

Poultry

Turkeys

Production and consumption of turkey meat in the country has grown over the last few years, partly as a result of the large investment in marketing, promoting its comparative advantages as an alternative to red meats, such as its low level of cholesterol, its lower price, and the various ways in which it can be offered to the consumer, and partly also because it is becoming a significant component in the production of cured meats.

Thus in 1993, about 14,000 tons of meat were produced in the year, and the projections for 1994 are for a production of 20,000 tons, which will mean a consumption per inhabitant of more than 1 Kg. of turkey meat per year.

Existing breeds in the country are the American White Turkey.

The domestic market is exploited practically by only two companies: Sopraval, which handles approximately 70% of the market and Ariztia with the remaining 30%.

The O'Higgins slaughterhouse handles a significant volume of the slaughtering and dressing of the turkeys.

Chickens

The supply of poultry meat is made up broilers and culled hens. To these must be added other species such as turkeys and ducks, but there is no statistical information available on these. Nevertheless, more than 90% of controlled slaughtering in this sub-sector consists of pullets.

The broiler industry is characterized by a high degree of vertical integration where the main companies produce one day old chicks, provide concentrated feed, and also have their own slaughtering and dressing plants, wholesale sales points, and a distribution network. The most important companies in this industry are to be found in the Metropolitan Region and Region VI, where 94% of the broilers are concentrated. This situation has remained unchanged for the last ten years.

The number of broiler producers has varied considerably over the last decade, ranging from 58 in 1980, dropping to 16 in 1984, and then rising again to 32 in 1992. This is indicative of the fact that this line of business works with very low profit margins, which makes it very susceptible to economic figures.

Over the last few years, the production of broilers and laying hens has increased considerably.