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Austria

Oilseeds and Products

Annual

2006

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Report Highlights:

In 2005, total oilseeds production amounted to 255,837 MT, a 2.2 % increase compared to 2004. Oilseed production for 2006 is expected to be about 5 percent less than that of 2005 because of reduced planting area. Total area for oilseed crops in 2006 is expected to be around 105,575 hectares (260,882 acres), approximately 4000 ha (9,884 acres) less than in 2005. Due to the increasing demand for biofuels production, oilseed imports are expected to rise significantly in 2006 and the following years.

Includes PSD Changes: Yes
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Annual Report
Vienna [AU1]
[AU]

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Oilseeds

Production Area

Total area for oilseeds production in 2005 increased by 9,230 ha (22,808 acre) compared to the previous year and amounted to 105,575 ha (260,882 acre). Sunflower (30,179 ha or 74,574 acre) and soybean (21,429 ha or 52,952 acre) plantings showed increased planting areas. Oilseed winter rape acreage in 2005 accounted for 35,022 ha (86,541 acre), this is almost the same as the year before. (See figure 2).

Winter rapeseed is still the main oilseed crop in Austria, accounting for 41% of the total production in 2005 (48 % in 2004), followed by sunflower seeds, accounting for 32% in 2005 (31% in 2004), and soybeans, accounting for 24% in 2005 (18% in 2004). See figure 1.

There was also a considerable and growing production area of oilseed-pumpkins in the southeastern regions of Austria in 2005. With a total area of 16,271 ha (40,207 acre) oilseed-pumpkin production reached around 76% of the production area of soybeans. In the southeastern province Styria, oilseed pumpkin became the third most important crop within the past couple of years.

The area for rape sown in 2005 (harvest 2006) went down at roughly 28,500 ha (70,425 acre). Planting and growing conditions are considered to be good. Due to a good protective snow cover, adequate soil moisture, and not too severe cold temperatures, winter damage is expected to be little and yield forecasts are good at present. Total area for oilseed crops in 2006 is expected to be about 4000 ha (9,884 acre) less than in 2005. Due to the good moisture content of the soil, sowing conditions for spring oilseeds also look good (sunflower, soybean, oilseed pumpkin).

Oilseeds in Austria, 2005

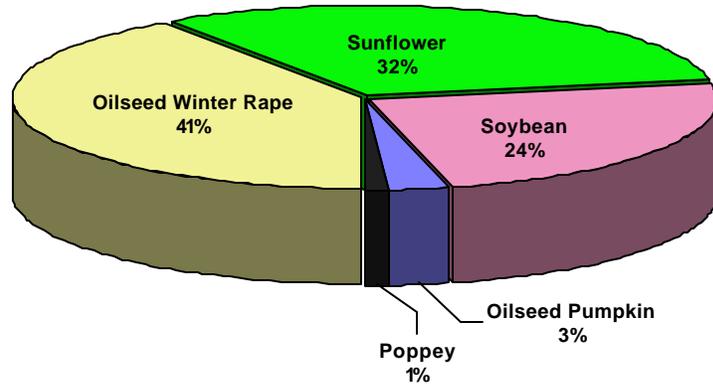


Figure 1, Source: Statistic Austria, Schnellbericht 1.12, Nov. 2005

Oilseeds Planted Area 2005 Compared to 2004 (ha)

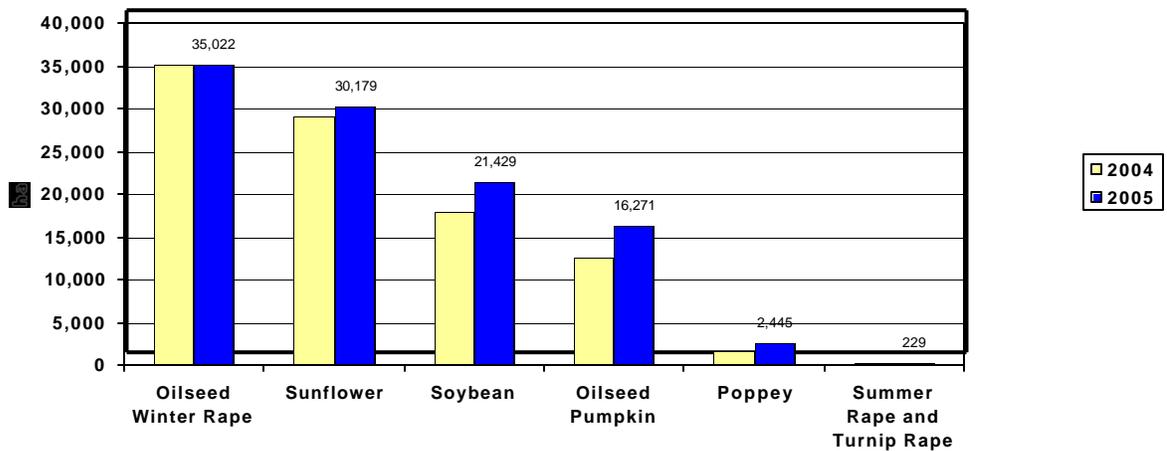


Figure 2, Source: Statistic Austria, Schnellbericht 1.12, Nov. 2005

Production

Due to the smaller acreage, total winter rape production declined by 13.6 % to 103,839 MT in 2005. Total sunflower production grew because of increased acreage and amounted to 80,782 MT (+ 3.7%). Soybean production increased significantly by 35.1% because of the increased planting area compared to 2004. Total soybean production amounted to 60,573 MT in 2005 (see figure 3).

Total oilseeds production amounted to 255,837 MT in 2005, which was 2.2 % more than 2004. Total oilseed production for 2006 is expected to be about 5 % less than that of 2005 because area is expected to decrease.

Oilseeds Harvest 2005 Compared to 2004 (Metric Tons)

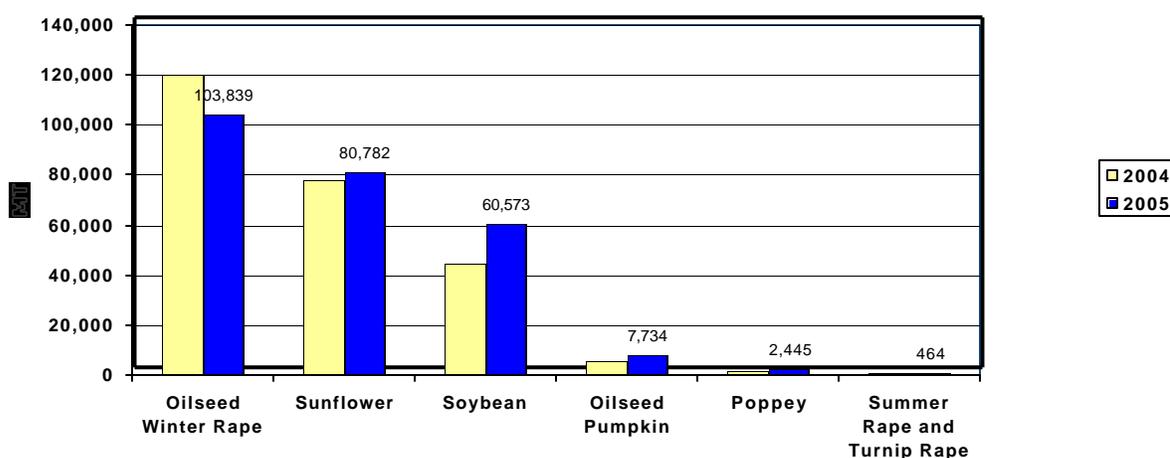


Figure 3, Source: Statistic Austria, Schnellbericht 1.12, Nov. 2005

Trade

Total imports of oilseeds in 2004 amounted to 261,007 MT. This was 40,606 MT more than the previous year. Due to the increasing demand for biofuels production a significant rise of imports is also expected for 2005 and the following years. Exports also increased from 133,102 MT in 2003 to 160,766 MT in 2004. Austria's self-sufficiency in oilseeds was 59 % in 2003/04.

Major rapeseed imports in 2004 came from Hungary, and Slovakia while sunflower seeds imports came mostly from Slovakia, and Germany. The majority of soybean imports came from Italy. The main export market for oilseeds is Germany.

Supply Balance, Oilseeds in MT 2005 and 2004

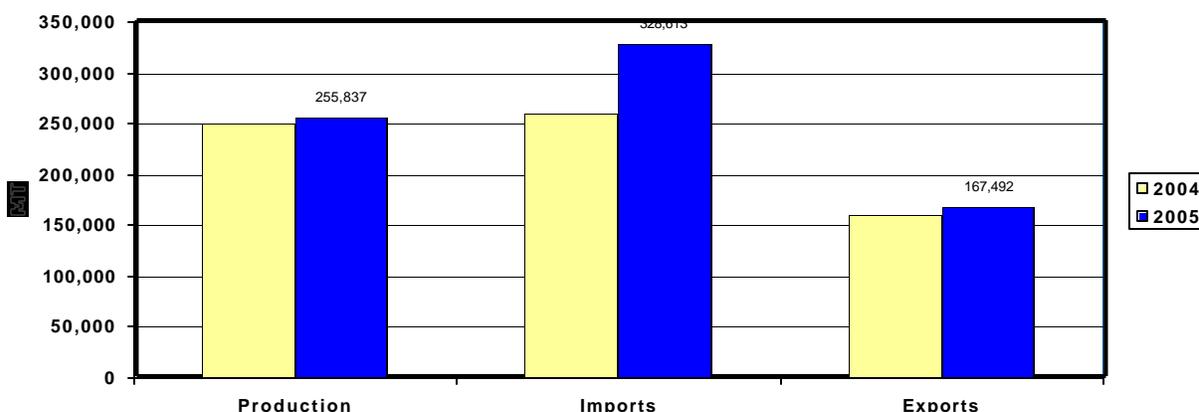


Figure 4, Source: Bundesministerium fuer Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Umwelt und Wasserwirtschaft, 2005 and Statistik Austria 2005. Numbers for 2005 are estimated.

Biofuels

The Austrian government has been very supportive in promoting biodiesel and other fuel alternatives. The current biofuels production capacity of Austria accounts for about 90,000 MT. At present two biodiesel and one bioethanol plant with production capacities of about 100,000 MT each (300,000 MT in total) are being constructed.

EU directive 2003/30/EC establishes goals of 2 percent by the end of 2005, increasing to 5.75 percent by the end of 2010. In addition, an Austrian regulation implements the EU directive even more ambitiously. The Austrian goal is an admixture of biofuels to fossile fuels of at least 2.5 % since October 2005. By 2007, the biofuels share should reach 4.3 %, and in 2008 the share is to reach 5.75 %. The demand for diesel in Austria accounts for about 6 million MT. An admixture of 5 % biodiesel compares to 300,000 MT. With the new facilities Austria will be able to produce this amount, but it is expected that the production is dependant on oilseed imports.

Meals

Trade

Total oilseed meal imports in 2004 reached 539,226 MT of which 490,184 MT was soybean meal. Almost all soybean meal imported to Austria comes from crushing facilities in the Netherlands, Germany, and Italy.

Exports of oilseed meals in 2004 amounted to 98,820 MT. About one third of this amount was re-exported soybean meal, the other two third derive from rapeseed and sunflower.

Oils

Production

Production of vegetable oils in 2003/04 (latest statistics available) reached 113,829 MT, a 2.8 % increase compared to 2002/03. About 45 % of the domestic supply is used for human consumption such as margarine and edible fat. Austria's per capita consumption of vegetable oils is 11.8 kg per year.

Trade

In 2004, total oilseed oil imports accounted for 147,370 MT and exports accounted for 66,630 MT. The major supplying country to Austria for oilseed oils is Germany.