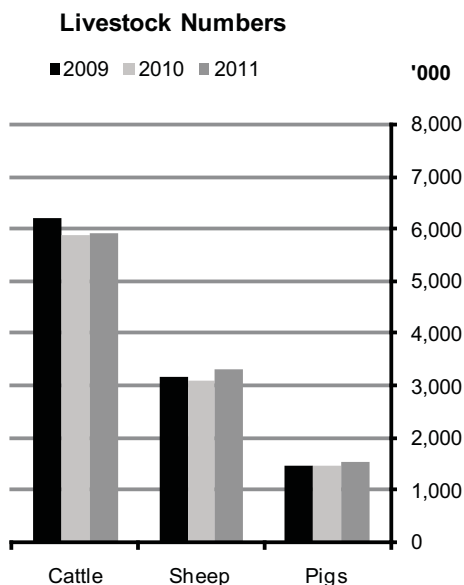




## Livestock Survey December 2011



	Livestock Numbers		
	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs
	'000		
<b>2010</b>	5,917.7	3,122.0	1,500.4
<b>2011</b>	5,925.3	3,321.3	1,552.9
<b>% change</b>	+0.1%	+6.4%	+3.5%

### Sheep numbers up 6.4% in December 2011

The results of the December 2011 livestock survey show that the total number of sheep was 3,321,300, an increase of 199,300 (6.4%) on December 2010. This was due to combined increases of 94,300 (13.4%) in other sheep, 61,500 (13.4%) in ewes under 2 years, 38,900 (2.1%) in ewes 2 years and over and 4,700 (6.8%) in rams. *See Table 2.*

The total number of cattle increased by 7,600 (0.1%) to 5,925,300. Dairy cows increased by 28,400 (2.8%) and male and female cattle under one year increased by 116,000 (14.8%) and 57,400 (6.3%) respectively. There were reductions of 74,100 (-29.8%) in male cattle 2 years and over and 61,700 (-8.9%) in male cattle 1 to 2 years. *See Table 1.*

Total pig numbers increased by 3.5% to 1,552,900. Other pigs showed an increase of 55,700 (4.1%), while breeding pigs decreased by 3,200 (-2.1%). *See Table 3.*

Corresponding cattle, sheep and pig figures for each EU country in December 2010 – the latest date available - are given at the back of this release. In December 2010, the total number of cattle in the EU was 86.8 million and the total number of pigs in the EU was 150.8 million.

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Published by the Central Statistics Office, Ireland.

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**Table 1 Number of Cattle**

Description	December	December	December	Change 2010 - 2011	
	2009	2010	2011	' 000	%
<b>Total cattle</b>	<b>6,231.7</b>	<b>5,917.7</b>	<b>5,925.3</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Dairy cows <sup>1</sup>	1,022.4	1,027.0	1,055.3	28.4	2.8
Other cows	1,134.9	1,070.7	1,063.3	-7.4	-0.7
Bulls <sup>2</sup>	48.8	42.5	35.0	-7.5	-17.7
Cattle male: 2 years and over	275.3	248.9	174.9	-74.1	-29.8
Cattle female: 2 years and over	306.0	313.8	287.1	-26.6	-8.5
Cattle male: 1-2 years	803.7	691.4	629.7	-61.7	-8.9
Cattle female: 1-2 years	846.5	828.8	812.0	-16.8	-2.0
Cattle male: under 1 year	857.9	786.0	902.0	116.0	14.8
Cattle female: under 1 year	936.1	908.6	966.0	57.4	6.3
<b>Total cattle male</b>	<b>1,985.7</b>	<b>1,768.8</b>	<b>1,741.5</b>	<b>-27.2</b>	<b>-1.5</b>
<b>Total cattle female</b>	<b>4,246.0</b>	<b>4,148.9</b>	<b>4,183.8</b>	<b>34.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>

<sup>1</sup> Dairy cows are those kept principally to produce milk for human consumption.

<sup>2</sup> Bulls used for breeding purposes only.

**Table 2 Number of Sheep**

Description	December	December	December	Change 2010 - 2011	
	2009	2010	2011	' 000	%
<b>Total sheep</b>	<b>3,182.6</b>	<b>3,122.0</b>	<b>3,321.3</b>	<b>199.3</b>	<b>6.4</b>
<b>Breeding sheep</b>	<b>2,440.0</b>	<b>2,419.1</b>	<b>2,524.2</b>	<b>105.1</b>	<b>4.3</b>
Ewes: 2 years and over	1,960.1	1,893.1	1,932.0	38.9	2.1
Ewes: under 2 years	409.3	457.3	518.8	61.5	13.4
Rams	70.6	68.7	73.4	4.7	6.8
<b>Other sheep</b>	<b>742.6</b>	<b>702.8</b>	<b>797.1</b>	<b>94.3</b>	<b>13.4</b>

**Table 3 Number of Pigs**

Description	December 2009	December 2010	December 2011	Change 2010 - 2011	
		'000		'000	%
<b>Total pigs</b>	<b>1,501.9</b>	<b>1,500.4</b>	<b>1,552.9</b>	<b>52.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>
<b>Breeding pigs</b>	<b>159.8</b>	<b>150.9</b>	<b>147.7</b>	<b>-3.2</b>	<b>-2.1</b>
Gilts in pig	21.9	19.1	18.2	-0.9	-4.9
Sows in pig	89.9	89.4	88.9	-0.5	-0.5
Other Sows for breeding	29.6	25.9	23.4	-2.5	-9.8
Gilts not yet served <sup>1</sup>	16.8	15.0	15.9	0.9	5.9
Boars	1.6	1.4	1.2	-0.1	-10.6
<b>Other pigs</b>	<b>1,342.2</b>	<b>1,349.6</b>	<b>1,405.3</b>	<b>55.7</b>	<b>4.1</b>
Pigs 80kg and over	241.1	248.9	219.7	-29.2	-11.7
Pigs 50kg and under 80kg	300.4	295.6	335.0	39.4	13.3
Pigs 20kg and under 50kg	415.4	399.3	402.7	3.3	0.8
Less than 20kg	385.3	405.7	447.9	42.2	10.4

<sup>1</sup> Gilts of at least 50kg liveweight intended for breeding but not yet served.

## Background Notes

### Introduction

This release presents estimates of numbers of livestock in December 2011 at State level. The estimates for sheep are based on returns from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) December 2011 Livestock Survey. All estimates for cattle have been obtained from administrative data from the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine (DAFM) Animal Identification and Movement (AIM) system.

### Coverage

Farms where the agricultural area used was at least one hectare (2.47 acres) are included in the December Livestock Sample Survey. Farms with less than one hectare may also be included if they were engaged in intensive production.

### Definition

A farm is defined in accordance with the definition adopted for the EU surveys as

*a single unit, both technically and economically, which has a single management and which produces agricultural products.*

### Results

**Cattle:** The results for cattle are obtained from DAFM's AIM system. This system was introduced at the beginning of 2000 and involves electronically recording data on animal movements. Information on cattle numbers and on flows into and out of the cattle population has been available from this system since December 2002.

**Sheep:** The December 2011 results for sheep are based on the trends obtained by comparing the returns from the December 2011 sample with the 2010 returns for the same 8,200 farms and applying these trends to the December 2010 figures.

**Pigs:** A specialist pig survey was conducted by the CSO due to the intensive nature of this activity.

### Precision

As the figures in the text have been rounded to the nearest 100 units there may be slight discrepancies between the sum (or difference) of the constituent items and the total shown. Percentage changes have been calculated on actual figures.

## Number of Livestock in EU Member States, December 2010

'000

Country	Total Cattle	Total Sheep	Total Pigs
<b>European Union 27</b>	<sup>1</sup> <b>86,757</b>	*	<sup>1</sup> <b>150,826</b>
Austria	2,013	358	3,134
Belgium	2,510	*	6,176
Bulgaria	531	1,368	664
Cyprus	55	329	464
Czech Republic	1,319	*	1,846
Denmark	1,630	*	12,293
Estonia	236	*	372
Finland	909	*	1,340
France	18,992	6,904	14,063
Germany	12,706	1,800	26,901
Greece	<sup>1</sup> 679	<sup>1</sup> 8,980	1,087
Hungary	681	1,181	3,168
Ireland	5,918	3,122	1,500
Italy	5,833	7,900	9,321
Latvia	380	*	390
Lithuania	748	59	929
Luxembourg	194	8	89
Malta	15	12	69
Netherlands	3,960	1,211	12,206
Poland	5,562	214	14,776
Portugal	1,503	2,226	1,917
Romania	2,001	8,417	5,428
Slovakia	467	394	687
Slovenia	<sup>1</sup> 470	*	396
Spain	6,075	18,552	25,704
Sweden	1,475	274	1,520
United Kingdom	9,896	21,295	4,385

<sup>1</sup> Provisional

\* Data not available

Source: Eurostat website <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu>