HPRA
An tÚdarás Rialála Táirgí Sláinte
Health Products Regulatory Authority

Sales of veterinary antimicrobials in Ireland during 2025

1. INTRODUCTION

European legislation[1] requires Member States to collect data on sales of veterinary antimicrobial (AM) products and on the use of AM medicinal products and to report those data annually to the European Medicines Agency (EMA). The goal is to have sufficiently detailed and comparable data at European Union level to determine trends and identify possible risk factors that will inform the development of measures to limit the risk from antimicrobial resistance. In addition, data on AM sales and use can be used to monitor the effect of measures already introduced.

In Ireland, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) is responsible for collecting and reporting usage data, while the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) is responsible for reporting sales data.

This report presents the data collected by the HPRA on the sales of veterinary AM products in Ireland for the year 2025.

The sales data provided in this report should be interpreted with caution. There are multiple and various factors that may impact sales data (changes in animal demographics, disease prevalence, product availability, etc.) and sales of individual AMs have been observed to fluctuate from one year to the next. In addition, it should be noted that sales data may not reflect AM use in a given year.

2. METHODOLOGY

Volume of sales data for veterinary AM products authorised in Ireland (including both medicines authorised nationally by the HPRA as well as those authorised centrally by the European Commission) were collected. In addition, sales data for veterinary AMs available under special import licences issued by the DAFM were also collected.

The sales data reported here includes those AM substances that fall under the mandatory scope for reporting as detailed in the Annex to Regulation (EU) 2021/578. That is, those substances with antibiotic activity that are intended for systemic, intramammary and intrauterine use.

When analysing the data, individual substances of the same class have been grouped together and presented under class headings. In this report the headings are as follows: penicillins, amphenicols, tetracyclines, fluoroquinolones, aminoglycosides, macrolides and lincosamides, sulfonamides and trimethoprim, cephalosporins and 'other classes'.

[1] Regulation (EU) 2019/6 on veterinary medicinal products
COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) 2021/578
COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2022/209

The primary source of the national sales data are the marketing authorisation holders (MAHs) – those companies that market relevant veterinary medicinal products (VMPs) in Ireland. MAHs are required to upload sales data for each presentation of their VMPs to the Union Product Database on an annual basis. These data are then extracted from that database and analysed for gaps, errors or inconsistencies. Where necessary, data are adjusted/corrected having consulted with the relevant MAHs.

Once the national dataset has been 'validated', it is uploaded in a standardised format to the Antimicrobial Sales and Use (ASU) Platform. Use of a common EU platform facilitates data validation, analysis and reporting, including reporting via the antimicrobial sales dashboard[2], an interactive tool that allows the public to explore data on sales and use of AM VMPs across Europe.

3. RESULTS

In 2025, the total volume of sales of veterinary AMs (as active substance) reported was 62.5 tonnes, a decrease of over 17% compared to the previous year (Table 1).

Table 1. Sales (tonnes sold of active substance) of veterinary antimicrobials for the years 2018 - 2025

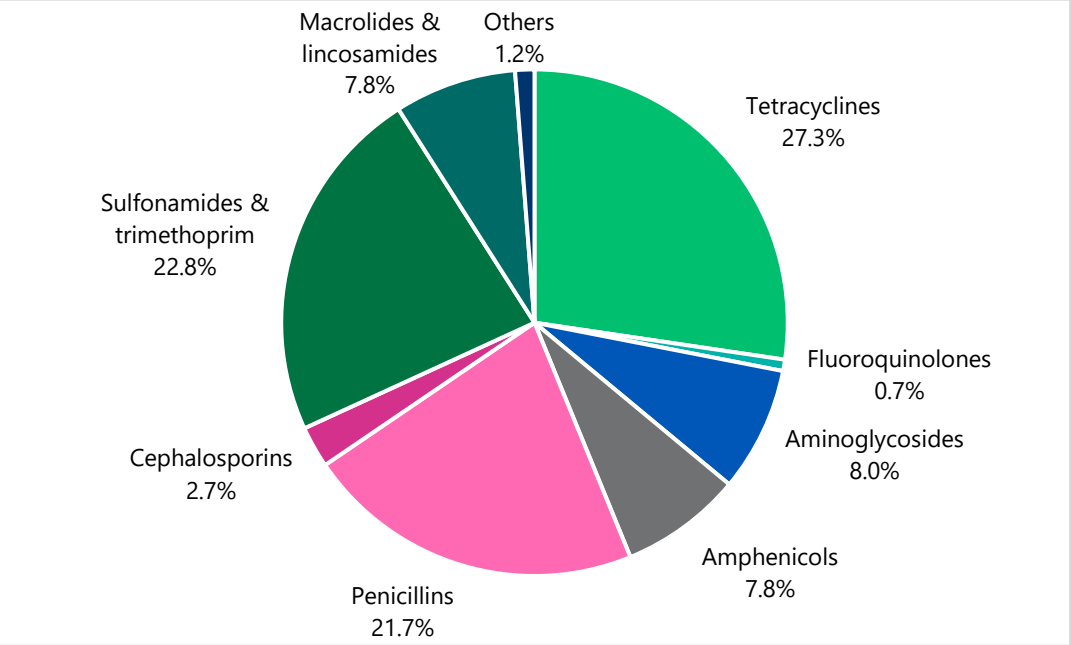
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Tonnes sold	99.4	88.3	103.9	94.2	76.5	75.2	76.0	62.5

The most sold AM classes in 2025 were tetracyclines (27.3%), the combination of sulfonamides and trimethoprim (22.8%) and penicillins (21.7%) followed by aminoglycosides (7.8%), amphenicols (7.8%), macrolides and lincosamides (7.8%), cephalosporins (2.7%), others (1.2%) and fluoroquinolones (0.7%) (Figure 1).

The distribution of sales by AM class showed a change to that from 2024, with notable decreases in sales of tetracyclines (-34.7%), penicillins (-22.6%) and aminogylcosides (-35.0%) and an increase in sales of sulfonamides in combination with trimethoprim (+27.2%). The relative distribution of the other classes remained broadly similar to that of previous years (Table 2).

[2] ESUAvet antimicrobial sales dashboard

Figure 1. Distribution of sales (based on tonnes sold) of veterinary antimicrobials by class supplied in 2025



Others: Sum of pleuromutilins, imidazole derivatives and spectinomycin.

Table 2. Sales (tonnes sold) of veterinary antimicrobials (by class) for the years 2018 – 2025

Antimicrobial by class	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Tetracyclines	39.2	37.6	42.9	37.8	27.4	27.1	26.1	17.1
Sulphonamides & trimethoprim	16.9	14.5	11.5	17.1	12.7	14.1	11.2	14.3
Penicillins	24.1	18.7	27.6	21.1	20.1	16.5	17.5	13.5
Macrolides & lincosamides	7.4	5.9	7.1	5.7	5.3	5.3	4.8	4.9
Aminoglycosides	5.5	5.4	7.1	5.6	5.6	5.3	7.7	5.0
Amphenicols	3.3	3.6	3.7	2.9	2.5	4.3	5.0	4.9
Fluoroquinolones	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5
Cephalosporins	1.3	1.0	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.2	1.5	1.7
Others	0.9	1.1	1.5	1.5	0.3	1.0	1.6	0.8

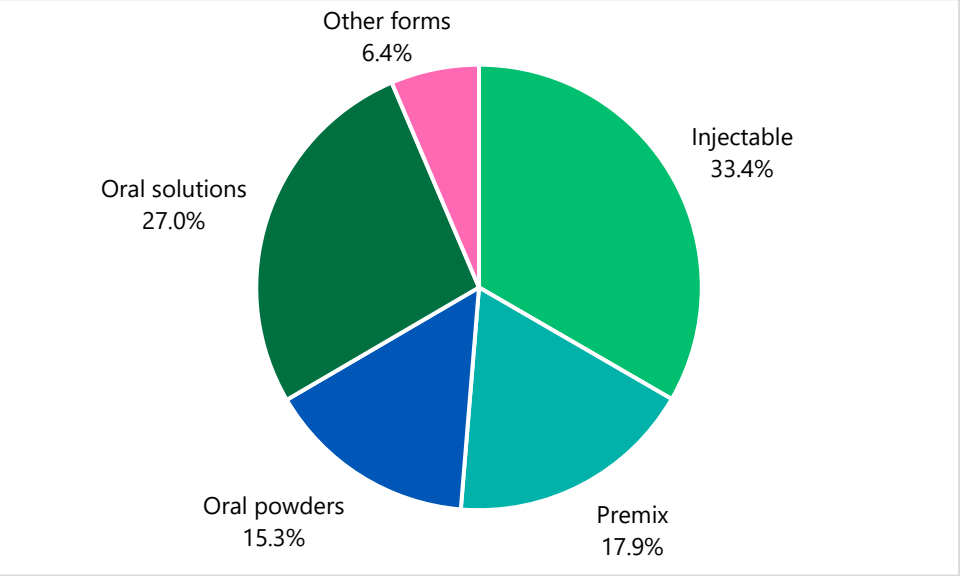
Data on the sales of AMs categorised by the World Health Organization (WHO) as critically important antibiotics (CIAs) are reported separately in Table 3. In 2025, sales of 3rd and 4th generation cephalosporins, fluoroquinolones and macrolides were lower than sales recorded in 2024 decreasing to 0.12, 0.45 and 3.94 tonnes, respectively. No sales of polymyxins (colistin) were recorded in 2025.

Table 3. Sales (tonnes sold of active substance) of 3rd and 4th generation cephalosporins, fluoroquinolones and macrolides for the years 2018 - 2025

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
3rd & 4th gen. cephalosporins	0.33	0.28	0.36	0.35	0.16	0.14	0.19	0.12
Fluoroquinolones	0.84	0.74	0.80	0.85	0.54	0.50	0.61	0.45
Macrolides	7.07	5.60	5.15	5.37	4.28	3.42	4.51	3.94

Injectables remained the most commonly sold pharmaceutical form, accounting for 33.4% of the total sales (Figure 2). This was followed by oral solutions (27.0%), premixes (17.9%) and oral powders (15.3%). For the category 'Other forms' (6.4%), intramammary products for drying-off and lactating cows accounted for 3.4% and 0.7%, respectively, while tablets, oral pastes and intrauterine products represented approximately 1.7%, 0.4% and 0.1% of total AM sales, respectively.

Figure 2. Proportion of veterinary antimicrobials sold by pharmaceutical form in 2025



Other forms: tablets, oral pastes, intramammary and intrauterine products.

4. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The total volume of sales of veterinary AM products in 2025 (62.5 tonnes) was significantly reduced compared to that reported in 2024 (76 tonnes), with a decrease of over 17% observed. This was the lowest reported total sales figure since data were first collected (2009).

While fluctuations in sales of different classes of AMs can be observed from year to year, reductions in sales of almost all AM classes were observed in 2025. In particular, there were substantial reductions in sales of CIAs relative to 2024, with an overall decreasing trend in sales of these AMs over recent years. This overall downward trend in sales of CIAs is a very positive development noting their critical importance in human health and the challenge of antimicrobial resistance. Prescribers are reminded that such products should only be used for the treatment of clinical conditions in animals when there are no alternative, lower-risk antibiotics that could be clinically effective. The classification system published by the EMA should inform the choice of AM used[3].

While there are many factors that can influence AM sales data, changes in behaviour of farmers and veterinarians as a result of communication and education initiatives (shifting focus to disease prevention), together with changes in controls on the authorisation, supply and use of veterinary antimicrobials are expected to have played major roles in contributing to the reductions observed.

The cumulative effect of actions by stakeholders under Ireland's National Action Plans on Antimicrobial Resistance, iNAP1 (2017-2020) and iNAP2 (2021-2025), support the downward trend in veterinary antimicrobial sales. Ireland's third One Health National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance 2026-2030 (iNAP3)[4] will build on the progress made to date, with responsible prescribing practices[5] and prudent use remaining a key focus to protect public health and to maintain the effectiveness of the current suite of antimicrobials available in veterinary medicine.

ENDS

[3] Categorisation of antibiotics for use in animals for prudent and responsible use.
[4] Ireland's Third One Health National Action Plan on AMR (iNAP3)
[5] UCD/DAFM Antimicrobial Prescribing Guidelines for Veterinary Practitioners