



DECEMBER 2012

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# LIVESTOCK AND MEAT, AUSTRALIA

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## INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

# NOTES

## FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE	RELEASE DATE
January 2013	8 March 2013
February 2013	10 April 2013
March 2013	8 May 2013

## INTRODUCTION

This publication presents statistics on livestock slaughtering and meat production. These statistics are based on a monthly collection from abattoirs and other major slaughtering establishments and include estimates of animals slaughtered by country butchers and other small slaughtering establishments. More detailed information on this series can be obtained by referring to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) quarterly publication, *Livestock Products, Australia* (cat. no. 7215.0).

Additional time series spreadsheets containing state/territory and national data are available from the Downloads tab for this publication. These spreadsheets contain original, seasonally adjusted and trend estimates for slaughtering and meat production for bulls, bullocks and steers, cows and heifers, cattle (excluding calves), calves, sheep, lambs and pigs.

## INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

## ABBREVIATIONS

ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics  
ARIMA autoregressive integrated moving average  
no. number  
t tonne

Brian Pink  
Australian Statistician

## MAIN FEATURES

### LIVESTOCK

In December 2012, the trend estimate for cattle slaughterings increased by 1% to 644 thousand.

Calf slaughterings increased by 3% to 54 thousand in December 2012.

In December 2012, the trend estimate for sheep slaughterings increased by 1% to 577 thousand.

Lamb slaughterings increased by 1% to 1.7 million in December 2012.

The trend estimate for pig slaughterings remained steady at 397 thousand in December 2012.

### LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERED, AUSTRALIA, DECEMBER 2012

	<i>Original</i>	<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>	<i>Trend</i>
	no.	no.	no.
Cattle(a)	520 616	647 550	644 045
Calves	22 082	55 434	54 452
Sheep	600 113	557 743	577 414
Lambs	1 625 718	1 779 860	1 713 159
Pigs	403 330	392 078	396 606

(a) Excludes calves

### MEAT

In December 2012, the trend estimate for beef production increased by 1% to 185 thousand tonnes.

Veal production increased by 2% in December 2012 to 3 thousand tonnes.

In December 2012, the production of mutton increased by 1% to 13 thousand tonnes.

Lamb production in December 2012 increased by 1% to 37 thousand tonnes.

The trend estimate for production of pig meat in December 2012 remained steady at 29 thousand tonnes.

### MEAT PRODUCED, AUSTRALIA, DECEMBER 2012

	<i>Original</i>	<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>	<i>Trend</i>
	t	t	t
Beef	148 393	185 158	184 525
Veal	2 015	3 402	3 342
Mutton	13 747	12 718	13 134
Lamb	34 590	39 145	37 449
Pig meat	28 364	28 887	29 448

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### INTRODUCTION

- 1** This publication presents statistics on livestock slaughterings and meat production. These statistics are based on a monthly collection from abattoirs and other major slaughtering establishments and include estimates of animals slaughtered by country butchers and other small slaughtering establishments. More detailed information on this series can be obtained by referring to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) quarterly publication, *Livestock Products, Australia* (cat. no. 7215.0).
- 2** From July 2010, on-farm slaughter was no longer included in estimates of livestock slaughterings or meat production. Historical data back to July 2007 were revised for all series. Calf and pig definitions were also aligned to current industry standards.
- 3** In October 2010, a coverage exercise was undertaken to refresh the sample frame used in the Livestock Slaughtered collection. The coverage exercise also enabled review of the constant factor applied to monthly slaughter and meat production estimates to account for the activities of small abattoirs. Together these activities serve to ensure the ongoing quality of estimates produced from this collection.
- 4** From October 2010, estimates of livestock slaughter and meat production included in this and the related publication, *Livestock Products, Australia* (cat. no. 7215.0) reflect sample frame revisions and updates to the constant arising from the coverage exercise.
- 5** These changes have had only a minor impact on estimates and on comparability of data over time.
- 6** Further information on the October 2010 coverage exercise and related impacts can be obtained by contacting the Rural Environment and Agriculture Statistics Branch on (03) 6222 5940.
- 7** Red meat is shown in carcass weight and excludes offal.
- 8** Care should be taken when using this information as the figures only relate to slaughterings for human consumption and do not include animals condemned, slaughtered for pet food or those killed for boiling down.
- 9** The figures in this publication have been rounded. As a result, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

### SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT

- 10** Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so that the effects of other influences can be more clearly recognised.
- 11** In the seasonal adjustment of the livestock estimates, account has been taken of both normal seasonal factors and 'trading day' effects, where significant. Seasonal adjustment does not remove from the series the effect of irregular influences (e.g. abnormal weather, industrial disputes).
- 12** In this publication, the seasonally adjusted estimates are produced by the concurrent seasonal adjustment method which takes account of the latest available original estimates. This method improves the estimation of seasonal factors and, therefore, the seasonally adjusted and trend estimates for the current and previous months. As a result of this improvement, revisions to the seasonally adjusted and trend estimates will be observed for recent periods. A more detailed review is conducted annually.
- 13** For further information, see *Time Series Analysis Frequently Asked Questions, 2003* (cat. no. 1346.0.55.002).
- 14** From September 2007, improved methods of producing seasonally adjusted estimates, focused on the application of Autoregressive Integrated Moving Average (ARIMA) modelling techniques, were implemented. The ARIMA modelling technique can be used to extend original estimates beyond the end of a time series.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

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### SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT

*continued*

**15** For further information on ARIMA modelling, see the feature article '*Use of ARIMA modelling to reduce revisions*' in *Australian Economic Indicators, Oct 2004* (cat. no. 1350.0).

### TREND ESTIMATES

**16** A trend estimate is obtained by reducing the irregular component from the seasonally adjusted series. For monthly data, trend estimates are derived by applying a 13-term Henderson moving average to the seasonally adjusted series. Revisions of trend estimates will occur with revisions to the original data and re-estimation of seasonal factors.

**17** As for the seasonally adjusted state components, the state component trend estimates have been produced independently and therefore may not add up to the Australian group totals.

**18** For further information, see Information Paper: *A Guide to Interpreting Time Series - Monitoring Trends, 2003* (cat. no. 1349.0).

### RELATED PUBLICATIONS

**19** Current publications and other products released by the ABS are listed under the Statistics and Topics @ a Glance pages on the ABS website <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>. The ABS also issues a daily Release Advice on the website which details products to be released in the week ahead.

**20** Other ABS publications containing livestock data include:

- *Agricultural Commodities, Australia* (cat. no. 7121.0)
- *Livestock Products, Australia* (cat. no. 7215.0)
- *Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia* (cat. no. 7503.0)

### GENERAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

**21** ABS publications draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated. Without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.





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