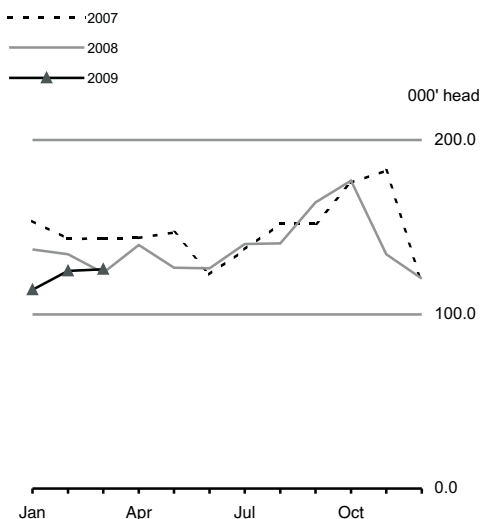




Cattle Slaughtering



Livestock Slaughtering
March 2009

	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs
	'000 head		
March 2008	123.7	189.5	207.6
March 2009	125.7	173.1	208.8
% change	+1.6%	-8.7%	+0.6%
Jan-Mar 2009/2008	-7.8%	-3.5%	-8.4%

Cattle slaughtering up 1.6% in March

The number of cattle slaughtered in March 2009 was 1.6 % higher than in March 2008. *See Table 1 and graph.*

A comparison of March 2009 and 2008 figures show that (*see Table 1*):

- ◆ Sheep slaughtering decreased by 8.7%.
- ◆ Pig slaughtering increased by 0.6%.

The number of cattle slaughtering in January-March 2009 was 7.8% lower than the corresponding 2008 figure. Over the same period there was a decrease of 3.5% in sheep slaughtering and a decrease of 8.4% in pig slaughtering.

Between the periods January to December 2007 and 2008, Ireland, Italy and the United Kingdom recorded decreases in cattle slaughtering of 6.0%, 4.1% and 1.1% respectively. During the same period, Germany recorded an increase of 3.7%. *See Page 4.*

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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	2007	'000	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	176.6	134.4	120.5	1,664.9
	2009		114.0*	124.8*	125.7										
Sheep	2007	'000	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	302.0	276.1	238.1	277.6	2,918.9
	2009		211.0*	173.0*	173.1										
Pigs	2007	'000	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	215.1	206.0	224.4	200.6	219.6	222.5	211.9	183.8	2,577.7
	2009		213.6	188.4*	208.8										
Cattle	2007	'000	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	tonnes ¹	45.3	44.0	40.3	45.2	41.3	40.9	45.0	45.4	53.1	56.4	42.3	38.1	537.3
	2009		36.6*	40.3*	40.6										
Sheep	2007	'000	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	tonnes ¹	4.3	3.5	3.8	4.3	4.9	5.0	5.5	5.4	6.1	5.6	4.8	5.5	58.7
	2009		4.2	3.5	3.5										
Pigs	2007	'000	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	tonnes ¹	19.0	18.1	16.3	17.8	16.7	16.0	17.4	15.6	17.0	17.3	16.4	14.2	201.8
	2009		17.7*	15.5*	17.2										

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 Regulation (EC) No. 1165/2008.
- 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.

Cattle Slaughtering

'000 head

Country	Jan-Dec 2007	Jan-Dec 2008	% change
European Union	28,817	:	:
Austria	675	691	2.3%
Belgium	815	813	-0.3%
Bulgaria	30	:	:
Cyprus	17	19	7.6%
Czech Republic	270	274	1.5%
Denmark	498	495	-0.6%
Estonia	71	67	-5.3%
Finland	301	282	-6.2%
France	5,083	5,083	0.0%
Germany	3,713	3,851	3.7%
Greece	264	259	-2.0%
Hungary	130	125	-3.7%
Ireland	1,771	1,665	-6.0%
Italy	3,997	3,833	-4.1%
Latvia	120	115	-3.5%
Lithuania	252	224	-11.1%
Luxembourg	27	28	6.6%
Malta	6	5	-2.0%
Netherlands	1,905	1,923	0.9%
Romania	1,206	1,116	-7.5%
Poland	1,538	1,691	9.9%
Portugal	375	449	19.9%
Slovak Republic	87	77	-11.7%
Slovenia	128	132	2.7%
Spain	2,428	2,478	2.1%
Sweden	450	423	-6.0%
United Kingdom	2,661	2,632	-1.1%

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

: Data not available