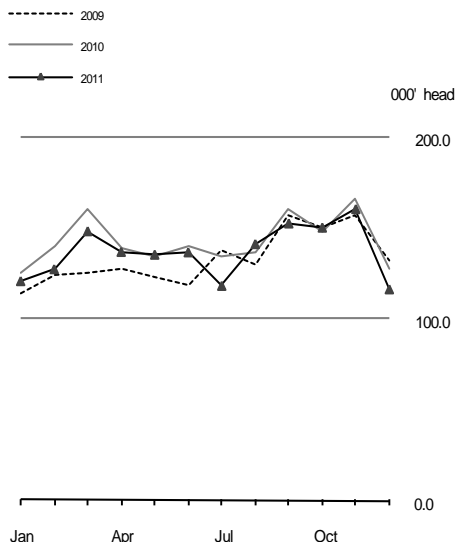




27 January 2012

Cattle Slaughtering



Livestock Slaughtering

December 2011

	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs
	'000 head		
December 2010	128.2	168.8	221.6
December 2011	116.3	209.8	239.5
Percentage Change			
December 2011/2010	-9.3%	24.3%	8.1%
Jan-Dec 2011/2010	-4.2%	1.2%	9.3%

Cattle slaughtering decreased by 9.3% in December 2011 compared with December 2010

The number of cattle slaughtered in December 2011 was 9.3% lower than in December 2010. *See Table 1 and graph.*

A further comparison of December 2011 and December 2010 slaughtering figures also shows that

- ◆ Sheep slaughtering increased by 24.3%.
- ◆ Pig slaughtering increased by 8.1%.

The number of cattle slaughtered in 2011 was 4.2% lower than in 2010. Over the same period there was an increase of 1.2% in sheep slaughtering and an increase of 9.3% in pig slaughtering.

Comparing EU figures for the periods January to October 2011 and January to October 2010, Ireland showed a 3.8% decrease in cattle slaughtering while of the major EU cattle producing countries, the United Kingdom and France recorded increases of 6.3% and 2.9% respectively. During the same period Italy and Germany recorded decreases of 5.3% and 1.8% respectively. *See page 4.*

For more information contact Andrew Murray at 021-453 5122 or Morgan O'Donnell at 021-453 5333

Published by the Central Statistics Office, Ireland.

Ardee Road Skehard Road
Dublin 6 Cork
Ireland Ireland

LoCall: 1890 313 414(ROI)
0808 2347581 (UK/NI)

Tel: +353 1 498 4000 Tel: +353 21 453 5000
Fax: +353 1 498 4229 Fax: +353 21 453 5555

Both offices may be contacted through any of these telephone numbers.

CSO on the Web: www.cso.ie
and go to
Business Sectors: Agriculture and Fishing

Director General: Gerard O'Hanlon

Enquiries:

Statistics Agriculture Section, ext 5333
agri@cso.ie
Sales Information Section, ext 5021
information@cso.ie

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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	2009	'000	114.1	124.5	125.8	127.5	123.3	119.0	138.1	130.6	157.3	150.6	157.6	132.0	1,600.3
	2010	head	126.0	140.8	161.0	139.3	134.9	140.1	134.7	137.0	160.3	148.1	166.1	128.2	1,716.4
	2011		120.9	127.4	148.3	136.9	135.4	136.7	118.2	141.2	152.6*	150.3	160.5*	116.3	1,644.8
Sheep	2009	'000	210.7	172.1	172.9	195.2	202.9	241.7	259.0	282.6	274.1	254.1	236.7	228.0	2,729.9
	2010	head	161.1	147.0	175.8	153.1	165.6	204.6	234.5	255.5	249.3	234.3	233.1	168.8	2,382.6
	2011		157.5	145.8	147.2	165.5	189.5	224.1	233.8	257.0*	242.9*	221.4	216.0*	209.8	2,410.5
Pigs	2009	'000	213.6	188.4	208.9	203.5	184.0	196.8	208.2	191.8	204.5	200.6	210.9	209.5	2,420.8
	2010	head	200.7	202.2	231.0	220.4	213.8	217.9	225.9	226.1	235.7	214.5	247.2	221.6	2,657.1
	2011		225.0	225.0	249.2	227.1	240.5	237.2	232.7	257.2	258.3	240.2*	273.0*	239.5	2,904.9
Cattle	2009	'000	36.6	40.3	40.6	41.2	39.6	38.3	44.4	41.6	50.5	48.3	50.6	42.4	514.4
	2010	tonnes ¹	41.2	45.9	52.0	45.0	43.7	45.4	43.4	44.6	52.7	48.8	54.4	41.8	559.0
	2011		40.1	42.1	48.9	45.2	44.7	45.1	38.9	47.7	52.0	50.9	53.7*	38.4	547.6
Sheep	2009	'000	4.2	3.5	3.5	3.9	4.1	4.9	5.2	5.7	5.6	5.1	4.7	4.5	55.1
	2010	tonnes ¹	3.2	2.9	3.5	3.1	3.3	4.1	4.7	5.1	5.0	4.7	4.7	3.4	47.8
	2011		3.2	2.9	3.0	3.3	3.8	4.4	4.6	5.1*	4.9	4.4	4.3	4.2	48.1
Pigs	2009	'000	17.4	15.3	16.8	16.4	14.9	15.8	16.7	15.4	16.6	16.4	17.2	16.7	195.6
	2010	tonnes ¹	16.4	16.5	18.9	18.1	17.3	17.4	17.9	18.0	18.9	17.2	19.9	17.6	214.1
	2011		18.4	18.3	20.2	18.3	19.4	18.9	18.4	20.6	20.8	19.3	22.0*	19.3	233.9

¹Carcass weight

*Revised

Background Notes

Introduction

This release gives the number and carcass weight of cattle, sheep and pig slaughterings in the Republic of Ireland. The figures include slaughterings at both meat establishments approved by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine (DAFM) and slaughterhouses and meat plants approved by Local Authorities under S.I.432 of 2009. The collection of monthly slaughtering data for cattle, sheep and pigs is governed by Regulation (EC) No. 1165/2008.

DAFM approved plants

Data on the number of slaughterings in meat establishments approved by DAFM for cattle, sheep and pigs is obtained monthly from the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine. Average carcass weights of cattle are taken from the Department's Beef Carcass Classification Scheme. Average carcass weights of pigs are based on information obtained directly from the export factories by the CSO. Average carcass weights of sheep are derived through consultations with industry experts.

Local Authorities approved plants

The CSO conducts a monthly survey of all Local Authorities in the State. All slaughterings in slaughterhouses and meat plants approved by Local Authorities under S.I.432 of 2009 are included.

The CSO estimates the carcass weight of cattle, sheep and pigs slaughtered in premises under Local Authority control. These estimates are reviewed on a regular basis with butchers and abattoirs.

Calves

Calf slaughterings 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.

Timing of Easter

Easter falls each year on a Sunday between March 22nd and April 25th, inclusively. In 2011 Easter Sunday fell on April 24th, while in 2010 it fell on April 4th. The level of sheep slaughterings in March and April each year is greatly influenced by when Easter falls.

Dates for Easter Sunday

2011 – 24th April

2010 – 4th April

2009 – 12th April

Cattle Slaughterings

'000 head

Country	Jan-Oct 2010	Jan-Oct 2011	% change
European Union	22,506	:	:
Austria	563	534	-5.2
Belgium	672	707	5.2
Bulgaria	17	19	10.0
Cyprus	13	:	:
Czech Republic	208	205	-1.4
Denmark	404	421	4.2
Estonia	32	27	-15.8
Finland	215	222	3.0
France	4,172	4,293	2.9
Germany	3,029	2,974	-1.8
Greece	206	210	2.0
Hungary	88	85	-3.8
Ireland	1,422	1,368	-3.8
Italy	3,170	3,003	-5.3
Latvia	75	74	-1.4
Lithuania	150	141	-6.2
Luxembourg	22	20	-8.0
Malta	5	4	-27.9
Netherlands	1,646	1,634	-0.8
Poland	1,263	1,259	-0.4
Portugal	331	343	3.5
Romania	105	101	-3.6
Slovak Republic	43	36	-14.9
Slovenia	96	96	0.5
Spain	1,893	1,924	1.7
Sweden	402	403	0.1
United Kingdom	2,264	2,407	6.3

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

: not available