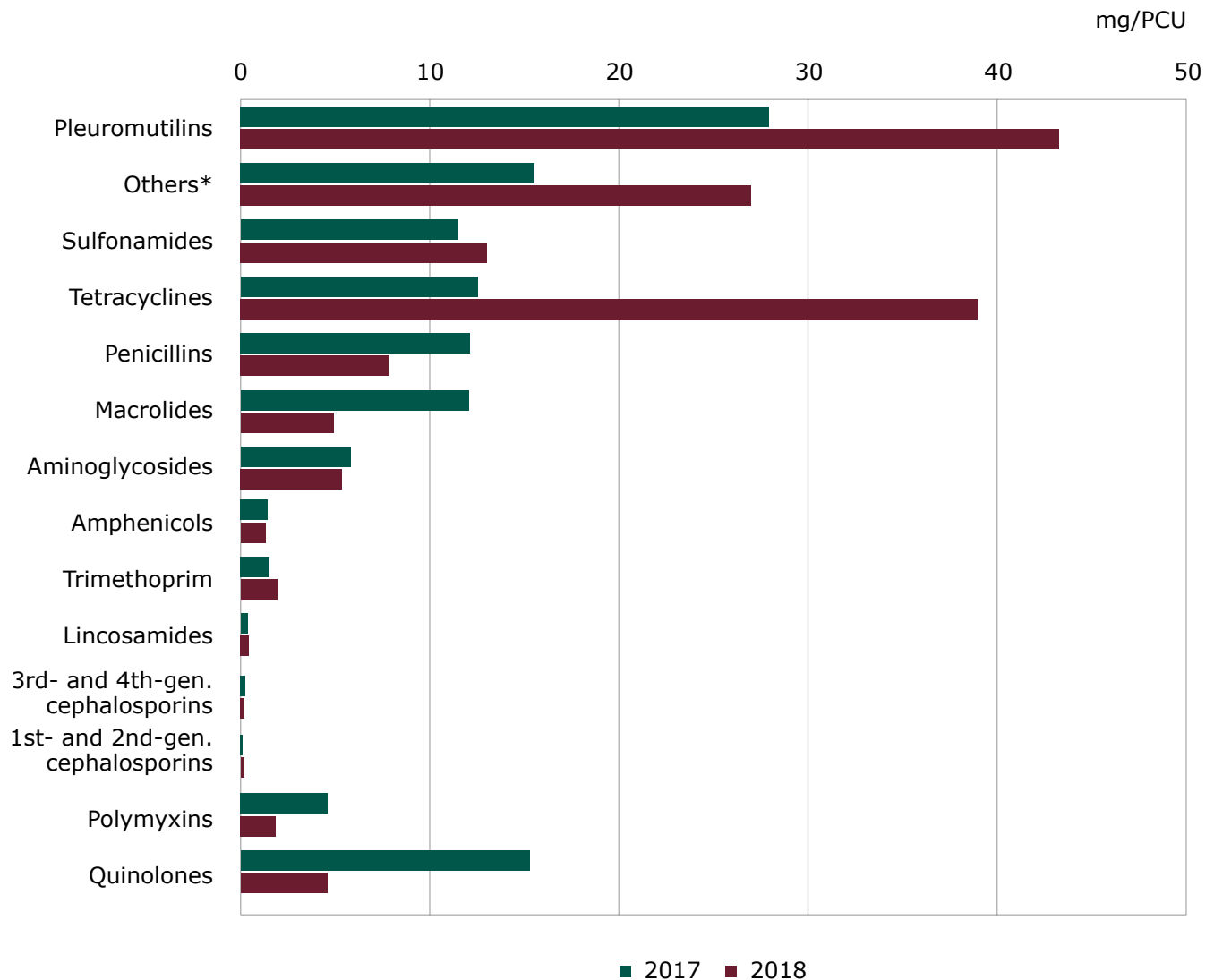


MALTA



CHANGES IN SALES (MG/PCU) ACROSS YEARS



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

* Other antibacterials (classified as such in the ATCvet system).

In 2018, sales of veterinary antimicrobial agents were reported to the ESVAC for the second time. Data were provided by 23 wholesalers.

A 25% increase in sales (mg/PCU) was observed in Malta from 2017 to 2018. This increase should be interpreted with caution as it was the result of this being the first two years of collecting data using the ESVAC template, bearing in mind that the overall sales, in tonnes, can fluctuate from year to year.

In 2018, the total sales of antimicrobial VMPs in Malta were 150.9 mg/PCU. Pleuromutilins, tetracyclines and other antibacterials were the most-sold classes, accounting for 29 %, 26 % and 18 %, respectively, of the total sales of antimicrobials (mg/PCU) for food-producing species, including horses.

In Malta, sales (mg/PCU) of 3rd- and 4th-generation cephalosporins, fluoroquinolones, other quinolones and polymyxins represented 0.1 %, 3%, 0.02 % and 1.2 %, respectively, of total sales in 2018. In the same year, sales of 3rd- and 4th-generation cephalosporins were 0.19 mg/PCU and sales of polymyxins were 1.85 mg/PCU. Sales of fluoroquinolones and other quinolones cannot be reported for reasons of commercial confidentiality.

Since 2012, several guidelines on prudent use of antimicrobials have been published¹, including on 3rd- and 4th-generation cephalosporins and fluoroquinolones, addressed to veterinarians, pharmacists, wholesalers and qualified persons, as applicable. Also, a Strategy and Action Plan for the Prevention and Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance in Malta was established for 2018-2025² and recently updated for 2020-2028³. This strategy aligns with the WHO 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 needed to address the antimicrobial resistance situation through adequate support of the inter-sectoral coordinating mechanism, appropriate legislation and strengthening of relevant surveillance and feedback systems for human and animal health as well as for the environment;
- foster improved awareness and education on antimicrobial resistance among healthcare professionals, veterinary professionals, livestock keepers, animal owners and the public, as well as the measures needed to prevent it;
- introduce overarching measures to ensure appropriate antibiotic prescribing and use in community, hospitals and veterinary practice and in both human and animal sectors;
- improve infection prevention and control (IPC) through national coordination and oversight, implementation of effective IPC multi-modal strategies in all healthcare facilities and foster hygiene standards in farms to prevent cross-transmission of animal pathogens;
- encourage and support innovation, research and networking in areas relevant to antimicrobial resistance.

¹ <https://agrifish.gov.mt/en/nvl/Pages/sim.aspx>

² https://meae.gov.mt/en/Public_Consultations/MEH-HEALTH/Documents/AMR%20Strategy_FINAL_EN_%20Public%20Consultation_NOV2018.pdf

³ <https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/nac/Documents/AMR%20Strategy%20Final%20Jul%202020.pdf>

