



Statistics: *Broiler Chickens*

Contents

- [Production: World, EU, UK](#)
- [Consumption: World, EU, UK](#)
- [Trade: World, EU, UK](#)
- [Housing Systems: World, EU, UK](#)
- [Key Health and Welfare Problems](#)

Production

World

- **Around 58 billion chickens are slaughtered for meat in the world each year.**
(Source: FAOstat – see Table 1)
- **Total global chicken meat production is around 90 million tonnes per annum.**
(Source: FAOstat – see table 1)
- **The largest producer is the USA, accounting for nearly a fifth of world chicken meat production, followed by China and Brazil.**
(Source: FAOstat – see Table 1 and Figure 1)

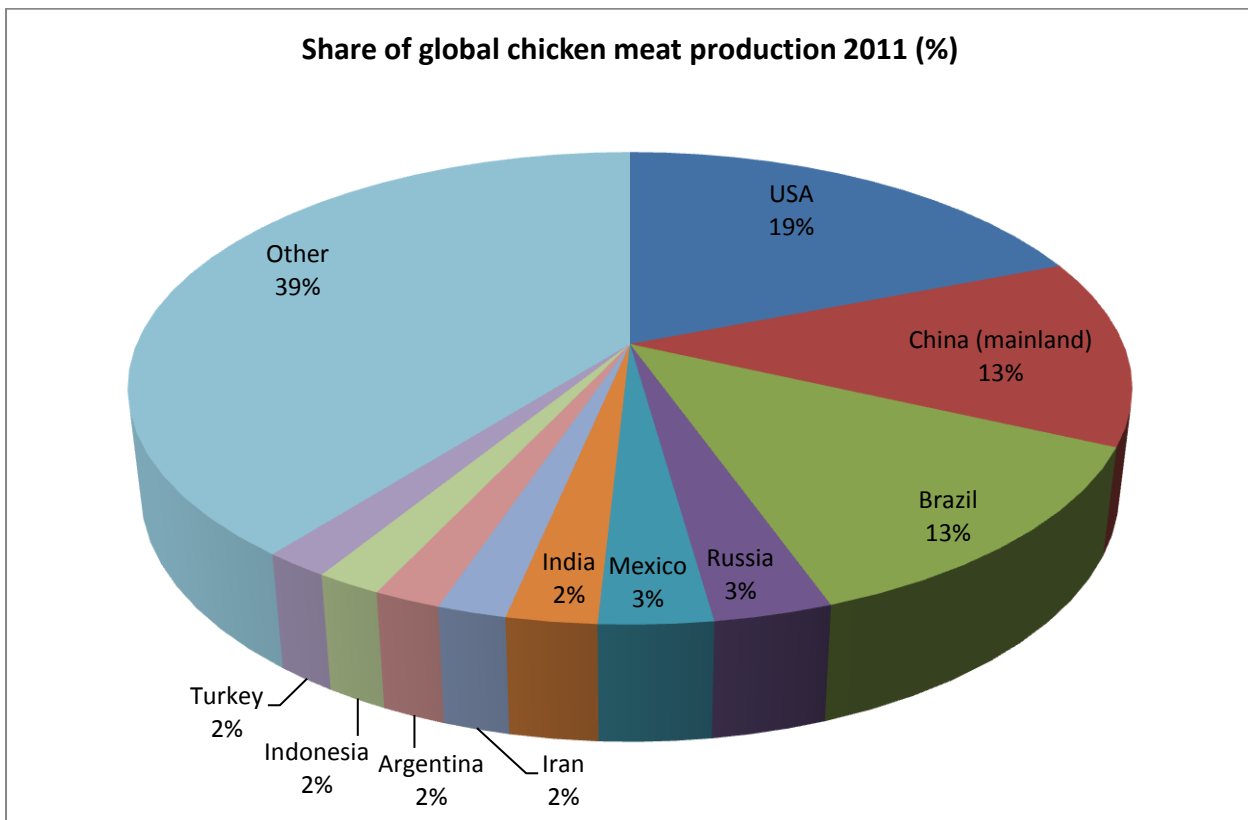
Table 1: Chicken meat production 2011 – Global and top 10 production countries.

Source: FAOstat. NB. Includes both commercial and backyard production.

Country	Chicken meat production 2011 (tonnes)	Share of global chicken meat production 2011 (%)	Chicken meat production 2011 ('000 head)
WORLD	89,956,715	100.0	58,109,569
USA	17,111,240	19.0	8,683,643
China	11,550,000	12.8	8,400,000
Brazil	11,421,730	12.7	5,287,702
Russia	2,895,489	3.2	1,833,018
Mexico	2,765,020	3.1	1,593,527
India	2,206,000	2.5	1,920,000
Iran	1,686,000	1.9	1,405,000
Argentina	1,649,000	1.8	679,078
Indonesia	1,613,600	1.8	2,017,000
Turkey	1,613,309	1.8	963,245
Other	35,445,327	39.4	25,327,356



Figure 1. Source: FAOstat.



EU

- **Over 6 billion chickens were slaughtered for meat in the EU27 in 2011, producing around 10 million tonnes of chicken meat.**
(Source: FAOstat – see Table 2).



Table 2: Chicken meat production and slaughterings in the EU27. Source: FAOstat.

Country	Chicken meat production 2011 (tonnes)	Share of EU27 chicken meat production 2011 (%)	Chickens slaughtered 2011 ('000 head)
EU27	9,908,580	100.0	6,337,095
UK	1,353,000	13.7	899,000
Spain	1,205,749	12.2	637,134
Poland	1,150,000	11.6	700,993
France	1,046,386	10.6	804,264
Germany	895,880	9.0	641,829
Italy	889,338	9.0	506,506
Netherlands	840,922	8.5	505,632
Belgium	501,659	5.1	304,487
Romania	327,025	3.3	221,007
Portugal	245,680	2.5	180,895
Hungary	235,660	2.4	130,511
Denmark	186,900	1.9	106,974
Czech Republic	168,714	1.7	122,465
Greece	115,500	1.2	77,000
Sweden	111,530	1.1	78,182
Austria	111,300	1.1	79,600
Finland	93,580	0.9	56,573
Ireland	87,000	0.9	80,000
Bulgaria	80,985	0.8	48,584
Lithuania	74,669	0.8	43,146
Slovakia	62,980	0.6	39,751
Slovenia	52,375	0.5	31,351
Cyprus	26,950	0.3	13,475
Latvia	22,950	0.2	14,706
Estonia	17,532	0.2	10,492
Malta	4,155	0.0	2,437
Luxembourg	162	0.0	101

UK

- In 2012, 873.8 million broiler chickens were slaughtered for meat in the UK, producing 1.32 million tonnes of chicken meat.

Sources: [Defra poultry slaughterings](#); [Defra poultry meat production](#))

- In addition, 45.5 million other domestic fowl (end-of-lay layers, broiler breeders and layer breeders) were slaughtered in the UK in 2012, producing 59,300 tonnes of hen meat, giving a total of 919.3 million chickens and hens slaughtered in the UK in 2012, producing a total of 1.38 million tonnes of chicken and hen meat.

Sources: [Defra poultry slaughterings](#); [Defra poultry meat production](#))

Consumption (NB. data are for all poultry meat not just chicken meat)

World

- Average global poultry meat consumption per capita in 2013 (provisional) is 13.3kg/capita/year (NB. This is retail weight not carcase weight)

(Source: [OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook](#))



- **Total world poultry meat consumption in 2013 (provisional) is 108 million tonnes (NB. This is retail weight not carcase weight)**
(Source: [OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook](#))

EU

- **Average poultry meat consumption per capita in the EU27 in 2011 was 23.4 kg/cap/yr.**
(Source: [European Commission](#))
- **Total poultry meat consumption in the EU27 in 2011 was 11.7 million tonnes.**
(Source: [European Commission](#))

UK

- **Average poultry meat consumption per capita in the UK in 2012 was 31.5 kg/cap/yr.**
(Source: [AHDB Poultry Pocketbook 2013](#))
- **Total poultry meat consumption in the UK in 2012 was just under 2 million tonnes (1,986,000 tonnes).**
(Source: [AHDB Poultry Pocketbook 2013](#))

Trade

World

- **The largest exporters of chicken meat globally are Brazil and the USA.**
(Source: FAOstat – see Table 3 and Figure 2)
- **The largest importers of chicken meat globally are Hong Kong and China.**
(Source: FAOstat – see Table 4 and Figure 3)

Table 3: Chicken meat gross exports 2010 – Global and top 10 exporting countries. Source: FAOstat.

Country	Chicken meat gross exports 2010 (tonnes)	Share of chicken meat gross exports 2010 (%)
WORLD	11,632,123	100.0
Brazil	3,460,760	29.8
USA	3,297,309	28.3
Netherlands	878,132	7.5
Hong Kong	695,393	6.0
Belgium	385,188	3.3
France	381,245	3.3
Poland	285,852	2.5
Germany	269,292	2.3
Argentina	251,019	2.2
UK	215,292	1.9
Other	1,512,641	13.0



Figure 2. Source: FAOstat.

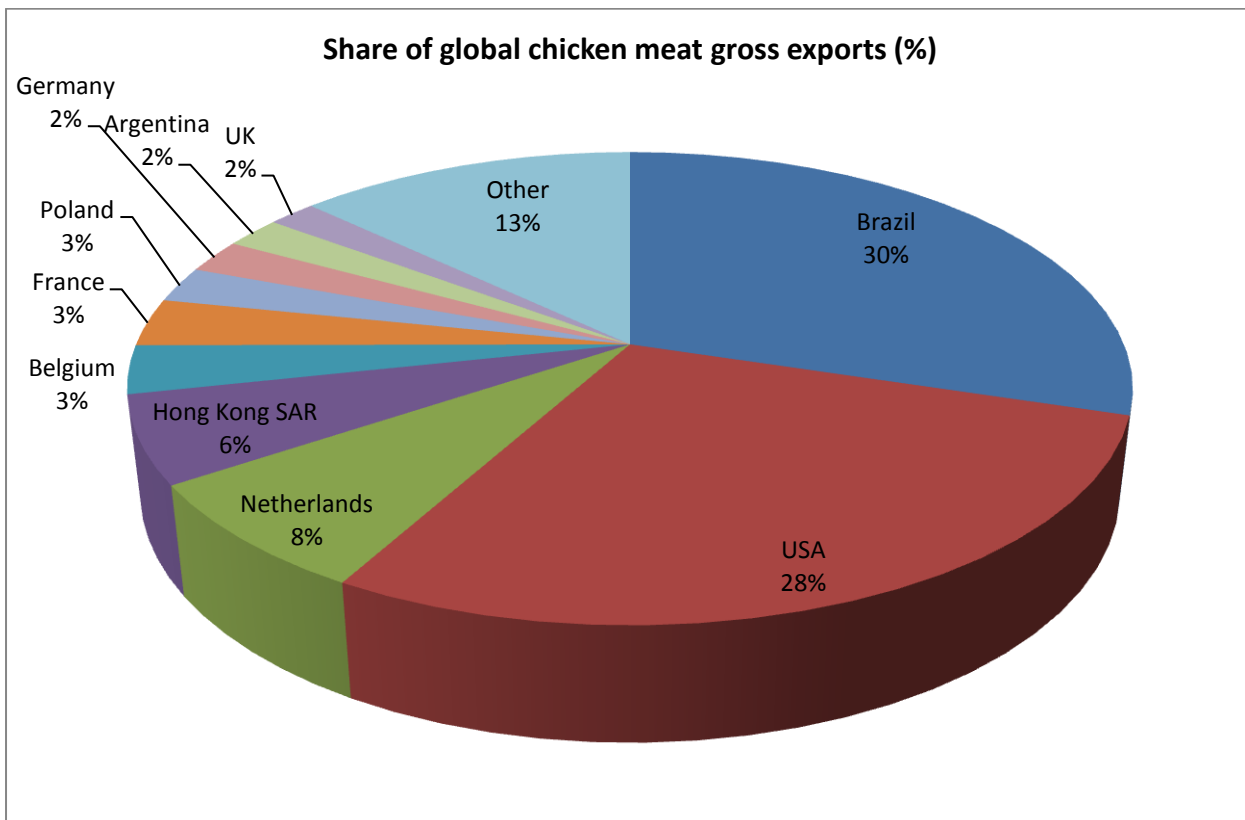
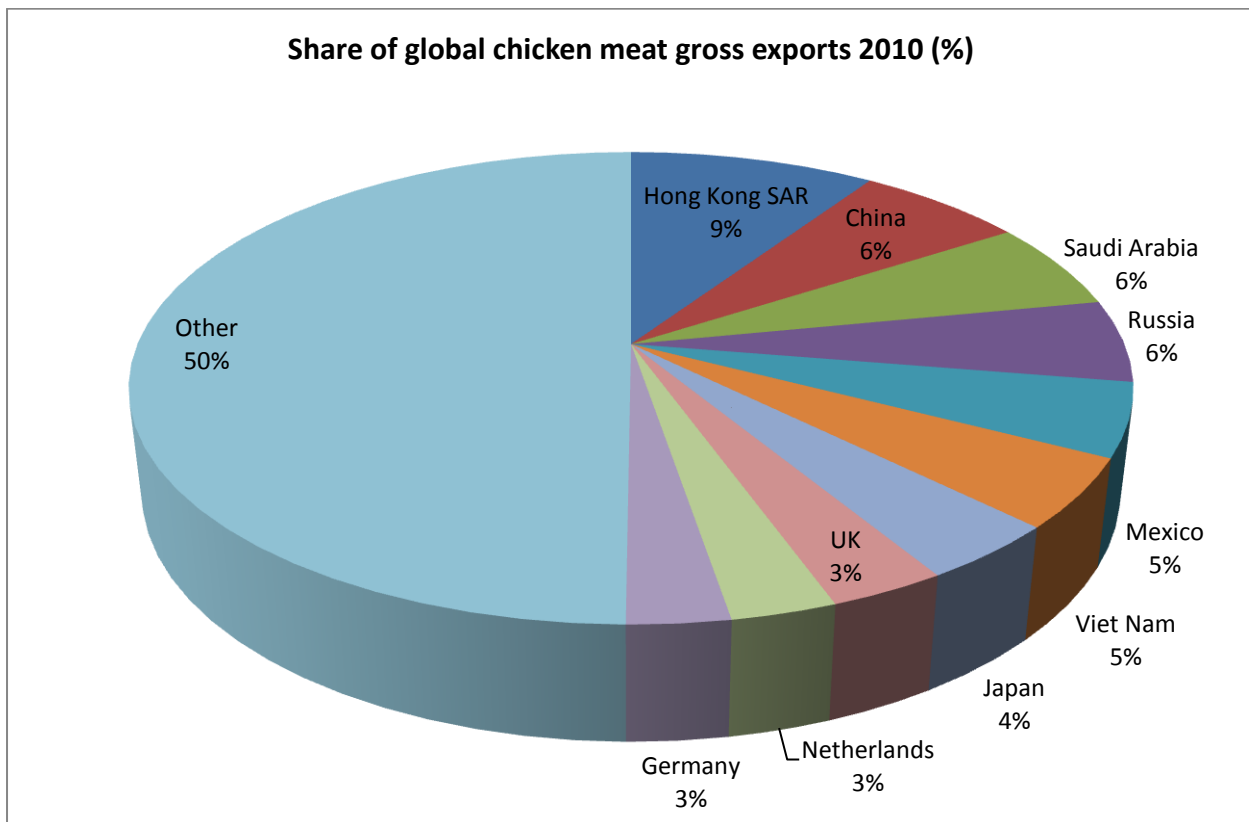


Table 4: Chicken meat gross imports 2010 – Global and top 10 importing countries. Source: FAOstat.

Country	Chicken meat gross imports 2010 (tonnes)	Share of global chicken meat gross exports 2010 (%)
WORLD	10,695,137.00	100.0
Hong Kong	1,011,178.00	9.5
China	690,515.00	6.5
Saudi Arabia	645,012.00	6.0
Russia	602,850.00	5.6
Mexico	535,732.00	5.0
Viet Nam	506,971.00	4.7
Japan	420,253.00	3.9
UK	342,373.00	3.2
Netherlands	308,155.00	2.9
Germany	299,075.00	2.8
Other	5,333,023.00	49.9



Figure 3. Source: FAOstat.



EU (NB. Data are for all poultry meat not just chicken meat)

- **In 2011 the EU27 exported 1.4 million tonnes of poultry meat.**
(Source: European Commission – see Table 5)



Table 5: EU27 poultry meat exports 2011. Source: [European Commission](#)

Country	Poultry meat gross exports to non-EU countries 2011 (tonnes)	Share of EU27 gross poultry meat exports to non-EU countries 2011 (%)
EU27	1,410,658	100.0
France	377,454	26.8
Netherlands	299,340	21.2
Germany	135,430	9.6
UK	107,230	7.6
Poland	96,031	6.8
Belgium	89,011	6.3
Spain	65,213	4.6
Italy	64,802	4.6
Denmark	39,852	2.8
Hungary	39,740	2.8
Ireland	28,106	2.0
Greece	11,991	0.9
Slovenia	10,247	0.7
Portugal	7,572	0.5
Romania	7,354	0.5
Bulgaria	5,568	0.4
Finland	5,378	0.4
Lithuania	5,071	0.4
Sweden	5,022	0.4
Slovakia	2,816	0.2
Austria	2,360	0.2
Latvia	1,732	0.1
Czech Republic	1,604	0.1
Estonia	1,014	0.1
Cyprus	656	0.0
Malta	46	0.0
Luxembourg	17	0.0

- **In 2011 the EU27 imported 827,420 tonnes of poultry meat.**
(Source: European Commission – see Table 6)



Table 6: EU27 poultry meat imports 2011. Source: [European Commission](#)

Country	Chicken meat imports 2011 (tonnes)	Share of European chicken meat imports 2011 (%)
Total	827,420	100.0
Netherlands	373,236	45.1
United Kingdom	215,705	26.1
Germany	111,319	13.5
Spain	45,538	5.5
Belgium	12,481	1.5
France	12,323	1.5
Romania	11,713	1.4
Italy	10,828	1.3
Ireland	9,902	1.2
Sweden	4,557	0.6
Bulgaria	3,995	0.5
Denmark	3,664	0.4
Czech Republic	3,040	0.4
Cyprus	2,847	0.3
Austria	1,945	0.2
Finland	1,149	0.1
Hungary	964	0.1
Slovakia	753	0.1
Portugal	553	0.1
Malta	352	0.0
Slovenia	326	0.0
Greece	130	0.0
Latvia	46	0.0
Estonia	35	0.0
Poland	18	0.0
Lithuania	0	0.0
Luxembourg	0	0.0



UK (NB. Data are for all poultry meat not just chicken meat)

- In 2012, the UK exported around 288,934 tonnes of fresh and frozen poultry meat and 45,791 tonnes of processed poultry meat. Netherlands was the top destination for fresh/frozen poultry meat and Ireland was the top destination for processed poultry meat.

(Source: AHDB – see Table 7)

Table 7: UK poultry meat exports 2012. Source: [AHDB Poultry Pocketbook](#)

	UK poultry meat exports 2012 (tonnes)
Fresh/frozen poultry meat	288,934
Of which to: Netherlands	65,938
Ireland	48,730
South Africa	26,602
Hong Kong	25,449
France	18,458
Spain	17,020
Germany	15,873
Hungary	9,972
Ukraine	9,637
Processed poultry meat	45,791
Of which to: Ireland	25,585
Netherlands	6,543
Germany	5,959

- In 2012, the UK imported 380,256 tonnes of fresh and frozen poultry meat and 292,525 tonnes of processed poultry meat. Netherlands was the main source for fresh/frozen poultry meat and Thailand was the main source for processed poultry meat.

(Source: AHDB – see Table 8)

Table 8: UK poultry meat imports 2012. Source: [AHDB Poultry Pocketbook](#)

	UK poultry meat imports 2012 (tonnes)
Fresh/frozen poultry meat	380,256
Of which from: Netherlands	180,145
Poland	46,439
Ireland	28,619
Belgium	28,005
Germany	25,969
France	14,740
Italy	14,604
Chile	8,792
Brazil	6,584
Processed poultry meat	292,525
Of which from: Thailand	134,479
Netherlands	33,461
Ireland	28,450
Brazil	21,456
Germany	15,607
Poland	11,952
France	9,005
Denmark	8,359



World

- **Globally, over 70% of chicken meat is produced in industrial systems.**
(Sources: [FAO \(2006\) Livestock's Long Shadow](#) – 71.4% landless/industrial; [Worldwatch](#) – 74% industrial; NB: Industrial systems include all landless systems)

EU

- **Rough estimate: Around 90% of broiler chickens are reared intensively indoors in the EU (over 5 billion broiler chickens per year). Up to 5% are reared free-range and the rest (probably slightly over 5%) either in alternative indoor systems or in systems which through national legislation or retailer requirements are slightly less intensive than standard.**

(Basis: We have data for the two largest broiler chicken producing countries in the EU – the UK and France. Around 10% of broilers in the UK are reared outdoors and a further 18% in alternative or other systems slightly less intensive than standard (see below). According to Hubbard, 17% of broilers in France are free-range or organic, 8% are “certified” (higher welfare indoor systems), 73% “standard” and 2% “other”. Elsewhere in the EU we believe that percentages in higher welfare systems are much lower. Organic systems must have access to range according to EU law. Eurostat data for the latest available year (2009-2012) for each member state give a total population of around 13 million organic broiler chickens in the EU, mostly in France 7.7 million, UK 1.4 million, Italy 1.3 million, and Belgium 1.2 million. Austria and Sweden have legislation limiting stocking density to 30 and 36 kg/m² respectively (Knut Niebuhr, pers. comm. 2012). Co-op Italia also limits stocking density and requires environmental enrichment, representing 12% of the Italian market (Annamaria Pisapia, pers. comm. 2012).

UK

- **An estimated 72% of broiler chickens are reared intensively in the UK (around 630 million broiler chickens per year), 18% are raised in higher welfare indoor systems, 8% free range and 2% organic**
(Source: [The Meat Site, 2012](#); Most of the 18% higher welfare indoor represents systems which allow fast growing birds but require enrichment and most limit stocking density to some degree.)

Key Health & Welfare Problems

Lameness

A large European study found that on average:

- **57% of the fast growing birds had severe walking problems.**
- **17% of slower-growing birds had severe walking problems.**

Source: de Jong I.C., Perez Moy T., Gunnink H., Van den Heuvel H., Hindle V., Mul M., Van Reenen C.G., (2011). Simplifying the Welfare Quality assessment protocol for broilers, Report 533, Wageningen UR Livestock Research, Lelystad.

Hock Burns & Footpad Dermatitis

A study in EU slaughter houses found that:

- Prevalence of **hock burn** was about **20% in standard, fast growing broilers** and **less than 1% in slower growing broilers from alternative housing systems.**
- Prevalence of **foot pad dermatitis (FDP)** in these flocks was about **22% in standard fast growing broilers** and around **7% in slower growing broilers.**

Source: Welfare Quality® (2009). Welfare Quality assessment protocol for poultry (broilers, laying hens). Welfare Quality Consortium, Lelystad, The Netherlands.



NB.

- Some studies have reported much higher levels of footpad dermatitis, e.g. 38.4% severe lesions and 26.1% mild lesions in Dutch broiler flocks (intensive, fast-growing breeds). De Jong *et al* (2012) Footpad dermatitis in Dutch broiler flocks: Prevalence and factors of influence. *Poultry Science*, 91: 1569-1574.
- Some studies have reported a higher prevalence of footpad dermatitis in outdoor systems, e.g. 9.6% RSPCA Freedom Food, 14.8% standard intensive, 19.0% corn-fed, 32.8% free-range, 98.1% organic. Pagazaurtundua and Warriss (2006) Levels of foot pad dermatitis in broiler chickens reared in 5 different systems. *British Poultry Science*, 47: 529-532.

Images courtesy of istockphoto and Compassion in World Farming.

