

1995 □ 7

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December 1994 cattle population survey

Stabilization of cattle population confirmed after very marked cyclical fall

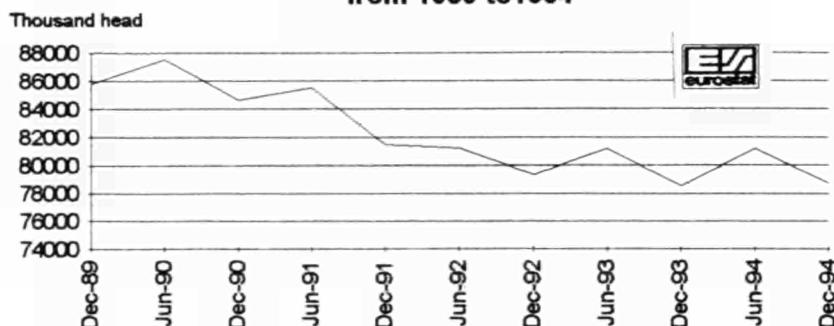
At the end of 1994 the cattle population in the twelve-member European Union was 78.7 million head, according to the survey carried out in the various Member States during the month of December. These results confirm the stabilizing population trend already observed in the middle of the year. The number of dairy cows, however, is still on the decline in most countries, with the notable exception of France. Although forecast slaughterings for 1995 are slightly down compared with 1994, the tonnage of beef and veal produced is likely to be up because of increased carcass weight.

After a particularly marked cyclical fall, the worst is now well and truly over. The stabilization in cattle numbers already observed in the June 1994 survey was confirmed by the cattle population survey carried out in the various countries of the former twelve-member European Union during December. 78.7 million head of cattle were recorded at the end of 1994, some 200 000 more than in December 1993.

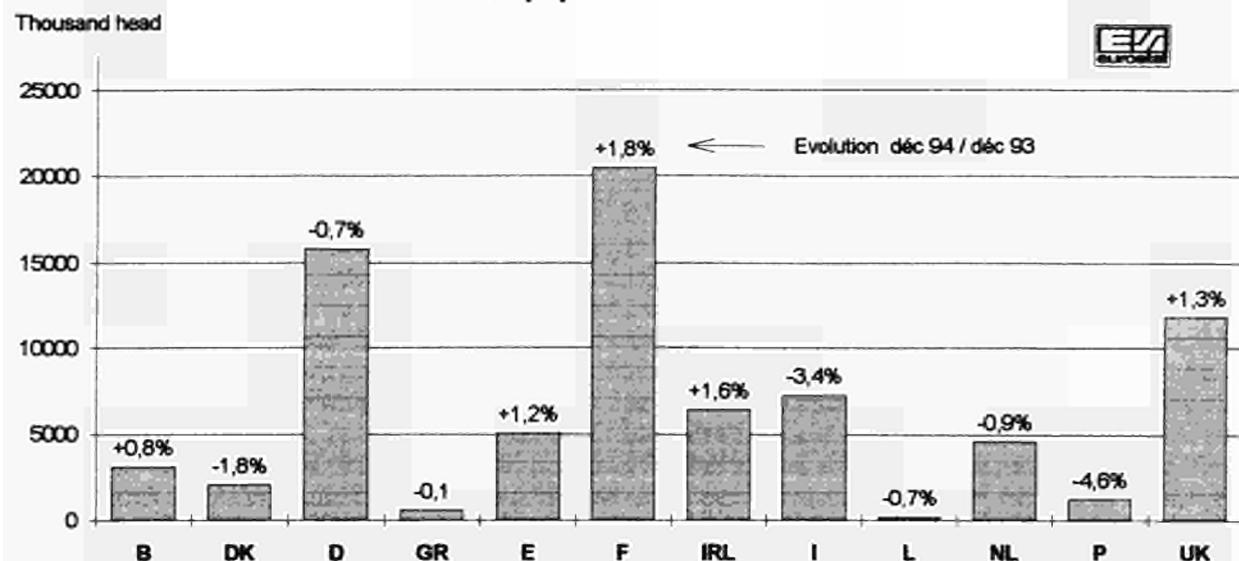
Of course, these numbers are substantially lower than those recorded in the middle of the year, because of the traditional autumn

destocking of grazing land. Year in year out the seasonal fluctuation amounts to 3% of the animal population, i.e. some 2.5 million

**Evolution of cattle population of EU
from 1989 to 1994**



Cattle population in December 1994



head throughout the Union. The seasonal variation is much larger in Ireland, where it can be as much as 10% or more.

The stabilization, or even recovery, in cattle numbers can be seen in most of the countries. France and the United Kingdom, which have large numbers of cattle, set the tone with increases of 1.8% and 1.3% respectively. Spain and Belgium are heading in the same direction, reporting increases of around 1%. In Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark the steep decline in numbers has levelled out. Ireland, where cattle numbers have been rising constantly for the last four years, continues to be a case apart. Only Portugal and Italy continue to make drastic reductions in their herds, particularly in the dairy component.

As regards dairy cows, downward adjustments are continuing more or less everywhere, though the falls are generally modest.

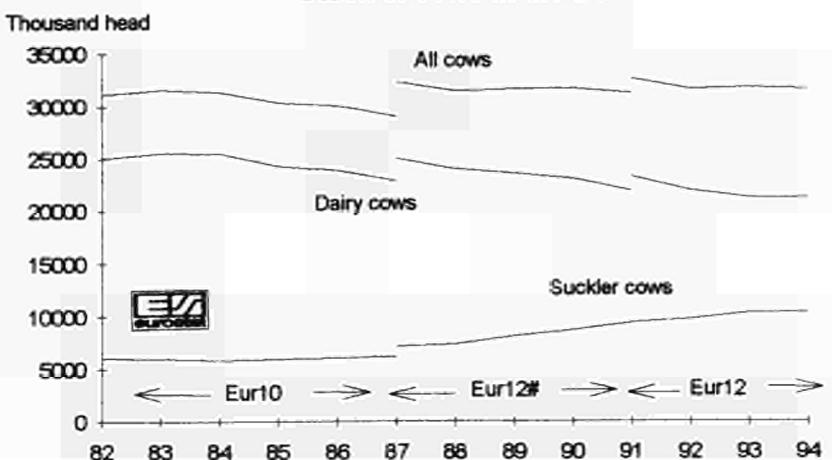
300 000 fewer dairy cows than the year before

In an environment dominated by the quota system, there is nothing surprising in a slow decline in dairy herds, in that the upward trend in yield per

cow has to be balanced out in order not to exceed the authorized level of milk production.

Particularly in the countries of southern Europe there is still considerable room for productivity gains, since their average milk yield is still 20% below the Community average. These productivity gains often come about through the

Stock of cows in the EU



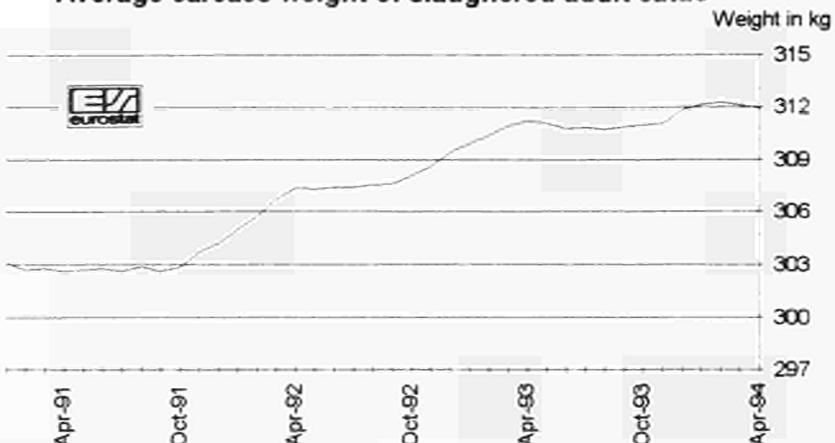
disappearance of small farms with low yields, of which there are generally large numbers. It is therefore *a priori* no surprise if the number of dairy cows continues to fall, sometimes substantially, in Spain, Portugal and Italy.

Overlaying this more or less structural development there are of course the **short-term decisions** taken by farmers to adjust milk production to the allowed quotas. France thus saw an increase in the numbers of dairy cows after several years of decline. At present it is the only country where this turnaround can be seen. The increase is considerable (2.8%) and comes after a 1993/94 milk year in which French milk production was below the allowed quotas. Since this under-production continued in the first few months of the current milk year, it seems that farmers have preferred to enlarge their herds rather than drive up productivity.

Suckler cows: 10.4 million head

Overall the number of suckler cows is up by 1%, but herd numbers are still well below the reference population, i.e. the number of cows potentially eligible for premium (10.9 million head for the 12 old Member States of the Union). The shortfall is of the order of

Average carcass weight of slaughtered adult cattle

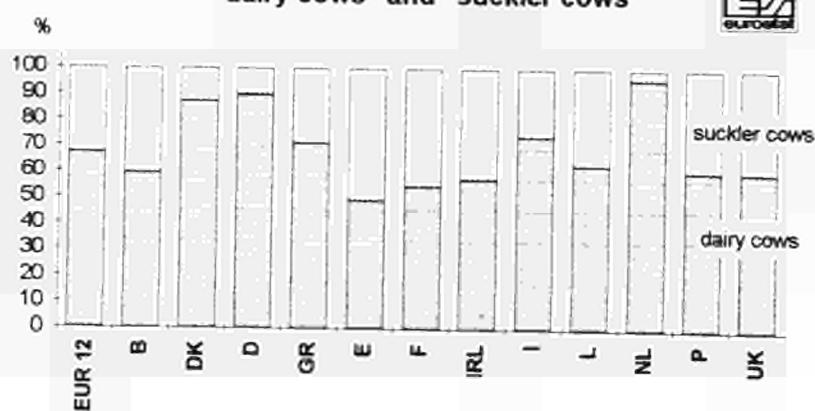


5%, quite apart from the fact that for various reasons, although they are not classified as dairy cows, no premium for suckler cows is paid on a good number of the so called "other cows". One of these reasons is the restriction on cattle numbers per hectare. It can also be seen that here and there some livestock farmers are having a change of heart. This is the case in Denmark and in the Netherlands, where a certain disaffection from this type of stockbreeding is emerging. The truth is that the suckler cow, which by nature represents a form of

extensive production, has never really been popular in these countries, which are front runners in high dairy yields. Only one cow in 8 is a suckler cow in Denmark and less than one in 20 in the Netherlands, whereas the Community average is one in 3.

As regards replacement animals, more **breeding females** were recorded than in 1993. It is true that there are slightly fewer adult heifers, but it can be seen that for the last two years livestock farmers have tended to keep more female calves than before.

Breakdown of cows by
"dairy cows" and "suckler cows"



3/17/95

BOVINE LIVESTOCK IN DECEMBER
1000 HEAD

RINDERBESTAND IN DEZEMBER
1000 STUECK

EFFECTIFS BOVINS EN DECEMBRE
1000 TETES

	EUR 12	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	P	UK
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TOTAL (buffaloes included)					INSGESAMT (Büffel einbegriffen)					TOTAL (buffles compris)			
12/93	78539	3084	2115	15897	608	5000	20099	6309	7523	205	4629	1323	11710
12/94	78746 *	3109 *	2082 *	15792 *	608 !	5060 *	20470 *	6410 *	7265 *	204 *	4588 *	1262 *	11857 *
% 94/93	0.3 *	0.8 *	-1.6 *	-0.7 *	-0.1 !	1.2 *	1.8 *	1.6 *	-3.4 *	-0.7 *	-0.9 *	-4.6 *	1.3 *

1 BOVINAS LESS THAN 1 YEAR OLD					RINDER VON WENIGER ALS 1 JAHR					BOVINS DE MOINS DE 1 AN			
12/93	23005	900	792	5324	174	1501	5070	1566	2398	57	1571	394	3259
12/94	23026 *	923 *	768 *	5284 *	194 !	1569 *	5107 *	1558 *	2331 *	54 *	1568 *	368 *	3322 *
% 94/93	0.1 *	2.6 *	-3.0 *	-0.8 *	-0.3 !	4.5 *	0.7 *	-0.5 *	-2.8 *	-4.2 *	-0.2 *	-6.6 *	1.9 *

1.1 CALVES FOR SLAUGHTER					SCHLACHTKÄLBER					VEAUX DE BOUCHERIE			
12/93	3487	159	6	158	85	1022	979	0	392	2	616	54	15
12/94	3453 *	163 *	6 *	161 *	88 !	1084 *	902 *	0	371 *	1 *	618 *	52 *	11 *
% 94/93	-1.0 *	2.5 *	0.0 *	1.9 *	-1.0 !	6.1 *	-7.9 *	0.0	-5.4 *	-44.6 *	0.3 *	-3.7 *	-26.7 *

1.2 OTHER MALE					ANDERE MÄNNLICHE					AUTRES MALES			
12/93	8819	283	368	2471	37	132	1678	847	1014	20	277	172	1520
12/94	8736 *	287 *	356 *	2436 *	37 !	124 *	1697 *	838 *	970 *	19 *	278 *	160 *	1534 *
% 94/93	-0.9 *	1.4 *	-3.3 *	-1.4 *	-0.9 !	-6.1 *	1.1 *	-1.0 *	-4.3 *	-4.4 *	0.4 *	-7.0 *	0.9 *

1.3 OTHER FEMALE					ANDERE WEIBLICHE					AUTRES FEMELLES			
12/93	10700	458	418	2696	52	347	2413	719	992	35	678	168	1724
12/94	10837 *	473 *	406 *	2688 *	53 !	361 *	2508 *	720 *	990 *	34 *	672 *	156 *	1777 *
% 94/93	1.3 *	3.3 *	-2.9 *	-0.3 *	1.3 !	4.0 *	3.9 *	0.1 *	-0.2 *	-1.9 *	-0.9 *	-7.1 *	3.1 *

2 BOVINAS AGED BETWEEN 1 AND 2 YEARS					RINDER VON 1 BIS UNTER 2 JAHREN					BOVINS DE 1 A MOINS DE 2 ANS			
12/93	16392	661	393	3681	103	465	3950	1504	1594	44	957	226	2815
12/94	16794 *	674 *	386 *	3643 *	106 !	496 *	4099 *	1552 *	1675 *	46 *	985 *	224 *	2909 *
% 94/93	2.5 *	2.0 *	-1.8 *	-1.0 *	2.5 !	6.7 *	3.8 *	3.2 *	5.1 *	4.4 *	2.9 *	-0.9 *	3.3 *

2.1 MALE					MAENNLLICHE					MALES			
12/93	6059	173	47	1481	51	54	1291	861	731	12	194	102	1061
12/94	6238 *	182 *	47 *	1485 *	53 !	56 *	1369 *	876 *	771 *	14 *	207 *	101 *	1078 *
% 94/93	3.0 *	5.3 *	0.0 *	0.2 *	3.0 !	3.7 *	6.0 *	1.6 *	5.5 *	15.4 *	6.7 *	-1.0 *	1.6 *

2.2 FEMALE FOR SLAUGHTHER					WEIBLICHE SCHLACHTTIERE					FEMELLES DE BOUCHERIE			
12/93	2076	82	14	305	11	30	323	319	166	4	46	22	755
12/94	2053 *	80 *	14 *	255 *	11 !	31 *	312 *	333 *	192 *	4 *	33 *	22 *	767 *
% 94/93	-1.1 *	-2.2 *	0.0 *	-16.6 *	-1.1 !	3.3 *	-3.4 *	4.4 *	15.7 *	7.2 *	-28.3 *	0.0 *	1.6 *

2.3 OTHER FEMALE					ANDERE WEIBLICHE					AUTRES FEMELLES			
12/93	8257	406	332	1894	41	381	2336	324	697	29	717	102	999
12/94	8504 *	412 *	325 *	1904 *	42 !	409 *	2418 *	344 *	712 *	28 *	745 *	101 *	1064 *
% 94/93	3.0 *	1.4 *	-2.1 *	0.5 *	3.0 !	7.3 *	3.5 *	6.1 *	2.2 *	-0.6 *	3.9 *	-1.0 *	6.5 *



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3	BOVINES OF 2 YEARS AND OVER							RINDER VON 2 JAHREN UND DARAUF							BOVINS DE 2 ANS ET PLUS		
12/93	39104	1523	930	6892	331	3034	11079	3239	3531	104	2101	703	5636				
12/94	38887 *	1512 *	928 *	6866 *	328 !	2995 *	11264 *	3301 *	3259 *	103 *	2035 *	670 *	5626 *				
% 94/93	-0.6 *	-0.8 *	-0.2 *	-0.4 *	-0.8 !	-1.3 *	1.7 *	1.9 *	-7.7 *	-0.9 *	-3.1 *	-4.6 *	-0.2 *				

3.1	MALE							MAENNLLICHE							MÄLES		
12/93	1930	38	8	151	5	76	529	589	82	4	22	36	390				
12/94	1968 *	42 *	10 *	148 *	5 !	76 *	538 *	615 *	77 *	4 *	26 *	34 *	393				
% 94/93	2.0 *	9.2 *	25.0 *	-1.7 *	2.0 !	0.0 *	1.7 *	4.5 *	-6.1 *	5.5 *	18.2 *	-5.6 *	0.8				

3.2	HEIFERS							FÄRSSEN							GENISSES		
12/93	5343	303	94	887	20	173	1984	448	451	22	207	53	700				
12/94	5318 *	300 *	96 *	891 *	20 !	184 *	2013 *	460 *	390 *	21 *	180 *	50 *	714 *				
% 94/93	-0.5 *	-1.1 *	2.1 *	0.5 *	-0.5 !	6.4 *	1.5 *	2.6 *	-13.5 *	-4.0 *	-13.0 *	-4.8 *	2.0 *				

3.2.1	HEIFERS FOR SLAUGHTER							ZUM SCHLACHTEN							GENISSES DE BOUCHERIE		
12/93	869	92	6	62	3	5	297	164	31	3	25	11	171				
12/94	877 *	90 *	6 *	51 *	3 !	5 *	291 *	166 *	25 *	3 *	17 *	10 *	209 *				
% 94/93	0.9 *	-2.3 *	0.0 *	-17.0 *	0.9 !	0.0 *	-2.0 *	1.6 *	-19.4 *	25.8 *	-32.0 *	-5.0 *	22.2 *				

3.2.2	OTHER HEIFERS							ANDERE FAERSEN							AUTRES GENISSES		
12/93	4473	211	88	825	17	168	1687	285	420	19	182	42	529				
12/94	4441 *	209 *	90 *	840 *	17 !	179 *	1722 *	293 *	365 *	18 *	163 *	40 *	505 *				
% 94/93	-0.7 *	-1.1 *	2.3 *	1.8 *	-0.7 !	6.5 *	2.1 *	3.1 *	-13.1 *	-7.9 *	-10.4 *	-4.8 *	-4.5 *				

3.3	COWS							KUEHE							VACHES		
12/93	31831	1182	828	5854	306	2785	8566	2202	2998	79	1872	614	4546				
12/94	31597 *	1171 *	818 *	5826 *	303 !	2735 *	8713 *	2226 *	2792 *	78 *	1829 *	586 *	4519 *				
% 94/93	-0.7 *	-0.9 *	-1.2 *	-0.5 *	-0.8 !	-1.8 *	1.7 *	1.1 *	-6.9 *	-0.4 *	-2.3 *	-4.6 *	-0.6 *				

3.3.1	DAIRY COWS							MILCHKUEHE							VACHES LAITIÈRES		
12/93	21502	703	711	5301	219	1403	4615	1274	2287	51	1777	375	2786				
12/94	21181 *	696 *	717 *	5231 *	216 !	1339 *	4745 *	1269 *	2070 *	49 *	1757 *	356 *	2736 *				
% 94/93	-1.5 *	-1.0 *	0.8 *	-1.3 *	-1.5 !	-4.6 *	2.8 *	-0.4 *	-9.5 *	-3.9 *	-1.1 *	-5.1 *	-1.8 *				

3.3.2	OTHER COWS							ANDERE KUEHE							AUTRES VACHES		
12/93	10329	479	117	553	87	1382	3951	928	711	28	95	239	1760				
12/94	10420 *	475 *	105 *	595 *	88 !	1396 *	3968 *	957 *	722 *	29 *	72 *	230 *	1783 *				
% 94/93	0.9 *	-0.7 *	-10.3 *	7.6 *	0.9 !	1.0 *	0.4 *	3.1 *	1.5 *	5.9 *	-24.2 *	-3.8 *	1.3 *				

* DATA PROVISIONAL OR ESTIMATED

- : UNAVAILABLE

! ESTIMATED BY EUROSTAT

* VORLÄUFIGE ODER GESCHÄTZTEANGABE

- NICHT VERFÜGBAR

! VON EUROSTAT GESCHÄTZT

* DONNEE PROVISOIRE OU ESTIMEE

- DONNEE NON DISPONIBLE

! ESTIMATION EUROSTAT



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TOTAL

INSGESAMT

TOTAL

1-6	14447	569	400	2843	142	977	3744	899	1863	13 *	1070	261 *	1666
7-12	14287	567	435	2793	147 *	1006	3799	1071	1466	13 *	955	245 *	1789
1993	28734 *	1136 *	835	5636	290 *	1983	7543	1970 *	3329	26 *	2025	506 *	3455
1-6	13745 *	677 *	412 *	2643 *	146 *	872	3532	803	1739 *	13 *	981 *	187 *	1740 *
7-12	13952 *	640 *	407 *	2651 *	156 *	932 *	3686 *	1037	1463 *	13 *	874 *	184 *	1908 *
1994	27696 *	1317 *	819 *	5294 *	302 *	1804 *	7218 *	1840 *	3202 *	26 *	1865 *	371 *	3648 *
1-6	13588 *	655 *	390 *	2570 *	145 *	928 *	3498 *	837	1635 *	13 *	1015 *	180 *	1722 *
7-12	14008 *	625 *	395 *	2635 *	157 *	1019 *	3685 *	1051	1495 *	13 *	910 *	177 *	1846 *
1995	27596 *	1280 *	785 *	5206 *	302 *	1947 *	7183 *	1888	3130 *	26 *	1925 *	357 *	3568 *
% 1-6	-1.14 *	-3.25 *	-5.34 *	-2.76 *	-0.27 *	6.42 *	-0.96 *	4.23	-5.98 *	0.00 *	3.47 *	-3.74 *	-1.03 *
% 7-12	0.41 *	-2.34 *	-2.95 *	-0.60 *	0.39 *	9.33 *	-0.03 *	1.35	2.19 *	0.00 *	4.12 *	-3.80 *	-3.25 *
% 85/94	-0.36 *	-2.81 *	-4.16 *	-1.68 *	0.07 *	7.93 *	-0.48 *	2.61	-2.25 *	0.00 *	3.77 *	-3.77 *	-2.19 *

1 CALVES

KAELBER

VEAUX

1-6	3158	184	23	280	27	34	1428	47	452	0 *	471	38	174
7-12	2738	166	31	231	41 *	33	1436	21	9	1 *	403	39	327
1993	5896	360	54	511	68 *	67	2864	68	461	1 *	874	77	501
1-6	3079 *	288 *	40 *	288 *	26 *	31	1350	52	314 *	0 *	420 *	27 *	242 *
7-12	2706 *	228 *	40 *	255 *	28 *	12 *	1462 *	15	13 *	1 *	360 *	25 *	267 *
1994	5786 *	516 *	80 *	543 *	66 *	43 *	2812 *	67	327 *	1 *	780 *	52 *	509 *
1-6	2903 *	260 *	40 *	260 *	27 *	35 *	1321 *	43	260 *	0 *	435 *	26 *	196 *
7-12	2635 *	205 *	40 *	240 *	27 *	16 *	1436 *	12	50 *	1 *	370 *	24 *	214 *
1995	5638 *	466 *	80 *	500 *	64 *	51 *	2757 *	56	310 *	1 *	806 *	50 *	410 *
% 1-6	-5.71 *	-9.72 *	0.00 *	-9.72 *	0.83 *	12.90 *	-2.15 *	-17.31	-17.20 *	0.00 *	3.57 *	-3.70 *	-19.01 *
% 7-12	-2.62 *	-10.09 *	0.00 *	-5.88 *	-2.94 *	33.33 *	-1.78 *	-20.00	284.62 *	0.00 *	2.78 *	-4.00 *	-19.85 *
% 85/94	-4.26 *	-9.88 *	0.00 *	-7.92 *	-1.12 *	18.60 *	-1.96 *	-17.91	-6.20 *	0.00 *	3.21 *	-3.86 *	-19.46 *

2 ADULT CATTLE

GROSS RINDER

GROS BOVINS

1-6	11288	385	377	2563	115	943	2316	852	1411	12 *	599	223 *	1492
7-12	11549	401	404	2562	106 *	973	2363	1050	1457	13 *	552	206 *	1462
1993	22837	786	781	5125	221 *	1916	4679	1902	2868	26 *	1151	429 *	2954
1-6	10666 *	389 *	372 *	2355 *	119 *	841	2182	751	1425 *	12 *	561 *	160 *	1498 *
7-12	11246 *	412 *	367 *	2396 *	128 *	920 *	2224 *	1022	1450 *	13 *	514 *	159 *	1641 *
1994	21911 *	801 *	739 *	4751 *	247 *	1761 *	4406 *	1773	2875 *	25 *	1075 *	319 *	3139 *
1-6	10685 *	395 *	350 *	2310 *	119 *	893	2177 *	794	1375 *	12 *	580 *	154 *	1526 *
7-12	11373 *	420 *	356 *	2395 *	129 *	1003 *	2249 *	1039	1445 *	13 *	540 *	153 *	1632 *
1995	22068 *	816 *	706 *	4706 *	248 *	1896 *	4426 *	1833	2820 *	25 *	1120 *	307 *	3168 *
% 1-6	0.18 *	1.54 *	-5.91 *	-1.91 *	-0.51 *	6.18	-0.23 *	5.73	-3.51 *	0.00 *	3.39 *	-3.75 *	1.87 *
% 7-12	1.13 *	1.94 *	-3.27 *	-0.04 *	1.13 *	9.02 *	1.12 *	1.66	-0.34 *	0.00 *	5.06 *	-3.77 *	-0.55 *
% 85/94	0.67 *	1.76 *	-4.60 *	-0.97 *	0.34 *	7.67 *	0.45 *	3.38	-1.91 *	0.00 *	4.19 *	-3.76 *	0.61 *



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2.1 HEIFERS

FAERSEN

GENISSES

1-6	2262	51	35	436	16	295	389	241	236	4*	64	49*	446
7-12	2186	46	31	419	16	306	376	247	206	4*	57	42*	437
1983	4448	97	66	866	32	601	766	488	442	7*	121	91*	883
1-6	2128*	46*	33*	395*	16*	304	350	217*	234*	4*	61*	31*	437
7-12	2186*	40*	27*	387*	16*	320*	360*	274*	205*	4*	54*	28*	472
1984	4314*	86*	60*	782*	32*	624*	710*	491*	439*	7*	118*	68*	908
1-6	2095*	45*	30*	330*	16*	312*	344*	225*	250*	4*	60*	30*	450*
7-12	2224*	40*	25*	380*	16*	330*	353*	283*	220*	4*	60*	27*	486*
1985	4319*	86*	65*	710*	32*	642*	697*	508*	470*	7*	120*	67*	936*
% 1-6	-1.51*	-2.17*	-9.09*	-16.46*	-0.88*	2.63*	-1.71*	3.69	6.84*	0.00*	-1.64*	-3.23*	2.97*
% 7-12	1.71*	0.00*	-7.41*	-1.81*	2.31*	3.13*	-1.94*	3.28	7.32*	0.00*	11.11*	-3.57*	2.97*
% 95/94	0.12*	-1.16*	-8.33*	-8.21*	0.70*	2.88*	-1.83*	3.46*	7.06*	0.00*	4.35*	-3.39*	2.87*

2.2 COWS

KUEHE

VACHES

1-6	3468*	181	142	864	19	140	950	149	328	5*	368	46*	276
7-12	3526*	183	172	850	20*	160	926	159	357	5*	335	44*	315
1983	6984*	364	314	1714	39*	300	1876	308	686	9*	703	90*	691
1-6	3399*	183*	157	820	18*	155	895	147*	333*	5*	344	30*	313*
7-12	3431*	173*	160*	784*	19*	145*	857*	178*	371*	5*	316*	24*	400*
1984	6831*	366*	317*	1604*	36*	300*	1762*	326*	704*	9*	680*	64*	713*
1-6	3399*	179*	145*	820*	18*	164*	896*	151*	300*	5*	350*	29*	343*
7-12	3441*	187*	156*	815*	19*	157*	874*	181*	350*	5*	320*	23*	355*
1985	6840*	368*	309*	1635*	37*	321*	1770*	332*	650*	9*	670*	52*	688*
% 1-6	0.00*	-2.19*	-7.64*	0.00*	-0.11*	5.81*	0.11*	2.72	-9.91*	0.00*	1.74*	-3.33*	9.58*
% 7-12	0.28*	8.09*	-3.13*	3.95*	2.98*	8.28*	1.98*	1.69	-5.66*	0.00*	1.27*	-4.17*	-11.25*
% 95/94	0.14*	2.81*	-5.36*	1.83*	1.48*	7.00*	1.03*	2.16	-7.67*	0.00*	1.62*	-3.70*	-2.10*

2.3 BULLS AND BULLOCKS

BULLEN UND OCHSEN

TAUREAUX ET BOEUFS

1-6	5559	153	200	1263	80	508	977	402	847	4*	167	128*	770
7-12	5837	172	201	1293	70*	507	1061	644	894	5*	160	120*	710
1983	11396	325	401	2686	150*	1015	2038	1106	1741	9*	327	248*	1480
1-6	5139*	160*	182	1140	86*	382	937	387*	858*	4*	156*	99*	748*
7-12	5628*	199*	180*	1225*	93*	455*	1007*	570*	874*	5*	144*	107*	769*
1984	10767*	369*	362*	2366*	179*	837*	1944*	967*	1732*	9*	300*	206*	1617*
1-6	5190*	171*	175*	1160*	85*	417*	937*	418*	825*	4*	170*	95*	733*
7-12	5709*	193*	175*	1200*	94*	516*	1022*	575*	875*	5*	160*	103*	791*
1985	10858*	364*	360*	2380*	178*	933*	1959*	983*	1700*	9*	300*	198*	1624*
% 1-6	1.00*	6.88*	-3.85*	1.75*	-0.52*	9.16*	0.00*	8.01	-3.85*	0.00*	8.97*	-4.04*	-2.01*
% 7-12	1.43*	-3.02*	-2.78*	-2.04*	0.56*	13.41*	1.49*	0.88	0.11*	0.00*	11.11*	-3.74*	2.86*
% 95/94	1.23*	1.38*	-3.31*	-0.21*	0.04*	11.47*	0.77*	3.76	-1.85*	0.00*	10.00*	-3.88*	0.46*

*DATA PROVISIONAL OR ESTIMATED

- UNAVAILABLE

/ ESTIMATED BY EUROSTAT

* VORLAUFIGE ODER GESCHÄTZTEANGABE

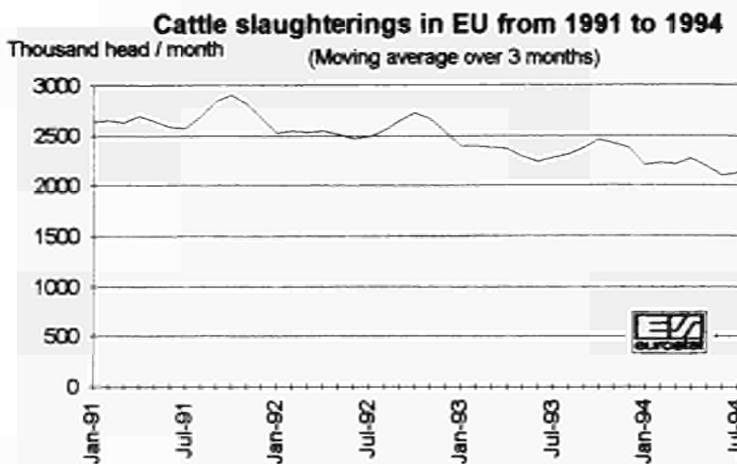
- NICHT VERFÜGBAR

/ VON EUROSTAT GESCHÄTZT

* DONNEE PROVISOIRE OU ESTIMEE

- DONNEE NON DISPONIBLE

/ ESTIMATION EUROSTAT



After several years of running down cattle stocks, this could mark a real reversal of the cyclical trend.

While in most countries there is a new boost in the rearing of male animals for slaughter, heifers are no longer really in favour with livestock farmers, except in the United Kingdom and Ireland, where numbers have recovered to the 1992 level. The veal calf sector, which is after all very sensitive to demand, is subject to contrasting trends. In France, where this is traditionally an important sector, the number of animals reared dropped considerably, despite a marked upturn in the first half of the year. In the Netherlands, where the rearing of calves is also a major sector, production is holding up well.

For 1995, gross domestic production of cattle, measured in head, should show a slight fall. The supply of calves should fall by about 4%, unless there is sufficient recovery in demand to revive production in the course of the year

The ball is in the consumer's court

Slaughterings of adult bovine animals should remain stable overall, but further significant falls are expected in Italy, Denmark and Portugal, whereas in Spain production forecasts are on a definite upward

trend. This is also the case in Sweden, where an increase of nearly 13% is expected for this first year of membership in the Union. Overall, in view of the regular increase in carcass weight, this should result in a increase of about 1% in the quantity of meat available for consumption, both in the former twelve-member Union and in the fifteen-member Union.

Today, with prices holding up above the intervention level for several months now and stocks which have fallen below 50 000 tonnes, the beef and veal market seems to be in good health. Its future equilibrium is bound to depend very much on the level of demand, which remains sluggish here and there. The ball is thus in the consumer's court, and it is likely that economic recovery, which will generate additional purchasing power, will provide a fillip.

They were Twelve, now they are Fifteen...

Data 1993-1994

	Austria	Finland	Sweden	ex-Eur12	Eur15
Total cattle (1000 head)	2329	1230	1826	78746	85957
Dairy cows	810	413	509	21781	23513
Suckler cows	90	34	165	10420	10709
Gross indigenous Production of cattle (1000 head)	829	433	519	27696	29477
Milk production (1000 T)	3270	2213	3342	114000	122825