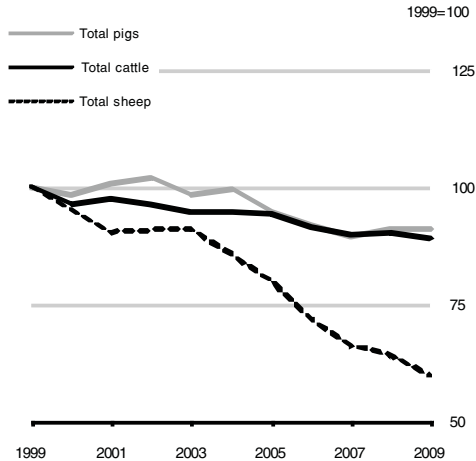




Livestock Survey December 2009

Index of livestock numbers



Livestock Numbers

	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs
	'000		
2008	5,934.7	3,422.9	1,604.6
2009	5,848.1	3,182.6	1,602.1
% change	-1.5%	-7.0%	-0.2%

Sheep numbers down 7.0% in December 2009

The results of the December 2009 livestock survey show that the total number of sheep decreased by 240,400 (-7.0%) to 3,182,600. This decrease was mainly due to reductions of 157,700 (-7.4%) in ewes 2 years and over, 77,400 (-9.4%) in other sheep and 5,000 (-6.7%) in rams. *See Table 1 and graph.*

The total number of cattle was 5,848,100, a decrease of 86,600 (-1.5%) on December 2008. Other cows decreased by 45,500 (-4.1%), other heifers by 12,800 (-9.7%) and males under one year by 69,600 (-8.3%). However, some of the decreases were offset by increases in males 2 years and over and females 2 years and over of 27,100 (9.9%) and 27,200 (13.2%) respectively.

Total pig numbers decreased by 0.2% to 1,602,100. Breeding pigs showed an increase of 7,800 (5.0%), while other pigs decreased by 10,300 (-0.7%).

Corresponding cattle, sheep and pig figures for all EU countries in December 2008 - the latest date available - are given at the back of this release. In December 2008, the total number of cattle in the EU was 88.9 million and the total number of pigs in the EU was 153.1 million.

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Published by the Central Statistics Office, Ireland.

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Table 1 Number of Livestock

Description	December	December	December	Change 2008 - 2009	
	2007	2008	2009	' 000	%
Total cattle	5,902.2	5,934.7	5,848.1	-86.6	-1.5
Breeding cattle	2,623.9	2,627.1	2,575.3	-51.9	-2.0
Dairy cows ¹	1,087.5	1,104.8	1,107.0	2.2	0.2
Other cows	1,117.4	1,115.1	1,069.5	-45.5	-4.1
Dairy heifers ²	212.9	218.1	222.5	4.4	2.0
Other heifers	147.5	131.3	118.5	-12.8	-9.7
Bulls	58.6	57.9	57.8	-0.2	-0.3
Other cattle	3,278.3	3,307.6	3,272.9	-34.7	-1.0
Male: 2 years and over	287.3	273.3	300.4	27.1	9.9
Female: 2 years and over	204.3	206.2	233.3	27.2	13.2
Male: 1-2 years	662.8	670.7	654.8	-16.0	-2.4
Female: 1-2 years	490.5	505.8	519.2	13.5	2.7
Male: under 1 year	830.8	842.6	772.9	-69.6	-8.3
Female: under 1 year	802.6	809.0	792.2	-16.8	-2.1
Total sheep	3,530.5	3,422.9	3,182.6	-240.4	-7.0
Breeding sheep	2,744.7	2,603.0	2,440.0	-163.0	-6.3
Ewes: 2 years and over	2,255.4	2,117.8	1,960.1	-157.7	-7.4
: under 2 years	407.4	409.5	409.3	-0.2	-0.1
Rams	81.9	75.6	70.6	-5.0	-6.7
Other sheep	785.8	820.0	742.6	-77.4	-9.4
Total pigs	1,574.6	1,604.6	1,602.1	-2.5	-0.2
Breeding pigs	161.9	156.1	163.9	7.8	5.0
Gilts in pig	22.9	19.6	23.2	3.6	18.1
Sows in pig	91.6	90.1	89.4	-0.7	-0.7
Other sows for breeding	28.3	27.9	32.0	4.1	14.8
Gilts not yet served ³	17.4	17.1	17.9	0.8	4.8
Boars	1.7	1.5	1.4	-0.1	-3.9
Other pigs	1,412.6	1,448.5	1,438.2	-10.3	-0.7
80kg and over	214.9	242.5	257.9	15.4	6.4
50kg and under 80kg	327.4	341.0	331.2	-9.8	-2.9
20kg and under 50kg	424.4	439.0	446.5	7.5	1.7
Less than 20kg	446.0	426.0	402.7	-23.3	-5.5

¹ Dairy cows are those kept principally to produce milk for human consumption.

² Heifers in calf intended for the dairy herd.

³ Gilts of at least 50 kg liveweight intended for breeding but not yet served.

Background Notes

Introduction This release presents estimates of numbers of livestock in December 2009 at State level. The estimates are based on returns from the December 2009 Livestock Survey.

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.

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. A specialist pig survey was conducted due to the intensive nature of this activity.

Results The December 2009 results are based on the trends obtained by comparing the returns from the December 2008 sample with the 2009 returns for the same 16,000 farms and applying these trends to the December 2008 figures.

As the figures in the text and tables 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.

Current and historical survey results are also available on the Database Direct service at www.cso.ie.

Comparison with DAFF AIM Data The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Animal Identification and Movement System (AIM), formerly CMMS, has provided new administrative information on cattle numbers and on flows into/out of the cattle population since December 2002. Overall, the AIM figure for the start of December 2008 indicated total cattle numbers some 6.2% higher than the CSO estimate for 1 December 2008.

Number of Livestock in EU Member States, December 2008

'000

Country	Total Cattle	Total Sheep	Total Pigs
European Union 27	¹ 88,866	*	¹ 153,082
Austria	1,997	333	3,064
Belgium	2,538	*	6,208
Bulgaria	574	1,475	784
Cyprus	56	267	465
Czech Republic	1,358	183	2,135
Denmark	1,599	*	12,195
Estonia	238	62	365
Finland	907	94	1,400
France	19,366	7,715	14,810
Germany	12,988	1,920	26,719
Greece	¹ 682	¹ 8,994	¹ 1,061
Hungary	701	1,236	3,383
Ireland	5,935	3,423	1,605
Italy	6,486	8,175	9,252
Latvia	380	67	384
Lithuania	771	48	897
Luxembourg	196	8	78
Malta	18	13	66
Netherlands	¹ 3,996	1,545	¹ 11,735
Poland	5,564	270	14,242
Portugal	1,439	3,145	2,340
Romania	2,684	8,882	6,174
Slovakia	488	362	749
Slovenia	¹ 470	¹ 139	¹ 432
Spain	6,020	19,952	¹ 26,290
Sweden	1,505	521	1,703
United Kingdom	9,910	21,856	4,550

¹ Provisional

* Data not available

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