

# KEY FIGURES 2021

**STATISTICAL REVIEW OF THE FRENCH EQUINE SECTOR - 2020 DATA**  
**Breeding Trade Uses Socio-Economic Statistics**

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Knowledge base

[www.ifce.fr](http://www.ifce.fr)

# EQUINES AND CASH FLOW

## Number of equines

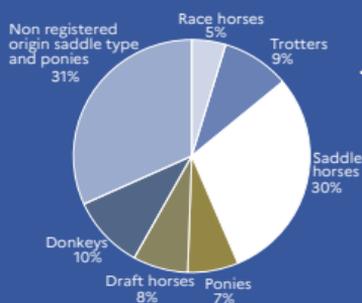


**1,024,000**

EQUINES IN FRANCE AT THE END OF 2020

2/3 SADDLE HORSES AND PONIES

MORE THAN 100,000 EQUINES IN NORMANDY, NOUVELLE-AQUITAINE, RHÔNE-ALPES AND PAYS DE LA LOIRE REGIONS



## Cash flow

ALMOST €11 BILLION GENERATED BY EQUINE ACTIVITIES IN 2019\* INCLUDING :



RACES :  
**€9,767 M**  
(€6,660 M GO TO THE BETTERS)

SPORT-LEISURE :  
**€1,052 M**

WORK :  
**€26 M**

MEAT :  
**€147 M**

EXPORTS :  
**€229 M**

\* No estimate available for 2020

# BREEDERS AND HERDS

General decrease in the number of breeders except in sport-leisure

Number of breeders by type of product	2015	2020 (p)	% of change 2019/2020 (p)
Race horses	3,949	3,706	-4%
Trotters	6,517	5,356	-8%
Sport-Leisure	10,616	11,870	3%
Draft horses	6,550	5,626	-7%
Other breeds	722	1,066	9%
Registered origins	7,480	6,360	-2%
<b>Total *</b>	<b>32,770</b>	<b>30,800</b>	<b>-3%</b>



**30,800**

BREEDERS, OWNERS OF  
COVERED MARES IN 2020

**76%**

OF BREEDERS OWN  
1 TO 2 MARES

**8%**

OF BREEDERS OWN  
MORE THAN 5  
MARES

Number of stallions and broodmares in decline

Breed type	Stallions			Broodmares		
	2015	2020 (p)	% of change 2019/2020 (p)	2015	2020 (p)	% of change 2019/2020 (p)
Race horses	326	303	-5%	9,422	9,787	-3%
Trotters	527	440	-5%	15,933	13,804	-6%
Sport-Leisure	3,356	3,568	2%	18,653	21,348	3%
Draft horses	2,522	2,325	-2%	17,260	16,309	-3%
Other breeds	1,550	1,365	-3%	876	1,320	8%
Registered origins	263	335	-1%	12,240	10,415	-2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,550</b>	<b>8,336</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>74,224</b>	<b>72,628</b>	<b>-2%</b>



**8,336**

STALLIONS IN 2020

**72,628**

BROODMARES IN 2020

Sources : IFCE-SIRE

(p)=preliminary 2020 data, some files not yet administratively closed

\* A breeder producing different breeds totals per breed he produces, hence a number of breeders of all breeds which differs from the sum per breed.

# FOAL BIRTHS —

## Increase in births in 2020

Type of registred equine	2015	2020 (p)	% of change 2019-2020
Race horses	6,201	6,699	-1.4%
Trotters	11,165	9,862	-3.4%
Sport-Leisure	12,524	14,313	3.3%
Draft horses	9,824	9,518	2.0%
Other breeds	2,038	2,426	1.7%
Registered origins	7,010	6,426	-0.6%



**49,244**

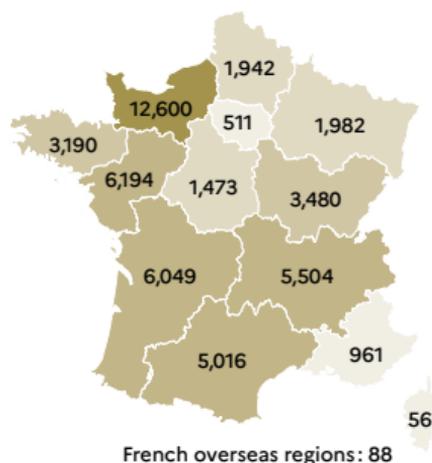
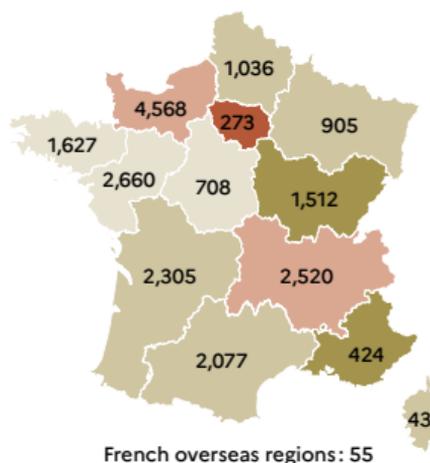
BIRTHS IN 2020

**+1%**

BETWEEN 2019  
AND 2020

**20,438 breeders in France, all breeds combined**

**49,244 registrations in France all breeds combined**



Percentage of change  
2019/2020

- 6% and above
- from 2% to 5%
- from -1% to 1%
- from -5% to -2%
- 6% and below

Source : IFCE-SIRE

(p)=preliminary 2020 data, some files not yet administratively closed

# TRADE —

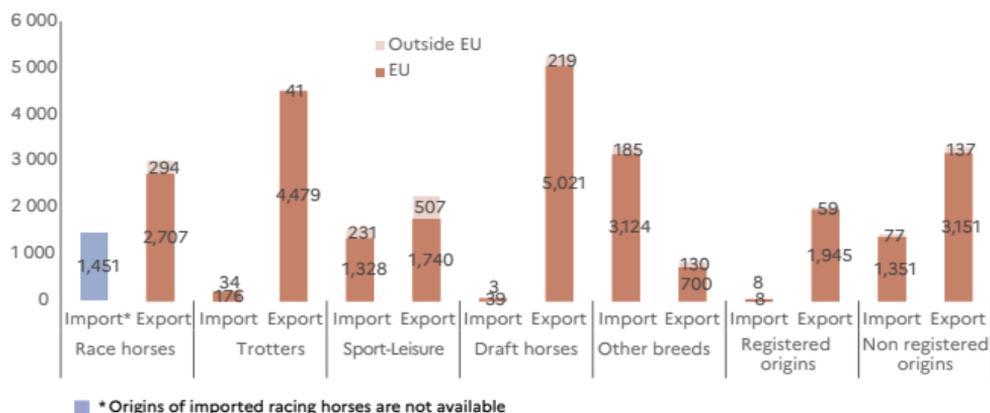
Increase in transaction on the internal market mainly for racing horses, draft horses, and other origins

type of equine	2020	% of change 2019-2020
Race horses	10,103	6%
Trotters	12,075	-2%
Sport-Leisure	22,071	-2%
Draft horses	7,233	8%
Other breeds	5,291	11%
Registered and non registered origins	25,667	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>82,440</b>	<b>1%</b>



**82,440**  
OWNERSHIP CARD  
RENEWALS

## Foreign trade mostly within the European Union

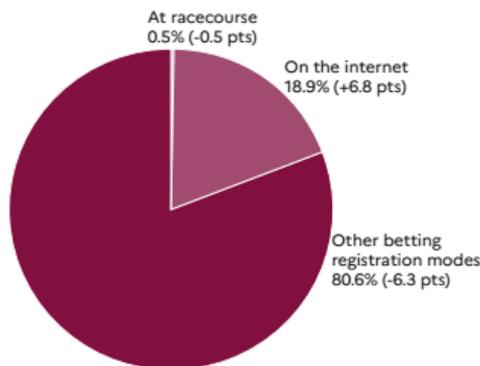


→ **8,000** IMPORTED EQUINES  
IN 2020  
**-7%** BETWEEN 2019 AND 2020

**21,000** EXPORTED EQUINES  
IN 2020  
**-5%** BETWEEN 2019 AND 2020 →

# RACES: BETTING AND OWNERS

19% of bets registered on the internet in 2020



Amount of bets (in million €)

	2015	2020	% of change 2019-2020
At the racecourse	106	42.3	-54%
Outside racecourse	9,171	7,759	-14%

Bets in the world in 2019\*

Bets (in million €)	2019	% of change 2018-2019
Japan	29,405	10%
Australia	18,254	8%
The UK	17,996	15%
Hong Kong	13,900	0%
The USA	9,825	0%
France	8,825	-1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>115,459</b>	<b>5%</b>

Sources : PMU, ANJ, FIAH

\* 2020 data not available at the edition date of this leaflet.



**€7.8  
BILLION**  
OF BETS IN 2020



MORE THAN  
**8,600**  
OWNERS OF RACE HORSES  
IN FRANCE,  
DECLINING  
NUMBER OF  
OWNER IN 2020



OVER THAN  
**€115  
Mrd**  
BETS IN THE  
WORLD IN 2019

# RACECOURSES AND TRAINING —

Races in France: decline in activity and incentives in all disciplines

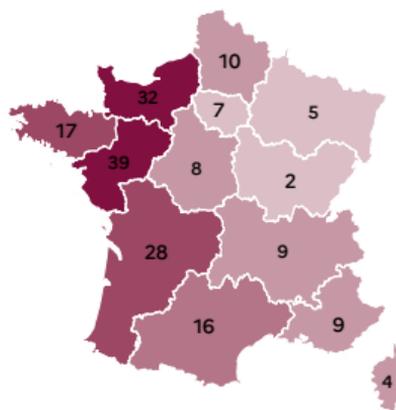
Discipline	Number of races		Number of riders		Amount of incentives (€M)		
	2020	2015	2020	% of change 2019/2020	2015	2020	% of change 2019/2020
Hurdle racing	1,685	21,817	16,427	-11%	84	60	-21%
Flat races	4,293	53,124	45,570	-11%	193	146	-19%
harness races	9,475	153,525	126,638	-15%	298	214	-16%



**26,500**

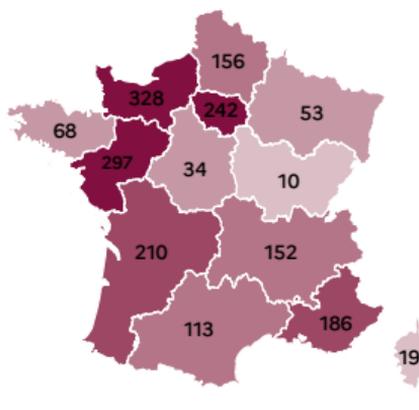
HORSES IN TRAINING  
IN 2020

188 active racecourses in 2020



French overseas  
regions: 2

1,892 race meetings in 2020



French overseas  
regions: 24



**188**

ACTIVE  
RACECOURSES  
IN 2020

**21%**

OF MEETINGS ARE ORGANISED AT THE 6  
MOST ACTIVE RACECOURSES

# HORSE RIDING —

Number of licensed riders still in decline in 2020\*

	2015	2020*	% of change 2019-2020
Horse	264,965	253,903	-1%
Pony	323,831	279,215	-3%
Tourism	84,230	68,048	-6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>673,026</b>	<b>601,166</b>	<b>-3%</b>

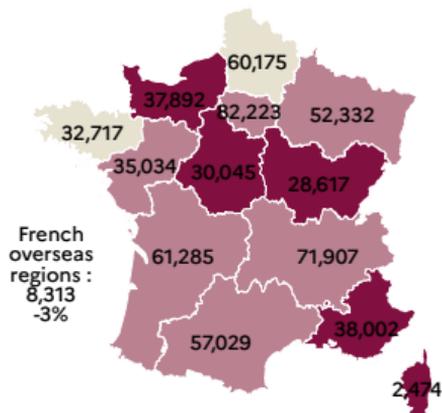


RIDING  
**4TH**  
NATIONAL SPORT  
IN 2020

Number of equestrian establishments remains stable

	2015	2020*	% of change 2019-2020
Number of associations	2,840	2,559	-4%
Number of private establishments	6,165	6,883	1.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,005</b>	<b>9,442</b>	<b>0%</b>

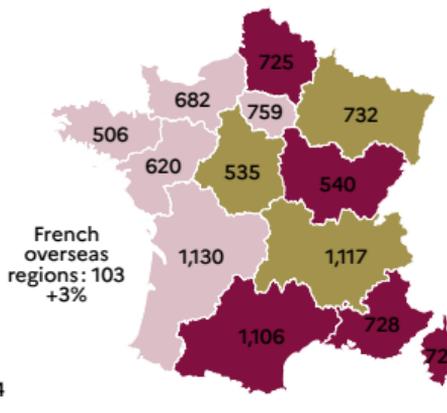
1 in 4 riders licensed in Ile-de-France and Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes



Percentage of change  
2019/2020

- from -4.4% to -3.7%
- from -2.8% to -2.2%
- from -1.3% to -1.1%

1 in 3 establishments located in Nouvelle-Aquitaine, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes and Occitanie



Percentage of change  
2019/2020

- from 0.8% to 1.3%
- from -0.2% to 0.6%
- from -2.4% to -1.2%

\* This for the 2020 season and from 01/09/19 to 31/08/20

Source : FFE

# EQUESTRIAN COMPETITIONS —

A sharp decline in activity in 2020

	2015	2020	% of change 2015-2020
Total of organisers	2,609	1,762	-29.7%
Total of events	101,697	72,835	-42.5%
Total of riders	1,539,472	936,945	-42.1%
Amount of distributed winnings	27,635,074	19,833,691	-38.8%



**137,967**

RIDERS HAVE A  
COMPETITION LICENCE

**77%**

IN CLUB  
CATEGORY

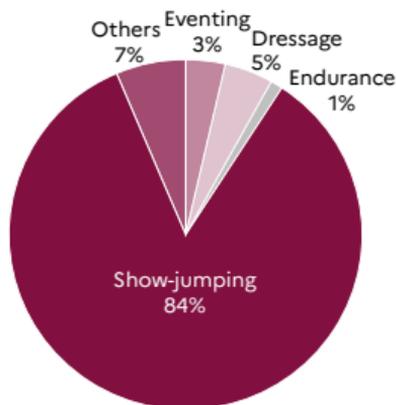
**21%**

IN AMATEUR  
CATEGORY

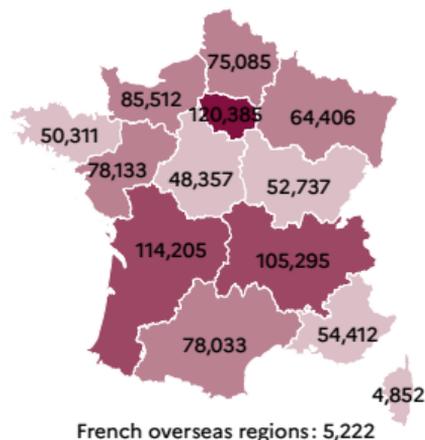
**2%**

IN PRO  
CATEGORY

Show-Jumping, the 1st  
discipline in number of  
participants



936,945 participants in  
competitions in 2020



# HORSE MEAT

## Decline in slaughtering in 2020

	2015	2020	% of change 2019-2020
Number of equines (by head)	15,994	6,837	-15%
Volume (in tce*)	4,543	1,856	-15%

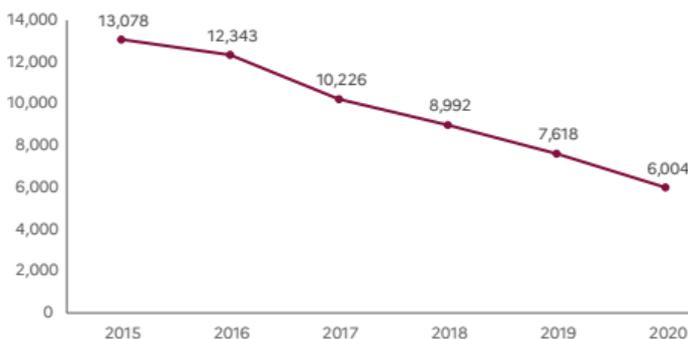
\*tonnes carcass weight equivalent



**6,837**

EQUINES  
SLAUGHTERED  
IN 2020

## Horsemeat consumption is still declining in 2020



— Consumption by balance sheet (in tce\*)



**6,000**

TONNES OF  
MEAT CONSUMED

**8.1%**

OF FRENCH  
HOUSEHOLDS  
BOUGHT HORSE  
MEAT IN 2020

## Horsemeat remains the most expensive meat in 2020

### Average purchase price (EUR/kg)

Fresh butchered meat	11.5
Beef	15.1
Veal	16.2
Sheep	15.4
Pork	7.9
Horse	18.1
Poultry and rabbit	8.3

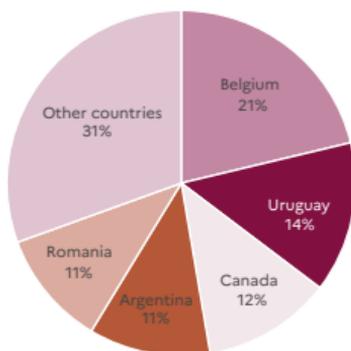
Sources : MAA-Agreste, FranceAgriMer based on Kantar Worldpanel

# FOREIGN MEAT TRADE

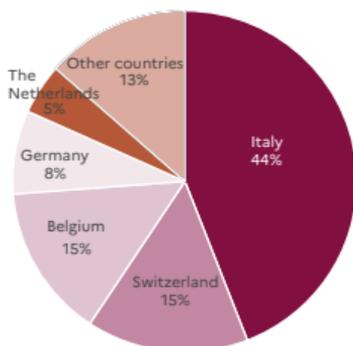
A decline in 2020

		2015	2020	% of change 2019-2020
Slaughter horses (number of heads)	Import	1,142	1	-
	Export	5,131	5,771	-2%
Meat (tonnes)	Import	12,902	7,061	-22%
	Export	4,360	2,802	-20%

In 2020, 25% of horsemeat imports come from South America



Italy, the main importer of French horsemeat



**7,061** IMPORTED TONNES IN 2020

**2,802** EXPORTED TONNES IN 2020

Trade deficit of €8.9 million in 2020: France is not self-sufficient in horsemeat

Value (in million of €)	Live foreign trade	Foreign meat trade
Export	7.2	14.6
Import	0	30.7

Source : TDM



**+€7.2M**  
LIVE FOREIGN  
TRADE BALANCE

**-€16.1M**  
FOREIGN TRADE  
BALANCE IN MEAT

# EMPLOYMENT AND EMPLOYMENT MARKET

## EMPLOYMENT

66,000 jobs as main activity in 2018



**66,000**

MAIN JOBS INCLUDING :

INCLUDING

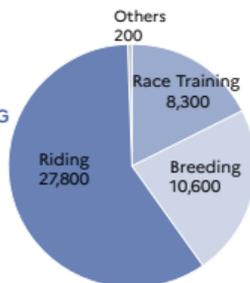
**46,900**

JOBS RELATED TO HORSE BREEDING AND USE OF HORSES

INCLUDING

**28,000**

EMPLOYEES, APPRENTICES AND TRAINEES



Salaried agricultural jobs in decline in 2020

	2015	2020	% of change 2019-2020
Breeding	3,176	3,414	0.2%
Riding	17,343	15,943	-2.0%
Horse racing	4,006	3,980	2.9%
Harness racing	2,267	2,075	-9.0%
Total *	25,980	24,690	-1.4%

\* The total also includes an "other" sector not specified in the data because of the small number of employees who cannot be assigned to a particular sector. It differs from the total of each sector, as an employee can work in two different sectors.

## EMPLOYMENT MARKET



**2,521**

JOB OFFERS\* ENTRUSTED TO EQUI-RESSOURCES IN 2020.

**51%**

OF OFFERS ARE FROM INDEFINITE TERM CONTRACT

**25%**

OF OFFERS CONCERN GROOMS

\* including employees and apprenticeship contracts