

News Release



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Agriculture

Meat production: Q3/2008

The total meat production and the producer value rose by 10.1 per cent and 11.7 per cent respectively during the third quarter of 2008.

Meat production increased by 334 tonnes (+10.1 per cent) during the quarter under review. This increase was the result of higher slaughterings of cattle (+7.7 per cent), pigs (+9.0 per cent) and broilers (+20.7 per cent). Furthermore, beef, pigmeat and broiler-meat production rose by 5.8, 5.6 and 22.1 per cent respectively.

The average carcass weight of cattle and pigs slaughtered decreased by 4.9 kilograms (-1.8 per cent) and 2.6 kilograms (-3.1 per cent) respectively. On the other hand the average carcass weight of broilers slaughtered edged up by 0.02 kilograms (+1.2 per cent).

During the period under review, the producer value of animals slaughtered at licensed slaughterhouses amounted to €6.1 million, up by €0.6 million (+11.7 per cent) from €5.5 million in the third quarter last year.

The producer value of slaughtered cattle decreased by 8.5 per cent on account of lower prices fetched on the market, from an average of €3.02 per kilogram in the third quarter of 2007 to €2.61 per kilogram in the quarter under review. The producer value of pigs rose on account of a 9.0 per cent increase in the number of pigs slaughtered, aided by an increase in the average price per kilogram by 2.5 per cent to €1.61 per kilogram. The producer value of broiler meat registered an increase of 36.3 per cent on account of an increase in the number of broilers slaughtered complimented by an increase in the average price per kilogram carcass, from €1.40 in the third quarter of 2007 to €1.56 in the quarter under review ■

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/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&plugin=1)

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

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Table 1. Livestock slaughtered at licensed slaughterhouses

Livestock	July-September				
	Number of heads				
	2006	2007	2008	± 08/07	±% 08/07
Cattle	1,189	1,184	1,275	91	7.7
Pigs	24,380	24,553	26,760	2,207	9.0
Broilers	689,624	643,692	776,768	133,076	20.7

Table 2. Carcass weight (kg) of livestock slaughtered

Livestock	July-September				
	Carcass weight (kg)				
	2006	2007	2008	± 08/07	±% 08/07
Cattle	318,070	331,669	350,903	19,234	5.8
Pigs	1,893,464	2,074,113	2,190,507	116,394	5.6
Broilers	920,249	897,748	1,095,992	198,244	22.1
Total	3,131,783	3,303,530	3,637,402	333,872	10.1

Table 3. Producer value (€) of livestock slaughtered

Livestock	July-September				
	Producer value (€)				
	2006	2007	2008	± 08/07	±% 08/07
Cattle	987,908	1,001,099	916,371	-84,728	-8.5
Pigs	2,963,913	3,246,690	3,519,831	273,141	8.4
Broilers	1,297,449	1,253,268	1,708,174	454,906	36.3
Total	5,249,270	5,501,057	6,144,376	643,319	11.7

Table 4. Average carcass weight (kg) of livestock

Livestock	July-September				
	Average carcass weight (kg)/animal				
	2006	2007	2008	± 08/07	±% 08/07
Cattle	267.5	280.1	275.2	-4.9	-1.8
Pigs	77.7	84.5	81.9	-2.6	-3.1
Broilers	1.33	1.39	1.41	0.0	1.2

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 slaughterings 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>