



Industry facts and figures

In association with



Introduction

The British Poultry Council has supplied these facts and figures to help students understand more about this fascinating industry.



- Nearly a billion birds are reared for food every year, providing half the meat that the country eats. Overall UK consumption 20m birds a week.
- Each one of us consumes around 26kg of poultry meat every year (23 kg chicken/year). On an average we consumer 13 whole birds a year (average weight of a chicken is 2kg)
- The poultry industry is not part of CAP or other subsidies and yet offer over £1 billion in tax contribution to the Exchequer.
- The poultry industry's economic contribution has increased by nearly 50 percent in the last five years with a £5.1 billion gross value-added contribution to GDP in 2017 and the sector sustains a total of 91,200 jobs: of these, 40,200 people are employed directly.
- British poultry meat sector rears over a billion birds for food every year providing half the meat the country eats. The poultry meat sector keeps pace with consumer demand and uses a variety of production systems, from indoor, free range to organic poultry meat for the consumer to choose from. 95.5% of the current market is indoor reared, 3.5 % is free range and less than 1% is organic.
- Welfare in the UK is world-class, heavily regulated, science-based, and continually improving. Welfare should be measured by welfare outcomes provided by good management practices, highly skilled people practicing good animal husbandry, and following the guiding principles stockmanship.
- British poultry meat farmers are trained and skilled professionals who take a lot of pride in delivering high standards in farm management and animal husbandry. Red

Tractor Assurance (RTA) already provides for world-class standards of welfare. These standards go beyond the legal minimum where it augments the production methods. This is mostly driven by scientific progress, to which private standards can adapt much more quickly than legislation.

- British poultry farmers are doing everything they can to deliver high standards from farm to fork and ensure our citizens have continued access to affordable and quality British food. Whether chickens are grown indoors or have some access to the outdoors the industry is the backbone of this country's food security, and this is done with experienced farmers applying excellent standards, including for welfare, across all production systems.