



Horsemeat production worldwide

Each year, millions of horses across the globe are slaughtered for the production of meat. The following table provides an overview per region of the number of horses slaughtered and the volume of horsemeat produced.

All data derive from the statistical database of the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO). According to the FAO, this data is collected via annual questionnaires sent to national governments and national statistics; estimates are made for non-reporting countries, as well as for those reporting incomplete data. Official data is also sometimes supplemented with data unofficial sources. The FAO data on meat relates to animals slaughtered within national boundaries, irrespective of their origin.¹

It should, however, be noted that in some cases HSI has found some discrepancies between the FAO data presented below and the figures found in other official statistical databases (both national and for the EU). Sometimes figures appear to simply have been rounded off; in other cases, such as for the United States, the FAO data is not wholly explicable due to the fact that horse slaughter (for human consumption) was ended there in 2007.

Finally, it is also not possible to determine from the FAO data how much horsemeat is intended for human consumption; a proportion of the horsemeat production is likely to be destined for the pet food market and/or to feed captive wild animals in zoos. This notwithstanding, the data below do provide insight into exactly where in the world horses are recorded as being slaughtered for meat and the extent of this practice globally.

Table 1: Global horsemeat production. Numbers of producing/slaughtered animals and volume, 2010-2012

	2010		2011		2012	
	Producing Animals/ Slaughtered (Heads)	Production (Tonnes)	Producing Animals/ Slaughtered (Heads)	Production (Tonnes)	Producing Animals/ Slaughtered (Heads)	Production (Tonnes)
Africa						
Algeria	2,800	365	2,650	345	2,650	345
Burkina Faso	2,300	350.7	2,400	366	2,400	366
Cameroon	2,200	286	2,300	299	2,300	299
Chad	4,300	430	4,300	430	4,300	430
Madagascar	35	6.1	36	6.3	36	6.3
Mali	24,390	2,439	25,000	2,500	25,000	2,500
Mauritania	1,350	202.5	1,350	202.5	1,350	202.5
Morocco	15,000	1,940	14,500	1,800	14,200	1,800
Niger	5,000	650	6,500	845	6,500	845
Réunion ²	58	12	58	12	58	12

¹ FAO Stat, Methodology, Agricultural production - Livestock.

http://faostat3.fao.org/faostat-gateway/go/to/mes/methodology_list/*/E; Accessed 30th June 2014.

² Technically a French overseas territory and part of the European Union, but geographically located closest to Africa.



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Senegal	58,500	7,312.5	58,000	7,250	58,000	7,250
South Africa	9,900	1,980	10,500	2,100	10,500	2,100
Tunisia	8,550	500	8,550	500	8,560	500
Europe						
Austria	947	190	1,003	194	933	197
Belarus	14,200	2,400	10,300	1,700	8,500	1,400
Belgium	8,926	2,050	9,613	2,200	10,000	2,300
Bulgaria	5	1	5	1	5	1
Croatia	15,000	3,000	15,000	3,000	15,000	3,000
Czech Republic	251	63	301	81	308	80
Denmark	1,872	496	2,169	529	1,673	502
Finland	1,257	348	1,675	460	1,795	487
France	17,000	4,700	17,000	5,000	18,900	5,500
Germany	9,875	2,607	11,812	3,118	11,923	3,148
Greece	15,500	2,790	15,500	2,790	15,500	2,790
Hungary	301	80	388	98	328	93
Iceland	6,679	799	7,040	878	11,352	1,503
Ireland	8,000	2,000	9,000	2,250	9,000	2,300
Italy	67,005	17,883	62,237	16,527	72,387	18,125
Latvia	402	93	519	146	416	118
Lithuania	2,249	873	1,969	737	1,887	706
Luxembourg	63	14	66	13	57	13
Malta	300	57	310	58	310	58
Netherlands	1,572	360	1,600	380	1,600	380
Norway	1,527	416	1,610	431	1,355	367
Poland	45,510	14,400	41,729	12,600	38,196	11,900
Portugal	774	126	1,085	178	1,085	178
Republic of Moldova	420	92	860	189	860	184
Romania	53,000	9,540	53,000	9,540	53,000	9,540
Russian Federation	294,843	52,878	256,963	47,942	252,193	47,652
Slovakia	80	24	82	25	82	25
Slovenia	1,632	382	1,689	381	1,721	381
Spain	32,000	6,500	32,000	6,500	34,400	7,000
Sweden	3,840	1,100	4,330	1,330	4,330	1,330
Switzerland	3,051	748	3,115	775	3,409	852
Ukraine	67,000	12,100	61,100	11,500	62,200	11,700
United Kingdom	20,000	3,080	20,000	3,080	20,000	3,080
Central & West Asia						
Georgia	600	100	540	90	540	90
Kazakhstan	434,815	73,133	450,000	75,600	450,000	75,200



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Kyrgyzstan	111,800	19,011	110,500	18,786	126,800	21,550
Turkey	11,000	1,650	11,000	1,650	11,000	1,650
Uzbekistan	14,600	2,200	16,600	2,500	17,200	2,600
East, South & East-South Asia						
China	1,484,000	178,080	1,609,000	193,080	1,609,000	193,080
Indonesia	12,150	2,000	13,000	2,185	13,000	2,181
Japan	14,169	5,880	11,924	4,868	12,271	4,895
Malaysia	1,700	204	1,750	210	1,680	201.6
Mongolia	205,306	24,388	208,900	24,964	233,229	31,082
Philippines	7,000	724.5	7,000	724.5	7,000	724.5
Viet Nam	18,000	1,980	17,000	1,870	17,000	1,870
North America						
Canada	125,000	25,600	126,500	27,000	133,500	28,500
United States ³	110,000	28,500	110,000	28,500	110,000	27,500
Central America & Caribbean						
Cuba	1,940	162	2,099	172	2,099	166
Guadeloupe	140	17.5	140	17.5	140	17.5
Guatemala	19,500	2,457	19,700	2,482.2	19,700	2,482.2
Haiti	28,000	5,600	28,000	5,600	28,000	5,600
Honduras	4,600	575	4,600	575	4,600	575
Jamaica	300	45	300	45	300	45
Mexico	631,000	83,200	631,000	83,350	631,400	83,350
Nicaragua	21,100	2,500	21,150	2,550	21,900	2,650
South America						
Argentina	150,286	32,407	130,804	29,023	136,000	30,000
Brazil	169,200	22,000	168,000	21,800	177,000	23,000
Chile	41,520	7,448	46,454	8,324	51,300	9,200
Colombia	53,600	6,700	54,000	6,750	54,000	6,750
Paraguay	32,000	3,840	33,000	3,960	33,000	5,940
Uruguay	37,136	8,170	33,370	8,170	36,000	8,400
Oceania						
Australia	92,000	25,760	94,000	26,320	94,000	26,320
New Zealand	8,376	1,424	8,806	1,497	8,800	1,502
Papua New Guinea	320	48	330	49.5	330	49.5
Vanuatu	160	24	200	30	200	30

Source: FAO Stat database, Production – Livestock Primary. Accessed 30th June 2014

³ FAO statistics deemed highly questionable and unreliable given the closure of last remaining US horse slaughterhouses in 2007. It is unclear whether these figures relate to horses 'produced' in the US and shipped over the borders for slaughter in Mexico and Canada.