

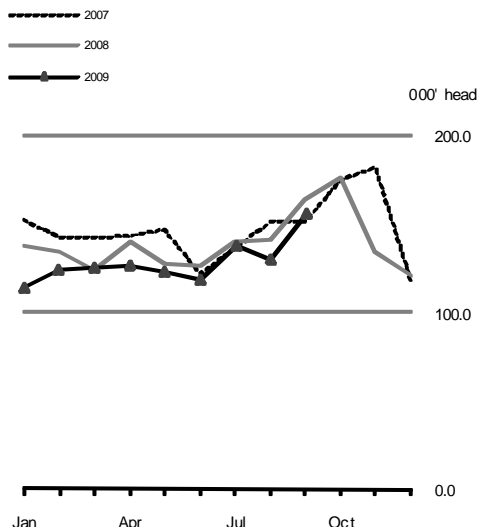


23 October 2009

## Livestock Slaughtering

### September 2009

#### Cattle Slaughtering



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|                           | Cattle    | Sheep  | Pigs  |
|---------------------------|-----------|--------|-------|
|                           | '000 head |        |       |
| <b>September 2008</b>     | 164.2     | 302.0  | 219.6 |
| <b>September 2009</b>     | 156.6     | 262.1  | 204.4 |
| <b>% change</b>           | -4.6%     | -13.2% | -6.9% |
| <b>Jan-Sept 2009/2008</b> | -6.0%     | -6.0%  | -8.2% |

### Cattle slaughtering down 4.6% in September

The number of cattle slaughtered in September 2009 was 4.6% lower than in September 2008. See Table 1 and graph.

A comparison of September 2009 and 2008 figures shows that (see Table 1):

- ◆ Sheep slaughtering decreased by 13.2%.
- ◆ Pig slaughtering decreased by 6.9%.

The number of cattle slaughtering in January-September 2009 was 6.0% lower than the corresponding 2008 figure. Over the same period there was a decrease of 6.0% in sheep slaughtering and a decrease of 8.2% in pig slaughtering.

Between the periods January to July 2008 and 2009, Germany, France and the United Kingdom recorded decreases in cattle slaughtering of 3.8%, 2.5% and 0.4% respectively. During the same period Italy recorded an increase of 0.1%. 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 | <b>1,771.2</b> |
|          | 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 | <b>1,664.9</b> |
|          | 2009 |                     | 114.1 | 124.5 | 125.8 | 127.3 | 123.5 | 119.0 | 138.1* | 130.6* | 156.6 |       |       |       |                |
| 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 | <b>3,263.7</b> |
|          | 2008 |                     | 212.4 | 175.7 | 189.5 | 211.2 | 244.6 | 248.8 | 273.2  | 269.7  | 302.0 | 276.1 | 238.1 | 277.8 | <b>2,919.1</b> |
|          | 2009 |                     | 210.7 | 172.1 | 172.9 | 195.2 | 202.9 | 241.7 | 258.9* | 283.1* | 262.1 |       |       |       |                |
| 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 | <b>2,614.9</b> |
|          | 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 | <b>2,577.7</b> |
|          | 2009 |                     | 213.6 | 188.4 | 208.9 | 203.5 | 184.0 | 196.8 | 208.2* | 191.8* | 204.4 |       |       |       |                |
| 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  | <b>580.8</b>   |
|          | 2008 | tonnes <sup>1</sup> | 45.3  | 44.0  | 40.3  | 45.2  | 41.3  | 40.9  | 45.0   | 45.4   | 53.1  | 56.4  | 42.3  | 38.1  | <b>537.3</b>   |
|          | 2009 |                     | 36.6  | 40.3  | 40.6  | 41.1  | 39.7  | 38.3  | 44.4   | 41.5*  | 50.3  |       |       |       |                |
| 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   | <b>65.8</b>    |
|          | 2008 | tonnes <sup>1</sup> | 4.3   | 3.5   | 3.8   | 4.3   | 4.9   | 5.0   | 5.5    | 5.4    | 6.1   | 5.6   | 4.8   | 5.5   | <b>58.7</b>    |
|          | 2009 |                     | 4.2   | 3.5   | 3.5   | 3.9   | 4.1   | 4.9   | 5.2    | 5.7*   | 5.3   |       |       |       |                |
| 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  | <b>205.3</b>   |
|          | 2008 | tonnes <sup>1</sup> | 19.0  | 18.1  | 16.3  | 17.8  | 16.7  | 16.0  | 17.4   | 15.6   | 17.0  | 17.3  | 16.8  | 14.4  | <b>202.4</b>   |
|          | 2009 |                     | 17.4  | 15.3  | 16.8  | 16.4  | 14.9  | 15.8  | 16.7*  | 15.7*  | 16.7  |       |       |       |                |

<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 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 Slaughterings**

'000 head

| Country               | Jan-July 2008 | Jan-July 2009 | % change |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|----------|
| <b>European Union</b> | <b>16,389</b> | <b>:</b>      | <b>:</b> |
| Austria               | 390           | 387           | -0.9     |
| Belgium               | 464           | 454           | -2.2     |
| Bulgaria              | 45            | 13            | -71.4    |
| Cyprus                | 11            | :             | :        |
| Czech Republic        | 157           | 154           | -1.7     |
| Denmark               | 277           | 194           | -30.1    |
| Estonia               | 38            | 22            | -42.2    |
| Finland               | 158           | 151           | -4.3     |
| France                | 2,904         | 2,831         | -2.5     |
| Germany               | 2,162         | 2,080         | -3.8     |
| Greece                | 147           | :             | :        |
| Hungary               | 75            | 70            | -6.9     |
| Ireland               | 929           | 872           | -6.1     |
| Italy                 | 2,167         | 2,169         | 0.1      |
| Latvia                | 65            | 48            | -25.3    |
| Lithuania             | 120           | 104           | -13.5    |
| Luxembourg            | 15            | 15            | -2.1     |
| Malta                 | 3             | 4             | 12.0     |
| Netherlands           | 1,068         | 1,144         | 7.1      |
| Romania               | 597           | 62            | -89.6    |
| Poland                | 996           | 920           | -7.6     |
| Portugal              | 240           | 257           | 7.2      |
| Slovak Republic       | 47            | 36            | -23.2    |
| Slovenia              | 72            | 67            | -7.7     |
| Spain                 | 1,449         | 1,304         | -10.0    |
| Sweden                | 264           | 283           | 7.4      |
| United Kingdom        | 1,529         | 1,523         | -0.4     |

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