

## Agricultural production – Livestock

### **Abstract**

#### Livestock numbers:

The data on livestock numbers are intended to cover all domestic animals irrespective of their age and the place or purpose of their breeding. Estimates have been made for non-reporting countries as well as for countries reporting incomplete data. However, in certain countries, data for chickens, ducks and turkeys do not yet seem to represent the total number of these birds. Certain other countries give a single figure for all poultry; data for these countries are shown under “Chickens”.

#### Meat:

Data relate to animals slaughtered within national boundaries, irrespective of their origin.

All data shown relate to total meat production, that is, from both commercial and farm slaughter. Data are given in terms of dressed carcass weight, excluding offal and slaughter fats. Production of beef and buffalo meat includes veal; mutton and goat meat includes meat from lambs and kids; pig meat includes bacon and ham in fresh equivalent. Poultry meat includes meat from all domestic birds and refers, wherever possible, to ready-to-cook weight. Data on poultry-meat production reported by national statistical offices are expressed in terms of either live weight, eviscerated weight, ready-to-cook weight or dressed weight. Data for countries reporting in other than ready-to-cook weight have been converted into the ready-to-cook equivalent. Data for the United States — the largest poultry-meat producer — are given on a ready-to-cook basis and include giblets; however, most countries reporting in terms of ready-to-cook weight do not specify whether giblets are included or excluded.

Total meat production includes meat from animals slaughtered in countries, irrespective of their origin and comprises horse meat, poultry meat and meat from all other domestic or wild animals such as camels, rabbits, reindeer and game animals.

#### Cow milk:

Data on cow milk production relate to total production of whole fresh milk, excluding the milk sucked by young animals but including amounts fed to livestock. Official statistics on cow milk production are available for most important producing countries; where they have not been available, estimates based on food consumption surveys and other indicators have been used.

Buffalo, sheep and goat milk. The concept of production reported in this table is the same as for cow milk; however, the coverage is probably less adequate.

#### Eggs:

Some countries have no statistics on egg production, and estimates had to be derived from such related data as chicken or total poultry numbers and reported or assumed rates of egg laying.

Most of the countries that have statistics on egg production report either the total weight of eggs or the numbers of eggs produced; data on numbers have been converted into weight, using

official conversion factors wherever possible. Data generally refer to total production, including eggs for hatching, in both agricultural and nonagricultural sectors.

Wool:

Wool production statistics are generally given for greasy wool, which contains from 30 to 65 percent impurities. In order to make figures comparable, data are also given on a degreased (scoured) basis.

Honey:

The data presented in the table are incomplete, particularly with regard to African and Asian countries.

## **Metadata**

Introduction:

This data domain contains production data for primary livestock products, as well as live animals. The compilation of the data domain has been made possible by the cooperation of governments, which have supplied most of the information in the form of replies to annual FAO questionnaires. FAO has continued to collaborate with various agencies in order to achieve conformity in the presentation of international figures. The assistance of governments and agencies is gratefully acknowledged.

Reference period - Livestock numbers:

Livestock numbers have been grouped in 12-month periods ending 30 September of the years stated in the data series. For example, animals enumerated in a given country any time between 1 October and 30 September of the following year are shown under the latter year.

Reference period - Livestock products:

Data on meat, milk and eggs relate to calendar years, with a few exceptions. Israel and New Zealand, for example, give data for meat production for years ending 30 September, and Australia for years ending 30 June. Milk production data shown for Australia refer to years ending 30 June and for New Zealand, to years ending 31 May.

Data for other animal products that are produced only in certain periods of the year, e.g. honey and wool, are allocated to the calendar year. These products are reported by the various countries in different ways: by calendar year, agricultural year, marketing year etc. Whatever the statistical period used by the countries for presentation of production data, these data are allocated commodity by commodity to the calendar year in which the entire production or the bulk of it took place. Obviously, production that took place at the end of the calendar year will be utilized mostly during the year following the calendar year under which the production figures are reported. It should be noted that the adoption of a calendar-year time reference period inevitably means that, in a number of cases, products assigned by countries to a particular split year may appear under two different calendar years.

Totals:

Continental and world totals are given for all commodities. The totals include only data for the countries included in the data series in question. Figures may not always add up to the totals because of independent rounding of country figures and of the totals themselves. In general, these totals adequately reflect the situation in the geographical areas they represent, except for certain livestock products.

**Data sources and collection**

In general, figures have been supplied by governments through national publications and FAO questionnaires (both paper or electronic). To make the coverage of this data collection as complete as possible, official data have sometimes been supplemented with data from unofficial sources. Use has also been made of information supplied by other national or international agencies or organizations.