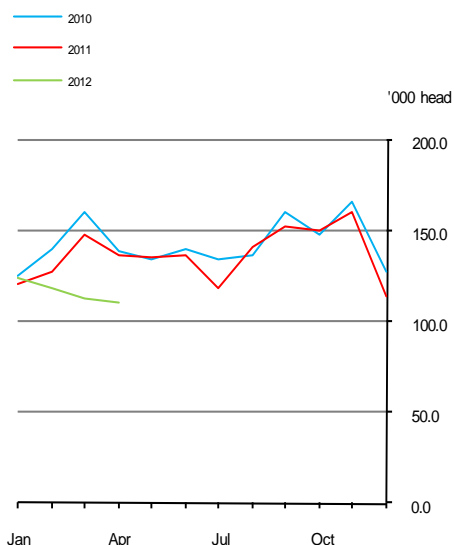




25 May 2012

## Cattle Slaughterings



## Livestock Slaughterings April 2012

	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs
	'000 head		
<b>April 2011</b>	136.9	165.5	227.1
<b>April 2012</b>	110.3	165.1	242.2
<b>Percentage Change</b>			
<b>April 2012/2011</b>	-19.4%	-0.2%	6.6%
<b>Jan-Apr 2012/2011</b>	-12.8%	4.2%	7.2%

### Cattle slaughterings decreased by 19.4% in April

The number of cattle slaughtered in April 2012 was 19.4% lower than in April 2011. *See Table 1 and graph.*

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

- ◆ Sheep slaughterings decreased by 0.2%.
- ◆ Pig slaughterings increased by 6.6%.

The number of cattle slaughtered in January-April 2012 was 12.8% lower than the corresponding 2011 period. Over the same period there was an increase of 4.2% in sheep slaughterings and an increase of 7.2% in pig slaughtering.

Comparing EU figures for the periods January-February 2012 and January-February 2011, Ireland showed an 8.4% increase in sheep slaughterings while of the major EU sheep producing countries, Spain and France recorded increases of 1.1% and 0.6% respectively. During the same period the United Kingdom and Greece recorded decreases of 6.1% and 4.4% respectively. *See page 4.*

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**Table 1 Livestock Slaughterings**

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	<b>1,716.4</b>
	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	<b>1,642.3</b>
	2012		124.1*	118.2	112.6*	110.3									<b>465.2</b>
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	<b>2,382.6</b>
	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	<b>2,410.0</b>
	2012		177.0*	152.4*	147.1*	165.1									<b>641.6</b>
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	<b>2,657.1</b>
	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	<b>2,905.1</b>
	2012		253.1*	250.3*	247.1*	242.2									<b>992.7</b>
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	<b>559.0</b>
	2011	tonnes <sup>1</sup>	40.1	42.1	48.9	45.2	44.7	45.1	38.9	47.7	51.9	50.9	53.6	37.8	<b>546.7</b>
	2012		42.1	39.8*	38.1	37.4									<b>157.4</b>
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	<b>47.8</b>
	2011	tonnes <sup>1</sup>	3.2	2.9	3.0	3.3	3.8	4.4	4.6	5.1	4.9	4.4	4.3	4.1	<b>48.1</b>
	2012		3.5	3.0	2.9*	3.3									<b>12.8</b>
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	<b>214.1</b>
	2011	tonnes <sup>1</sup>	18.4	18.3	20.2	18.3	19.4	18.9	18.4	20.6	20.8	19.3	22.0	19.1	<b>233.7</b>
	2012		20.7	20.5*	20.3*	19.3									<b>80.8</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> and April 25<sup>th</sup>, inclusively. In 2012 Easter Sunday fell on April 8<sup>th</sup>, while in 2011 it fell on April 24<sup>th</sup>. The level of sheep slaughterings in March and April each year is greatly influenced by when Easter falls.

#### Dates for Easter Sunday

2012 – 8<sup>th</sup> April

2011 – 24<sup>th</sup> April

2010 – 4<sup>th</sup> April

## Sheep Slaughterings

'000 head

Country	Jan-Feb 2011	Jan-Feb 2012	% change
<b>European Union</b>	<b>6,726</b>	:	:
Austria	33	:	:
Belgium	17	15	-10.1
Bulgaria	4	:	:
Cyprus	19	:	:
Czech Republic	1	1	-7.1
Denmark	13	11	-12.5
Estonia	1	1	23.4
Finland	9	7	-18.8
France	602	605	0.6
Germany	111	128	:
Greece	1,151	1,100	-4.4
Hungary	1	1	56.3
<b>Ireland</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>8.4</b>
Italy	493	423	-14.2
Latvia	2	2	19.4
Lithuania	1	1	12.4
Luxembourg	0	0	0.0
Malta	1	1	2.4
Netherlands	86	86	-0.1
Poland	4	5	15.8
Portugal	107	98	-8.2
Romania	5	4	-11.8
Slovak Republic	0	0	173.8
Slovenia	1	1	-5.7
Spain	1,532	1,549	1.1
Sweden	27	30	9.0
United Kingdom	2,206	2,072	-6.1

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

: not available