

# Commercial Egg and Poultry Meat Production and Consumption and Poultry Trade Worldwide

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## Poultry meat and eggs as a world food source

Poultry and eggs are excellent examples of world foods. In all countries people are rearing, processing and consuming poultry in one way or another. It is the only type of meat which has been accepted all over the world throughout the ages. There are no cultural or religious objections against the eating of poultry meat anywhere in the world. This is in contrast to pork, beef and horsemeat. Poultry meat is wholesome, i.e. contains little fat and is rich in high-quality proteins.

Although there is some turbulence in the market arising from concerns over the extent of recovery and growth in parts of the global economy, the general outlook is for a continued expansion in the demand for eggs and poultry meat, particularly in the developing countries. This is good news for our industry. Asia is where the bulk of the world's population lives and where most of the population growth will occur in the next decade. Developments in the poultry meat sector echo this optimism with total production expected to reach a record 90 million tonnes in 2008. Chicken meat output topped in 2007 87 mt for the first time. The USA was still the world's largest producer in 2007 however, China in second place, is closing the gap and Brazil is the number 3. While the trade in poultry meat expands annual continued growth is greatly dependent upon what happens in Russia and China. Relatively low prices and shifting consumer preferences have boosted poultry uptake so that it currently accounts for almost 39% of all carcass meat consumption. The average poultry meat consumption worldwide is now expected close to 14 kg/person/year. More layers and even more eggs is the story in the egg sector. Asia is recording the fastest growth with the total number of layers topping nearly 3500 million or 62% of all layers. Trading in shell eggs is unexciting but there has been an increase in shipment of egg products. Changes in production systems within the European Union will alter trading patterns and might lead to greater imports into the EU, particularly of dried egg. After setbacks in the latter part of the nineties, egg consumption/person is back on an upward course though almost entirely as a result of more eggs being eaten in Asia. The average egg consumption worldwide is circa 150 eggs/person per year. The global egg production will reach a new record this year of around 64 million tonnes.

