The total number of livestock reached 64.7 million, decreased by 9.1% from the previous year.
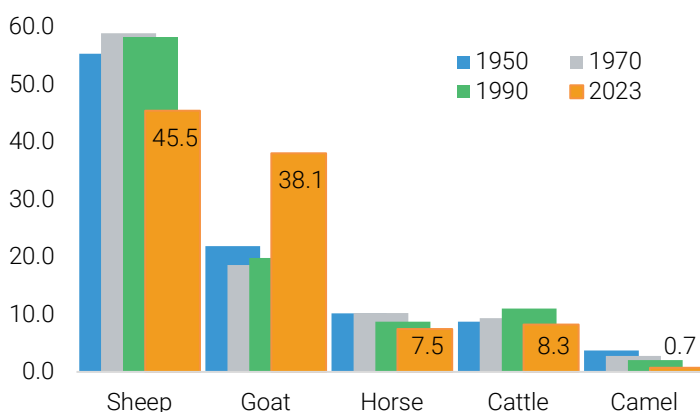
The preliminary results of the Livestock Census for 2023, 64.7 million heads of livestock were counted, of which 4.8 million horses, 5.4 million cattle, 473.9 thousand camels, 29.4 million sheep and 24.6 million goats. Compared to the previous year, the total number of livestock decreased by 6.4 million (9.1%), of which number of sheep decreased by 3.3 million (10.2%), goats by 3.0 million (10.7%) and cattle by 162.1 thousand (2.9%), whereas horses increased by 8.6 thousand (0.2%) and camels by 3.4 thousand (0.7%).

TABLE 1.   NUMBER OF LIVESTOCK, by type, thousand heads, at the end of selected years

Type	2020	2021	2022	2023	Changes	
					Heads	Percent
Total	67 068.5	67 343.8	71 121.5	64 681.9	- 6 439.6	-9.1
Horse	4 093.9	4 324.4	4 821.1	4 829.7	8.6	0.2
Cattle	4 732.0	5 022.2	5 512.8	5 350.8	- 162.1	-2.9
Camel	472.9	454.0	470.5	473.9	3.4	0.7
Sheep	30 049.4	31 087.0	32 747.7	29 409.4	- 3 338.3	-10.2
Goat	27 720.3	26 456.1	27 569.4	24 618.2	- 2 951.2	-10.7

In 2023, the share of sheep to total number of livestock was 45.5%, goats were 38.1%, cattle were 8.3%, horses were 7.5% and camels were 0.7%. The share of goats to total livestock increased by 18.2 percentage points, whereas share of sheep to total livestock decreased by 12.9 points, cattle by 2.7 points, horses and camels by 1.3 points, respectively, compared with the 1990 when the state farms broke up.

FIGURE 1.   SHARE OF 5 TYPES OF ANIMALS TO TOTAL LIVESTOCK, at the end of selected years
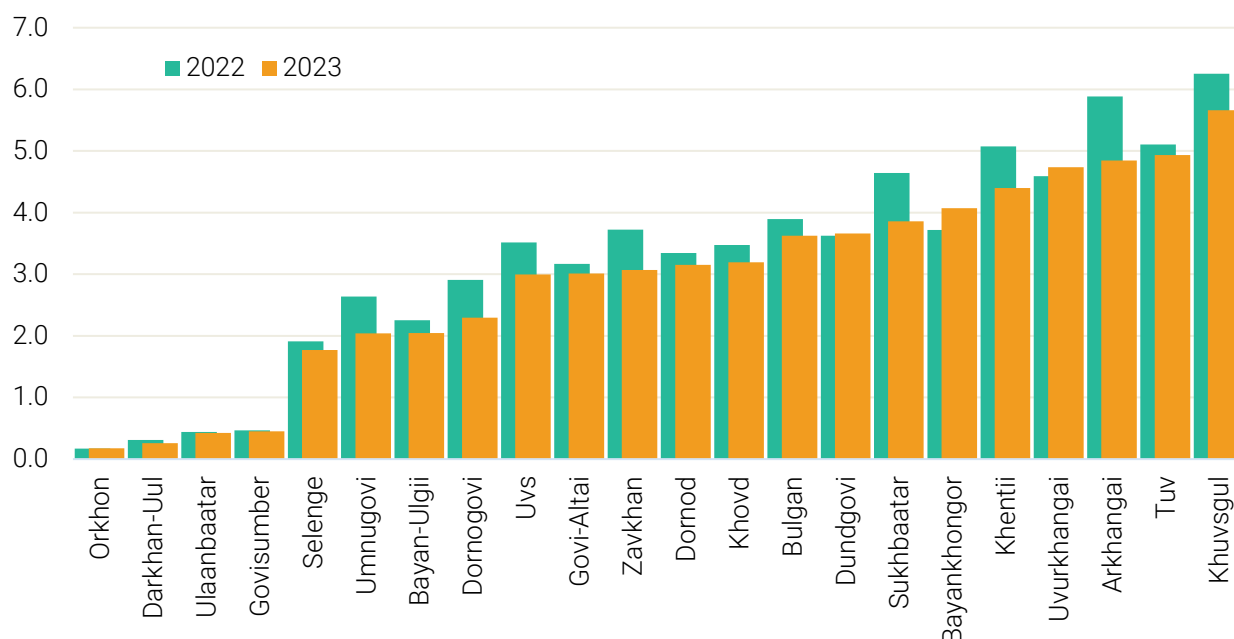

The sheep to goat ratio in the herd structure was 75:25 or one goat per 3 sheep until 1990 in Mongolia, which was the traditional composition, livestock pastures and rangeland were used properly. However, this ratio has been reducing for about 30 years.

For instance, the significant growth in the number of goats started since 1993 and it almost reached as same level as the number of sheep in 1994-2003 due to price increase of cashmere. Between 2003-2009, the number of goats exceeded the number of sheep, and goats to sheep ratio became 50:50 during the years from 2009 to 2015. In 2023, goats to sheep ratio was 54:46.

Arkhangai aimag leads the country with its number of horses and cattle, while Umnugovi aimag leads with camels, Khuvsgul aimag leads with sheep and Bayankhongor aimag leads with goat. In 2023, the highest number of livestock was counted in Khuvsgul (5.7 million) and Tuv (4.9 million) followed by Arkhangai (4.8 million), Uvurkhangai (4.7 million) and Khentii (4.4 million) aimag.

FIGURE 2.   NUMBER OF LIVESTOCK, by million heads, by aimags and the Capital

Type of livestock:
- The highest number of horses were counted in Arkhangai (448.5 thousand), Dornod (443.8 thousand), Tuv (425.2 thousand), Sukhbaatar (366.3 thousand), and Khuvsgul (362.7 thousand) aimags.
- The highest number of cattle were counted in Arkhangai (741.0 thousand), Khuvsgul (637.0 thousand), Khentii (405.7 thousand), Dornod (391.5 thousand) and Tuv (355.0 thousand) aimags.
- The highest number of camels were counted in Umnugovi (157.2 thousand), Dornogovi (54.5 thousand), Bayankhongor (48.9 thousand), Govi-Altai (47.4 thousand) and Dundgovi (43.7 thousand) aimags.
- The highest number of sheep were counted in Khuvsgul (2654.0 thousand), Tuv (2642.7 thousand), Arkhangai (2392.0 thousand), Uvurkhangai (2324.8 thousand) and Khentii (2266.5 thousand) aimags.
- The highest number of goats were counted in Bayankhongor (2389.3 thousand), Khuvsgul (2005.9 thousand), Govi-Altai (1884.3 thousand), and Uvurkhangai (1727.5 thousand) and Khovd (1677.9 thousand) aimags.
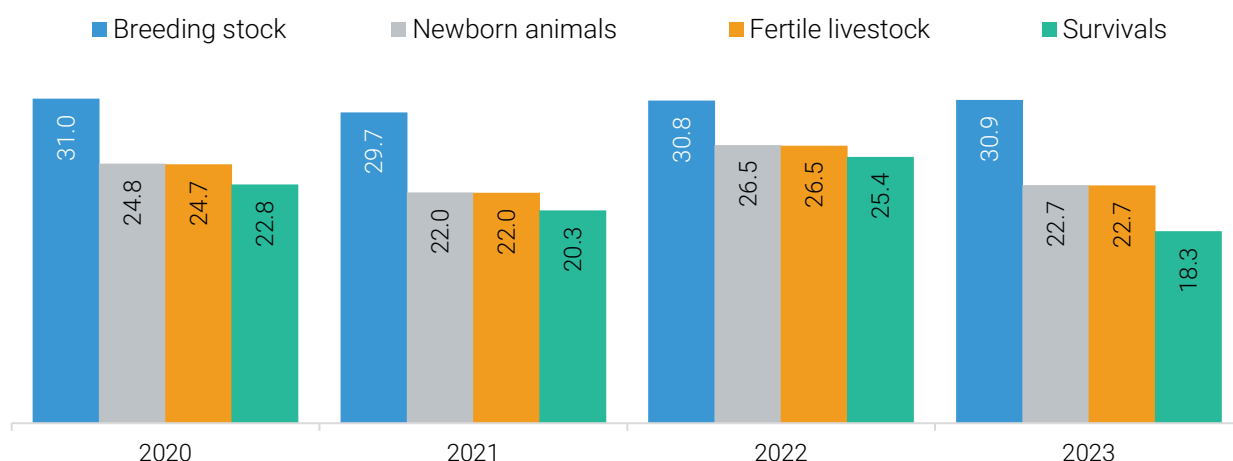
Umnudelger soum in Khentii aimag has counted as the largest number of livestock, with 564.3 thousand heads, followed by Erdenedalai soum in Dundgovi aimag with 525.6 thousand heads, Erdenetsagaan soum in Sukhbaatar aimag with 498.7 thousand heads, Kherlen soum in Khentii aimag with 495.8 thousand heads, Sukhbaatar soum in Sukhbaatar aimag with 471.2 thousand heads, these soums listed as top 5 soums with the largest number of livestock in the country.

In 2023, 30.9 million heads of breeder livestock out of 22.7 million (73.5%) fertile livestock gave off offspring at the national level. There are 68.1% of mares, 75.0% of cows, 45.8% of female camels, 77.6% of ewes and 69.3% of female goats gave offspring.

TABLE 2. NUMBER OF FERTILE LIVESTOCK AND SURVIVALS, by type, thousand heads, at the end of selected years

Type	Fertile livestock			Survivals			Survival percentage
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	
Total	21 974.5	26 484.1	22 679.7	20 321.6	25 403.1	18 323.0	80.6
Horse	976.2	1 225.7	1 093.7	919.3	1 185.9	950.0	86.9
Cattle	1 444.3	1 705.0	1 653.4	1 378.0	1 650.8	1 474.5	89.2
Camel	68.5	90.5	79.5	64.9	88.2	75.3	94.8
Sheep	11 190.7	12 972.8	11 613.1	10 457.5	12 493.3	9 455.4	81.3
Goat	8 294.8	10 490.3	8 240.1	7 502.0	9 984.8	6 367.8	77.1

FIGURE 3. NUMBER OF BREEDERS AND FERTILE LIVESTOCK, NEW-BORN, AND SURVIVALS, by million heads, at the end of selected years

In 2023, there were 18.3 million heads of new-born animals survived and the survival percentage was 80.6%. The number of young surviving animals decreased 7.1 million (27.9%) and the survival percentage decreased by 15.1 points compared with the previous year. Of the total new-born animals, 86.9% of foals, 89.2% of calves, 94.8% of colts, 81.3% of lambs and 77.1% of young goats survived.

Out of the total livestock counted at the beginning of the year, 4.9 million heads (6.9%) of adult livestock were lost due to untimely causes. Of the total losses of adult animals, 75.2 thousand (1.5%) due to diseases.
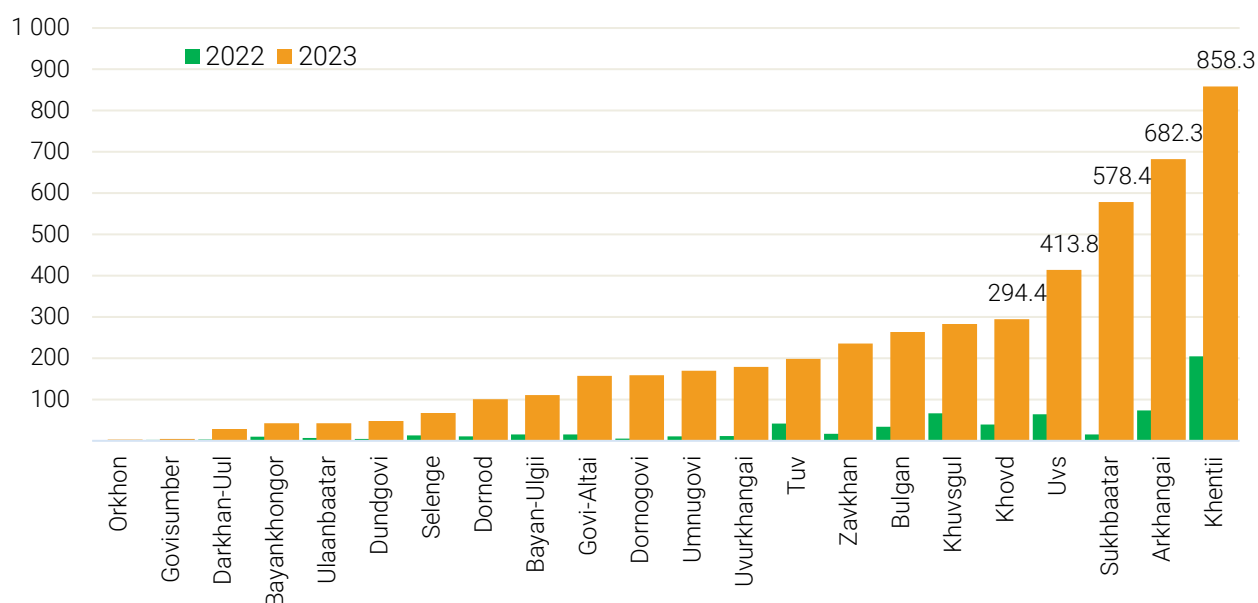
An analysis of losses of adult animals by livestock type reveals that there were losses of respectively 2.2 million heads of sheep, 2.1 million heads of goats, 415.5 thousand heads of cattle, 269.7 thousand heads of horses and 8.8 thousand heads of camels. In terms of livestock type of the total losses, 41.7% were goats and 44.2% were sheep.

TABLE 3.   NUMBER OF LOSSES OF ADULT ANIMALS, by type, at the end of selected years

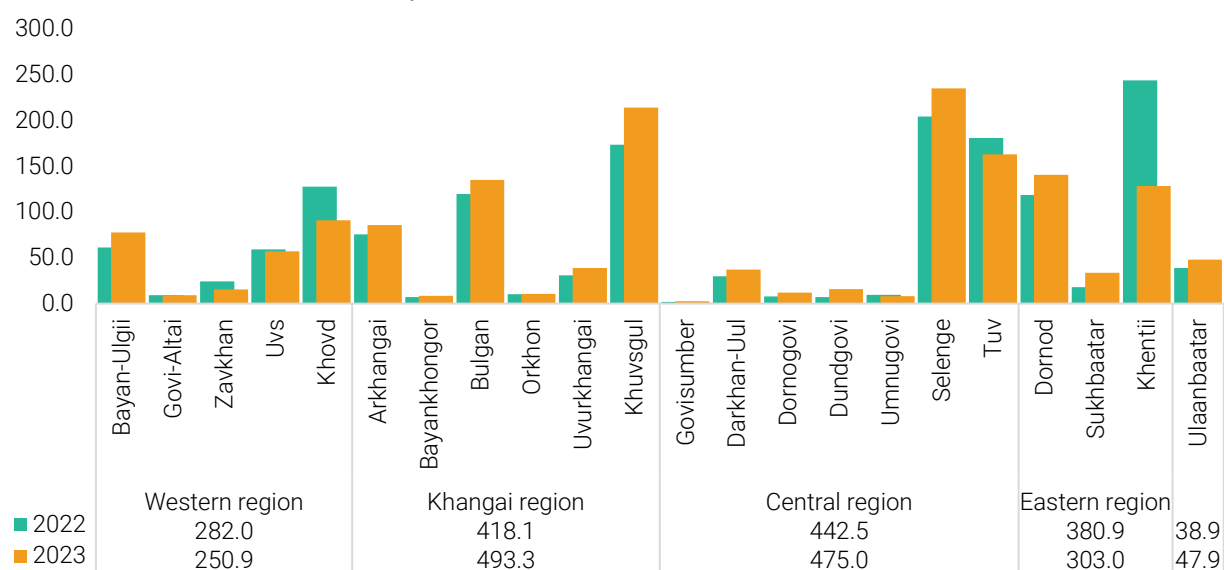| Type	Number of losses of adult animals				Losses of adult animals to total livestock at the beginning of year			
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023
	thousand heads				percent			
Total	2 064.1	3 012.3	667.5	4 921.5	2.91	4.24	0.99	6.92
Horse	107.3	118.4	34.2	269.7	2.55	2.81	0.79	5.59
Cattle	143.8	188.4	56.8	415.5	3.03	3.96	1.13	7.54
Camel	4.4	22.2	2.0	8.8	0.93	4.70	0.43	1.88
Sheep	1 018.7	1 123.5	301.8	2 174.2	3.16	3.48	0.97	6.64
Goat	789.8	1 559.9	272.7	2 053.3	2.70	5.33	1.03	7.45

An analysis of losses of adult animals at the end of the 2023 by aimags indicates that there were losses of 858.3 thousand heads (17.4%) in Khentii, 682.3 thousand heads (13.9%) in Arkhangai, 578.4 thousand heads (11.8%) in Sukhbaatar, 413.8 thousand heads (8.4%) in Uvs, 294.4 thousand heads (6.0%) in Khovd aimag. These losses make up 57.4 percent of the total adult losses of livestock.

FIGURE 4.   NUMBER OF LOSSES OF ADULT ANIMALS, by aimag and the Capital, thousand heads, at the end of selected years

In 2023, the amount of harvested hay was 1570.2 thousand tonnes, which is higher than previous year by 7.7 thousand tonnes (0.5%). The amount of harvested hay decreased by 130.0 tonnes to 115.7 thousand tonnes or 1.4-47.4% in Govi-Altai, Umnugovi, Uvs, Zavkhan, Tuv, Khovd and Khentii aimags compared with the previous year, while it increased by 74.1 tonnes to 40.6 thousand tonnes or 0.7 percent to 2.2 times more in other aimags and the Ulaanbaatar city.

FIGURE 5.   HARVESTED HAY, by aimags and the Capital, thousand tonnes

	Western region	Khangai region	Central region	Eastern region	
■ 2022	282.0	418.1	442.5	380.9	38.9
■ 2023	250.9	493.3	475.0	303.0	47.9

In 2023, in the terms of sheep unit, the number of livestock per 100 hectares of pastureland reached 108 heads which is decreased by 6 heads compared with the previous year. It was 1142 in Orkhon aimag, 611 in Ulaanbaatar, 334 in Darkhan-Uul, 293 in Arkhangai aimag, 284 in Bulgan aimag, 245 in Khuvsgul aimag, and 236 in Selenge aimag, which are higher by 128-1034 heads than the national average.

The number of households with livestock amounted to 247.9 thousand, decreased by 425 (0.2%). Grouping of the households by their livestock numbers reflects that households with 201-500 animals decreased by 1.4%, those with 501-999 animals by 7.3%, those with 1000-2000 animals by 26.5%, those with more than 2001 by 37.5%, while households with up to 50 animals increased by 7.5%, and those with 51-200 animals by 2.6%.

TABLE 4.   NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH LIVESTOCK, by group of livestock number, by the end of selected years

	Number of households with livestock				Number of livestock per household with livestock			
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	242 023	246 302	248 296	247 871	276	272	285	260
≤ 50	49 945	53 577	52 748	56 706	24	24	24	24
51-200	83 596	85 084	83 751	85 946	119	118	119	118
201-500	67 957	67 036	67 316	66 406	321	320	322	321
501-999	30 327	29 857	32 332	29 958	681	683	687	680
1000-2000	9 649	10 195	11 519	8 461	1 218	1 218	1 226	1 208
2001 ≤	549	553	630	394	2 516	2 507	2 483	2 492

In 2023, the average number of livestock per household with livestock was 260 heads, which decreased by 25 heads (8.8%) compared to the previous year. There are 19 horses, 21 cattle, 2 camels, 118 sheep and 99 goats correspond to per household with livestock. Compared with the previous year, average number of cattle household decreased by 1, sheep by 13, goats by 12, whereas the number horse and camels were unchanged.

In 2023, the number of herder households, who herd their livestock during the four seasons of the year and run livestock husbandry as the main source of their livelihoods, reached 189.3 thousand, which was 76.4 percent of the total households with livestock. The number of herder households decreased by 1.5 thousand (0.8%). Grouping of the herder households by their livestock numbers shows that households with 201-500 animals decreased by 1.3%, and those with 501-999 animals by 7.2%, those with 1000-2000 animals by 26.5%, those with more than 2001 animals by 38.0%, while those with up to 50 animals increased by 8.3%, those with 51-200 animals by 4.2%.
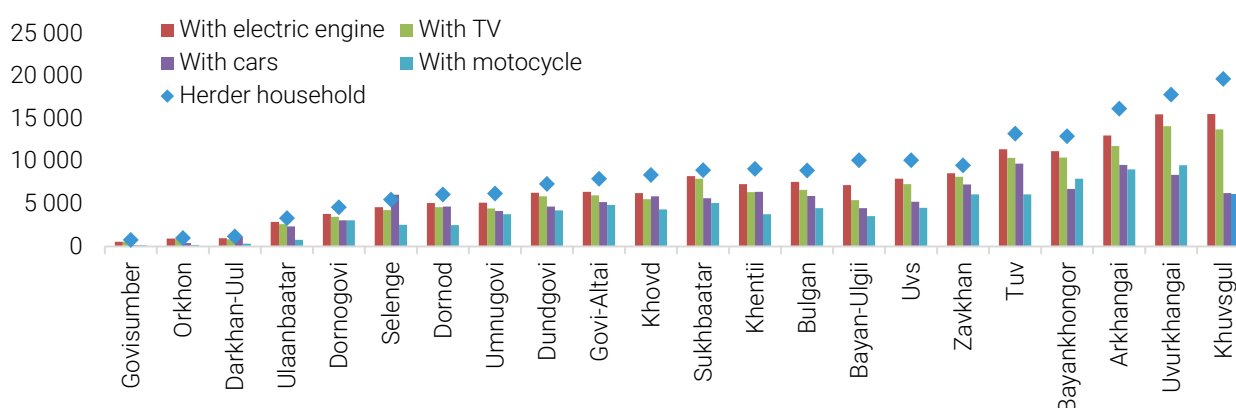
In 2023 the average number of livestock per herder household was 309 heads, which decreased by 30 heads (8.8%) compared with the previous year. There are 22 horses, 24 cattle, 2 camels, 141 sheep and 118 goats per herder household. Compared with the previous year, the average number of cattle herder household decreased by 1, goats by 14, sheep by 16, whereas the number horse and camels were unchanged.

TABLE 5.   NUMBER OF HERDER HOUSEHOLDS, by groups of livestock number, at the end of selected years

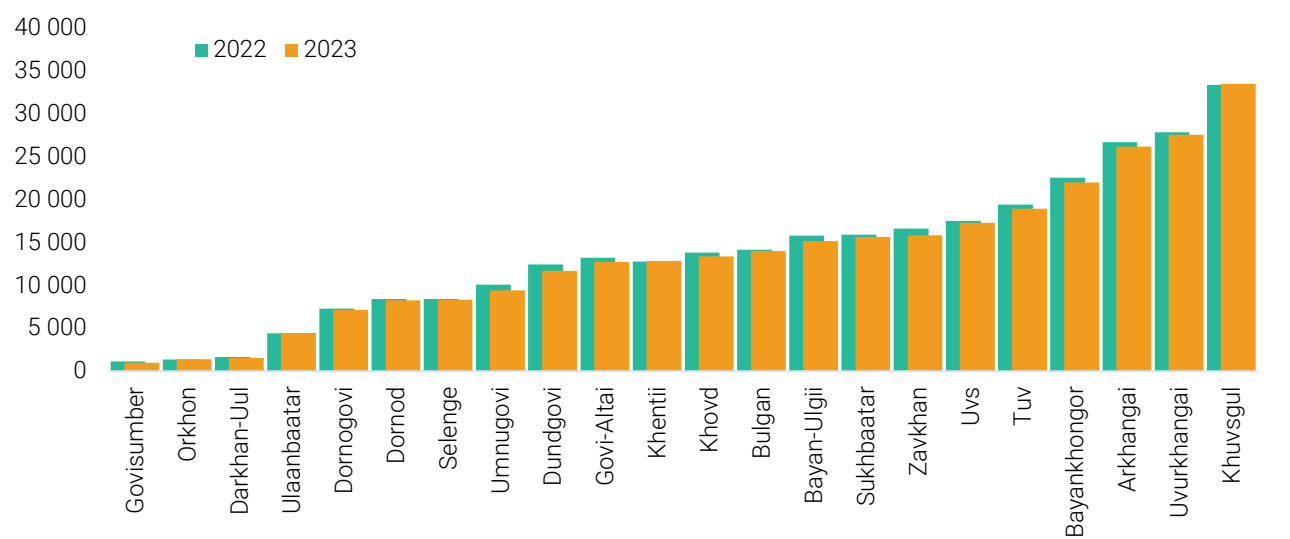|	Number of herder households				Number of herder livestock per household			
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	181 051	188 605	190 775	189 283	332	323	339	309
≤ 50	23 046	26 916	26 410	28 605	27	27	26	26
51-200	58 865	62 588	61 224	63 813	123	122	122	121
201-500	59 782	59 637	59 902	59 137	324	323	326	324
501-999	29 337	28 894	31 255	28 992	682	684	688	681
1000-2000	9 486	10 034	11 366	8 353	1 217	1 217	1 225	1 207
2001 ≤	535	536	618	383	2 509	2 494	2 477	2 488

According to the preliminary result of the livestock census in 2023 , 82.8% of herder households have access to electricity sources, 74.9% have a television, 60.0% have a car and 49.3% have a motorcycle. In 2023, the number of households with television reached 141.7 thousand, increased by 0.5 thousand (0.4%), the number of households with car reached 113.7 thousand, increased by 5.3 thousand (4.8%), while, the total number of households with electricity sources reached 156.7 thousand, decreased by 0.4 thousand (0.3%), number of households with motorcycle reached 93.3 thousand, decreased by 1.8 thousand (1.9%) compared with the previous year.

FIGURE 6.   SOME CULTURAL INDICATORS FOR HERDER HOUSEHOLDS, by aimags and the Capital, 2023
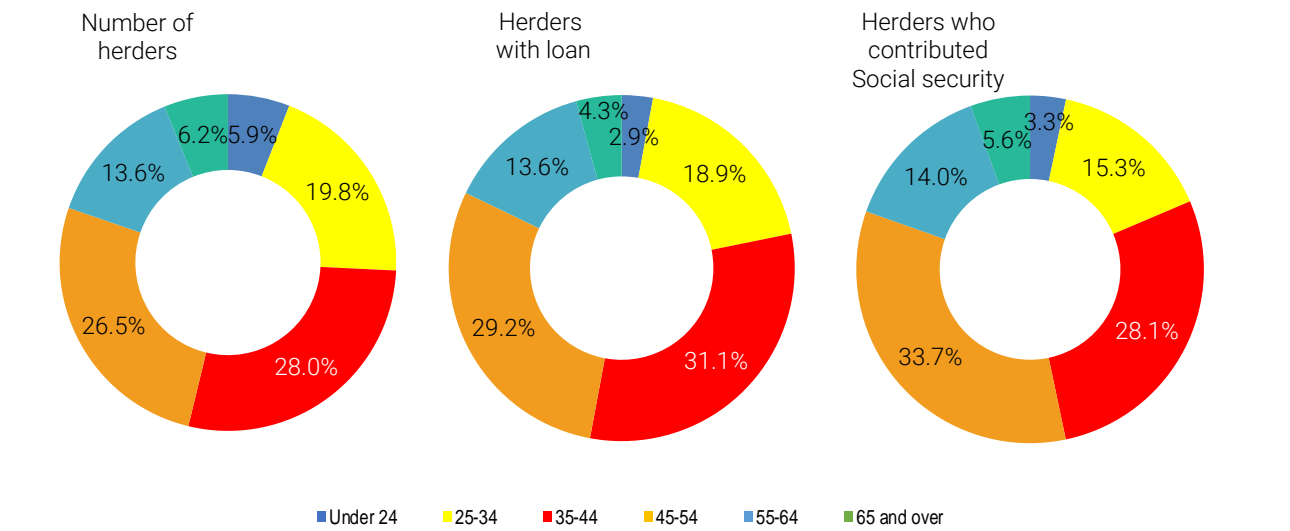
One of four employed people in Mongolia works in the livestock husbandry in 2023. For instance, it is recorded that 298.3 thousand herders engaged in the animal husbandry, decreased by 6.7 thousand herders or 2.2% from the previous year. Of the total herders, 179.4 thousand herders (60.1%) are male, and 118.9 thousand herders (39.9) are female. Males are dominant among the total herders in Mongolia. An analysis of the number of herders by aimags reveals that compared with the previous year, the number of herders increased by 29-99 in Khuvsgul, Khentii, Orkhon aimags and Ulaanbaatar city in 2023 whereas that of herders decreased by 92-801 in other aimags in the same year.

FIGURE 7.   HERDERS, by aimags and the Capital

According to the age groups, 5.9% of the total herders were under 24 years old, 19.8% were between 25-34 years old, 28.0% were between 35-44 years old, 26.5% were between 45-54 years old, 13.6% were between 55-64 years old and 6.2% were 65 years old and over.

FIGURE 8.   INDICATORS OF HERDERS, by age group, in 2023

In 2023, 112.4 thousand or 37.7% of total of herders, who contributes to the social security, of which 86.6 thousand herders (77.1%) were aged 25-54 years.

As of 2023, 49.6% of the total herders or 147.8 thousand herders have loans. By age groups, 18.9% of the herders with loan aged 25-34 years, 31.1% was aged 35-44 years and 13.6% aged 45-54 years.

Definition

A survival percentage
Equal to the number of young surviving animals divided by the total births and multiplied by 100.

Natural losses of adult animals
Loss of animals due to natural disasters such as zud, heavy rain, fire, lightning, infectious and non-infectious diseases and others (wild animal depredation and accidents).

Percentage of unintended losses of large livestock
This is calculated by comparing the number of slaughtered livestock with the total livestock counted first at the beginning of the year.

Source
NSO, Livestock census

Website
http://www.1212.mn/

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