

News Release



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Agriculture

Meat production - September Quarter 2006

Meat production dropped during the third quarter of 2006, particularly in the broiler industry.

During the third quarter of 2006, total meat production in Malta amounted to 3,137 tonnes, representing a drop of 16.8 per cent when compared to the same period last year. This reflected developments in pig meat and broiler meat production, as shown in Table 1.

The total slaughtering producer value for the period under review declined by 15.0 per cent to stand at Lm 2.3 million. Underpinning this result is an increase in the producer value of cattle slaughtered, offset by declines in other types of meat. It is worthwhile to note that subsidies received by the breeders are not included in the producer value.

When comparing the first nine months of 2006 to the same period last year, a drop of 11.2 per cent in the volume of livestock slaughtering was registered. The total slaughtering producer value for this period stood at Lm7.0 million, implying a drop of 9.6 per cent over the corresponding period last year ■

European statistics comparable to data in this News Release are available at:

[EUROSTAT Website/Homepage/Agriculture and Fisheries/Data](http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/homepage/Agriculture%20and%20Fisheries/Data)

>Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

>Agriculture

>Agricultural products

>Meat

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Table 1. Slaughterings of cattle, pigs and poultry at slaughterhouses in Malta

Description	3rd Quarter - 2003			3rd Quarter - 2004			3rd Quarter - 2005			3rd Quarter - 2006		
	Number of heads	Carcass weight Kg	Producer value Lm	Number of heads	Carcass weight Kg	Producer value Lm	Number of heads	Carcass weight Kg	Producer value Lm	Number of heads	Carcass weight Kg	Producer value Lm
Cattle	1,141	304,743	328,458	1,156	304,651	342,835	1,102	290,370	365,026	1,189	318,070	424,109
Pigs	28,124	2,222,696	1,493,652	24,997	1,956,910	1,315,044	27,910	2,255,935	1,515,988	24,380	1,893,464	1,272,408
Broilers	1,127,803	1,689,798	1,029,947	757,323	1,119,703	679,930	754,058	1,223,564	772,430	693,557	925,023	559,733
Total	-	4,217,237	2,852,057	-	3,381,264	2,337,808	-	3,769,869	2,653,444	-	3,136,557	2,256,250

....Table 1. Slaughterings of cattle, pigs and poultry at slaughterhouses in Malta

Description	Absolute Changes 2006 Q3/2005 Q3			Percentage Changes 2006 Q3/2005 Q3		
	Number of heads	Carcass weight Kg	Producer value Lm	Number of heads	Carcass weight Kg	Producer value Lm
Cattle	87	27,700	59,083	7.9	9.5	16.2
Pigs	-3,530	-362,471	-243,580	-12.6	-16.1	-16.1
Broilers	-60,501	-298,541	-212,697	-8.0	-24.4	-27.5
Total	-	-633,312	-397,194	-	-16.8	-15.0

Table 2. Slaughterings of cattle, pigs and poultry at slaughterhouses in Malta....

Description	January / September 2003			January / September 2004			January / September 2005			January / September 2006		
	Number of heads	Carcass weight Kg	Producer value Lm	Number of heads	Carcass weight Kg	Producer value Lm	Number of heads	Carcass weight Kg	Producer value Lm	Number of heads	Carcass weight Kg	Producer value Lm
Cattle	3,838	1,042,302	1,081,553	3,433	910,256	1,004,624	3,854	1,014,903	1,181,334	3,807	1,014,633	1,300,836
Pigs	90,863	7,362,503	4,947,602	77,750	6,231,103	4,187,301	77,863	6,452,497	4,336,078	74,660	5,918,121	3,976,977
Broilers	3,474,618	5,509,234	3,357,996	3,056,475	4,983,595	2,914,211	2,154,253	3,485,319	2,178,438	1,926,805	2,790,589	1,677,325
Total	-	13,914,039	9,387,151	-	12,124,954	8,106,136	-	10,952,719	7,695,850	-	9,723,343	6,955,138

....Table 2. Slaughterings of cattle, pigs and poultry at slaughterhouses in Malta

Description	Absolute Changes 2006 Q3/2005 Q3			Percentage Changes 2006 Q3/2005 Q3		
	Number of heads	Carcass weight Kg	Producer value Lm	Number of heads	Carcass weight Kg	Producer value Lm
Cattle	-47	-270	119,502	-1.2	0.0	10.1
Pigs	-3,203	-534,376	-359,101	-4.1	-8.3	-8.3
Broilers	-227,448	-694,730	-501,113	-10.6	-19.9	-23.0
Total	-	-1,229,376	-740,712	-	-11.2	-9.6

Methodological Notes

1. The compilation of animal slaughtering statistics is an important tool to monitor trends and developments within the animal husbandary sector of Maltese agriculture. Monthly data for cattle and pig slaughtering is provided to the NSO by the Veterinary Services of the Ministry of Agriculture. Broilers slaughterings are provided by the private slaughter houses directly to the NSO, on a monthly basis. Data is not concluded until all returns are collected from all active slaughterhouses. No sampling is used in the process.
2. Slaughter houses provide data on number of heads slaughtered, the total carcass weight of the animals slaughtered and the monthly average carcass price per kilogram.
3. The data for the production of meat in this release is being given in terms of carcass weight:

Pig Carcass Weight

Carcass weight is the weight of the slaughtered pig's cold body, either whole or divided in half along the mid-line, after being bled and eviscerated and after removal of tongue, bristles, hooves, genitalia, flare fat, kidneys and diaphragm.

Cattle Carcass Weight

Carcass weight is the weight of the slaughtered animal's cold body after being slaughtered, bled and eviscerated and after removal of the external genitalia, the limbs at the carpus and tarsus, the head, the tail, the kidneys and the kidney fats and the udder.

Broiler Carcass Weight

Carcass weight is the weight of the slaughtered broiler after being bled, plucked and eviscerated. It includes poultry offal, with the exception of *foie gras*.

4. The monthly average prices and carcass weight are used in the compilation of monthly output price and volume indices.
5. The data are compiled on a monthly basis but disseminated on a quarterly basis with reference to the three months that would have elapsed.
6. The producer value of meat production is the price obtained by the producer excluding any subsidies on the product.
7. The data in this release are final and are not, normally, subject to revision.
8. The data are published by the NSO and can be obtained directly from the NSO website <http://www.nso.gov.mt>