructure.

### 15. Effects of projects in the field of water supply facilities in 2023

in Austria

| Projects | Effects |
|---|---|
| Number of persons newly connected to the water supply system (including individual systems) | 41,300 |
| km of pipelines renovated | 585 |
| Number of water treatment facilities built | 480 |
| Storage volume created in $m^3$ | 60,400 |
| Exploration of water resources (including individual systems) | 142 |
| **Economic effects** | |
| Investments in drinking water supply triggered off by subsidies in € | 524,166,137 |
| Jobs created and/or safeguarded by investments–"green jobs" | 9,592 |

Source: BML, Kommunalkredit Public Consulting (KPC), as of: April 2024.

## 16. Effects of projects in the field of wastewater management

Subsidies for the Austrian wastewater treatment sector ensure that the wastewater generated is collected and purified properly at fees, which are reasonable for everyone. Thus, these investments contribute to the protection of groundwater and surface waters. Future challenges for the years to come are, among other things, measures for the adaptation to climate change, for example, the increase in local severe rainfall events requires an adapted precipitation water management with more rainwater infiltration and seepage in the area.

Important goals in this context are the improvement of wastewater and rainwater treatment, also for micro-pollutants, the maintenance of the existing pipeline network, and the further development of the use of renewable energy in the field of wastewater purification. Increasingly relevant are also measures for nutrient recovery to facilitate a circular economy.

### 16. Effects of projects in the field of the wastewater management in 2023

in Austria

| Sewer conduits | Effects |
|---|---|
| km of sewers constructed | 232 |
| km of sewers rehabilitated | 302 |
| Objects disposed of | 4,620 |
| Persons newly connected to sewerage system (including individual systems) | 23,940 |
| Population equivalents connected to sewerage system | 25,740 |
| **Wastewater treatment plants** | |
| Population equivalents | 150,710 |
| Tonnes of $BOD_5$ removed | 2,310 |
| Tonnes of nitrogen nitrified | 563 |
| Tonnes of nitrogen additionally removed per year | 418 |
| Tonnes of phosphorous additional removed per year | 88 |
| **Economic effects** | |
| Investments in sewage disposal triggered off by subsidies in € | 393,433,002 |
| Jobs created and/or safeguarded by investments–"green jobs" | 7,200 |

Source: BML, Kommunalkredit Public Consulting (KPC), as of: April 2024.

## 17. Public water pipes and sewerage systems

The majority of fixed assets in the urban water management sector is underground. In Austria, around 80,600 km of public water pipes and 93,800 km of public sewers in the form of wastewater (58,700 km), mixed water (24,100 km) and rainwater sewers (11,000 km) were built by the end of 2023. The length of Austria's public water pipes corresponds to twice the circumference of the earth and Austria's public sewerage system is 2.3 times the circumference of the earth at the equator.

In the period from 1959 to 2023, investments totalling to 68.711 billion euros (valorised on the basis of the construction price index for civil engineering, other civil engineering in 1986) were made in the area of urban water management. Of this amount, 16.231 billion euros accounted for drinking water supply and 52.480 billion euros for wastewater disposal. The table provides an overview of the public water and sewer pipe lengths in Austria.

### 17. Public water pipes and sewerage systems

in km length, in Austria

| Number | 2010 | 2015 | 2020 | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Water pipes total** | **76,200** | **78,000** | **79,440** | **80,060** | **80,590** |
| **Sewers total** | **88,200** | **91,600** | **93,300** | **93,700** | **93,800** |
| Wastewater sewers | 54,200 | 57,100 | 58,300 | 58,600 | 58,700 |
| Rainwater sewers | 10,100 | 10,500 | 10,900 | 11,000 | 11,000 |
| Combined sewers | 23,900 | 24,000 | 24,100 | 24,100 | 24,100 |

Source: BML, Water Management in Residential Areas, as of: April 2024.

## 18. Subsidisation of Aquatic Ecology

Subsidies for ecological measures on Austrian running waters constitute and important financing instrument in order to reach the goals of the European Water Framework Directive.

The supreme goal of the "Subsidisation of Aquatic Ecology" is the improvement and the establishing of networks of water habitats. In this context, the focus is on the restoration of passability for aquatic organisms as well as on morphological measures, such as for example renaturations or river widenings.

In the year 2023, 33 transverse structures were modified to enable fish passage by means of the "Subsidies for Aquatic Ecology" and thus allowing them to surmount in total an altitude of 73 metres. Furthermore, a total of about 50 river kilometres was hydromorphologically improved and restored to a natural state in the year 2023.

### 18. Subsidies for aquatic ecology projects in 2023

in Austria

| Project type | Projects | Investment costs in € | Cash value of subsidies in € |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Austrian government** | **20** | **26,795,299** | **26,795,299** |
| **Enterprises** | **14** | **5,168,984** | **1,029,051** |
| **Municipalities** | **24** | **19,878,956** | **11,927,374** |
| **Research projects** | **3** | **336,154** | **336,154** |
| of which continuity [1] | | 10,698,379 | 5,452,316 |
| of which revitalisation [2] | | 41,481,014 | 34,635,562 |
| **Total result** | **61** | **52,179,393** | **40,087,878** |
| **Economic effects** | | | |
| Investments in aquatic ecology triggered off by subsidies in € | | | 51,843,239 |
| Jobs created and/or safeguarded by investments– "green jobs" | | | 965 |

1) Continuity = passability for fish
2) Revitalisation: Close-to-nature design of a river course
Source: BML, Kommunalkredit Public Consulting (KPC), publication "Umweltmaßnahmen des Bundes – Maßnahmen der Wasserwirtschaft 2023", April 2024.

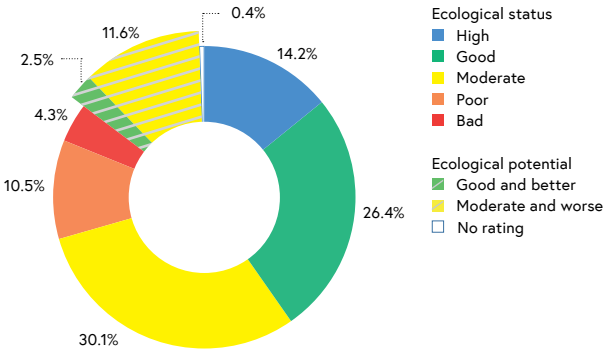
## 19. Ecological status and ecological potential–running waters

Austria's network of rivers and brooks amounts to a total length of over 100,000 kilometres, which is enough to circle the earth almost 2.5 times. In addition to its structure and volume of water, physical-chemical and biological characteristics are also measured when assessing the condition of a water body. For example, the composition of species and their frequency can indicate both positive and negative changes.

Austria has a network of running waters with catchment areas > 10km, which is more than 32,101 km long. As far as the ecological status is concerned 40.6 % are assessed as being "very good" and "good", 30.1 % percent as "moderate", 10.5 % percent as "poor" and 4.3 % as "bad". In total 2.5 % of running waters show a "good and better" and 11.6 % a "moderate or poor" potential. These waters have been identified as "artificial or considerably moderated".

### 19. Ecological status and ecological potential–running waters

Length of the waterbody network of running waters > 10km²: 32.101 km in Austria




Source: BML, as of: June 2024 (database National Water Management Plan NGP 2021).

## 20. Ecological status and ecological potential–lakes

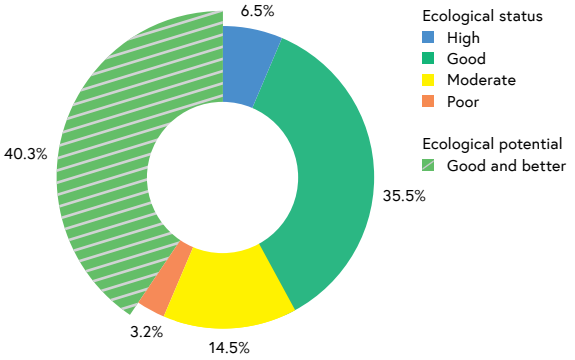
In Austria, there are more than 25,000 stagnant water bodies with a size exceeding 250 m². The 62 lakes, which are bigger than 50 ha, comprise 37 natural, 6 considerably moderated, and 19 artificial lakes. As far as the ecological status is concerned 6.5 % are assessed as being "high", 35.5 % as "good", 14.5 % as "moderate" and 3.2 % as "poor". All artificial or considerably moderated lakes are in the status of a "good" ecological potential.

Regarding ten Austrian lakes, the goal of the "good status" is missed. The causes of it are nutrient load (Lake Ossiach, Old Danube), disturbance of the chemical-hydrological balance and the water balance (Lake Lange Lacke, Lake St. Andäer Zicksee, Lake Illmitzer Zicklacke) or influences of fisheries management (Lake Walchsee, Lake Traunsee, Lake Irrsee, Lake Weißensee), a combination of invasive fish species, climate change, and nutrient load (Lake Lunzersee) and nutrient and/or hydro-morphological load (Lake Wörthersee).

With some lakes, in particular shallow lakes, first severe consequences of climate change have become evident. However, most recent measurements have also shown that, due to measures to reduce the nutrient input with the general biological components, Lake Mondsee shows a good status again. Appropriate measures are also continued to be carried out for the other lakes.

### 20. Ecological status and ecological potential–lakes

62 lakes > 50 ha, in Austria



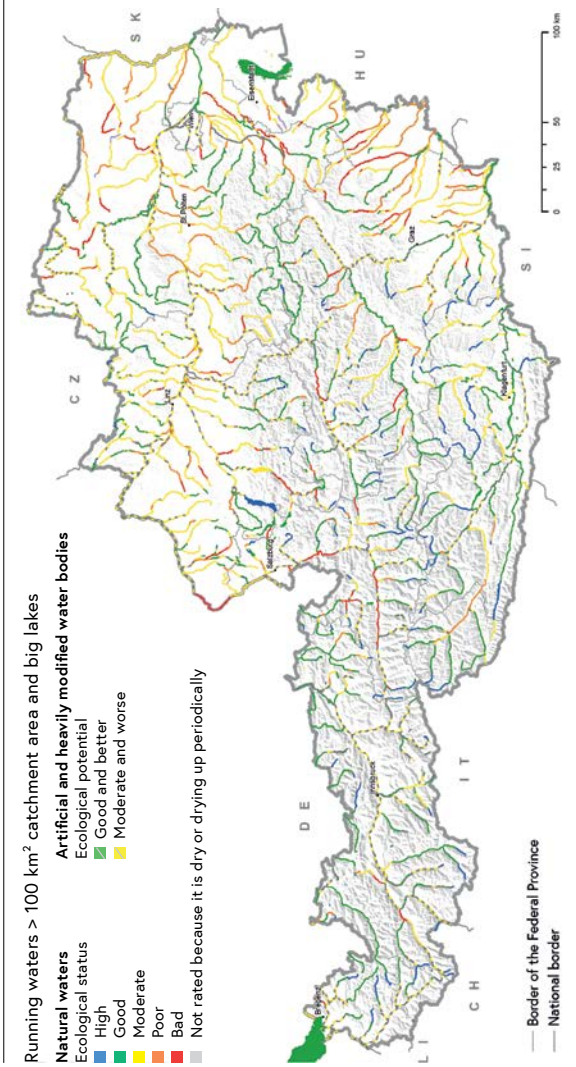

Source: BML, as of: June 2024 (database National Water Management Plan NGP 2021).

## 21. Austria's running waters and big lakes–ecological status and ecological potential

On the map of Austria the ecological status and/or the ecological potential of running waters with a catchment area of more than 100 km is represented. In the same way all lakes which are bigger than 50 ha are represented.

The fundamental goal of water protection is to ensure a good ecological status and/or, in the case of artificial or considerably moderated bodies of water, a good ecological potential.

21. Austria's running waters and big lakes–Ecological status and ecological potential




Source: National Water Management Plan (Nationaler Gewässerbewirtschaftungsplan NWMP) 2021. BML, Dir. I/2; National and International Water Management. Graphics: Environment Agency Austria 2023.

# Focus on research activities of the BML

The research at the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management (BML) is the core element of the applied research landscape and an important element of the Austrian system of science. At the interface of science, politics and the society, it provides new insights, which are directly incorporated into practice and serve as a basis for political decisions.

The research priorities are defined in the research programme 2020–2025. They aim at orienting the research activities in a sustainable way. Applied research for practice and the society falls within the technical competences of the Ministry: Agriculture, forestry, water management, regional policy and spatial planning. However, the research activities take place along cross-cutting issues such as "future-fit natural and living environments", "climate change", "resource management and circular economy", "food supply and security", "digitalization", or "political impact assessment".

According to the current developments the focus is on concrete research priorities every year–such as "Food and nutritional security" in 2022 or "Renewable resources and climate protection" in 2023. These topics are specifically called in the course of submission of research projects.

Research at the BML is carried out at the research agencies of the BML, its outsourced research institutions, as well as by means of research contracts awarded to external project applicants. International networking takes place by means of the participation in European research initiatives.

At the research platform dafne.at (database for research on sustainable development), you will find details on all research projects. Dafne.at serves the information about, as well as the administration and the recording of research projects, which are carried out at the research-active departments, the federal institutes and the research centres or offices or are, via research contracts, awarded to external research organisations. Within the framework of the Cooperation between Federal Government and Federal Provinces Research (BBK) projects are financed jointly with other Federal Ministries or provincial governments.

The Directorate Chief Executive Department 8–Research Development and Corporate Services–is the research coordination and service unit at the BML. A survey is provided by the "Annual Report on Research Activities", which is published annually.

## 1. Survey of research activities at the Ministry

The research at the BML is based on three pillars: Research institutions of the Ministry, research contracts awarded to external project applicants, and cooperation within the framework of international and European research programmes. The participation in international programmes and research bodies supplements the expert knowledge within the Ministry and ensures that Austria's interests are represented in the European research landscape.

### 1. Survey of research activities at the Ministry

at the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management (BML)

| **Research activities at the Ministry** | **2022** | **2023** |
|---|---|---|
| **Research agencies of the Ministry** | **Number** | **Number** |
| Research agencies | 9 | 9 |
| External research organisations | 31 | 34 |
| **Research projects** | **Number** | **Number** |
| Current internal projects | 318 | 311 |
| Current external projects | 144 | 149 |
| **Expenditures for research contract assignments** | **in mio. €** | **in mio. €** |
| Research-effective share of the research units of the Ministry | 23.92 | 26.32 |
| Current transfer to related enterprises | 12.31 | 12.97 |
| Research and other measures [1] | 18.63 | 49.3 |
| **Total** | **54.86** | **88.59** |
| **Transfer of knowledge** | **Number** | **Number** |
| Relevant specialised/scientific publications [2] | 465 | 543 |
| of which peer-reviewed [2] | 80 | 79 |
| of which non peer-reviewed [2] | 385 | 464 |
| Participants in further training events [2] | 14,670 | 8,284 |
| Users of dafne.at | 3,108 | 4,229 |

1) Increase due to additional research funds from the forest fund.
2) At research agencies of the BML.
Source: BML, Annual Report Research Activities 2023, BFG, research platform dafne.at, as of: June 2024.

## 2. The research year

The research activities of the BML make an important contribution to the improvement of the quality of life in Austria. The goal of the research of the Ministry is to put new knowledge and modern technologies into practice as soon as possible. The research projects carried out and/or commissioned by the BML enjoyed also a high level in 2023.

## 2. The research year at the Ministry

at the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management (BML)

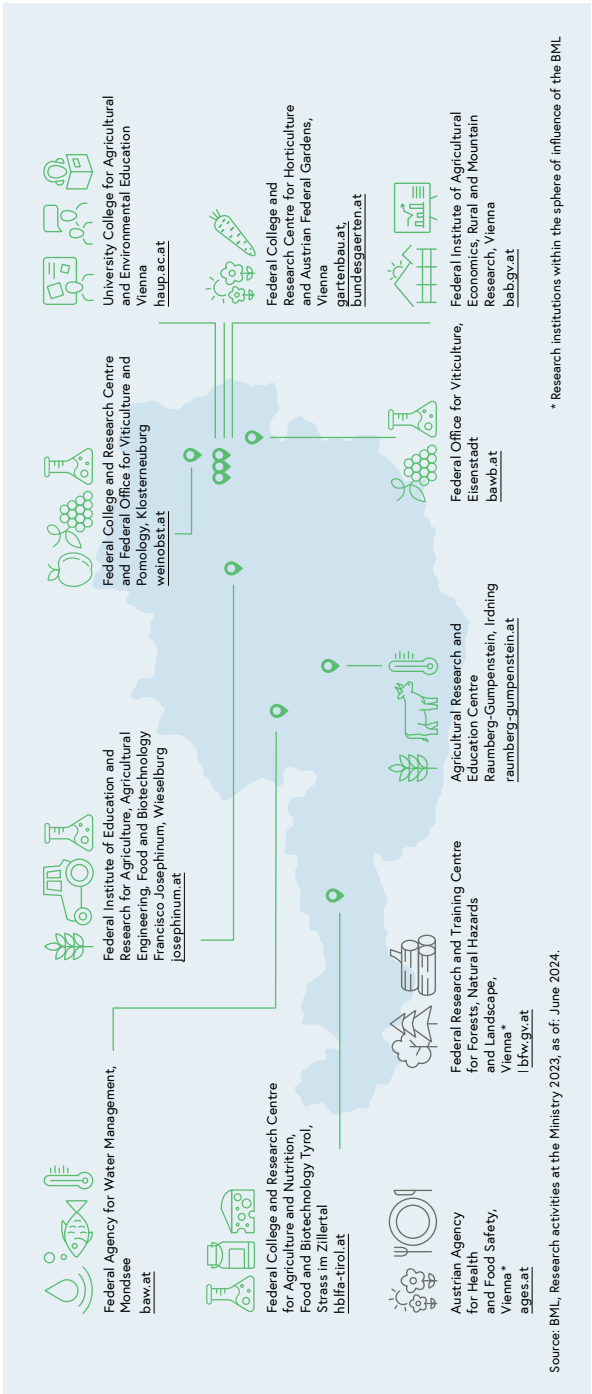
| Research year at the Ministry | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **New research projects** | | | | |
| Internal projects [1] | 40 | 64 | 70 | 54 |
| External projects [2] | 18 | 45 | 39 | 39 |
| **Total** | **58** | **109** | **109** | **93** |
| **Project completions** | | | | |
| Internal projects [1] | 50 | 37 | 67 | 78 |
| External projects [2] | 19 | 27 | 38 | 40 |
| **Total** | **69** | **64** | **105** | **118** |
| **Current research projects** | | | | |
| Internal projects [1] | 277 | 271 | 318 | 311 |
| External projects [2] | 94 | 134 | 144 | 149 |
| of which EU projects (i.a. ERA-NET [3]) | 24 | 29 | 17 | 11 |
| of which cooperation with BBK [4]-participation | 17 | 24 | 22 | 24 |
| **Total** | **371** | **405** | **462** | **460** |

1) In research agencies of the BML (BMLRT).
2) Projects of the BML (BMLRT), which are commissioned externally to research partner institutions.
3) ERA-NET = Networking the European Research Area
4) BBK = Cooperation between the Federal Government and the Federal Provinces in the field of research
Source: BML, Annual Report Research Activities 2023, BFG, research platform dafne.at, as of: June 2024.

## 3./4. Research agencies and outsourced institutions of the BML

The focus is on the nine research agencies of the BML responsible for carrying out research activities as well as on two outsourced institutions. They constitute a particularity in the Austrian research landscape due to their strong focus on applied research. Five research agencies are combined with secondary agricultural colleges to form secondary research and education centres (HBLFA), which constitutes a unique combination between research and education.

3. Research agencies and outsourced institutions of the BML



## 4. Current projects at the research agencies of the Ministry

at the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management (BML)

| Research agencies | 2022 Projects [3] Number | 2022 Staff FTE [1] | 2022 Costs [2] in mio. € | 2023 Projects [3] Number | 2023 Staff in FTE [1] | 2023 Costs [2] in mio. € |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agricultural Research and Education Centre Raumberg-Gumpenstein | 96 | 87.51 | 10.27 | 65 | 87.57 | 12.35 |
| Federal College and Research Centre and Federal Office for Viticulture and Pomology, Klosterneuburg | 86 | 56.37 | 5.66 | 72 | 49.69 | 6.02 |
| Federal Institute of Agricultural Economics, Rural and Mountain Research, Vienna | 47 | 10.51 | 2.33 | 47 | 11.01 | 2.66 |
| Federal College and Research Centre for Horticulture and Austrian Federal Gardens | 51 | 17.19 | 1.58 | 50 | 19.36 | 2.01 |
| Federal Institute of Education and Research Francisco Josephinum, Wieselburg | 22 | 22.13 | 3.61 | 21 | 23.68 | 4.8 |
| University College for Agricultural and Environmental Education, Vienna | 8 | 4.08 | 0.48 | 12 | 3.51 | 0.58 |
| Federal Office for Viticulture, Eisenstadt | 2 | 4.52 | 0.66 | 5 | 5.04 | 0.6 |
| Federal Agency for Water Management, Mondsee | 38 | 18.32 | 3.05 | 47 | 17.42 | 2.98 |
| Federal College and Research Centre for Agriculture and Nutrition, Food and Biotechnology Tyrol | 2 | [4] | 0.03 | 1 | 1.14 | 0.24 |

1) FTE = Full Time Equivalent according to Resource, Goal and Performance P (RGP Plan) of the BML.
2) Costs of the core service research according to RGP Plan of the BML, rounded figures.
3) Data according to Resource, Goal and Performance Plan (RGP plan) of the research agencies of the BML.
4) No research data available.
Source: BML, Annual Report Research Activities 2023, BFG, research platform dafne.at, as of: June 2024.

## 5. External research projects

Research contracts with external research organisations play an important role in the research of the BML. In 2023, contracts totalling to 47.8 million euros were awarded. All in all the research expenditure of the BML increased by 30.7 million euros. The availability of additional research funding from the Forest Fund was a key factor here.

In 2023, research measures on the topic of "wood gas and biofuels" contributed significantly to an increase in research-related expenditure in the field of forestry. Increases in research expenditure were also recorded in the fields of agriculture and water management

The process administration takes place via the research platform dafne.at, a web database with access to current research topics and project contents, as well as practice-oriented research results.

## 5. Current external research projects at the Ministry

at the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management (BML)

| External research projects | 2020 [1] [2] | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Selected research institutions** | **Research projects (number)** | | | |
| Vienna University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU) | 35 | 32 | 53 | 52 |
| Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES) | 13 | 21 | 14 | 17 |
| Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape | 8 | 23 | 19 | 19 |
| Vienna University of Veterinary Medicine (VetMed) | 7 | 10 | 10 | 14 |
| Environment Agency Austria | 4 | 5 | 5 | 2 |

| Fields of research | Research-relevant expenses in 1,000 € (rounded figures) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agriculture | 2,610 | 3,097 | 3,792 | 4,437 |
| Forestry | 853 | 964 | 538 | 390 |
| Forestry funded by the Austrian Forest Fund | | 4,007 | 8,213 | 10,769 |
| Settlement of forest funds via FFG [3] | | | 4,236 | 31,693 |
| Water management | 277 | 270 | 325 | 515 |
| **Total** | **3,741** | **8,338** | **17,104** | **47,804** |

1) without KIRAS and FORTE (KIRAS = Austrian Security Research Programme. FORTE = Defence Research Programme.)
2) Since 2020 the Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK) has been in charge of environmental affairs.
3) FFG = Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft (Austrian Research Promotion Agency).
Source: BML, Annual Report Research Activities 2023, BFG, research platform dafne.at, as of: June 2024.

# Agricultural education in Austria

Austria's agriculture and forestry have been the backbone of a rural area worth living in for centuries. Well-trained farm managers are needed to guarantee the supply of high-quality food to the population. The agricultural educational system in Austria is an international role model and is based on innovation, competence, sustainability and tradition. In this way, the diverse services provided by our farmers ensure quality of life for the society as a whole.

Life-long, and also true-to life learning have become reality due to the connection between teaching, research and practice. People are educated, no matter whether they are young or old, towards independent entrepreneurially thinking, competent personalities oriented according to the community.

The focus of agricultural education is on questions related to business management, production technology, sustainable development, but also diversification and social affairs. The goal is to have efficient, sustainable farms in rural regions worth living in. They produce high-quality food in an environmentally benign and species-appropriate way, thereby meeting the growing demands of the society, the economy and the environment.

Education must always be oriented according to social, economic and in particular climatic changes. By means of integrating current research results in the learning contents, the direct implementation into practice takes place.

Agricultural education in Austria is characterised by a nation-wide unique educational, training, further training and extension network with high permeability. The agricultural educational system has a high level of attractiveness for non-agrarians, due to its wide range of imparting knowledge.

Knowledge in the agricultural industry is not only the prerequisite for safeguarding a secure nutrition and for the preservation of the organic basis of raw materials; it also serves as base of life of the total population. Moreover, national strategies are transported and specific conditions of the Federal Provinces are dealt with. In this way, regional links are created.

Agricultural education is thus a future-oriented educational system with the potential of coping with current and future, societal, economic, ecological and social tasks.

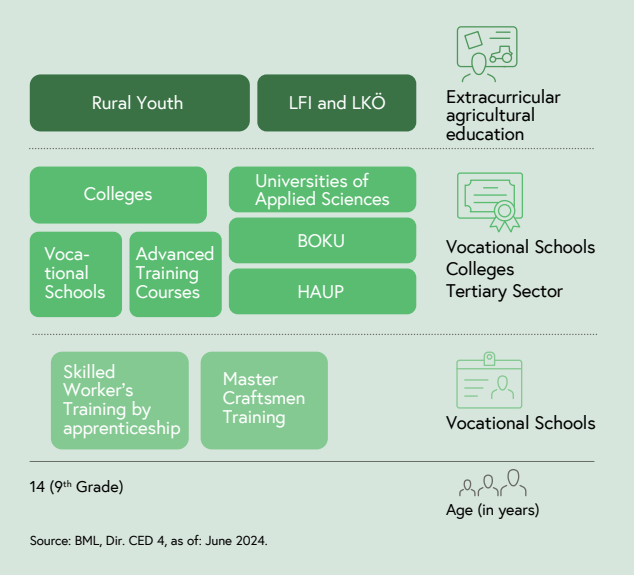
## 1. Agricultural education and extension

Agricultural education and extension make an important contribution to the preservation of rural areas. The agricultural educational system is characterised by practical relevance, close links to research. It offers a wide range of future-oriented training opportunities from grade 9 onwards.

It consists of a network, which comprises skilled worker's training, master craftsmen training, but also education at vocational schools and Colleges for Agriculture and Forestry, and later at the Universities of Applied Sciences, the University College for Agricultural and Environmental Education (HAUP) and the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU). In the field of extra-curricular agricultural education, the Austrian Chambers of Agriculture (LKÖ), the Austrian Rural Further Education Institute (LFI) as well as the Austrian Rural Youth are available as central contact points.

The offer of extension services supports responsible self-reliant farm management and successful business development. These multifarious, comprehensive and innovative training and further training offers provide a valuable contribution to a resource-conscious and responsible way of acting.

### 1. Agricultural education and extension in Austria




Source: BML, Dir. CED 4, as of: June 2024.

## 2. Agricultural and forestry educational system

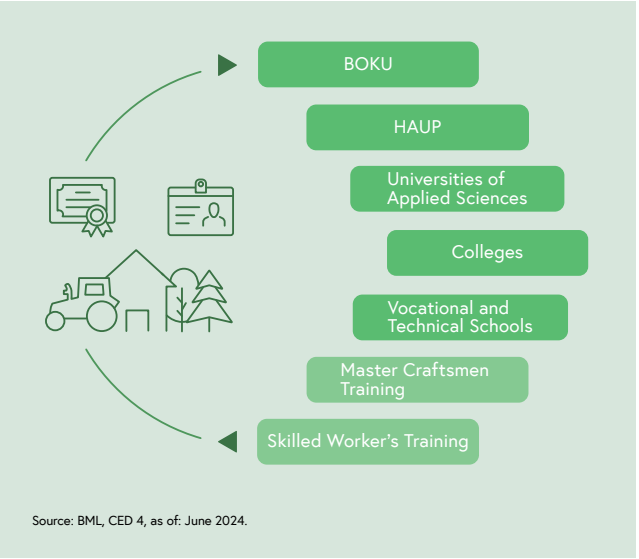
There are 16 different agricultural and forestry apprenticeships. The duration of a training for a skilled worker qualification is regularly three years, however, apart from the technical school it can also be made within the framework of second-chance education or as a dual practice-oriented training. The subsequent master craftsmen training lasts, as a rule, for three years. See lehrlingsstelle.at.

The 91 agricultural schools offer sound training programmes via different educational paths and priorities. They are competence centres within and for vital regions. For more information, see agrarschulen.at.

Apart from the University College for Agricultural and Environmental Education (HAUP) in Vienna, Ober St. Veit there exist Universities of Applied Sciences with a relation to agriculture and the environment in Austria, such as for example the branch of study agricultural technology. Further information at haup.ac.at and fachhochschulen.ac.at.

The University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU) in Vienna is a central teaching and research institution for sustainability. It combines topics of natural sciences, technological and socio-economic topics. There exist seven bachelor, 27 master and 13 doctoral studies. See: boku.ac.at.

### 2. Agricultural and forestry educational system in Austria




Source: BML, CED 4, as of: June 2024.

## 3. Agricultural and forestry schools

The duration of training at the more than 70 agricultural and forestry vocational schools is usually three years. After graduation you will become a skilled worker. Many further qualifications can be acquired in this context. More information at agrarschulen.at.

The Colleges for Agriculture and Forestry offer ten different branches with another 11 regional specialisations and priorities. The duration of training is five years and/or three years in the advanced training course. The vocational and general education at a College ends with a school-leaving exam entitling to universities studies called Matura and a diploma exam. More information at bml.gv.at/schulen.

### 3. Agricultural and forestry schools and university colleges

in Austria

| Types of schools and number | School year 2022/23 | School year 2023/24 |
|---|---|---|
| **University College for Agricultural and Environmental Education (HAUP) [1]** | **1** | **1** |
| Students in the public sector | 925 | 929 |
| **Agricultural and forestry schools** | | |
| **Agricultural colleges for teaching and research [1]** | **10** | **10** |
| Students | 3,225 | 3,306 |
| Teaching staff [2] | 472 | 603 |
| **Private secondary schools** | **2** | **2** |
| Students | 252 | 263 |
| Teaching staff [2] | 23 | 76 |
| **Forestry colleges for teaching and research [1]** | **1** | **1** |
| Students | 344 | 359 |
| Teaching staff [2] | 44 | 84 |
| **Technical schools for agriculture and forestry ("Fachschulen")** | **74** | **70** |
| Students | 12,869 | 12,678 |
| Teaching staff [2] | 1,543 | 1,605 |
| **Federal Forest Vocational School [1]** | **1** | **1** |
| Students | 69 | 91 |
| **Vocational schools for agriculture and forestry** | **4** | **6** |
| Students | 610 | 651 |
| **Total schools** | **93** | **91** |
| **Total students of all school types** | **18,294** | **17,348** |
| **Total teaching staff of all schools types [2]** | **2,082** | **2,402** |

1) University college and schools of the BML
2) in full-time equivalents
Source: BML, as of: June 2024.

## 4. University College for Agricultural and Environmental Education

The University College for Agricultural and Environmental Education (HAUP) is the only teacher training college for the fields of agriculture and environment in Austria. It is the centre for further training and advanced training for professional fields in agricultural and environmental pedagogics and the scientific centre of competence for Green Pedagogics.

The degree programmes offered by the university are scientifically sound and professionally oriented. They teach key pedagogical, professional and personal skills, specialist knowledge and practical experience.

**The University College offers degree programmes:**

- Bachelor degree in Agricultural Education and Extension
- Master degree in Agricultural Education
- Bachelor and Master degrees in Agricultural Education after completing a master's or HBLA (Federal Institute of Higher Education) qualification
- Bachelor degree in Environmental Education and Extension
- Master degree in Environmental Education and Extension
- Bachelor degree in Agricultural/Environmental Education
- Post-graduate studies after teacher training studies
- Master study courses
- Second-chance University courses

### 4. University College for Agricultural and Environmental Education (HAUP)

- 929 students at the University sector
- 403 further training seminars with 8,900 participants annually
- 5 Bachelor studies and 2 Master studies
- Master study courses and university courses

For more information see: haup.ac.at.

Source: BML, CED4, as of: June 2024.

## 5. Extracurricular agricultural education

Along with the Austrian Chambers of Agriculture (LKÖ) and the Austrian Rural Further Education Institute (LFI), the Rural Youth Austria is one of the largest educational organisations for extracurricular agricultural education in Austria.

The Rural Youth Austria has around 90,000 members. It considers itself to be a coordinator for the concerns of young people in rural areas. It is the most important organisation for extracurricular youth education and the largest association of its kind in Austria. In addition to internship placements abroad and competitions, the most important activities include continuing education. Important key qualifications are acquired in a wide range of educational programmes. More at landjugend.at.

The tasks of the Austrian Chambers of Agriculture (LKÖ) are to support its members, to represent them in dealing with the state and other professional groups and to participate in tasks of the state. The LKÖ offer an attractive range of advisory services for farmers. The comprehensive and cost-effective extension network supports responsible self-reliant farm management and successful business development. Farmers are advised on issues related to food production, the environment, energy, but also on legal and social aspects. Further information at lko.at.

The Austrian Rural Further Education Institute (LFI) provides adult education in rural areas with over 7,000 courses and more than 150,000 participants per year. In addition to specialist training courses such as business management, IT, pluriactivity, direct marketing and farm holidays, the LFI also offers courses in the areas of personal development, health and environmental protection face-to-face and online. More at lfi.at.

### 5. Extracurricular agricultural education

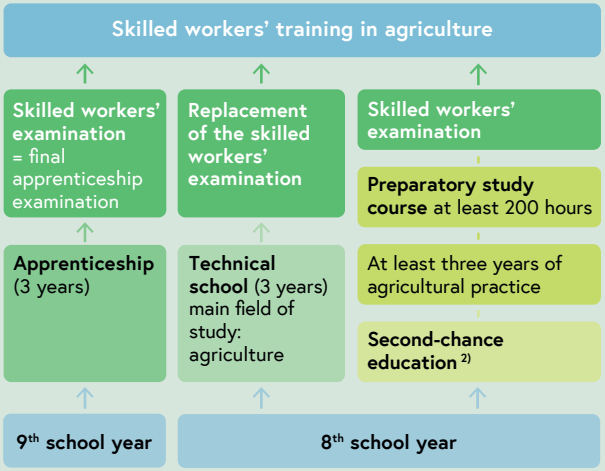

Source: BML, Extracurricular agricultural education in Austria, as of: July 2024.

## 6. Skilled worker's training in agriculture and forestry

Well-trained new farm owners as farm managers constitute the basis of our farms. Skilled worker training lays the foundation for good business management. Practical vocational training in agriculture and forestry is divided into two levels. Skilled worker training is the first stage. The subsequent master craftsman training programme is the highest professional training for practitioners.
The acquisition of the skilled worker qualification is possible in three different ways:

- As training at the three-year technical schools to become skilled workers.
- In the second-chance education persons with non-agricultural training can catch up on the skilled worker qualification.
- In the third variant, an apprenticeship can take the form of a dual practice-oriented training at two locations of learning, a qualified training company and a vocational school for agriculture and forestry.

### 6. Skilled worker's training in agriculture and forestry




1) Final apprenticeship examination
2) Completed vocational training, at least 20 years old
Source: Chamber of Agriculture Styria, as of: June 2024.

## 7. Agricultural and forestry apprenticeships

In Austria, there are currently 16 agricultural and forestry apprenticeships that qualify apprentices to become skilled workers and, building on this, to become master craftspersons. For more detailed information see: lehrlingsstelle.at.

### 7. The 16 agricultural and forestry apprenticeships in Austria

1. Agriculture
2. Rural business and household management
3. Horticulture
4. Field vegetable production
5. Pomology and fruit utilisation
6. Viticulture and Oenology
7. Dairy and cheese industry
8. Horse management
9. Fishery industry
10. Poultry farming
11. Apiculture
12. Forestry
13. Forest Gardening and Forest Tending
14. Agricultural storage
15. Biomass production and agricultural and forestry bioenergy generation
16. ProfessionaL hunting industry

Source: BML, CED 4, as of: June 2024.

# Further information

## Websites

**BML**
Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management
bml.gv.at
Press
info.bml.gv.at/service/presse.html
Photo service
info.bml.gv.at/service/fotoservice.html
Publications
info.bml.gv.at/service/publikationen.html
Facts and Figures
info.bml.gv.at/service/zahlen-fakten-neu.html

**Agricultural and forestry schools and University College and agencies of the BML**
BML platform "Unsere Schulen" (Our schools)
bml.gv.at/schulen
Hochschule für Agrar- und Umweltpädagogik (HAUP) (University College for Agricultural and Environmental Education)
haup.ac.at
HBLFA für Gartenbau und Österreichische Bundesgärten (Federal College and Research Centre for Horticulture and Austrian Federal Gardens)
gartenbau.at
bundesgaerten.at
HBLFA für Landwirtschaft Raumberg-Gumpenstein (Agricultural Research and Education Centre Raumberg-Gumpenstein)
raumberg-gumpenstein.at
HBLFA Francisco Josephinum Wieselburg (Federal Institute of Education and Research Francisco Josephinum Wieselburg)
josephinum.at
HBLFA für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung, Lebensmittel- und Biotechnologie Tirol (Federal College and Research Centre for Agriculture and Nutrition, Food and Biotechnology Tyrol)
hblfa-tirol.at
HBLA für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung Sitzenberg (Federal Secondary College for Agriculture and Nutrition Sitzenberg)
hbla-sitzenberg.at
HBLA für Landwirtschaft, Umwelt- und Ressourcenmanagement Ursprung (Federal Secondary College for Agriculture, Environmental and Resource Management Ursprung)
ursprung.at
HBLA und Bundesamt für Wein und Obstbau Klosterneuburg (Federal College and Research Centre and Federal Office for Viticulture and Pomology Klosterneuburg)
weinobst.at
HBLA für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung Elmberg (Federal Secondary College for Agriculture and Nutrition Elmberg)
elmberg.at
HBLA für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung Pitzelstätten (Federal Secondary College for Agriculture and Nutrition Pitzelstätten)
pitzelstaetten.at
HLBLA für Landwirtschaft St. Florian (Federal Secondary College for Agriculture St. Florian)
hlbla-florian.at
HBLA für Forstwirtschaft Bruck an der Mur (Federal Secondary College for Forestry Bruck an der Mur)
forstschule.at
Forstfachschule Traunkirchen (Forestry School Traunkirchen)
forstfachschule.at
Bundesamt für Wasserwirtschaft (BAW) (Federal Agency for Water Management)
baw.at
Fairness Office
fairness-buero.gv.at
Bundesanstalt für Agrarwirtschaft und Bergbauernfragen (Federal Institute of Agricultural Economics, Rural and Mountain Research)
bab.gv.at
Bundeskellereiinspektion (Federal Wine Control Board)
bundeskellereiinspektion.at
Bundesamt für Ernährungssicherheit (BAES) (Federal Office for Food Safety)
baes.gv.at
Bundesamt für Weinbau (BAWB) (Federal Office for Viticulture)
bawb.at
Bundesamt für Wald (Federal Forest Office)
bundesamt-wald.at
Fortsttechnischer Dienst für Wildbach- und Lawinenverbauung (Forest Engineering Service in Torrent and Avalanche Control)
die-wildbach.at

**Corporations, organisations and funds**
Spanische Hofreitschule und Bundesgestüt Piber GesÖR (Spanish Riding School and Federal Stud Farm Piber)
srs.at
Agrarmarkt Austria (AMA)
ama.at
Österreichische Agentur für Gesundheit und Ernährungssicherheit GmbH (AGES) (Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety)
ages.at
Landwirtschaftliche Bundesversuchswirtschaften GmbH (Federal Agricultural Experimental Station)
bvw.at
Bundesforschungs- und Ausbildungszentrum für Wald, Naturgefahren und Landschaft (Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape)
bfw.gv.at
Österreichische Bundesforste AG (Austrian Federal Forests)
bundesforste.at
Österreichische Raumordnungskonferenz (Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning)
oerok.gv.at
European Regional Development Fund in Austria (ERDF)
efre.gv.at

**Initiatives, campaigns and priorities of the BML**

**Sustainability**
Bewusst nachhaltig leben (Consciously living in a sustainable way)
nachhaltigkeit.at

**Regions**
Meine Region – Heimat.Zukunft.Lebensraum.
meine-regionen.at
CAP Network support unit (Strategic Plan 23–27)
zukunftsraumland.at
Gemeindedatenbank GeDaBa (Municipal database GeDaBa)
gedaba.agrarforschung.at
RESY Dashboard (Regional Information and Monitoring System)
resy-dashboard.at

**Food**
Das isst Österreich (This is what Austria eats)
das-isst-österreich.at
Traditionelle Lebensmittel in Österreich (Traditional food in Austria)
traditionelle-lebensmittel.at
Culinary Network
genussregionen.at

**Agriculture**
Grüner Bericht (Green Report)
gruenerbericht.at
Land- und ForstWIRtschaft (Farming and forestry)
landwirtschaft.at
Vision 2028+ – Zukunftsbild für Österreichs Landwirtschaft und den ländlichen Raum
(Vision 2028+ –Vision of the future for Austria's agriculture and rural areas)
landwirtschaft.at/vision2028
Hofübernahme im Fokus – die Zukunft unserer Landwirtschaft
(Focus on farm takeover–the future of our agriculture)
landwirtschaft.at/hofuebernahme
Innovation Farm–Farming for Future
innovationfarm.at
Miteinander sicher auf Österreichs Almen (Safely together on Austria's alpine pastures)
sichere-almen.at

**Forestry and natural hazard management**
Der österreichische Walddialog (The Austrian Forest Dialogue)
walddialog.at
Der Waldfonds – Das Zukunftspaket für unsere Wälder (The Forest Fund–The future package for our forests)
waldfonds.at
Der Schutzwald in Österreich (Protective forests in Austria)
schutzwald.at
Biber Berti
biberberti.com
Leben mit Naturgefahren (Living with natural hazards)
naturgefahren.at

**Water management**
Wasseraktiv
wasseraktiv.at
gen blue
genblue.at

Neptun – Staatspreis für Wasser (Neptun State Award for Water)
neptun-staatspreis.at
Danube Day Austria
danubeday.at
LIFE IRIS–Integrated River Solutions in Austria
life.iris.at
LIFE AMooRe–Austrian Moor Restoration
life-amoore.at

**Agricultural education**
Landwissen – Wissen übers Land (educational materials on agriculture, food, forests, water and climate)
landwissen.at
Landwirtschaft mit Klasse – Agrarbildung studieren und durchstarten! (Study agriculture and get started!)
landwirtschaft-mit-klasse.at
Landwirtschaft und du – Komm mit auf unsere Reise durch den Bauernhof (Agriculture and you–join us on our journey across the farm)
landwirtschaft-und-du.at

**Research activities of the Ministry**
DaFNE – Datenbank für Forschung zur Nachhaltigen Entwicklung (Database for Research on Sustainable Development)
dafne.at

## WebGIS applications

**General**
INSPIRE Austria
inspire.gv.at
INSPIRE Geoportal Austria
geoportal.inspire.gv.at

**Regional policy and spatial planning**
ÖROK-Atlas (Atlas of the Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning)
oerok-atlas.at

**Agriculture**
eBOD–Digital Soil Map
bodenkarte.at
- Soils with sampling sites

**Forestry**
WEP – Waldentwicklungsplan (Forest Development Plan)
waldentwicklungsplan.at
Bark Beetle Monitoring (BFW)
borkenkaefer.at
Austrian Forest Inventory (BFW)
waldinventur.at
Österreichischer Waldatlas (Austrian atlas of forests)
waldatlas.at

**Water management and protection against natural hazards**
Wasser WebGIS
maps.wisa.bml.gv.at
- NGP–National Water Management Plan
- RMP–National Flood Risk Management Plan
- eHYD–Austria's Hydrography
  ehyd.gv.at
- HORA–Natural Hazard Overview and Risk Assessment Austria–Natural Hazards
  hora.gv.at
- EMREG-OW – Emissionsregister Oberflächenwasserkörper (Emission register for surface water bodies)

Municipal portal of the Service in Torrent and Avalanche Control
gemeindeportal.die-wildbach.at

Naturgefahren.at (Natural Hazards)
naturgefahren.at/service/karten.html
- Floods/Torrents
- Avalanches
- Erosion/Rock fall
- Historical events

## The BML in Social Media

**Facebook**
BML
facebook.com/BML.gv.at
Lebensmittel sind wertvoll (Food is precious)
facebook.com/lebensmittel.sind.wertvoll.at
Unser Wald (Our Forest)
facebook.com/unserwald
Wasseraktiv
facebook.com/wasseraktiv
gen blue
facebook.com/genblue.at

**X**
BML
x.com/BML_gv_at
Unser Wald (Our Forest)
x.com/Unser_Wald

**Instagram**
BML
instagram.com/bml.gv.at
gen blue
instagram.com/genblue
Wasseraktiv
instagram.com/wasseraktiv.at
Unser Wald (Our Forest)
instagram.com/unserwald

**LinkedIn**
BML
linkedin.com/company/bmlat

**YouTube**
BML video portal
info.bml.gv.at/service/video.html
Wasseraktiv
youtube.com/@wasseraktiv6661
gen blue
youtube.com/@genblue_at



## Service units

**Ombudspersons' Office and Citizens' Office**
The Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management has established an Ombudspersons' Office with a Citizens' Service Unit. The Ombudspersons' Office with its citizens' service team gladly receives your concerns and questions concerning agriculture, forestry, regions and water management and responds to them, in close cooperation with the experts of the Federal Ministry.

The Ombudspersons' Office can be reached by email at service@bml.gv.at and by telephone from Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the service telephone number 0800 500 198 (telephone number for calls from Austria).
For more information, please see
info.bml.gv.at/service/servicestelle/buergerservice.html.

**Ombudspersons' Office**
Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management (BML)
Stubenring 1, 1010 Vienna, Austria
Email: service@bml.gv.at

**The Fairness Office**
The Fairness Office is an initial point of contact concerning trade practices in connection with the sale of agricultural products and food products for Austrian farmers, producer groups and suppliers, which is independent and not bound by any instructions. It offers speedy and unbureaucratic assistance and advice and provides an unbiased assessment of the complaint. In this context, all concerns are dealt with free-of-charge, anonymously, confidentially and impartially.

**Fairness Office**
Initial point of contact for complaints concerning trade practices in connection with the sale of agricultural products and food products.
An office of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management (BML), independent and not bound by instructions.
Head: Johannes Abentung
Parkring 12, 1010 Vienna, Austria
Phone: +43 1 9281654
General inquiries: office@fairness-buero.gv.at

## Abbreviations

**Abbreviations of the Austrian Federal Provinces**

B ..... Burgenland
CA ..... Kärnten (Carinthia)
LA ..... Niederösterreich (Lower Austria)
UA ..... Oberösterreich (Upper Austria)
S ..... Salzburg
ST ..... Steiermark (Styria)
T ..... Tirol (Tyrol)
V ..... Vorarlberg
VIE ..... Wien (Vienna)

**Further abbreviations**

A, AT ..... Austria
BML ..... Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management.
BMLRT ..... Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism
BMNT ..... Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism
BMLFUW ... Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management
BMLF ..... Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
CAP ..... Common Agricultural Policy
EU ..... European Union
IACS ..... Integrated Administration and Control System
NUTS ..... Nomenclature des Unités Territoriales Statistiques
ÖPUL ..... Agri-environmental Programme (ÖPUL), Austria's programme for the promotion of an agriculture which is appropriate to the environment, extensive and protective of natural habitats
ÖROK ..... Austrian Conference on Spatial Planning
SMEs ..... Small and medium-sized enterprises

**ISO country codes**

AL=Albania, BA=Bosnia and Herzegovina, BG=Bulgaria, CH=Switzerland, CZ=Czech Republic, DE=Germany, EE=Estonia, FI=Finland, FR=France, HR=Croatia, HU=Hungary, IT=Italy, LI=Liechtenstein, LU=Luxembourg, MD=Moldova, ME=Montenegro, MK=North Macedonia, NO=Norway, PL=Poland, RO=Romania, RS=Serbia, SI=Slovenia, SK=Slovakia, UA=Ukraine.



## Contact

**Mail address**
Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management (BML)
Stubenring 1, 1010 Vienna, Austria

**Contact**
Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management (BML)
Phone: +43 1 71100-0 (Central office-telephone exchange)
Fax: +43 1 5131679-2525
office@bml.gv.at
bml.gv.at

## Ordering information

**Order of the brochure "Facts and Figures 2024"**

**On the Internet:**
This brochure is available as PDF download or as printed brochure (subject to availability) at info.bml.gv.at/service/publikationen/allgemeine-themen.html

**Per email and by phone:**
The printed version can also be ordered (subject to availability) at service@bml.gv.at or by telephone at 0800 500 198 (telephone number for calls from Austria) from the Citizens' Service of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management.


bml.gv.at