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Sheep and goat population in December 1990

The unification of Germany has brought about changes in the European Community's statistics on sheep and goats. As can be seen from the tables on sheep and goat population and gross indigenous production, the EUR 10 column has been replaced by the EUR 12# column, corresponding to the old EUR 12 column. It is intended, at least for a limited period, to continue to monitor trends in the sheep and goat population in the European Community minus the territory of the former GDR, so that comparability is maintained with previous years' data series. The current EUR 12 column now gives the sheep and goat population in the European Community including the territory of the former GDR.

Sheep population

In December 1990 - after the unification of Germany - the total number of sheep in the European Community stood at 101.9 million. The former GDR accounted for 1.448 million animals, i.e. 1.4%.

Compared with the previous year, the total number of sheep in the European Community declined by 1.393 million (1.3%). However, this result must be interpreted with caution, as the figures for Portugal and Belgium are provisional and the survey results from the new Länder were compared with the results from the full survey carried out in the former GDR on 31 October 1989.

The number of sheep in the European Community without the former GDR declined by only 238 000 (0.2%).

The total number of sheep in France had been underestimated in previous years. In previous surveys it had been assumed that the proportion of uncontrolled slaughterings, i.e. those not carried out in slaughterhouses, was only 5%. However, recent investigations have revealed that this figure is too low. The rise in uncontrolled slaughterings in France should be seen in the context of its Muslim population, where there is a high consumption of sheepmeat. In many cases sheep are purchased directly from the producer, and slaughterings take place for religious reasons. The French production series were therefore recalculated from 1980 onwards. For the period 1980-1989 the proportion of uncontrolled slaughterings was increased by 2% to 7%. From 1989 it was increased to 23%. Recalculating the figures for previous years has revealed that there are about one million more ewes in France.

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Comparing Member States, the Federal Republic of Germany recorded the largest decline in its sheep population in both absolute (-1.006 million animals) and percentage terms (-24.3%). Comparing the old Länder with the new Länder, however, reveals contrasting trends, as the following table shows:

Sheep population in the Federal Republic of Germany: a comparison of old and new Länder
December 1988 to 1990
1 000 head

	Old Länder				New Länder ¹⁾			
	'88	'89	'90	%90/89	'88	'89	'90	%90/89
Total sheep.:	1464,3	1532,5	1680,2	+9,6	2634,4	2602,7	1448,3	-44,4
Sheep under 1 year old including lambs:	350,8	387,9	433,4	+11,7	759,1	753,3	248,9	-66,1
Breeding ewes:	1047,9	1078,5	1177,8	+9,2	1052,6	1040,8	797,1	-23,4
Breeding rams:	33,1	36,3	37,0	+1,9	22,9	22,4	23,1	+3,0
Wethers and other sheep:	32,5	29,8	32,1	+7,7	799,8	804,1	379,2	-52,8

Whilst the sheep population in the old Länder rose by 147 700 (9.6%), it fell very sharply in the new Länder, where it was almost halved, falling by 1.154 million (-44.4%) to 1.448 million. The lack of profitability highlighted by the introduction of the market economy caused many agricultural cooperatives and state-owned concerns to give up sheep farming completely. The largest reductions were for sheep under one year old including lambs and for wethers. The latter were kept specially for wool production in the former GDR.

One of the reasons for the rise in the old Länder is the population increase from the new Länder, but it is also the result of the European Community's support for sheep farming through the payment of a special ewe-premium.

Elsewhere in the Community, the sheep population declined: in Greece, -2.0% (210 000 head); in Spain -2.8% (717 000 head); and in France, -2.0% (227 000 head). All the other Member States recorded an increase in the number of sheep, with the total sheep population rising particularly in Ireland (+219 000), in the Netherlands (+255 000) and in the United Kingdom (+255 000). The rise in the Netherlands can be explained by the fact that dairy-cattle holdings still have spare capacity for sheep farming.

1) The survey results for 1988 and 1989 are as at 31 October in each year.

No uniform pattern emerges either from the available survey results on breeding ewes. A decline was recorded in the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom, whilst the other Member States recorded an increase. In absolute terms, the greatest decline and the largest increase were recorded by the Federal Republic of Germany (-144 000) and Ireland (+385 000) respectively.

The sheep market

The year just ended was not particularly encouraging for sheep farmers. The prices fetched for sheep brought to market were often well down on the previous year's. Comparing Member States, Ireland saw the steepest decline in prices over the previous year (-21.0%), followed by the Federal Republic of Germany (-19.7%), the Netherlands (-14.5%), Belgium and Luxembourg (both -9.6%), France (-7.7%), Denmark (-7.5%), the United Kingdom (-5.7%) and Italy (-5.6%). It must be borne in mind that these figures refer to annual averages and that it is only thanks to the buoyant price situation at the beginning of last year that they do not show an even greater fall. In individual cases, for example in the former GDR, prices slumped by 40% or more. They remained stable in Spain and there were even slight increases in Portugal and Greece.

At Community level the average price decline compared with the previous year was -12.7%.

This trend was essentially the result of unforeseeable, external factors. First, there was the unification of Germany. The very large reduction in the sheep population in the former GDR (-1.154 million) resulted in an increased supply of sheepmeat in the European Community. There were direct exports of sheepmeat - mainly from the former GDR to the Soviet Union as well as to other non-Community markets - with the aim of improving the market situation. With regard to gross indigenous production, measured in tonnes, Denmark, the Netherlands, Ireland and Portugal recorded double-figure growth rates alongside the Federal Republic of Germany. Gross indigenous production in tonnes for the European Community as a whole increased by 6.6% compared with 1989. However, the increased supply was faced with an increase of only 5.7% in demand.

Gross indigenous production of sheep

Gross indigenous production of sheep in the European Community will be 72.989 million animals this year, according to an analysis of the data sent by the Member States. There is no estimate available for 1989 for gross indigenous production in the former GDR, and consequently rates of change compared with the previous year cannot be calculated.

In the European Community minus the former GDR, gross indigenous production for 1991 stands at 71.589 million animals, a rise of 1.2% compared with 1990. Nearly all Member States contributed to this trend, with the exception of France, where gross indigenous production is forecast to fall by 0.2%, and Luxembourg, where sheep farming is insignificant. In particular, high rates of growth are anticipated in Denmark (+8.9%), Ireland (+6.9%) and the Netherlands (+6.5%).

In the Federal Republic of Germany there is expected to be an increase of 9.6% in gross indigenous production for the old Länder. In absolute terms, gross indigenous production in the Federal Republic of Germany for 1991 is expected to be 2.893 million animals, which is just under 4% of total gross indigenous production in the European Community. The old Länder account for 1.493 million of the 2.893 million sheep. The new Länder account for 1.4 million, 380 000 of which are wethers which have still to be slaughtered.

Goat population

In December 1990 the goat population in the European Community stood at 13.254 million. This represents an increase of 0.7% compared with the previous year. The former GDR accounted for only 20 000, and so the unification of Germany was not significant for the European goat population. Greece, which has 45% of the goat population in the European Community, saw an increase of 14 000 head (0.2%). Spain also recorded an increase, by 69 000 (1.9%), whilst in France and Italy there were decreases of 40 000 (3.3%) and 34 000 (2.7%) respectively. It is worth mentioning the high rates of growth in the Federal Republic of Germany (16.9%) and the Netherlands (11.1%), even though these results are of lesser significance owing to the small size of their total goat populations.

Gross indigenous production of goats for 1990 is available only for the European Community minus the new Länder, as there are currently no reliable data for the former GDR. According to the data supplied by the Member States, gross indigenous production will rise by 3.6%, representing an increase of 320 000 animals compared with the previous year.

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SCHAFBESTAND IM DEZEMBER

SHEEP POPULATION IN DECEMBER

EFFECTIFS OVINS EN DECEMBRE

1000 STUECK

1000 HEAD

1000 TETES

	EUR 12	EUR 12#	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	P	UK
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INSGESAMT

TOTAL														TOTAL
1987	-:	92784	133	73	-:	10816	20305	12105	4301	11457	7	1320	3035	27820
1988	100234	97599	129	86	4099	10376	23791	11495	4991	11623	7	1405	3187	29045
1989	103293	100690	134	100	4135	10353	25435	11185	5782	11569	7	1725	3347	29521
1990	101900*	100452*	142*	111	3129	10143	24718	10958	6001	11575	7	1980	3360*	29776
% 90/89	-1.3*	-0.2*	6.0*	11.0	-24.3	-2.0	-2.8	-2.0	3.8	0.1	7.6	14.8	0.4*	0.9

ZUR ZUCHT BENUTZTE WEIBLICHE SCHAFE

COVERED & ADULT FEMALES														AGNELLES SAILLIES ET BREBIS
1987	-:	65536	103	57	-:	7019	14588	8685	3120	8802	5	990	2025	19139
1988	71276*	70224*	107*	68	2101	7219	17422	8662	3600	8870	5	1055	2167	20001
1989	73831	72790	105	81	2119	6954	19274	8416	4193	8836	5	1295	2220	20332
1990	73002*	72205*	111*	87	1975	6855	18211	8390	4578	8801	4	1485	2227*	20278
% 90/89	-1.1*	-0.8*	5.3*	7.4	-6.8	-1.4	-5.5	-0.3	9.2	-0.4	-11.1	14.7	0.3*	-0.3

* VORLÄUFIGE ODER GESCHÄTZTE ANGABE -: NICHT VERFUEGBAR

* DATA PROVISIONAL OR ESTIMATED -: UNAVAILABLE * DONNEE PROVISoire OU ESTIMEE -: DONNEE NON DISPONIBLE



ZIEGENBESTAND IM DEZEMBER

GOAT POPULATION IN DECEMBER

EFFECTIFS CAPRINS EN DECEMBRE

1000 STUECK

1000 HEAD

1000 TETES

	EUR 12	EUR 12#	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	P	UK
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INSGESANT

TOTAL															TOTAL
1987	--	11859*	8	0	--	5876	2785	1003*	0	1206	1	55	808	68	
1988	--	12998*	8*	0	--	5970	3538	1210	0	1214	1	63	840	101	
1989	13159*	13140*	8*	0	77	5904	3657	1222	0	1246	1	72	857	114	
1990	13254*	13234*	8*	0	90	5918	3726	1182	0	1280	1	80	857*	112	
% 90/89	0.7*	0.7*	0.0*	0	16.9	0.2	1.9	-3.3	0	2.7	-6.3	11.1	0.0*	-1.8	

ZUR ZUCHT BENUTZTE WEIBLICHE ZIEGEN

COVERED & ADULT FEMALES															CHEVRES SAILLIES ET CHEVRES AYANT DEJA MIS BAS
1987	--	--	--	0	--	4017	2020	858*	0	961	0	--	586	35	
1988	--	--	--	0	--	4105	2459	1020	0	988	0	--	604	52	
1989	--	--	--	0	--	4076	2751	1044	0	998	0	--	616	58	
1990	--	--	--	0	--	4106	2780	1059	0	1009	0	--	616*	57	
% 90/89	--	--	--	0	--	0.7	1.1	1.4	0	1.1	0	--	0.0*	-1.7	

* VORLÄUFIGE ODER GESCHÄTZTE ANGABE -- NICHT VERFUEGBAR

* DATA PROVISIONAL OR ESTIMATED -- UNAVAILABLE * DONNEE PROVISOIRE OU ESTIMEE -- DONNEE NON DISPONIBLE

(UK) en juin

(UK) im juni
(UK) on june

SHEEP AND GOATS:
GROSS INDIGENOUS PRODUCTION AND PRODUCTION FORECASTS

OVINS ET CAPRINS:
PRODUCTION INDIGENE BRUTE ET PREVISIONS DE PRODUCTION

1000 HEAD														1000 TETES
	EUR 12	EUR 12#	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	P	UK
SHEEP														OVINS
SCHAPE														
1-6	--	33194*	88*	17	0:	4632	9178	4844*	1204*	2823	0	404	1156	8369*
7-12	--	35133*	112*	60	0:	2516	8213	4472*	1672*	3721	0	467	1024	12151*
1989	--	68327*	201*	77	--	7148	17391	9316*	2876*	6544	0	871	2180	20520*
1-6	--	34639*	88*	16*	0:	4963	8826*	4897*	1608*	3002	0	493	1158	9024*
7-12	--	36068*	112*	63*	0:	2526*	8249*	4521*	2413*	3775*	0	775*	1030	11805*
1990	--	70707*	201*	79*	--	7489*	17075*	9418*	4021*	6777*	0	1268*	2188	20829*
1-6	35577*	34877*	94*	19*	1318*	5010*	8874*	4890*	1660*	3075*	0	550*	1161*	8926*
7-12	37412*	36712*	119*	67*	1575*	2550*	8266*	4510*	2640*	3860*	0	800*	1033*	11992*
1991	72989*	71589*	213*	86*	2893*	7560*	17140*	9400*	4300*	6935*	0	1350*	2194*	20918*
1-6	--	4.4*	-0.1*	-5.9*	--	7.1	-3.8*	1.1*	33.6*	6.3	0.0	22.0	0.2	7.8*
7-12	--	2.7*	0.1*	5.0*	--	0.4*	0.4*	1.1*	44.3*	1.4*	0.0	66.0*	0.6	-2.8*
% 90/89	--	3.5*	0.0*	2.6*	--	4.8*	-1.8*	1.1*	39.8*	3.6*	0.0	45.6*	0.4	1.5*
1-6	--	0.7*	6.0*	18.8*	--	1.0*	0.5*	-0.1*	3.2*	2.4*	0.0	11.6*	0.3*	-1.1*
7-12	--	1.8*	6.0*	6.3*	--	0.9*	0.2*	-0.2*	9.4*	2.3*	0.0	3.2*	0.3*	1.6*
% 91/90	--	1.2*	6.0*	8.9*	--	0.9*	0.4*	-0.2*	6.9*	2.3*	0.0	6.5*	0.3*	0.4*
GOATS														CAPRINS
ZIEGEN														
1-6	--	5894*	0	0	0:	3179	1088	938*	0	320	0	40	299	26
7-12	--	3462*	0	0	0:	1637	1045	245*	0	194	0	31	281	26
1989	--	9356*	0	0	--	4815	2133	1183*	0	514	0	71	580	52
1-6	--	5759*	0	0	0:	3140	965*	963*	0	324	0	39	295	29*
7-12	--	3189*	0	0	0:	1515*	896*	241*	0	193*	0	36*	275	29*
1990	--	8948*	0	0	--	4655*	1861*	1204*	0	516*	0	75*	570	58*
1-6	--	5887*	0	0	0:	3181*	1026*	980*	0	330*	0	40*	295*	29*
7-12	--	3381*	0	0	0:	1539*	1064*	240*	0	194*	0	35*	275*	28*
1991	--	9268*	0	0	--	4721*	2090*	1220*	0	524*	0	75*	570*	57*
1-6	--	-2.3*	0.0	0.0	--	-1.2	-11.3*	2.7*	0.0	1.1	0.0	-2.5	-1.3	11.5*
7-12	--	-7.9*	0.0	0.0	--	-7.4*	-14.3*	-1.6*	0.0	-0.7*	0.0	16.1*	-2.1	11.5*
% 90/89	--	-4.4*	0.0	0.0	--	-3.3*	-12.8*	1.8*	0.0	0.4*	0.0	5.6*	-1.7	11.5*
1-6	--	2.2*	0.0	0.0	--	1.3*	6.3*	1.8*	0.0	2.0*	0.0	2.6*	0.0*	0.0*
7-12	--	6.0*	0.0	0.0	--	1.6*	18.8*	-0.4*	0.0	0.7*	0.0	-2.8*	0.0*	-3.4*
% 91/90	--	3.6*	0.0	0.0	--	1.4*	12.3*	1.3*	0.0	1.5*	0.0	0.0*	0.0*	-1.7*

