Documentation of statistics for
Cattle 2025

1 Introduction

The purpose of these statistics is to describe the stock of cattle in Denmark. The statistics are i.e. used for forecasts of future slaughtering of cattle. The cattle stock have been estimated since 1946, but these statistics are in its current form comparable from 2008 and onwards.

2 Statistical presentation

These statistics are a quarterly measurement of the total number of cattle in Denmark. The number of cattle are divided into groups of bulls and steers, heifers and cows, based on information collected from administrative registers. The cattle stock is also divided by geographic province.

2.1 Data description

The statistics on herd of cattle shows the total number of cattle in Denmark. The survey is carried out quarterly on the last day in the quarter. Information is collected from two registers: the Central Register of Livestock and the Register of Cattle, where all cattle are registered with an individual number. The number of cattle is divided into male and female animals according to their age. Cows are divided into dairy cows and cows kept for suckling. The data are distributed geography into provinces.

2.2 Classification system

The herd of cattle is divided into three main groups: Bulls and steer, Heifer and Cows. Under these groups, the herd of cattle is divided by sex in male and female cattle. The complete division of cattle into groups are:

Bulls and bullocks

- Bulls and bullocks calves not over ½ year
- Bulls and bullocks calves aged ½ - 1 year
- Bulls and bullocks calves total
- Bulls and bullocks, 1-2 year
- Bulls and bullocks, 2 year or more
- Bulls and bullocks, total

Heifers

- Heifers calves not over ½ year
- Heifers calves ½-1 year
- Heifers calves total
- Heifer, 1-2 year, in calf
- Heifer, 1-2 year, total
- Heifer, 2 year or more, in calf
- Heifer, 2 year or more, total
- Heifer, total

Cows

- Dairy cows
- Cows kept for suckling

Geographical breakdown

All data are divided geographically by Agricultural provinces.

- Region Hovedstaden (Landsdel København) and Nordsjælland samt Landsdel Bornholm)
- Region Sjælland
- Region Syddanmark (Landsdel Fyn and Landsdel Sydjylland)
- Region Midtjylland (Landsdel Østjylland and Landsdel Vestjylland)
- Region Nordjylland

Regions are divided into special agricultural provinces. It is chosen to show results for the provinces *København by, København omegn and Nordsjælland* as one province. Likewise is the provinces landsdelene *Østsjælland og Vestsjælland* considered as one province being identical with the region *Sjælland*. The region *Nordjylland* is not divided into provinces.

2.3 Sector coverage

Agricultural sector.

2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

CHR number: CHR number is the number, which the holding is registered in The Ministry of the Environment and Food Ministry's Central Animal Husbandry Register. Every single cattle has a unique ID-number in CHR.

The Central Animal Husbandry Register (CHR): CHR is the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration's database for the registration of herds and livestock. CHR was established in 1993. Read more about this on the website of the Ministry of the Environment and Food.

Heifer in calf: Heifer in calf is heifer declare in calf and heifers, which have been inseminate for more than 3 month after day of the survey.

Cattle: Cattle are defined as bovine animal, which means domestic animals of the species Bos Taurus and Bubalus bubalus, including hybrids like Beefalo.

Cattle database: The cattle database is a central database of cattle that contains data which are reported by the cattle users or transferred from among others. Cattle breeding associations, dairies, slaughterhouses, DAKA, ear-brand manufacturers and practicing veterinarians.

2.5 Statistical unit

The units are number of bovine animals.

2.6 Statistical population

All cattle in Denmark.

2.7 Reference area

Denmark.

2.8 Time coverage

The statistics covers the period from first quarter 2008 and forward. Older data are described under *Comparability over Time*.

2.9 Base period

Not relevant for these statistics.

2.10 Unit of measure

The unit of measure is number of cattle.

2.11 Reference period

The surveys are carried out quarterly on the last day in the quarter (the 31 of Marts, the 30 of June, the 30 of September and the 31 of December).

2.12 Frequency of dissemination

These statistics are published quarterly.

2.13 Legal acts and other agreements

Law on Statistics Denmark §8 secures the legal base for collecting the data.

The statistic falls under EU Regulation (EC) No 1165/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 concerning livestock and meat statistics.

2.14 Cost and burden

There is no response burden as the data are collected via registers (existing sources). The registers are administrated by Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries of Denmark, The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration and SEGES Landbrug & Fødevarer F.m.b.A.

2.15 Comment

In order to stabilize and regulate the market for dairy products within the EU, annual milk quotas have been implemented in the period from 1984 until 1 April 2015. For each Member State, a production volume was set for which a profitable selling price was guaranteed. For additional production, a charge (super tax) of such a size was charged that this production was unprofitable.

3 Statistical processing

Information is collected from two registers: the Central Register of Livestock and the Register of Cattle. In the Central Register of Livestock every single animal is registered with an individual number, birthday and sex and so on. These data are linked with data from the Register of Cattle about whether the heifers are with calf or not. When all data are validated, they are grouped by type, age and geography.

3.1 Source data

Information is collected from registers.

- The Central Register of Livestock , which is administrated by the Ministry of Environment and Food
- The Register of Cattle, which are owned and administrated by SEGES.

The Central Register of Livestock (CHR) is the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration's database for registration of herds and livestock. CHR has a variety of applications, where the main thing is veterinary, as help to a rapid and effective detection of infection by outbreaks of diseases such as BSE or foot-and-mouth disease. Therefore the control with the information in the register is very high. In the register every single animal has an unit number (CKR number) which consists of a livestock number and an individual number inside the livestock. The register consists of information on among others birthdays, sex and used fore example dairy cattle and beef cattle. Each animal is associated with a CHR number, and each CHR number is linked to a property (matrikel number) and thus to a fixed geographical location. The CHR is regularly updated with information from the Cattle Database on the entry and exit of animals on the individual properties (purchase / sale of animals, calving, slaughtering, export of the animal and dead animals), as well as with information on suppliers and buyers of cattle. Furthermore, the departure of slaughter animals is verified by the slaughterhouses and the dead animals by the destruction facilities. Read more about CHR on the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration's website.

The Register of Cattle contains basic data from the CHR and data which are reported by the cattle farmers or transferred from others: The Cattle Breeding Association Viking, dairies, slaughterhouses, DAKA, ear-brand manufacturers and veterinarians. is a comprehensive system which mainly serves the farmer in the daily work. The Register of Cattle mainly serves the cattle farmers as a tool to best manage the farm with a view to achieving good operation. Furthermore, all statutory registrations on each individual animal are transferred to CHR, ie. information from the Cattle Database updates the CHR.

In connection with the preparation of the statistics, CHR data is supplemented with information on the heifers age and about whether it is in calf (pregnancy) from the Register of Cattle. A heifer in calf (pregnancy) is defined as she is in calf or is inseminated more than 3 months ago.

3.2 Frequency of data collection

Data is collected quarterly.

3.3 Data collection

Data comes from administrative registers.

3.4 Data validation

All data is received at farm level identified via the CHR number. All data are received at farm level identified via the CHR number. In addition, when receiving data at the farm level, a summarized inventory of numbers is also received: bulls and steers as well as heifers by age, dairy cows, suckler cows, cows in total, and finally cattle in total. After the data processing (see possibly next section), the aggregated data generated by Statistics Denmark is validated with the summed statement received from CHR. The quarter's figures are also compared with data from the latest statement and the same time the year before.

3.5 Data compilation

The herd of cattle is divided into male and female animals according to their age. Cows are divided into dairy cows and cows kept for suckling. The herd of cattle is classified to 12 sub-groups. The herd of cattle is divided geographically by province. There are 11 sub-groups.

3.6 Adjustment

There is no corrections of data.

4 Relevance

The cattle survey is of great interest to EU, the Ministry of Environment and Food, The Danish Association of Slaughterhouses and others farmer´s organizations, but also students and interested people in general. The most important purposes of cattle surveys are to provide a basis base for forecasts of cattle for slaughter. The statistics are used in financially and environment studies.

There are no examination of the uses satisfaction, but the impression is, that most users are satisfied with the statistics.

4.1 User Needs

The cattle survey is of great interest to EU, the Ministry of Environment and Food, The Danish Association of Slaughterhouses and others farmer´s organizations, but also students and interested people in general. The most important purposes of cattle surveys are to provide a basis base for forecasts of cattle for slaughter. The statistics are used in financially and environment studies.

4.2 User Satisfaction

There is no expert group linked to the statistics, but there is ongoing dialogue with the users of the statistics.

4.3 Data completeness rate

This statistics affected by demands from EU in 1165/2008.

5 Accuracy and reliability

The reliability of the variables for cattle is considered to be good. The information about cattle comes from the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration's database, the Central Livestock Register (CHR) and the cattle database owned by SEGES. There is a large control of data in these registers, as it is mandatory that all cattle must be registered in CHR

5.1 Overall accuracy

Data for the calculation of the cattle population originate from registers where it is mandatory for all cattle to be registered. There is therefore good reason to assume that the statistics are very accurate in terms of measuring the total legal stock of cattle. Cattle kept illegally are not included in the statistics, which is not expected to have any significant effect on the result.

5.2 Sampling error

The number is based on a complete enumeration, hence the coefficient of variation is zero.

5.3 Non-sampling error

The greatest uncertainty for this statistic is due to the lack of or late updating of the administrative registers that form the basis of the inventory. But it is considered very small, as it is mandatory to update within 7 days.

5.4 Quality management

Statistics Denmark follows the recommendations on organisation and management of quality given in the Code of Practice for European Statistics (CoP) and the implementation guidelines given in the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (QAF). A Working Group on Quality and a central quality assurance function have been established to continuously carry through control of products and processes.

5.5 Quality assurance

Statistics Denmark follows the principles in the Code of Practice for European Statistics (CoP) and uses the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (QAF) for the implementation of the principles. This involves continuous decentralized and central control of products and processes based on documentation following international standards. The central quality assurance function reports to the Working Group on Quality. Reports include suggestions for improvement that are assessed, decided and subsequently implemented.

5.6 Quality assessment

The general assessment is that the quality of the statistics are high, because the quality of the registers is high. Because it is a compulsory register, where all cattle have to be registered.

5.7 Data revision - policy

Statistics Denmark revises published figures in accordance with the [Revision Policy for Statistics Denmark](). The common procedures and principles of the Revision Policy are for some statistics supplemented by a specific revision practice.

5.8 Data revision practice

Only final figures are published.

6 Timeliness and punctuality

The survey results are published quarterly, about 3 weeks after the survey day. The punctuality is high, with delays happening very rarely.

6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results

The survey results are published quarterly. About 3 weeks after the survey day. Only finally figures are published.

6.2 Punctuality

These statistics are published without delay, with reference to the announced time of publication in the release calendar.

7 Comparability

The survey is comparable from 2008 onwards, and there is a high degree of comparability with previous surveys. Furthermore there is high degree of comparability with other European countries, especially the EU countries.

7.1 Comparability - geographical

Two time a year figures are submitted to the statistical office of EU, Euro stat. This includes special aggregates, not published nationally. Data for all EU countries can be found in [Euro stat database](). The statistics are produced following the principles of an EU regulation, so the results are comparable.

7.2 Comparability over time

From 2008 the population is all cattle in Denmark (this is the same as all cattle recorded in the Central Register of Livestock Farms on the reference date). It is a full-scale census.

Sample before 2010: The sample covers all farms drawn from the Register of Agricultural Statistics where at the same time could be found in the general livestock register. A ratio estimation is carried out.

In 1980 heifers were divided into two groups: heifers in calf and heifers not in calf. In 1976 calves were further divided into semi-annual groups. In 1974 the census method and the census groups were changed to comply with EC directives. The census groups were supplemented by an age classification, and cows were divided into dairy cows and cows kept for suckling. In 1946 the survey was extended to include all Denmark, compared to only rural municipalities previously.

7.3 Coherence - cross domain

Every year Agricultural and Horticultural Survey is done and the number of cattle is estimated on the same level, see the tables:

- HDYR1: Livestock by area, unit and kind
- HDYR2: Livestock by unit and size of herd
- HDYR07: livestock by country, unit and type

But there are some difference: the Agricultural and Horticultural Survey is an estimate and it only included farms of at least 5,0 hectares. See the Quality Declaration for Agricultural and Horticultural Survey for more information.

7.4 Coherence - internal

Not relevant for these statistics.

8 Accessibility and clarity

These statistics are published semiannually in a Danish press release and quarterly in the Statbank table KVAEG5. For further information, see the subject page for Farms with livestock.

8.1 Release calendar

The publication date appears in the release calendar. The date is confirmed in the weeks before.

8.3 User access

Statistics are always published at 8:00 a.m. at the day announced in the release calendar. No one outside of Statistics Denmark can access the statistics before they are published.

8.2 Release calendar access

The Release Calender can be accessed on our English website: Release Calender.

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DK 2100 København Ø

8.4 News release

These statistics are published semiannually in a Danish press release.

8.5 Publications

These statistics are presented in the [Statistical Yearbook](#).

8.6 On-line database

The statistics are published in the StatBank under the subject [Farms with livestock](#) in the table:

- [KVAEG5](#): Number of cattle by region and type

8.7 Micro-data access

There is no micro-data access.

8.8 Other

Data is transmitted to [Eurostat](#) on a semiannual basis. These data include aggregations which are not published nationally. Statistics for all EU-member states are available through Eurostat's statistical [Database](#).

8.9 Confidentiality - policy

[Data Confidentiality Policy](#) at Statistics Denmark is applied.

8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment

These statistics are not published on a level of detail that necessitates confidentiality.

8.11 Documentation on methodology

Not relevant for theses statistics.

8.12 Quality documentation

Results from the quality evaluation of products and selected processes are available in detail for each statistics and in summary reports for the Working Group on Quality.

9 Contact

The administrative placement of these statistics is in the division of Food Industries, Business Statistics. The contact person is Mona Larsen, tel.: + 45 2481 6847, and e-mail: MLA@dst.dk.