

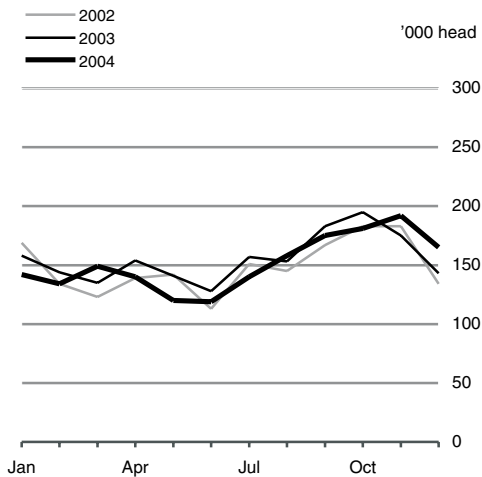


**Central Statistics Office**  
An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh

1 February 2005

## Livestock Slaughterings December 2004

### Cattle slaughterings



	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs
	'000 head		
<b>December 2003</b>	142.5	254.7	197.2
<b>December 2004</b>	164.6	306.3	237.0
<b>% change</b>	+15.5%	+20.3%	+20.2%
<b>Jan-Dec 2004/2003</b>	-2.7%	+12.8%	-4.8%

### Cattle slaughterings down 2.7% in 2004

The number of cattle slaughtered in 2004 was 2.7% lower than in 2003. Over the same period sheep slaughterings increased by 12.8%, while pig slaughterings decreased by 4.8%. *See Table 1.*

A comparison of December 2004 and 2003 figures shows that (*see Table 1*):

- ◆ Sheep slaughterings increased by 20.3%.
- ◆ Pig slaughterings increased by 20.2%.
- ◆ Cattle slaughterings increased by 15.5%. *See graph*

EU-15 cattle slaughtering figures remained static between the periods January to August 2003 and 2004. Germany, the United Kingdom and Italy recorded increases of 4.7%, 1.2% and 0.6% respectively. France recorded a decrease of 3.3%. *See Page 4.*

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**Table 1 Livestock Slaughterings**

Category	Year	Unit	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Cattle	2002	'000	168.8	134.0	123.0	139.0	142.2	113.0	150.6	144.5	167.3	182.8	182.5	134.0	<b>1781.7</b>
	2003		157.7	144.1	134.7	153.5	140.5	127.8	157.3	152.6	183.1	194.5	175.1	142.5	<b>1863.4</b>
	2004		141.5	134.0	148.9	139.8	120.4	118.7	140.2	157.7	175.0	180.6	191.6*	164.6	<b>1813.0</b>
Sheep	2002	'000	159.5	97.0	114.4	202.5	325.8	329.5	427.9	391.7	337.2	336.1	314.2	271.7	<b>3307.5</b>
	2003		234.5	180.1	144.8	247.6	311.0	297.8	332.9	305.6	329.9	281.3	238.8	254.7	<b>3159.0</b>
	2004		234.2	177.2	198.4	270.8	303.5	331.7	346.8	353.7	379.2	346.3	315.8*	306.3	<b>3563.9</b>
Pigs	2002	'000	331.7	258.2	244.5	245.4	292.5	223.4	285.6	229.6	240.9	295.1	258.8	203.8	<b>3109.5</b>
	2003		297.8	230.2	218.1	279.9	225.4	209.0	283.3	215.7	217.5	273.6	224.4	197.2	<b>2872.1</b>
	2004		263.3	209.1	253.7	208.1	201.5	243.0	204.1	208.5	272.8	210.4	222.8*	237.0	<b>2734.3</b>
Cattle	2002	'000	50.6	39.8	36.8	42.0	43.7	34.9	46.3	44.2	52.1	55.8	54.3	39.5	<b>540.0</b>
	2003	tonnes <sup>1</sup>	46.9	42.8	40.1	46.3	42.7	38.7	48.6	47.6	57.4	60.2	53.6	43.1	<b>568.0</b>
	2004		42.4	40.2	45.6	42.6	37.1	37.1	44.2	50.2	56.1	57.1	60.4	50.2	<b>563.2</b>
Sheep	2002	'000	3.3	2.0	2.4	4.1	6.5	6.5	8.5	7.8	6.8	6.8	6.4	5.4	<b>66.5</b>
	2003	tonnes <sup>1</sup>	4.7	3.6	2.9	5.0	6.2	5.9	6.6	6.1	6.7	5.7	4.8	5.1	<b>63.3</b>
	2004		4.7	3.6	4.0	5.5	6.0	6.6	7.0	7.1	7.7	7.0	6.4	6.1	<b>71.7</b>
Pigs	2002	'000	24.8	19.3	18.2	18.2	21.6	16.4	20.9	16.9	17.8	21.8	19.2	14.6	<b>229.7</b>
	2003	tonnes <sup>1</sup>	22.9	17.4	16.4	21.0	16.9	15.5	21.7	16.7	16.2	20.6	17.0	14.9	<b>217.2</b>
	2004		20.3	15.9	19.4	15.9	15.4	18.2	15.1	16.0	21.0	15.7	16.6	18.0	<b>207.5</b>

<sup>1</sup>Carcass weight

\*Revised

## Background Notes

- Introduction** This release gives details on the number and carcass weight of cattle, sheep and pig slaughterings. These figures include slaughterings at both licensed meat export and Local Authority licensed premises. Estimates for the on-farm kill of sheep and pigs have also been incorporated. The collection of monthly slaughtering data for pigs, cattle and sheep is governed by Council directives 93/23 (articles 10 & 11), 93/24 (articles 10 & 11) and 93/25 (articles 13 & 14). The definition of the carcass weight for these animals is defined in annex III of 94/432/EC and annex IV of 94/434/EC.
- Export** Information on the number of slaughterings in meat export premises for cattle, sheep and pigs is received from the Department of Agriculture and Food on a monthly basis. Average carcass weights of cattle are taken from the Department's Beef Carcass Classification Scheme. Average weights of pigs are based on information obtained directly from the export factories by the CSO. Average weights of sheep are derived following consultation with industry experts.
- Local Authorities** The CSO conducts a monthly survey of all Local Authorities in the State. All slaughterings in premises over which inspection controls are exercised are included.
- The CSO estimates the carcass weight of cattle, sheep and pigs slaughtered under Local Authority control. These estimates are reviewed on a regular basis with butchers and abattoirs.
- Calves** Calves are included with cattle.
- Carcass weight** For cattle, the carcass weight is defined as the weight of the slaughtered animal's cold body after being skinned, bled and eviscerated and after removal of external genitalia, the limb at the carpus and tarsus, head, tail, kidneys and kidney fats and the udder.
- For sheep, the carcass weight is defined as the weight of the slaughtered animal's cold body after being skinned, bled and eviscerated and after removal of the head, feet, tail and genital organs including the udder. Kidneys and kidney fats are included in the carcass.
- For pigs, the carcass weight is defined as the weight of the slaughtered animal's cold body either whole or divided in half along the mid-line, after being bled and eviscerated and after the removal of the tongue, bristles, hooves, genitalia, flare fat, kidneys and diaphragm.
- References** Comparable livestock slaughtering results from EU member states are contained in the European Statistical Office (Eurostat) publication *Monthly Statistics of Meat*.

## Cattle Slaughterings

'000 head

Country	Jan-Aug 2003	Jan-Aug 2004	% change
<b>European Union 25<sup>1</sup></b>	:	:	:
<b>European Union 15<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>16,979</b>	<b>16,971</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
Austria	431	428	-0.7%
Belgium	560	541	-3.4%
Cyprus	:	:	:
Czech Republic	245	:	:
Denmark	382	384	0.5%
Estonia	:	:	:
Finland	222	208	-6.3%
France	3,751	3,627	-3.3%
Germany	2,482	2,599	4.7%
Greece	192	191	-0.5%
Hungary	:	:	:
Ireland	1,168	1,101	-5.7%
Italy	2,700	2,715	0.6%
Latvia	:	:	:
Lithuania	:	229	:
Luxembourg	22	22	0.0%
Malta	3	3	0.0%
Netherlands	1,168	1,242	6.3%
Poland	1,218	992	-18.6%
Portugal	286	306	7.0%
Slovak Republic	:	:	:
Slovenia	:	90	:
Spain	1,829	1,810	-1.0%
Sweden	310	304	-1.9%
United Kingdom	1,476	1,493	1.2%

Source: New Cronos database, Eurostat

: Not available

<sup>1</sup>European Union states from 1 May 2004

<sup>2</sup>European Union states prior to 1 May 2004