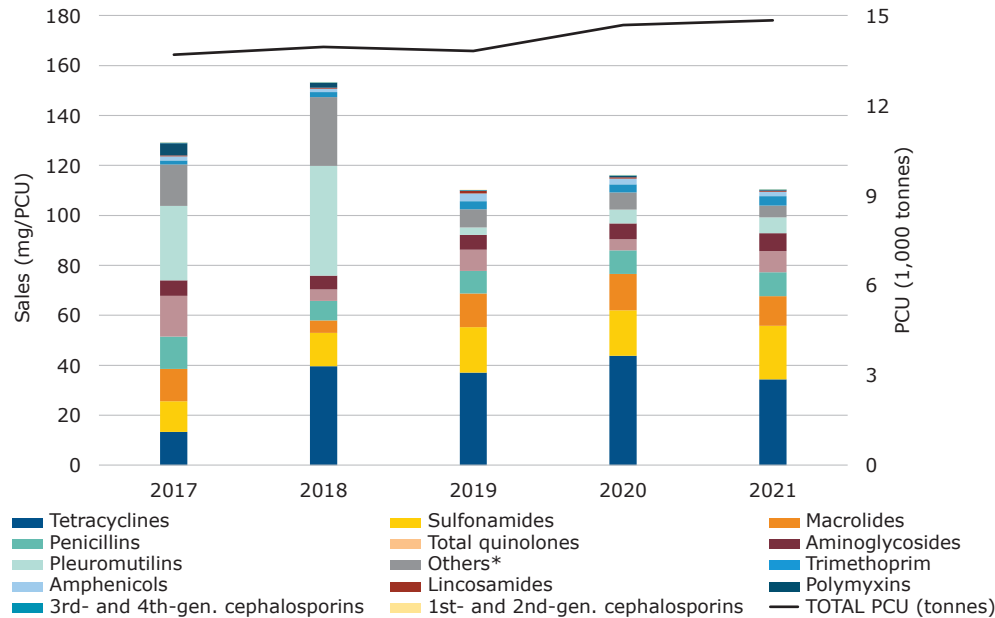


Sales trends (mg/PCU) of antibiotic VMPs for food-producing animals

Sales trends by antibiotic class (mg/PCU) from 2017 to 2021^{1,2}



¹ Sales data sorted from highest to lowest in 2021.

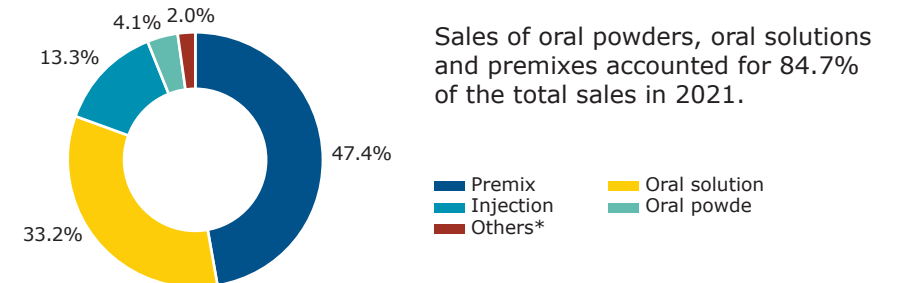
² For reasons of commercial confidentiality, sales of fluoroquinolones and other quinolones are aggregated.

* The class 'Others' includes sales of the following sub-classes: imidazole derivatives (metronidazole), nitrofurantoin derivatives (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:

- ↓ 14.5% overall annual sales (from 129.3 mg/PCU to 110.5 mg/PCU in 2021)
- ↑ 9.1% 3rd- and 4th-generation cephalosporin sales (from 0.26 mg/PCU to 0.28 mg/PCU in 2021)
- ↓ 47.9% quinolone sales (from 16.3 mg/PCU to 8.5 mg/PCU in 2021)
- ↓ 44.10% fluoroquinolone sales
- ↓ 100% other quinolone sales
- ↓ 93.4% polymyxin sales (from 4.9 mg/PCU to 0.32 mg/PCU in 2021)
- ↑ The PCU increased by 8.3% between 2017 and 2021

Proportion of sales (mg/PCU) by product form in 2021¹

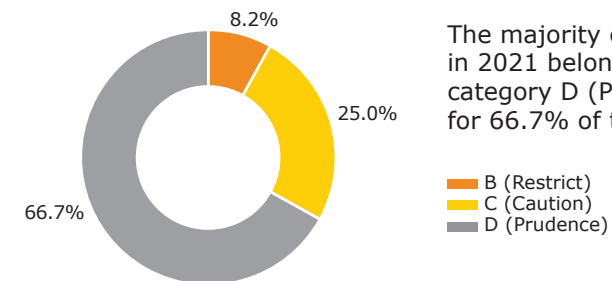


Sales of oral powders, oral solutions and premixes accounted for 84.7% of the total sales in 2021.

¹ No sales of bolus products in 2021.

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

Proportion of sales (mg/PCU) by AMEG categories in 2021



The majority of antibiotic VMP sales in 2021 belonged to the AMEG category D (Prudence), accounting for 66.7% of the total sales.

2021 sales data

In 2021, overall sales decreased by 4.9% in comparison to 2020 (from 116.1 mg/PCU to 110.5 mg/PCU). The three highest selling antibiotic classes were tetracyclines, sulfonamides and macrolides, which accounted for 31.2%, 19.4% and 10.7% 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, 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 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 and the measures needed to prevent it among healthcare professionals, veterinary professionals, livestock keepers, animal owners and the public;
- introduce overarching measures to ensure appropriate antimicrobial prescribing and use in the community, hospitals and veterinary practices and in both the human and animal sectors;
- improve infection prevention and control (IPC) through national coordination and oversight and implementation of effective multi-modal IPC strategies in all healthcare facilities, and foster adherence to good hygiene standards on 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://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/nac/Documents/AMR%20Strategy%20Final%20Jul%202020.pdf>