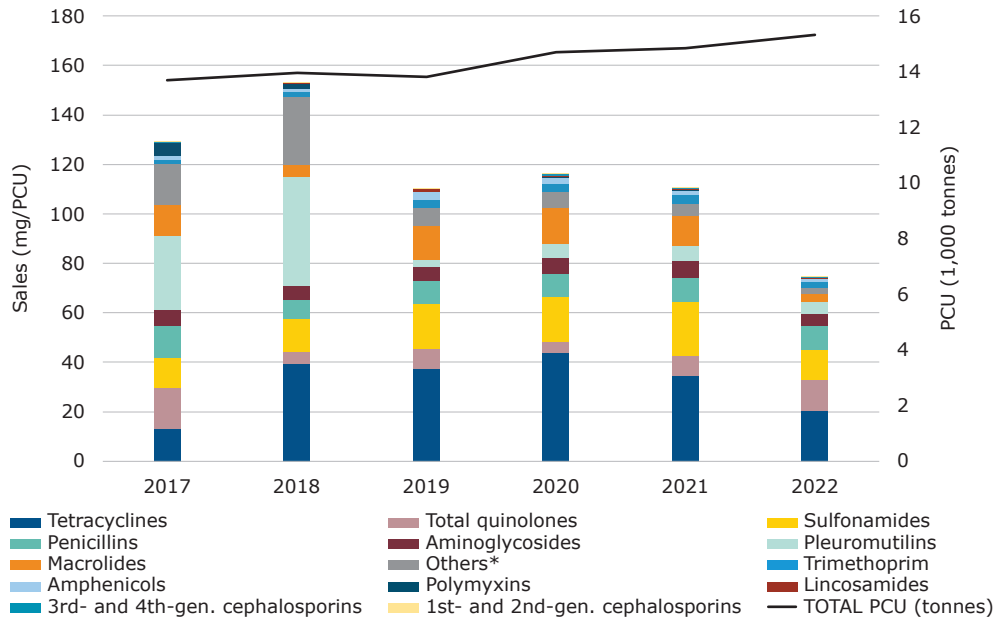


Sales trends (mg/PCU) of antibiotic VMPs for food-producing animals

Sales trends by antibiotic class (mg/PCU) from 2017 to 2022^{1,2}



¹ Sales data sorted from highest to lowest in 2022.

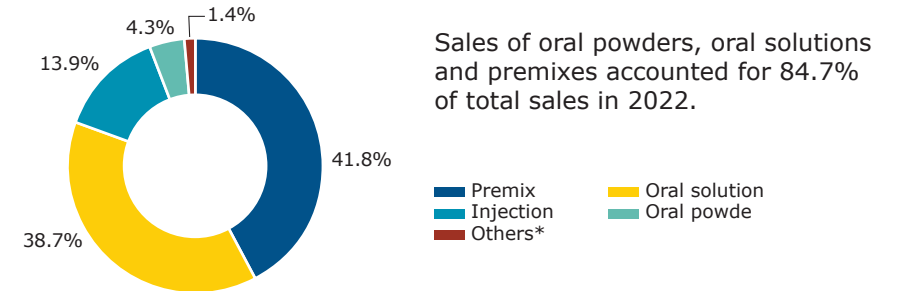
² For reasons of commercial confidentiality, sales of fluoroquinolones and other quinolones are aggregated.

* The class 'Others' includes sales of the following sub-classes: imidazole derivatives (metronidazole), nitrofurans (furazolidone) and other antibacterials (bacitracin, novobiocin, rifaximin, furaltadone and spectinomycin). Of note is that some of the sales could be for non-food-producing animals.

Since 2017:

- ⬇️ 42.4% overall annual sales (from 129.3 mg/PCU to 74.4 mg/PCU in 2022)
- ⬆️ 9.5% 3rd- and 4th-generation cephalosporin sales (from 0.26 mg/PCU to 0.28 mg/PCU in 2022)
- ⬇️ 22.6% total quinolone sales (from 16.3 mg/PCU to 12.6 mg/PCU in 2022)
- ⬇️ 17.1% fluoroquinolone sales
- ⬇️ 100% other quinolone sales
- ⬇️ 93.7% polymyxin sales (from 4.9 mg/PCU to 0.31 mg/PCU in 2022)
- ⬆️ PCU increased by 11.8% between 2017 and 2022

Proportion of sales (mg/PCU) by product form in 2022¹

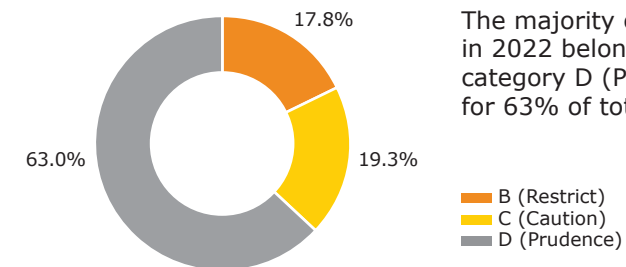


Sales of oral powders, oral solutions and premixes accounted for 84.7% of total sales in 2022.

¹ No sales of bolus products in 2022.

* Other forms include intramammary, intrauterine and oral paste products.

Proportion of sales (mg/PCU) by AMEG categories in 2022



The majority of antibiotic VMP sales in 2022 belonged to the AMEG category D (Prudence), accounting for 63% of total sales.

2022 sales data

In 2022, overall sales decreased by 32.7% in comparison to 2021 (from 110.5 mg/PCU to 74.4 mg/PCU). The three highest selling antibiotic classes were tetracyclines, quinolones and sulfonamides, which accounted for 27.6%, 17.0% and 16.4% of total sales, respectively.

Country information

Since 2012, several guidelines on the prudent use of antimicrobials have been published¹, including on 3rd- and 4th-generation cephalosporins and fluoroquinolones, which are addressed to veterinarians, pharmacists, wholesalers and qualified persons, as applicable. In 2020, Malta issued the Strategy and Action Plan for the Prevention and Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance in Malta 2020–2028². This strategy is aligned with the WOAHP Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance, the EU Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance and national legislation. The main aims of the antimicrobial resistance strategy are:

- to strengthen the infrastructure (e.g. building of a new National Veterinary Laboratory) needed to address the antimicrobial resistance situation through adequate support of the intersectoral coordinating mechanism, appropriate legislation and strengthening of relevant surveillance and feedback systems for human and animal health, as well as for the environment;
- to continue education on antimicrobial resistance and the measures needed to prevent it among healthcare professionals, veterinary professionals, livestock keepers, animal owners and the public. This was also made possible on several occasions through television and radio programmes, as well as active involvement in a number of public fairs of agricultural interests and also for children. In addition, regular contributions are offered in popular journals with the inclusion of interesting articles on several aspects related to antimicrobial resistance (e.g. vaccines, biosecurity, etc.). Colourful posters, leaflets and guidelines are issued on a regular basis;
- to introduce overarching measures to ensure appropriate antimicrobial prescribing (such as the electronic prescription for veterinary medicinal products and medicated feed) and use in the community, hospitals and veterinary practices and in the veterinary sector;
- to improve infection prevention, such as the Animal Health Programme for all establishments where animals are kept under the responsibility of a professional person;
- to publish updated national legislation on veterinary medicinal products and medicated feed. New national legislation is being prepared, which is expected to provide an even better legal coverage and control. This will contain fair but dissuasive fines, not to mention legal provisions that will support the collection of data on the sales and use of antimicrobials.

¹ <https://agricultureservices.gov.mt/en/vrd/Pages/sim.aspx>

² <https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/nac/Documents/AMR%20Strategy%20Final%20Jul%202020.pdf>