

News Release



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Agriculture

Meat production: Q2/2007

Meat production rose by 9.6 per cent during the second quarter of 2007.

During the second quarter of 2007, meat production in Malta amounted to 3,613 tonnes, an increase of 9.6 per cent over the comparative period in 2006. No slaughtering of animals were undertaken in Gozitan slaughter-houses. While a decline of 0.1 per cent in the production of pig meat was recorded, beef and broiler meat production rose by 3.4 per cent and 30.4 per cent respectively when compared to the second quarter in 2006.

While the number of slaughtered cattle and pigs declined by 0.9 per cent and 8.7 per cent respectively, the number of slaughtered broilers rose by 8.3 per cent in the second quarter this year.

The producer value of animals slaughtered at licensed slaughter-houses for the second quarter increased by 5.1 per cent to stand at Lm2.5 million. A decrease of 5.1 per cent was registered in the producer value of pig meat, which was offset by an increase in the producer value of beef and broiler meat by 4.5 per cent and 27.8 per cent respectively.

When comparing the first six months of 2007 to the same period last year, the volume of livestock slaughtering increased by 3.7 per cent. This was due to a 34.1 per cent rise in the production of broiler meat. When compared to the same period last year, no change in the total slaughtering producer value, which stood at Lm4.7 million, was recorded■

Theme:
Agriculture and Fisheries

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

[EUROSTAT Website/Homepage/Agriculture and Fisheries/Data](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/homepage/agriculture_and_fisheries/data)

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Table 1. Livestock slaughtered at slaughter-houses in Malta

Animal	April-June				January-June			
	Number of heads				Number of heads			
	2005	2006	2007	±% 07/06	2005	2006	2007	±% 07/06
Cattle	1,314	1,232	1,221	-0.9	2,752	2,618	2,532	-3.3
Pigs	25,022	24,492	22,370	-8.7	49,953	50,280	42,384	-15.7
Broilers	695,041	676,817	732,949	8.3	1,400,195	1,233,248	1,453,362	17.8
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 2. Carcass weight (kg) of livestock slaughtered in Malta

Animal	April-June				January-June			
	Carcass weight (kg)				Carcass weight (kg)			
	2005	2006	2007	±% 07/06	2005	2006	2007	±% 07/06
Cattle	345,573	330,680	341,913	3.4	724,533	696,563	696,558	0.0
Pigs	2,107,783	1,956,997	1,955,960	-0.1	4,196,562	4,024,657	3,629,736	-9.8
Broilers	1,168,546	1,009,140	1,315,423	30.4	2,261,756	1,865,567	2,501,565	34.1
Total	3,621,902	3,296,817	3,613,296	9.6	7,182,851	6,586,787	6,827,859	3.7

Table 3. Producer value (Lm) of livestock slaughtered in Malta

Animal	April-June				January-June			
	Producer value (Lm)				Producer value (Lm)			
	2005	2006	2007	±% 07/06	2005	2006	2007	±% 07/06
Cattle	402,281	423,509	442,547	4.5	816,309	876,727	893,285	1.9
Pigs	1,416,430	1,315,102	1,248,685	-5.1	2,820,090	2,704,570	2,373,462	-12.2
Broilers	721,450	601,928	769,163	27.8	1,406,007	1,117,593	1,431,494	28.1
Total	2,540,161	2,340,539	2,460,395	5.1	5,042,406	4,698,890	4,698,241	0.0

Table 4. Average carcass weight (kg) of livestock slaughtered in Malta

Animal	April-June				January-June			
	Average carcass weight (kg)/animal				Average carcass weight (kg)/animal			
	2005	2006	2007	±% 07/06	2005	2006	2007	±% 07/06
Cattle	263.0	268.4	280.0	4.3	263.3	266.1	275.1	3.4
Pigs	84.2	79.9	87.4	9.4	84.0	80.0	85.6	7.0
Broilers	1.7	1.5	1.8	20.4	1.6	1.5	1.7	13.8
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Methodological Notes

1. The compilation of animal slaughtering statistics is an important tool to monitor trends and in animal husbandary within the Maltese agricultural sector. Monthly data for cattle and pig slaughtering are provided to the NSO by the Veterinary Services of the Ministry of Rural Affairs and the Environment. Data on broilers slaughterings are provided directly by private slaughter-houses on a monthly basis. Data sets are not concluded until all returns are collected from all active slaughter-houses. No sampling is used in the process.
2. Slaughter houses provide data on the number of heads slaughtered, total carcass weight of slaughtered animals, and the monthly average carcass price per kilogram.
3.

The data for the production of meat in this News Release are being presented in terms of carcass weight.
4. Definitions:

Pig Carcass Weight

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 the removal of tongue, bristles, hooves, genitalia, flare flat, kidneys and diaphragm.

Cattle Carcass Weight

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

Broiler Carcass Weight

The weight of the slaughtered broiler after being bled, plucked and eviscerated. It includes poultry offal, with the exception of *foie gras*.
5. The monthly average prices and carcass weight are used in the compilation of monthly output price and volume indices.
6. The data are compiled on a monthly basis but disseminated on a quarterly basis with reference to the three months that would have elapsed.
7. The producer value of meat production is the price obtained by the producer excluding any subsidies on the product.
8. Total meat production does not include rabbits slaughtered as this is considered to be a backyard industry.
9. The data in this release are final and are not normally subject to revision.
10. The data are published by the NSO and can be obtained directly from the NSO website:
<http://www.nso.gov.mt>