



Statistics: *Broiler Chickens*

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Production

World

- **Over 66 billion chickens are slaughtered for meat in the world each year.**
(Source: [FAOstat](#) – see Table 1)
- **Total global chicken meat production is nearly 110 million tonnes per annum.**
(Source: [FAOstat](#) – see Table 1)
- **The largest producer of chicken by weight is the USA, accounting for nearly 18% of world chicken meat production. The highest producer of chicken by numbers, however, is China, accounting for over 14% of world production of broiler chickens.**
(Source: [FAOstat](#) – see Table 1)

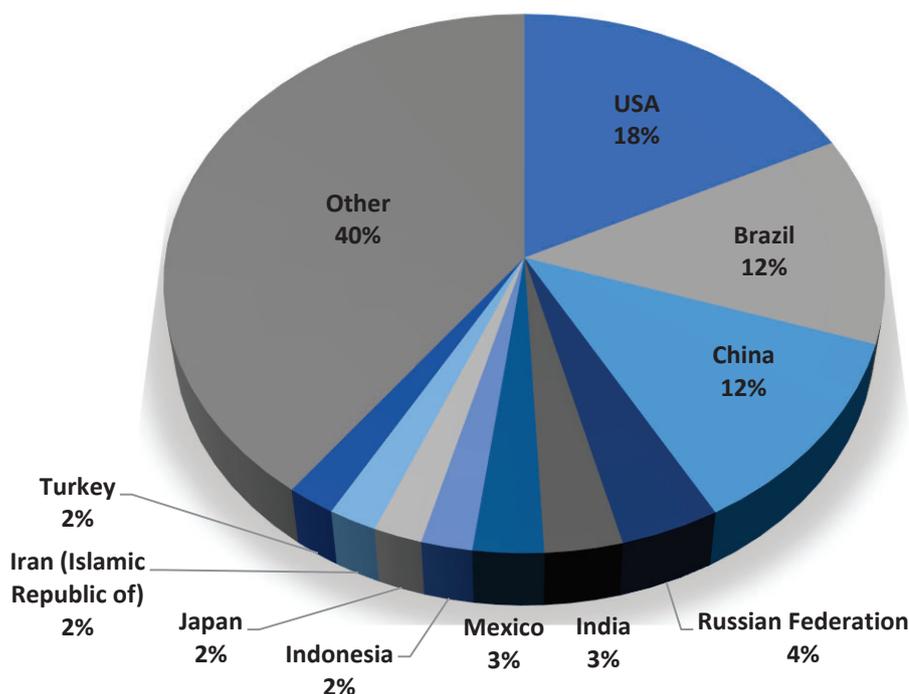
Table 1: Chicken production 2017 –Top 10 global production countries.

(Source: [FAOstat](#))

Country	Chicken meat production 2017 (tonnes)	Share of global chicken meat production 2017 by tonnage (%)	Chickens meat production by numbers 2017 (1000 head)
World	109,056,179	100	66,566,725
United States of America	19,140,744	17.6	9,050,716
Brazil	13,607,352	12.5	5,842,721
China	12,855,950	11.8	9,400,621
Russian Federation	4,444,334	4.1	2,542,310
India	3,519,959	3.2	2,536,004
Mexico	3,211,687	2.9	1,734,126
Indonesia	2,258,239	2.1	2,847,978
Japan	2,214,899	2.0	818,612
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2,161,678	2.0	1,849,892
Turkey	2,136,734	2.0	1,228,444



Share of global chicken meat production 2017 in tonnes (%)



EU

- **Over 7.4 billion chickens were slaughtered for meat in the EU28 in 2017, producing over 12 million tonnes of chicken meat.**

(Source: [FAOstat](#) – 7.4 billion chickens slaughtered in 2017, producing 12.1 million tonnes; [AVEC Annual Report 2018](#) – 12.8 million tonnes chicken meat in 2017)

UK

- **In 2017, roughly 1.1 billion chickens were slaughtered for meat in the UK, producing approximately 1.6 million tonnes of chicken meat.**

(Source: [FAOstat](#) – 1.08 billion chickens slaughtered in 2017, producing 1.63 million tonnes chicken meat; [Agriculture in the United Kingdom 2018](#) – 1.09 billion chickens slaughtered in 2017, producing 1.58 million tonnes chicken meat; [AVEC Annual Report 2018](#) – 1.59 million tonnes chicken meat in 2017)

- **More recent provisional statistics suggest these numbers to be even higher now, with nearly 1.14 billion chickens slaughtered in 2018, producing almost 1.7 million tonnes of chicken meat.**

(Source: [Agriculture in the United Kingdom 2018](#) – 1.137 billion chickens slaughtered in 2018, producing 1.67 million tonnes of chicken meat in 2018)



World

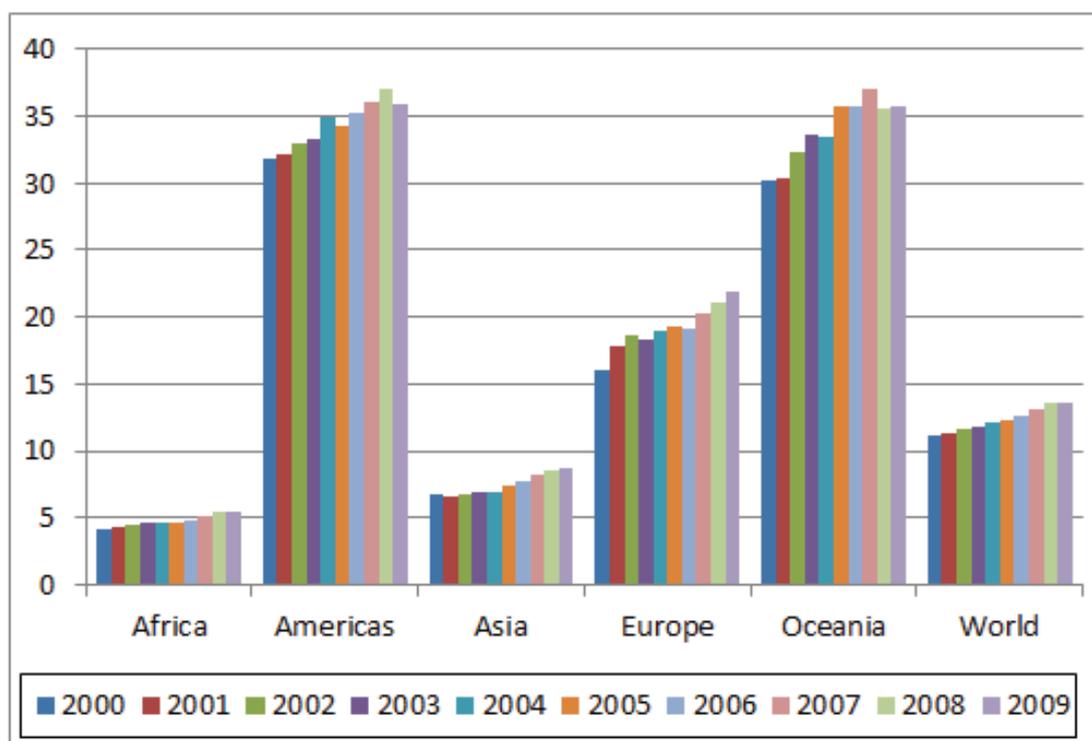
- **Average global poultry meat consumption per capita in 2017 was 14.0 kg/head/year.** NB. Poultry meat here includes all other forms of poultry; however, broiler chicken meat will form the large majority.
(Source: [OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook, 2018](#))

Per capita meat consumption will increase by 3.2 kg per annum, with poultry accounting for 70% of this increase. Consumption of meat by 2021 is expected to increase mainly in the developing countries with an extra 3.6 kg of meat per capita compared to the base period. The preferred meat for this increase shall be mostly poultry. N.B. The following figures are slightly dated but more recent ones do not appear to be available from AVEC.
(Source: [AVEC Annual Report 2012](#))

Table 2: Poultry meat consumption (kg/person/year) Source: [The Poultry Site: Global Poultry Trends - 2012](#)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Africa	4.2	4.3	4.5	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.8	5.2	5.4	5.5
Americas	31.8	32.1	33.0	33.3	34.9	34.3	35.3	36.1	37.00	35.9
Asia	6.7	6.6	6.8	7.0	7.0	7.5	7.7	8.2	8.6	8.8
Europe	16.0	17.9	18.6	18.3	19	19.3	19.2	20.3	21.1	21.9
Oceania	30.2	30.4	32.4	33.6	33.5	35.7	35.8	37.0	35.5	35.7
WORLD	11.1	11.3	11.6	11.8	12.1	12.3	12.6	13.1	13.6	13.6

Figure 2: Global per capita poultry meat consumption trends by region (kg/person/year).
(Source: [The Poultry Site: Global Poultry Trends - 2012](#))



Total world poultry meat consumption in 2012 was over 102.2 million tonnes.
(Source: [OECD-FAO](#))



EU

- **Average broiler chicken meat consumption per capita in 2017 in the EU28 was 19.4 kg/head/yr.**
(Source: [AVEC annual report 2018](#))
- **Total poultry meat consumption in the EU-27 was over 11.7 million tonnes in 2011.**
(Source: [AVEC Annual Report 2012](#))

UK

- **Average broiler chicken meat consumption per capita in the UK was 23.2 kg/head/yr in 2016, increasing from 22.9 kg/head/yr in 2015.**
(Source: [AVEC annual report 2018](#))

Brazil, China & USA

- **In 2017, the average person from the USA consumed 48.0 kg/head/yr.**
(Source: [AVEC annual report 2018](#))
- **In Brazil, the average broiler chicken meat consumption per capita in 2017 was 44.2 kg/head/yr.**
(Source: [AVEC annual report 2018](#))
- **Meanwhile in China, the average meat consumption per capita in 2017 was 8.3 kg/head/yr.** However, the size of the Chinese population must be accounted for here (as it is over 4 times larger than the USA's and almost 7 times larger than Brazil's).
(Source: [AVEC annual report 2018](#)).



World

- The largest exporter of chicken meat globally is Brazil, followed by the USA and the Netherlands.
(Source: [FAOstat](#) – see Table 3 and Figure 3)
- The largest importer of chicken meat is Saudi Arabia, followed by Mexico and Hong Kong SAR.

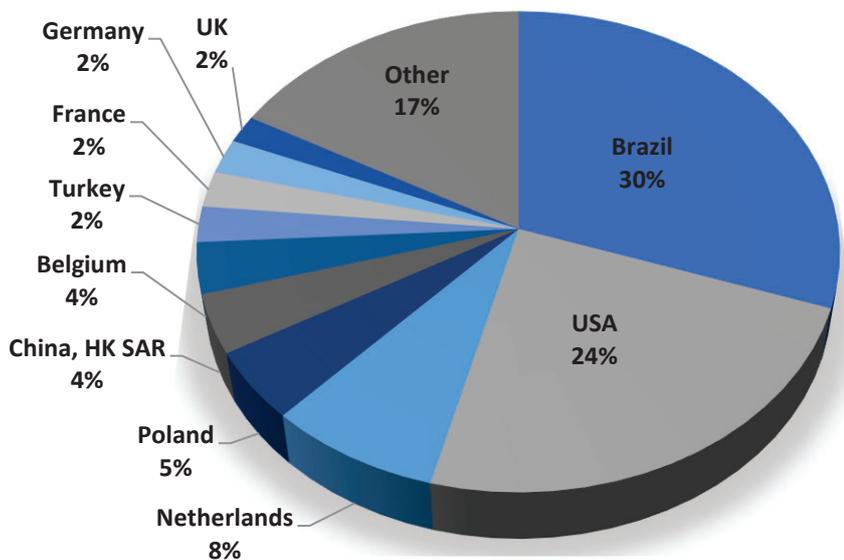
Table 3: Chicken meat gross exports 2016 - top 10 global exporting countries.

(Source: [FAOstat](#))

Country	Chicken meat export 2016 (tonnes)	Share of global chicken meat exports 2016 (%)
World	13,019,802	100.0
Brazil	3,959,394	30.4
USA	3,112,266	23.9
Netherlands	1,044,822	8.0
Poland	618,388	4.7
China, Hong Kong SAR	518,490	4.0
Belgium	450,240	3.5
Turkey	314,695	2.4
France	312,827	2.4
Germany	305,527	2.3
UK	242,611	1.9

Figure 3: (Source: [FAOstat](#))

Share of global chicken meat exports 2016 (%)



EU

- In 2016, the EU exported 3,789,753 tonnes of chicken meat.
(Source: [FAOstat](#))

Table 4: Chicken meat exports from the EU28 countries in 2016.

(Source: [FAOstat](#))

Country	Chicken meat exports 2016 (tonnes)	Share of European chicken meat exports 2016 (%)
Total	3, 789, 755	100.0
Netherlands	1,044,822	27.6
Poland	618,388	16.3
Belgium	450,240	11.9
France	312,827	8.3
Germany	305,527	8.1
United Kingdom	242,611	6.4
Spain	168,507	4.4
Italy	101,254	2.7
Hungary	100,180	2.6
Romania	63,229	1.7
Denmark	62,591	1.7
Ireland	46,014	1.2
Lithuania	44,915	1.2
Austria	34,702	0.9
Czechia	32,552	0.9
Slovakia	28,428	0.8
Bulgaria	24,853	0.7
Portugal	20,487	0.5
Greece	19,019	0.5
Slovenia	15,947	0.4
Sweden	15,925	0.4
Finland	12,873	0.3
Latvia	11,628	0.3
Estonia	5,706	0.2
Croatia	5,578	0.1
Cyprus	606	0.0
Luxembourg	346	0.0
Malta	-	-



- In 2016, the EU imported 2,549,190 tonnes of chicken meat.
(Source: [FAOstat](#))

Table 5: Chicken meat imports to EU28 countries in 2016.

(Source: [FAOstat](#))

Country	Chicken meat imports 2016 (tonnes)	Share of European chicken meat imports 2016 (%)
Total	2,549,189	100.0
Germany	447,257	17.5
United Kingdom	378,285	14.8
France	355,597	13.9
Netherlands	274,370	10.8
Belgium	150,633	5.9
Spain	111,183	4.4
Romania	107,825	4.2
Czechia	88,979	3.5
Bulgaria	84,947	3.3
Ireland	77,388	3.0
Greece	51,876	2.0
Sweden	50,222	2.0
Austria	47,702	1.9
Slovakia	43,148	1.7
Italy	42,336	1.7
Denmark	33,824	1.3
Portugal	33,544	1.3
Lithuania	29,533	1.2
Latvia	29,103	1.1
Hungary	22,786	0.9
Poland	19,226	0.8
Estonia	16,904	0.7
Croatia	13,382	0.5
Slovenia	11,637	0.5
Cyprus	10,021	0.4
Luxembourg	7,294	0.3
Malta	5,202	0.2
Finland	4,985	0.2



- **In 2017, the UK exported 393,185 tonnes of fresh, frozen and processed poultry meat (including offals).**

(Source: [Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board 2018](#): IHS Maritime and Trade – Global Trade Atlas ®/HMRC 2018)

Table 6: UK fresh and frozen poultry meat exports 2017 by destination (including offals).

(Source: [Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board 2018](#): IHS Maritime and Trade – Global Trade Atlas ®/HMRC 2018)

	UK poultry meat exports 2017 (tonnes)
Total exports	344,850
EU28	268,523
Netherlands	101,126
Ireland	32,781
France	28,195
Germany	26,526
Belgium	21,840
Spain	19,729
Poland	8,087
Hong Kong	24,372
South Africa	1,699

- **In 2017, the UK imported 822,584 tonnes of fresh, frozen and processed poultry meat (including offals).**

(Source: (Source: [Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board 2018](#): IHS Maritime and Trade – Global Trade Atlas ®/HMRC 2018)

Table 7: UK fresh and frozen poultry meat imports 2017 by source.

(Source: [Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board 2018](#): IHS Maritime and Trade – Global Trade Atlas ®/HMRC 2018)

	UK poultry meat imports 2017
Total imports	366,462
EU 28	180,975
Netherlands	42,387
Ireland	31,522
Poland	31,371
Germany	26,213
France	23,949
Belgium	8,095
Thailand	138,182
Brazil	40,684
China	6,002



World

- **It seems clear that most chicken meat producers follow intensive industrial practices, but we do not have current figures for industrial production at present.**
- Intensive broiler housing systems are generally characterized by crowded conditions, fast growing chickens slaughtered at an early age and vast indoor establishments where chickens have no access to enrichments or to the outdoors. As a result, factory farmed broiler chicken welfare is typically very low. (Source: [Agribusiness Consulting](#), n.d.)

EU

- **The top 5 leading broiler meat producing countries in the EU are Poland, France, the UK, Germany and Spain.** (Source: [European Commission, 2016](#))
- **EU broiler chickens are slaughtered when they reach an average age of 42 days, weighing around 2.5kg.** One-day old chicks are typically placed within a shed on a floor with a litter covering (including bedding materials such as paper, peat, straw or wood chips). The chickens remain on the same litter throughout their 42-day life. The litter is then changed after the slaughter of the older chickens and before the arrival of the next flock of one-day old chicks. (Source: [European Commission, 2016](#))

UK

- **According to Poultry World, just 11% of UK chicken production is slower growing, meaning that 89% of UK chickens are produced in fast growing factory farming systems.** This is compared to Dutch and French production, whereby 40% and 24% of production is slower growing respectively. (Source: [Poultry World, 2019](#))
- **Waitrose have recently made a commitment which will benefit over 43 million chickens every year however, which is almost 4% of UK total production.** Although these chickens are fast growing, they are provided with all the other factors that we consider as higher welfare for chickens. These chickens can therefore be considered as non-factory farmed. (Source: [Waitrose, 2019](#))
- **As a result, we can now comfortably say that the UK produces over 1 billion chickens each year and over 90% of these are factory farmed.**

Brazil

- **Chicken production in Brazil typically follows intensive practices, with approximately 98% of chickens produced in factory farm systems.** (Source: [Agência Embrapa de Informação Tecnológica, n.d.](#))



Lameness, Hock Burns & Footpad Dermatitis

EU

- **Almost 90 broiler flocks were examined in a cross-sectional study across the UK, France, Italy and the Netherlands, where 15.6% of chickens were considered lame.**
(Source: [Bassler et al. 2013](#))
- **Another large study based on Dutch, British, Italian and Belgian flocks found that on average, 57% of the fast-growing chickens had severe walking problems.** This was compared to flocks with alternative, slower-growing chickens wherein only about 17% had severe walking problems.
(Source: [de Jong et al. 2011](#))
- **A study in EU slaughter houses found that:**
 - Prevalence of **foot pad dermatitis** in these flocks was about **22% in standard fast-growing** broilers and around 7% in slower growing broilers. Footpad dermatitis is a condition whereby painful lesions develop on the underside of chickens' feet as a result of standing on wet litter.
 - Prevalence of **hock burns** was about **20% in standard, fast growing** broilers and less than 1% in slower growing broilers from alternative housing systems. Hock burns form when the ammonia within chicken waste burns through the skin of the chicken's hock (made much more prevalent when in crowded conditions).
(Source: [Welfare Quality® 2009](#))
- **A study of Netherlands-based broiler production found that only around 35% of chickens within their research had no footpad dermatitis lesions, compared to over 21% that had mild lesions and over 38% that had severe lesions on their feet.**
(Source: [de Jong et al. 2012](#))

UK

- **A comprehensive UK-based study using over 50,000 broiler chickens showed that at an average age of 40 days old, almost 30% of the birds had poor locomotion ability and over 3% were almost incapable of walking.**
(Source: [Knowles et al. 2008](#))
- **A large research project using 2248 broiler chickens housed in UK intensive systems found that 14.8% of chickens had footpad dermatitis.**
(Source: [Pagazaurtundua & Warriss, 2006](#))

It is important to note that these figures may be subject to change depending on the outcome of Brexit.
Images courtesy of istockphoto and Compassion in World Farming.

