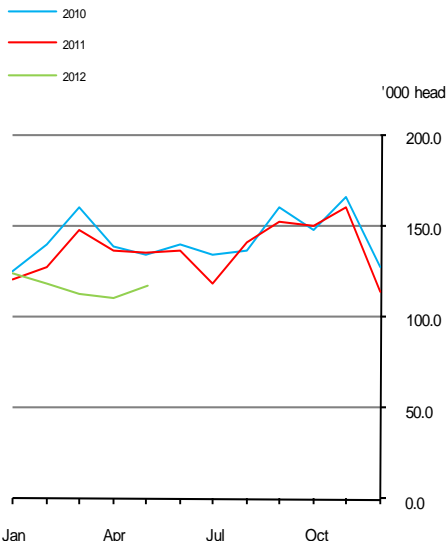




21 June 2012

Cattle Slaughtering



Livestock Slaughtering May 2012

	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs
	'000 head		
May 2011	135.4	189.5	240.5
May 2012	117.6	223.9	265.0
Percentage Change			
May 2012/2011	-13.1%	18.2%	10.2%
Jan-May 2012/2011	-12.9%	7.6%	7.8%

Cattle slaughtering decreased by 13.1% in May

The number of cattle slaughtered in May 2012 was 13.1% lower than in May 2011. See Table 1 and graph.

A further comparison of May 2012 and May 2011 slaughtering figures also shows that

- ◆ Sheep slaughtering increased by 18.2%.
- ◆ Pig slaughtering increased by 10.2%.

The number of cattle slaughtered in January-May 2012 was 12.9% lower than the corresponding 2011 period. Over the same period there was an increase of 7.6% in sheep slaughtering and an increase of 7.8% in pig slaughtering.

Comparing EU figures for the periods January-March 2012 and January-March 2011, Ireland showed a 7.3% increase in pig slaughtering while of the major EU pig producing countries, Spain recorded an increase of 4.8%. During the same period Denmark, France and Germany recorded decreases of 5.3%, 1.3% and 0.9% respectively. 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	2010	'000	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	head	120.9	127.4	148.3	136.9	135.4	136.7	118.2	141.2	152.6	150.3	160.3	114.1	1,642.4
	2012		124.0*	118.2	112.5*	110.4*	117.6								582.7
Sheep	2010	'000	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	head	157.5	145.8	147.2	165.5	189.5	224.1	233.8	257.0	242.9	221.4	217.7	207.6	2,410.0
	2012		176.8*	152.3*	147.0*	166.7*	223.9								866.7
Pigs	2010	'000	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	head	225.0	225.0	249.2	227.1	240.5	237.2	232.7	257.2	258.3	240.2	273.1	239.6	2,905.1
	2012		253.1	250.3	247.1	242.4*	265.0								1,257.9
Cattle	2010	'000	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	tonnes ¹	40.1	42.1	48.9	45.2	44.7	45.1	38.9	47.7	51.9	50.9	53.6	37.8	546.7
	2012		42.1	39.8	38.1	37.4	39.5								196.9
Sheep	2010	'000	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	tonnes ¹	3.2	2.9	3.0	3.3	3.8	4.4	4.6	5.1	4.9	4.4	4.3	4.1	48.1
	2012		3.5	3.0	2.9	3.3	4.4								17.2
Pigs	2010	'000	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	tonnes ¹	18.4	18.3	20.2	18.3	19.4	18.9	18.4	20.6	20.8	19.3	22.0	19.1	233.7
	2012		20.7	20.5	20.3	19.9*	21.8								103.2

¹ Carcass 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 2012 Easter Sunday fell on April 8th, while in 2011 it fell on April 24th. The level of sheep slaughterings in March and April each year is greatly influenced by when Easter falls.

Dates for Easter Sunday

2012 – 8th April

2011 – 24th April

2010 – 4th April

Pig Slaughterings

'000 head

Country	Jan-Mar 2011	Jan-Mar 2012	% change
European Union	63,398	:	:
Austria	1,412	1,392	-1.4
Belgium	2,993	2,905	-3.0
Bulgaria	154	162	5.2
Cyprus	168	:	:
Czech Republic	744	675	-9.3
Denmark	5,468	5,176	-5.3
Estonia	95	96	1.3
Finland	570	550	-3.5
France	6,280	6,199	-1.3
Germany	14,691	14,554	-0.9
Greece	427	414	-3.1
Hungary	1,106	1,010	-8.7
Ireland	699	750	7.3
Italy	3,216	3,297	2.5
Latvia	77	66	-14.1
Lithuania	167	167	-0.3
Luxembourg	30	33	11.1
Malta	20	17	-13.4
Netherlands	3,761	3,641	-3.2
Poland	4,969	4,891	-1.6
Portugal	1,417	1,332	-6.0
Romania	659	716	8.7
Slovak Republic	179	138	-22.7
Slovenia	68	64	-5.6
Spain	10,793	11,310	4.8
Sweden	750	685	-8.7
United Kingdom	2,485	2,544	2.4

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

: not available