

# Production statistics of meat in Kerala

## Abstract

Kerala is one of the most meat consuming states in India. It is considered that 70 per cent of the human population is highly inclined to non-vegetarian food items, especially during festivals. As a result, the meat production in Kerala is showing a significant increase from 1995 to 2012. The study attempted to present the real statistics of production of meat in Kerala from the secondary data available.

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## Introduction

The flesh or organs typically of an animal or bird is considered as meat. There are various legal definitions of meat in different countries. The flesh of cattle, pigs and sheep is distinguished from that of poultry by the term red meat, while the flesh of poultry (chicken, turkey, duck, pigeon, and guinea fowl) is termed white meat. Meat from non-domesticated animals is termed as game meat. The relative importance of these various sources of meat in the diet varies from region to region and has different cultures. Many that are rejected for various reasons in one culture are fully accepted in others. In the Indian sub-continent beef is socially and economically perceived as being second class compared with chevon, mutton and poultry, while the reverse is true in most industrialized countries. In many regions of developing countries meat production is carried out with efficiency, and slaughter and processing are based on many of recent scientific developments.

China is the top most meat producing country in the world for the last ten years. United States of America (USA) and Brazil are the second and third largest producers.<sup>1</sup> In the world meat market, pig meat and poultry meat are having a higher market value than bovine and ovine meat. India is the 6<sup>th</sup> leading producer of meat with a production of 6.29million tones. Meat is having a long tradition in Indian history.

India has a livestock population of 480million, which includes 218million cattle and 115million buffaloes.<sup>2</sup> India's contribution of beef and buffalo meat together to the world's total meat production is four percent, while that of poultry meat is two per cent. The production of meat and meat products has shown an impressive growth. India has exported buffalo meat valued Rupees 17,400.59crores in the financial year 2012-2013.<sup>3</sup>

In India the state Uttar Pradesh (UP) is the top producer of meat. UP produced 956million kilograms meat in 2012. Andhra Pradesh (AP) is the second largest producer of meat. The rank of Kerala achieved in the production of meat in 2012 is 6<sup>th</sup> and it was in the same position ten years earlier also. That means, Kerala has a stable position in the meat production throughout these years. The average annual growth rates of meat production in UP, AP, West Bengal and Kerala are 29, 8, 10, and 35 respectively. The meat production in Kerala shows an increasing trend from 1995 to 2012 Table 1.

**Table 1** Trend of meat production in Kerala

Year	Total meat production (in '000 MT)
1995-1996	35324
1996-1997	36112
1997-1998	38102
1998-1999	39280
1999-2000	40538
2000-2001	40936
2001-2002	41710
2002-2003	42804
2003-2004	47667
2004-2005	54189
2005-2006	55923
2006-2007	60115
2007-2008	60191
2008-2009	110314
2009-2010	102026.56
2010-2011	108400.35
2011-2012	241956.64

The meat production in Kerala is having a significant increase from 1995 to 2012. In the beginning of 1995 the meat production was 35324 metric tonnes, and from the latest available data of 2012 the meat production is 241957 metric tonnes. There are 2100 slaughtering houses in Kerala, among that 101 are authorized, 1997 are unauthorized and 2 are mechanized units. An unpublished data obtained regarding the species wise meat production in Kerala is presented in Table 2 for reference.<sup>4</sup> From the (Figure 1) it can be seen that the meat production is steadily increasing when compared to the previous year data and (Figure 2) depicts the district wise production statistics of meat in Kerala during the year 2011-12.

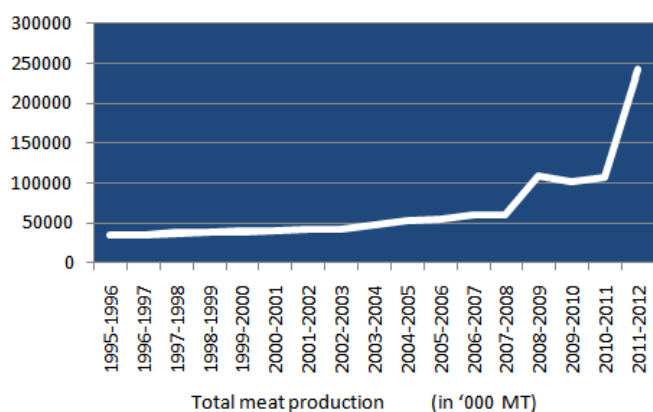


Figure 1 Total meat production in Kerala (in '000 MT).

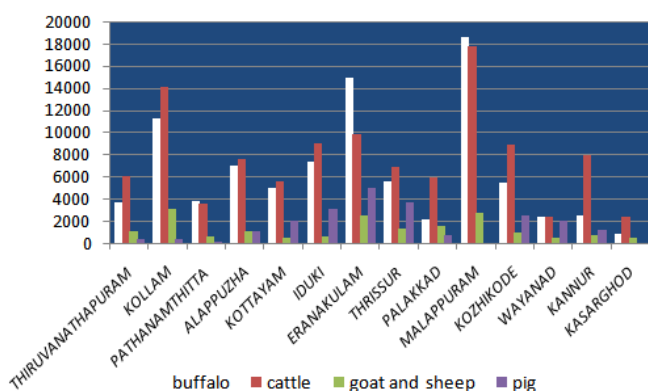


Figure 2 Meat production in Kerala 2011-2012 (in '000 MT).

Table 2 Species wise meat production in Kerala from organized and unauthorised sector (in Tonnes)

Organised Sector	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Cattle	31,059	28,073	53,410	48,804
Buffalo	19,457	23,789	44,472	41,820
Goat & Sheep	5,554	5,129	8,910	7,980
Pig	4,044	3,202	3,555	3,422
Total Meat Production	60,114	60,193	1,10,347	1,02,026
Poultry Meat Production	16,184	17,390	13,749	15,482
Total Meat Reduction (including unauthorised sector)	1,96,526	1,97,969	3,44,790	3,21,560

Kerala is one of the most meat consuming states in India. It is considered that 70percent of the human population is highly inclined to non-vegetarian food items, especially during festivals. Serving

non-vegetarians food items in any social gatherings has become a trend in the life style of Keralites. Usually Hindus are less meat consuming population, where as Christians and Muslims are large consumers of meat. Kerala's non vegetarian cuisine includes chicken, duck, turkey, guinea fowl, quail, emu, goose, pork, chevon, mutton, beef, etc. Among these there is a high demand for chicken, kara beef, pork, chevon and mutton (Table 3).

Table 3 Per capita availability of meat in Kerala

Year	Per capita availability of meat(in grams)
1997-1998	6
1998-1999	6
1999-2000	6
2000-2001	7
2001-2002	8
2002-2003	8
2003-2004	7
2004-2005	7
2005-2006	7
2006-2007	6
2007-2008	6
2008-2009	10
2009-2010	10
2010-2011	10
2011-2012	35

### District wise meat availability in Kerala

The consumption of meat varies from district to district of Kerala. Idukki is the district with highest per capita meat availability of 75grams in the period 2011-2012 (Table 4). Idukki is having good pastures and it may be the reason for high production in meat. Since the availability is high, the other nearby districts of Kerala may import the meat from Idukki for their daily needs. Wayanad is the second highest in per capita availability of meat. Wayanad is the district in Kerala with lowest population density. So there is a chance of exporting meat and meat products from Wayanad.

The availability and consumption are two different terms. If the availability is more or high, it is not mandatory that the consumption is also high. The consumption may become less because of so many reasons such as cost, vegetarianism, fasting, animals affected with zoonotic diseases etc. So the real way of assessing whether the recommended requirement of meat is consumed is only through assessing the consumption pattern.

**Table 4** Per capita availability of meat in the districts of Kerala (in grams)

District	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
Thiruvananthapuram	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	19
Kollam	6	5	9	11	10	20	17	20	41
Pathanamthitta	4	3	4	4	4	7	7	9	44
Alappuzha	8	6	7	9	9	14	15	14	39
Kottayam	10	6	8	8	7	9	7	8	35
Idukki	16	21	17	15	14	22	22	22	75
Ernakulam	8	9	10	9	10	18	18	16	37
Thrissur	20	17	10	4	4	6	6	7	27
Palakkad	1	1	1	2	1	2	5	4	23
Malappuram	6	7	7	7	8	13	11	15	35
Kozhikode	5	6	5	4	4	8	6	5	27
Wayanad	9	12	10	7	6	9	8	9	60
Kannur	5	7	6	5	5	7	5	4	28
Kasaragod	6	6	7	7	7	7	6	5	32

## Acknowledgements

None.

## Conflict of interest

Author declares that there is no conflict of interest

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