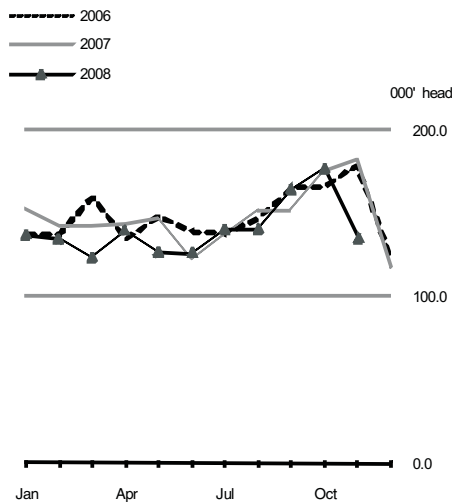




Livestock Slaughterings November 2008

Cattle Slaughterings



	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs
	'000 head		
November 2007	182.6	252.5	232.4
November 2008	135.0	238.9	212.0
% change	-26.1%	-5.4%	-8.8%
Jan-Nov 2008/2007	-6.5%	-12.9%	-1.5%

Cattle slaughterings down 26.1% in November

The number of cattle slaughtered in November 2008 was 26.1 % lower than in November 2007. *See Table 1 and graph.*

A comparison of November 2008 and 2007 figures show that (*see Table 1*):

- ◆ Sheep slaughterings decreased by 5.4%.
- ◆ Pig slaughterings decreased by 8.8%.

The number of cattle slaughterings in January-November 2008 was 6.5% lower than the corresponding 2007 figure. Over the same period there was a decrease of 12.9% in sheep slaughterings and a decrease of 1.5% in pig slaughterings.

Between the periods January to September 2007 and 2008, the Netherlands, Germany, Spain and France recorded increases in pig slaughterings of 3.7%, 3.7%, 0.4% and 0.7% respectively. Denmark recorded a decrease of 0.5%. *See Page 4.*

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Published by the Central Statistics Office, Ireland.

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Table 1 Livestock Slaughtering

Category	Year	Unit	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Cattle	2006	'000	138.0	137.7	159.5	134.7	148.4	138.7	137.1	146.5	165.0	166.6	178.6	122.8	1,773.6
	2007		153.5	143.3	143.5	143.8	147.0	122.8	137.1	152.0	152.1	175.4	182.6	118.1	1,771.2
	2008		137.2*	134.5	123.7	139.7	126.8	126.3	140.4	140.6	164.2*	176.5*	135.0		
Sheep	2006	'000	250.6	202.6	229.8	244.4	311.8	330.0	324.2	373.3	344.2	327.0	284.0	266.0	3,487.9
	2007		217.2	168.6	196.9	230.5	294.5	273.6	301.2	392.1	342.1	362.7	252.5	231.8	3,263.7
	2008		212.4	175.7	189.5	211.2	244.6	248.8	273.2*	269.7	301.9*	275.9*	238.9		
Pigs	2006	'000	229.9	205.6	217.2	210.6	235.8	223.2	221.4	235.3	223.0	220.4	236.2	199.4	2,658.0
	2007		235.5	222.4	226.6	210.6	230.7	205.4	216.4	219.7	209.9	221.0	232.4	184.3	2,614.9
	2008		233.4	226.0	207.6	226.8	214.6	206.0	224.4	200.5	219.6*	222.4*	212.0		
Cattle	2006	'000	44.5	44.4	51.5	43.4	48.1	45.1	44.4	47.3	53.7	53.9	56.8	39.2	572.3
	2007	tonnes ¹	50.1	46.9	46.6	47.2	48.8	40.7	45.0	49.8	50.5	57.5	59.6	38.1	580.8
	2008		45.3	44.0	40.3	45.2	41.3	40.9	45.0	45.4*	53.1	56.4*	42.5		
Sheep	2006	'000	5.1	4.1	4.7	5.0	6.2	6.5	6.5	7.5	7.0	6.6	5.8	5.3	70.3
	2007	tonnes ¹	4.4	3.4	4.0	4.7	5.9	5.5	6.1	7.9	6.9	7.3	5.1	4.6	65.8
	2008		4.3	3.5	3.8	4.3	4.9	5.0	5.5	5.4	6.1	5.6	4.8		
Pigs	2006	'000	18.3	16.2	17.2	16.5	18.5	17.5	17.2	18.3	17.5	17.4	18.8	15.6	209.0
	2007	tonnes ¹	18.7	17.9	18.2	16.8	18.3	16.1	16.8	16.9	16.2	17.1	18.2	14.1	205.3
	2008		19.0	18.1	16.3	17.8	16.7	16.0	17.4	15.6	17.0*	17.3	16.5		

¹Carcass 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, Fisheries 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.

Pig Slaughterings

'000 head

Country	Jan-Sept 2007	Jan-Sept 2008	% change
European Union	188,039	187,777	-0.1%
Austria	4,129	4,121	-0.2%
Belgium	8,347	8,246	-1.2%
Bulgaria	441	431	-2.1%
Cyprus	500	534	6.7%
Czech Republic	2,976	2,858	-4.0%
Denmark	15,742	15,661	-0.5%
Estonia	339	378	11.7%
Finland	1,817	1,822	0.3%
France	19,112	19,240	0.7%
Germany	39,220	40,689	3.7%
Greece	1,305	1,258	-3.6%
Hungary	3,930	3,652	-7.1%
Ireland	1,977	1,959	-0.9%
Italy	9,817	9,858	0.4%
Latvia	385	360	-6.6%
Lithuania	940	740	-21.3%
Luxembourg	107	112	4.2%
Malta	67	74	10.5%
Netherlands	10,472	10,857	3.7%
Romania	2,778	2,818	1.4%
Poland	18,994	17,139	-9.8%
Portugal	4,146	4,395	6.0%
Slovak Republic	872	811	-7.0%
Slovenia	298	289	-3.2%
Spain	30,130	30,241	0.4%
Sweden	2,255	2,299	1.9%
United Kingdom	6,944	6,938	-0.1%

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