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Facts and Figures about Horse Sport and Breeding

People and Horses

- For a study conducted by the market research company IPSOS (see [Studie des Marktforschungsunternehmens IPSOS](#)) in 2019, around 11.2 million interviewed persons replied they had an interest in horses and horse sport. Only persons aged 14 or over were asked, however. The study also determined the number of equestrian athletes in Germany: 2.32 million people refer to themselves as riders*. 840,000 of them ride regularly, 1.48 million ride occasionally. 700,000 persons stated they would like to ride or get back into the sport.
- There are around 600,000 horse-owning households in Germany and 920,000 households with a riding partnership. According to projections, the number of privately owned horses is about 1.25 million. Nearly a third is kept in private stables, the majority (around 45 %) is stabled in pension businesses. The rest of them live in yards without an in- or outdoor riding arena.

** The term "rider" always comprises also drivers, vaulters and all persons who in whatsoever way actively engage with horses, for example in ground work.*

Typically Rider

According to the IPSOS study, riders who are regularly active are mainly female (78 %), on average 38 years old, well educated and mostly fully or at least partly employed. For most of them, the close relationship to the horse and the closeness to nature are reasons for practising equestrian sports. Riders live predominantly in towns with less than 100,000 inhabitants. The smallest proportion live in large cities. The net household income is in some cases significantly higher than the German average.

All of the subsequent figures relate to the year 2021.

Organised Horse Sport

- The German Equestrian Federation (Fédération Equestre Nationale, FN), the overall national association of equestrian sports, is the world's largest horse sport association. Within the German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB), the German National Federation with its 664,512 members is on rank 8 (previous year: 678,264).
- Horse Sport is very popular with females. Around 80 % (529,383) of the NF members are girls and women. With 135,129 members, the male part is much smaller.

- With 97,022 club members, the regional association of Baden Württemberg takes the lead in terms of membership numbers (previous year: 98,353, 2019: 98,523), followed by Westphalia with 95,450 (previous year: 96,979, 2019: 97,321), Bavaria with 86,544 (previous year: 89,912, 2019: 92,059), Hanover with 78,983 previous year: 79,587, 2019: 80,454), Hesse with 67,944 (previous year: 69,334, 2019: 69,265) and Rhineland with 57,451 (previous year: 58,696, 2019: 58,627). Adding up Westphalia and Rhineland, Northrhine-Westphalia would have 152,901 (previous year: 155,675, 2019: 155,948) members while Lower Saxony (Hanover/Bremen and Weser-Ems) would count 126,582 (previous year: 128,220, 2019: 129,375) members in their riding clubs.

Organisational Structure of the German NF

- Deutsche Reiterliche Vereinigung (FN) is the umbrella organisation for 17 regional horse sport organisations with 7,289 (previous year: 7,319, 2019: 7,334) riding and driving clubs. The breeding sector comprises 25 German studbooks. 15 of them lay their focus on breeding the German Warmblood Horse.
- Directly affiliated to FN (or its member organisations) are also 3,429 (previous year: 3,487) commercial horse centres as well as 57,889 (previous year: 58,711, 2019: 58,193) Personal Members.
- Further member organisations are Deutsches Olympiade-Komitee für Reiterei (DOKR/ German Olympic Committee for Equestrian Sport), Deutscher Reiter- und Fahrer-Verband (German Riders' and Drivers' Association), Deutsche Richtervereinigung für Pferdeleistungsprüfungen (German Judges' Association) plus nine affiliated associations: Deutsche Westernreiter Union Deutschland (Western Riders), Island Pferde-, Reiter- und Züchterverband (riders and breeders of Icelandic horses), Verein Deutscher Distanzreiter und -fahrer (Endurance riders and drivers), Deutsches Kuratorium für Therapeutisches Reiten (DKThR/ Therapeutic riding), Deutscher Akademischer Reiterverband (University riders), Internationale Gangpferde-Vereinigung (Gaited horses), Bundesverband für klassisch-barocke Reiterei Deutschland (Baroque riding), Verein Deutscher Hengsthalter (persons who own/keep stallions) and Deutsche Jungzüchter (young breeders).

Competition Sport Facts & Figures

- In 2021, 2,652 events (previous year: 1,880) with competitions 41,716 (previous year: 28,218) and 858,654 starts (previous year: 652,595) were run. Prize-money was distributed to a tune of 21,388,323 EUR (previous year: 12,567,284 EUR). In comparison, the figures from 2019, before the Covid-19 pandemic, were 3,567 events, 66,281 competitions, around 1.34 million starts.
- In 2021, FN issued 64,401 annual licences entitling to compete in horse shows (previous year: 67,587) including 1,342 licences for foreign riders competing in national events in Germany (previous year: 1,388). Before Covid-19, it had been 80,342 annual licences. Moreover, „give it a try“ licences allowed 4,342 adolescents

and adults to make their first steps into competition sport (previous year: 3,574, 2019: 6,077).

- In 2021, FN issued 109,586 licences for competition horses and ponies (previous year: 111,683, 2019: 132,257) and 2,689 FEI passports for horses competing internationally (previous year: 2,028, 2019: 2,572). The above figure includes the registration of 20,536 first-time competition horses and ponies (previous year: 17,395, 2019: 21,131).
- During the last years, the percentage of older horses in the sport has steadily increased. In 2021, 29.88 % (previous year: 29.86, 2019: 29.35 %) were aged between 11 and 15 and 8.69 % (previous year: 9.13, 2019: 9.86 %) were older than 16 – the trend continues to rise. The horses aged between 5 and 10 (51.80 %, previous year 52.68, 2019: 52.71 %) continue to make up the lion's share of all competition horses. Other than in previous years, the share of younger horses has risen again slightly. 9.63 % (previous year: 8.34, 2019: 8.08 %) of all competition horses were 3 or 4 years old.

Horse Breeding Facts & Figures

German studbooks have a significant share in the success of German horse sport.

- In 2021, German studbooks registered 2,781 riding horse sires (previous year: 2,790, 2019: 2,832), 53,306 riding horse brood mares (previous year: 52,886, 2019: 53,478) and 27,120 riding horse foals (previous year: 26,326, 2019: 26,299). The number of coverings of warmblood mares has increased from 30,169 in 2020 (2019: 31.194) to 30,654 in 2021.
- In the category of ponies and small horses of all breeds were registered in 2021: 3,531 stallions (previous year: 3,363, 2019: 3,355), 20,370 brood mares (previous year: 19,262, 2019: 19,477) and 9,337 foals (previous year: 8,598, 2019: 8,399).
- Summing up all horse and pony breeds of the 25 studbooks affiliated to FN, from Akhal-Teke to Warlander, the following stock of breeder animals was reported in 2021: Horses: 8,339 stallions (previous year: 8,129, 2019: 7,244), 85,849 brood mares (previous year: 83,927, 2019: 80,873) and 39,877 foals (previous year: 38,224, 2019: 36,936).
- In 2021, 94 riding horse stallions passed the 14 days' test for stallions (previous year: 102, 2019: 176). 150 stallions underwent the 50 days' performance test (previous year: 127, 2019: 75). 134 licensed stallions passed the sports test (previous year: 155, 2019: 188). 1,843 riding horse brood mares (previous year: 1,647, 2019: 1,672) gave proof of their performance capability in stationary and field tests. In total, 2,673 brood mares (previous year: 2,420, 2019: 1,917) gave proof of their performance capability in stationary and field tests.

Horses - The Economic Factor

- For more than 10,000 companies, craftsman's establishments and service providers in Germany, the horse is their direct or indirect main subject of business activity.
- The annual turnover of German horse industry is estimated at EUR 6.7 bn. Expenditures for keeping a horse have a share of 39 % (EUR 2.6 bn). 61 % (EUR 4.1 bn) of the total turnover are allotted to retail and service.
- At the 2021 horse auctions hosted by German studbooks, 783 riding horses were sold at an average price of EUR 29,874. The total turnover of the auctions was EUR 23,391,577 (previous year: 779 riding horses, average price of EUR 24,187, total turnover of EUR 18,842,043). Furthermore, the studbooks auctioned 1,917 breeding horses and foals as well as ponies and heavy draught horses (previous year: 1,471, 2019: 1,646).

Further facts and figures can be found in the annual report of the German Equestrian Federation (FN), see [Jahresbericht der FN](#).