## Hunting in Austria

### SURFACE AREA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total surface area</td>
<td>83,858 km²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodlands</td>
<td>38,780 km² (=46%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farming area</td>
<td>35,000 km² (=42%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huntable area</td>
<td>82,164 km² (=98%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>average huntable area</td>
<td>75 ha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### HUNTER/POPULATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>8,160,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Hunters</td>
<td>115,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Hunters</td>
<td>1,4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inhabitants/ Hunters</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members affiliated to the Zentralstelle</td>
<td>112,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population density inhabitants/km²</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Socio-demographic profile of austrian hunters

- Employees/workers: 36,0 %
- Farmers/foresters: 30,0 %
- self-employed workers: 25,0 %
- Employees of the hunting and forestry sectors: 9,0 %

**Sex**

Women represent 5% of the active hunters (in some Länder up to 8%)

*Source: Zentralstelle Österreichischer Landesjagdverbände, 2002*
Economic importance of hunting

Hunting has a total annual turnover of about 475 million EUR. (Source: 2002)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sectors</th>
<th>Expenditure (in mio EUR)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shooting lease and bag fees</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunting permit and hunting fees, insurance</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venison value, bag quantities</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages, salary (professional hunter, game-keeping organization, employees in the hunting business)</td>
<td>199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measures to improve biotopes</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditures for hunting-rifles and -shotguns, optical devices, ammunition, tradition related activities, garments, training</td>
<td>132 EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL AMOUNT</td>
<td>475</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HUNTING SYSTEM

Competent authorities

✉️ Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Umwelt und Wasserwirtschaft
Stubenring 1, A – 1020 Wien
Tel.: +43.1.711 00

✉️ Bundesministerium für Soziale Sicherheit und Generationen
Radetzkystrasse 2, A – 1030 Wien
Tel.: +43.1.711 72

Hunters’ associations

The Federal administration, Zentralstelle österreichischer Landesjagdverbände, regroups the 9 county federations of the austrian Länder. Every holder of a hunting permit is also member of at least one Landesjagdverband. Thus, the Landesjagdverbände represents 100% of the Austrian hunters.

Source: Zentralstelle Österreichischer Landesjagdverbände, 2002
Presidency of the Zentralstelle

Kärnten Dipl.-Ing. Dr. F. Gorton, Presidency 2003
Niederösterreich Ökr. Dr. Chr. Konrad, Presidency 2004
Oberösterreich Ökr. Hans Reisetbauer, Presidency 2005
Salzburg KommR. J. Eder, Presidency 2006
Steiermark Dipl.-Ing. H. Gach, Presidency 2007
Tirol Dr. R. Wieser, Presidency 2008
Wien Dr. M. Lampelmayer, Presidency 2010

The Chairman (Geschäftsführender Landesjägermeister) of the Zentralstelle is replaced once a year and Dr. Peter Lebersorger is the Secretary-General. The office of the Zentralstelle is located at the head office of the Landesjagdverband of Niederösterreich (which is the biggest LJV).

The Federal administration has its own press service department (Editor: Hans-Friedemann Zedka). The press service department published in recent years brochures about different practical topics: game meat hygiene and game diseases, small game protection, identification of predator-marks on prey and produced two video-films, „Grüne Brücken“ and „Jagd heute“. Each year, the Zentralstelle offers two prizes, one for journalists of printed press and one for NTIC media.
Kärntner Jägerschaft
Magereggerstraße 175, A-9020 Klagenfurt
Tel.: +43.463.511469
e-mail: jaegerschaft@utanet.at

Niederösterreichischer Landesjagdverband
Wickenburggasse 3/13, A-1080 Wien
Tel.: +43.1.4051636
e-mail: jagd@noeljv.at

Oberösterreichischer Landesjagdverband
Hohenbrunn 1, A-4490 St. Florian
Tel.: +43.7224.20083
e-mail: office@jagdverb-ooe.at

Salzburger Jägerschaft
Vogelweiderstraße 55/2, A-5020 Salzburg
Tel.: +43.662.877119
e-mail: info.sjs@aon.at

Steirische Landesjägerschaft
Schwimmschulkai 88, A-8010 Graz
Tel.: +43.316-673790
e-mail: lja@jagd-stmk.at

Tiroler Jägerverband
Adamgasse 7 a/II, A-6020 Innsbruck
Tel.: +43.512.571093
e-mail: tjv@tirol.com

Vorarlberger Jägerschaft-Landesjagdschutzverein
Mühlgasse 21, A-6700 Bludenz
Tel.: +43.5552.66038

Wiener Landesjagdverband
Gartengasse 26, 1050 Wien
Tel.: +43.1.5484999

Source: Zentralstelle Österreichischer Landesjagdverbände, 2002
LEGAL PROVISIONS

Hunting system

Feudal hunting rights were abolished by the Josephinisches Patent of 28.2.1768. Thus, hunting right became a Federal right. Only in 1818, ordinary citizens and farmers were granted the right to own or rent hunting rights. Later, the Jagdpatent of 7.3.1849 suppressed hunting rights on other peoples land and tied those rights to landownership. Autonomy aspirations were the reason for the Austrian Länder becoming responsible for hunting laws.

During Austria’s occupation, hunting law came under State authority – the hunting law of the Empire had to be applied in the Länder of Ostmark. With independence, hunting law was handed back to the Länder – each Land received its own hunting law.

The basis of the Austrian hunting system is Austria’s Constitution (B-VG 1920). In this Constitution, the Länder are responsible for hunting laws and this is why each of the 9 federal Länder has its own hunting law. There is no framework law at federal level for hunting in Austria. In this way, the Austrian hunting system is based on 9 Hunting Acts of the Länder and on their 9 Enforcement Regulations.

In Austria the Reviersystem applies, whereby hunting and related activities are restricted to the person entitled to hunt in each Revier (hunting area).

The following legal provisions also regulate the hunting practice
- Land Nature Conservation Acts and Regulations listing protected fauna and flora species
- Land Animal Protection Acts
- Federal Forestry Act of 1975;
- Federal Meat Control Act of 1982;
- Federal Animal Diseases Act of 1909;
- Federal Weapons Act of 1996;

Authorised hunting methods
- Hunting with a rifle/ shotgun
- Trapping
- Falconry
- Hunting with terriers underground
- Shooting with an Eagle-owl decoy

Source: Zentralstelle Österreichischer Landesjagdverbände, 2002
Hunting territory

In Austria, the hunting right belongs to the landowner, without exception, but does not automatically entitle the owner to exercise it: he can only do so if he has „private hunting entitlement“ – *Eigenjagdberechtigung*, which is generally granted to landowners with more than 115 ha of unbroken area (300 ha in some Ländereien). If the landowner has a hunting permit, he can himself hunt in the area for which he has a private hunting entitlement, if not, he must have the land hunted over and managed by another authorized person. Properties not subject to private hunting right are pooled together in so called „associative hunting territories“ – *Genossenschaftsjaggebiete*. Such *Genossenschaftsjaggebiete* must be leased out – under these circumstances the renters take over all their rights and obligations stemming from hunting right. The landowners receive a rent – *Jagdpachtshilling* – for the hunting rights they rented out.

The owner of hunting rights is the bearer of all the authorizations and obligations concerning hunting in areas of „private hunting entitlement“ or „associative hunting territories“ (*Jagdrevier*). Hunting territories can be rented by hunters acting as individuals. Several hunters can join to form a common law association („hunting association“ – *Jagdgesellschaft*), with the objective to rent a hunting territory. The renters must own a valid annual hunting permit and have held a valid Austrian hunting permit for the last 3 years.

The game management – *Hege* – aims at:

· maintaining a varied and healthy game population, taking account of farming and forestry interests. Hunting and game management must be exercised in a way that provides for the conservation of woodland and its functions. *Hege* is both, an entitlement and an obligation.

In Austria game is res nullius: it belongs to nobody, being part of the land on which it occurs. Only the person entitled to hunt there can own it from a legal point of view. Released game is part of the real estate but as soon as it is taken or captured, it becomes a movable and the personal property of the authorized hunter.

SHOOTING EXAMINATION, HUNTING PERMIT

Examination

Anyone wishing to hunt in Austria must hold a hunting permit (*Jagdkarte*). In order to obtain such a permit for the first time, the candidate must pass the „young hunters examination“ – *Jungjägerprüfung*. As every Land has its own hunting permit, it is advisable to pass the hunting examination in the Land in which one would like to hunt. The „Jungjägerprüfung“ is composed of a theoretical and a practical examination (Shooting examination for rifle and shotgun). For all Ländereien, the successful candidate must prove his knowledge in the following fields:
- relevant legislation for hunting, including nature and animal conservation and environment and forestry regulations
- handling and functioning of hunting firearms and ammunition; gun safety
- biology, physiology, ethology and characteristics of native game species
- Hunting management (Jagdbetrieb)
- game management; interactions between game and environment
- basic hunters' language and traditions
- gundog training and breeding
- handling of game meat for human consumption
- basic ecology
- basic agriculture and forestry
- first aid in hunting accidents

Holders of a yearly permit in one Land can obtain visitors' permits in all others (except Tyrol, that delivers only annual hunting permits). Yearly permits in other Länder are easily obtainable for persons having held such a permit in one Land for several years. For Carinthia a supplementary test on hunting law is foreseen.

### Hunting permits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Permit Type</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yearly permit 1 hunting year</td>
<td>50 – 170 EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitors’ permit for 1 day (2 days, 7 days, 14 days, 4 weeks)</td>
<td>6 – 60 EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreigner’s permit</td>
<td>50 – 190 EUR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Delivery of Visitors hunting permits**

Foreigners (by nationality, not by residence) can, upon production of a valid hunting permit from their country, obtain visitors or yearly hunting permits (depending on the Land). Membership in the county federation of the Land is obligatory for visitors’ hunters, the same way it goes for Austrian hunters. A foreign hunter can not prove its hunting qualification with a valid permit of another country if this country is not his country of origin.

### Insurance

Every member of a county federation benefits automatically from a civil liability insurance (726.0000 Euro - ± 1,816.000 Euro for every damage claim, valid for physical injury and material damage). Every holder of a hunting permit benefits also from a hunting accident insurance.

Source: Zentralstelle Österreichischer Landesjagdverbände, 2002
FIREARMS, CALIBRE & AMMUNITION

Shot: No calibre restrictions. 12, 16 and 20-bore are the most commonly used calibers.

At present, there is no obligation to use non-toxic shot, but its use is recommended for wildfowl hunting.

Bullet: For ungulates, a minimum calibre of 5,5 mm and cartridge case length of 40 mm, no rimfire ammunition, shot, buckshot or lead fragments.

Minimum impact energy at 100m:
For animals weighing up to 30 kg (gutted) 1000 J
Up to 80 kg 2000 J
over 80 kg 2500 J

Hunting with semi-automatic rifles or shotguns with a magazine capacity of more than 2 cartridges is not permitted.

Travel to Austria with firearms

Hunting firearms of categories C and D (shotguns & rifles) can be held without restriction by persons over 18 years of age. Foreign hunters and sportshooters may therefore enter and leave Austria with their firearms that are intended for private use, if they carry a „European Firearms Pass“, if the weapons are registered in this Firearms Pass and under the condition that they can justify the objective of their journey (hunting invitation, shooting competition). Ammunition for the personal weapons may also be carried. A weapon may only be „carried“, that is to say transportet in a loaded condition, with a valid permit of an Austrian Land or with a weapons pass („Waffenpass“).

Handguns (pistols, revolvers) and semi-automatic weapons (category B) may only be held and transported together with their respective firearms certificates (Waffenbesitzkarte, Waffenpaß). Military weapons are prohibited (also, possession of such weapons).

✉✉✉✉ Bundesministerium für Inneres
Herrengasse 7, A – 1014 Wien
Tel.: +43.1.53126

Source: Zentralstelle Österreichischer Landesjagdverbände, 2002
### GAME & HUNTING SEASON

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Hunting season*</th>
<th>Yearly bag 1998</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Red deer</td>
<td>01.08. - 31.12. 01.07 – 31.12.</td>
<td>45.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roe deer</td>
<td>01.05. - 15.10. 01.08. - 31.12.</td>
<td>260.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chamois</td>
<td>01.08. - 31.12.</td>
<td>25.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mouflon</td>
<td>01.08. - 31.12.</td>
<td>1.800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild boar</td>
<td>01.01. - 31.12.</td>
<td>25.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown hare</td>
<td>01.10. - 31.12.</td>
<td>200.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partridge</td>
<td>01.09. - 31.10.</td>
<td>10.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pheasant</td>
<td>01.10. - 31.12.</td>
<td>200.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild ducks</td>
<td>01.09. - 31.12.</td>
<td>90.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red fox</td>
<td>01.01. - 31.12.</td>
<td>60.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marten</td>
<td>01.01. - 31.12.</td>
<td>25.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Badger</td>
<td>01.07. – 15.01.</td>
<td>8.000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The hunting laws of the Länder and the implementation regulations establish for each Land the hunting season for the different species. Game species are only those species, that are referred to in the hunting laws of the Länder and in the regulations that establish the hunting season. Some species are game-species in one Land and, only for legal reasons, not a "game species" in another Land – for example the Golden jackal, Nutria and Elk.

Individual district-administrations have also the possibility to modify (to prolong or to shorten) the hunting season for a given district, taking into account regional specificities and particularities.

Certain game species are subject to shooting plans. They can only be shot with official authorization, and the specified plans must be carried out.

Source: Zentralstelle Österreichischer Landesjagdverbände, 2002
Shooting plans apply to all large game (except Wild boar), Tetraonids and, in some Länder, Marmot. For every hunting area, the entitled hunter or his game keeper must keep track of the hunted animals in form of a list. This list has to be presented once a year to the competent authority to verify the number of animals taken. The numbers of hunted game are also verified at an annual game management fair (Trophäenschau). All trophy-animals (game with antlers and horns) must be presented by the hunters who took the game. The game taken is evaluated according to sex and age categories and the numbers are compared with the shooting plans.

Research institutes

- Forschungsinstitut für Wildtierkunde und Ökologie der Vet.Med.Universität Wien
  Savoyenstraße 1, A – 1160 Wien
  Tel.: +43.1.4890915

- Institut für Wildbiologie und Jagdwirtschaft der Universität für Bodenkultur Wien
  Peter Jordan-Straße 76, A – 1190 Wien
  Tel.: +43.1.47654.4450

- Veterinärmedizinische Universität Wien
  Josef Baumann Gasse 1, A – 1210 Wien
  Tel.: +43.1.25916870

- Bundesanstalt für Tierseuchenbekämpfung
  Robert Koch-Gasse 17, A – 2340 Mödling
  Tel.: +43.2236.22411

- Forstliche Bundesversuchsanstalt
  Seckendorff-Gudent-Weg 8, A – 1131 Wie
  Tel.: +43.1.87838

- Bundesanstalt für vet.med. Untersuchungen
  Kudlichstraße 27, A – 4020 Linz
  Tel.: +43.732.657309

- FUST- Projekt Achenkirch
  A – 6215 Achenkirch 320
  Tel.: +43.5246.6611

Travel in/out with trophies

The veterinary regulations need to be respected. For bringing trophies to Austria, the requirement of a veterinary control remains valid. If the trophy is cleanly packed and accompanied by an export certificate/declaration (from a veterinarian, hunting authority or agent, inspection centre) the import-procedure is simplified. If these documents are presented, the veterinarian at the border control post decides if the import can take place. Trophies from countries with a risk of epidemics or suspected to be affected by epidemics may not be imported.

For trophies of species listed in the Washington Convention (CITES), an import permit must be obtained beforehand.

- Bundesministerium für Soziale Sicherheit und Generationen
  Radetzkystraße 2, A-1031 Wien
  Tel.: +43.1.71172

Source: Zentralstelle Österreichischer Landesjagdverbände, 2002
GUNDOGS

All persons entitled to hunt must ensure a dog of appropriate ability is available for use on the territory; there must be at least one dog available for each territory. Gundog breeding and training is organized by two federations:

- **Österreichischer Jagdgebrauchshunde-Verband** (ÖJGV)
  Schlag 6, A - 4280 Königswiesen
  Generalsekretärin: Brigitte Fröschl
  Tel.: +43.1.7955-6395

- **Österreichischer Kynologenverband** (ÖKV)
  Johann Teufelgasse 8, A - 1238 Wien
  General Secretary: Mag. Heliane Maissen-Jarisch and President Dr. Michael Kreiner
  Tel.: +43.1.8887092 or 8887093

During the training of the dogs for hunting purposes, they must pass several trials. The standards for the approval of the dogs as hunting dogs are the result of practical hunting considerations, taking into account the actual requirements about animal welfare, sportsmanship and game meat hygiene. Unnecessary suffering of game must be systematically avoided by the intervention of qualified dogs.

TOURISM

**Generaldirektion der Österreichischen Bundesforste AG**
Pummergasse 10 –12 A – 3002 Purkersdorf
Tel.: +43.2231.600.0
e-mail : bundesforste@bundesforste.at

*Source: Zentralstelle Österreichischer Landesjagdverbände, 2002*
CULTURE

Hunting Museums

Jagdmuseum Schloß Marchegg
2293 Schloß Marchegg
Tel.: +43.2285.224

Verein Oberösterreichisches Jagdmuseum Schloss Hohenbrunn
4020 Linz, Humboldtstraße 49
Tel.: +43.732.663445

Vorarlberger Naturschau
6850 Dornbirn, Marktstraße 33

Hunting Press

Österreichs Weidwerk
1080 Wien, Wickenburggasse 3/13
Tel.: +43.1.405163630
e-mail: redaktion@weidwerk.at

Der Anblick
8010 Graz, Heinrichstraße 125/IV
Tel.: +43/316/321248

St. Hubertus
1120 Wien, Schlöglgasse 36
Tel.: +43/1/8042760

Der Öberösterreichische Jäger
C/o Oberösterreichischer Landesjagdverband

Jagd in Tirol
C/o Tiroler Landesjägerschaft

Der Kärntner Jäger
C/o Kärntner Jägerschaft

Vorarlberger Jagd und Fischerei
6800 Feldkirch, Wolf Huber-Straße 12

Source: Zentralstelle Österreichischer Landesjagdverbände, 2002
CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Every county hunting federation administers different assistance projects on biotops' management:

- plants: land purchasing actions for browsing plantations to provide for cover and feeding areas
- wild fruit trees bearing fruit
- seed blending actions for fallow land and food patches
- tree protection columns as a browsing and fraying protection for wind protection strips and forest edge habitats

The county hunting federations are grouped together in the national *Zentralstelle* and in this way, they are members of the Austrian conservation society - *Österreichische Gesellschaft für Natur- und Umweltschutz* (ÖGNU). Furthermore, all hunters are members of the Austrian conservation federation, *Österreichischer Naturschutzbund*.

The county federations contribute annually to 2,2 EUR per hunter to game research. Contracts to provide assistance have been signed with the Vienna University for Veterinary Medicine (Game research and Ecology Institute) - *Veterinärmedizinische Universität Wien (Forschungsinstitut für Wildtierkunde und Ökologie)* - and Vienna University of Land Use (Game biology and Hunting Science Institute) - *Universität für Bodenkultur Wien (Institut für Wildbiologie und Jagdwirtschaft)*. Their total value amount to 255.000 EUR per year.