

News Release



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Agriculture

Meat production: Q1/2008

The volume of meat production rose by 14.5 per cent, while its producer value increased by 8.9 per cent during the first quarter of 2008.

Meat production in the first quarter of 2008 amounted to 3,627 tonnes, an increase of 459 tonnes (+14.5 per cent) over the corresponding period in 2007.

The volume of beef production in the first quarter of 2008 decreased by 4.6 per cent as a result of a 5.6 per cent decline in the number of cattle slaughtered. On the other hand, the average carcass weight increased slightly, by 1.1 per cent, over the same period in 2007.

Pigmeat production rose by 17.3 per cent, mainly on account of an increase of 14.5 per cent in the number of pigs slaughtered. A slight increase in the average carcass weight of 2.4 per cent, from 83.6 kilograms in the first quarter of 2007 to 85.6 kilograms in the same period of 2008, was also registered.

Broiler-meat production increased by 16.3 per cent to 1,325 tonnes in the first quarter of 2008, on account of an increase in both the number of broilers slaughtered and a higher average carcass weight by 8.7 per cent and 7.0 per cent respectively.

The producer value of animals slaughtered at licensed slaughterhouses registered an increase of €0.47m (+8.9 per cent), to stand at €5.73m in the first quarter of 2008. The producer value of pigmeat and broiler meat increased by 11.4 per cent and 18.2 per cent respectively, as a result of an increase in the number of heads slaughtered. On the other hand, the producer value of beef declined by 11.3 per cent as a result of fewer heads slaughtered ■

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)

- >Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
 - >Agriculture
 - >Agricultural Products
 - >Animal Production
 - >Meat Production

For further assistance send a request from:

http://www.nso.gov.mt/adhoc/adhoc_contact_details.aspx

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Table 1. Livestock slaughtered at licensed slaughterhouses in Malta

Livestock	January-March				
	Number of heads				
	2006	2007	2008	± 08/07	±% 08/07
Cattle	1,386	1,311	1,238	-73	-5.6
Pigs	25,788	20,014	22,926	2,912	14.5
Broilers	556,431	721,113	783,867	62,754	8.7
Total					

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

Livestock	January-March				
	Carcass weight (kg)				
	2006	2007	2008	± 08/07	±% 08/07
Cattle	365,883	354,645	338,438	-16,207	-4.6
Pigs	2,067,660	1,673,776	1,962,873	289,097	17.3
Broilers	856,427	1,139,413	1,325,524	186,111	16.3
Total	3,289,970	3,167,834	3,626,835	459,001	14.5

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

Livestock	January-March				
	Producer value (€)				
	2006	2007	2008	± 08/07	±% 08/07
Cattle	1,055,712	1,049,937	931,068	-118,869	-11.3
Pigs	3,236,590	2,620,026	2,918,792	298,766	11.4
Broilers	1,201,176	1,589,620	1,878,545	288,925	18.2
Total	5,493,478	5,259,583	5,728,405	468,822	8.9

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

Livestock	January-March				
	Average carcass weight (kg)/animal				
	2006	2007	2008	± 08/07	±% 08/07
Cattle	264.0	270.5	273.4	2.9	1.1
Pigs	80.2	83.6	85.6	2.0	2.4
Broilers	1.54	1.58	1.69	0.1	7.0
Total					

Methodological Notes

1. The compilation of animal slaughtering statistics is an important tool to monitor trends in animal husbandry within the Maltese agricultural sector. Monthly data for cattle and pig slaughtering are provided to the NSO by the Veterinary Services of the Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs. Data on broiler slaughtering are provided directly by private licensed slaughterhouses on a monthly basis. Data sets are not concluded until all returns are collected from all active licensed slaughterhouses. No sampling is used in the process.
2. Slaughterhouses 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 fat, 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 genitalia, 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>