

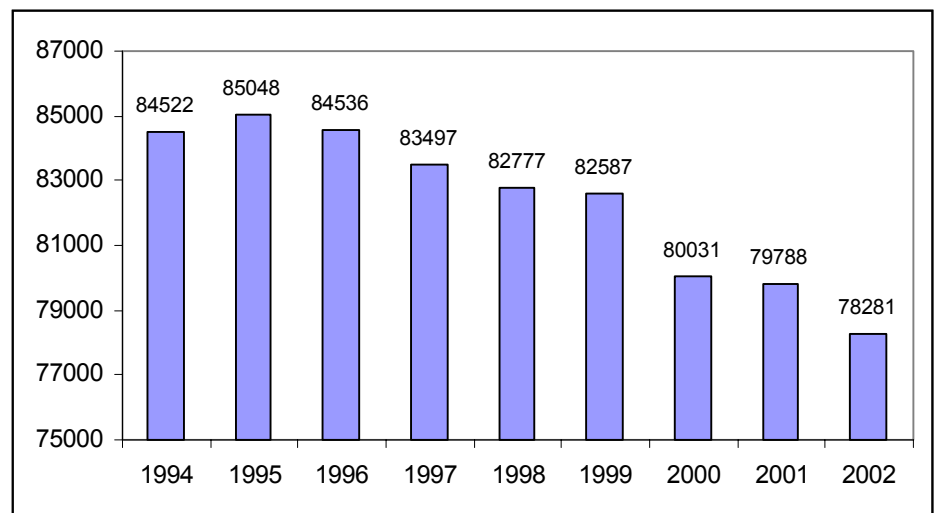
# Trends in the EU cattle population 1994-2002

*Francis Weiler, Blanka Chropůvková*

The total cattle population of the European Union in 2002 was 78.3 million animals. Since EU-15 data have been available only since 1994, trends in the total EU-15 cattle population can be shown only from that year onwards. This publication illustrates the numbers of cattle, the trends in those numbers and the distribution of the total cattle population by category in the Member States for the period 1994-2002.

Figure 1 shows that, after a slight upturn (+0.6%) in 1995 from the 1994 figure, the total Community cattle population declined until 2002. The biggest drop was recorded from 1999 to 2000 (-3.1%). If the total cattle population in 2002 is compared with that of 1994, it is seen to have fallen by 6.2 million head.

**Figure 1: Total EU-15 cattle population (1000 head)**



Source : Eurostat

## Total trends in the Member States

Overall, the cattle population of the European Union fell during the period 1994-2002. During this period, cattle production was affected by two BSE crises in 1997 and 2000. The effects of these were to reduce cattle numbers by culling and temporary confinement of animals to holdings while awaiting more favourable market conditions. Table 1 shows that, despite certain fluctuations, cattle numbers are falling in 11 Member States, fairly stable in two and rising in another two countries. Declines of at least 10% have been observed in the Netherlands, Denmark, Finland, Germany, the United Kingdom, Austria and Belgium, and increases in Spain and Greece. Some major fluctuations have been recorded in Greece and Italy.

## Statistics in focus

### AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

THEME 5 – 8/2004

## Contents

Total trends in the Member States .....	1
Breakdown of the cattle population by main category ...	2
Trends in the dairy cattle population.....	6



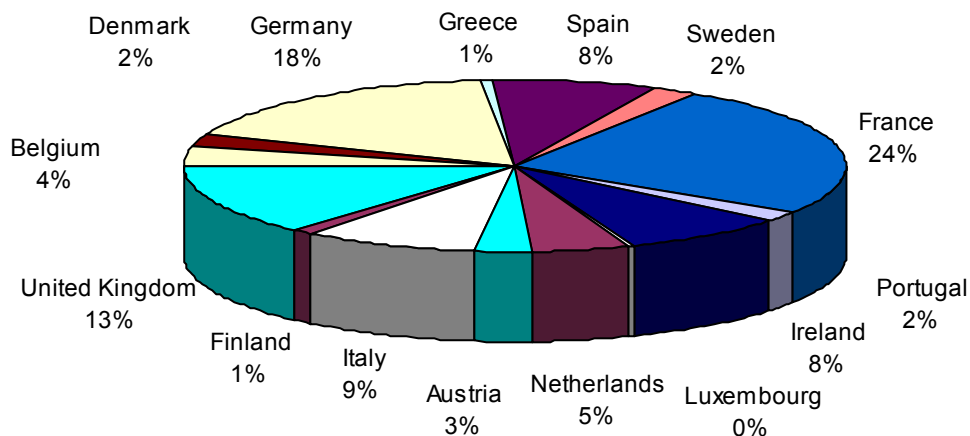
Table 1

	Total cattle population in the Member States ('000 head)									2002/1994 (%)
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	
<b>Belgium</b>	3161	3159	3071	2978	2984	2970	3001	2908	2758	87.3
<b>Denmark</b>	2082	2094	2052	2026	1968	1976	1891	1840	1740	83.6
<b>Germany</b>	15962	15890	15760	15227	14942	14658	14568	14227	13732	86.0
<b>Greece</b>	520	550	593	596	577	654	567	559	573	110.2
<b>Spain</b>	5234	5495	5905	5869	5966	6291	6164	6272	6279	120.0
<b>France</b>	20507	20837	20541	20334	20055	20216	20089	20281	19729	96.2
<b>Ireland</b>	6344	6451	6661	6882	6952	6558	6330	6408	6338	99.9
<b>Italy</b>	7272	7418	7390	7328	7316	7361	6232	6933	6695	92.1
<b>Luxembourg</b>	204	204	209	205	202	203	200	198	190	93.2
<b>Netherlands</b>	4588	4545	4366	4287	4184	4097	3890	3842	3780	82.4
<b>Austria</b>	2329	2326	2272	2198	2172	2153	2156	2118	2067	88.8
<b>Portugal</b>	1363	1386	1389	1386	1409	1421	1414	1404	1395	102.3
<b>Finland</b>	1185	1179	1150	1125	1101	1068	1035	1019	1012	85.4
<b>Sweden</b>	1790	1779	1747	1708	1712	1680	1618	1617	1612	90.1
<b>United Kingdom</b>	11981	11735	11430	11347	11237	11281	10878	10161	10381	86.6
<b>EU-15</b>	84522	85048	84536	83497	82777	82587	80031	79788	78281	92.6

Source : Eurostat

If we look at the size of producer countries, we see that over 50% of the EU cattle population is to be found in three countries (France, Germany and the United Kingdom); if Ireland, Spain and Italy are added, the six Member States hold more than 80% of all cattle. The shares of these groups of countries varied little over the period concerned, despite the fall in the number of cattle in the three main producer countries.

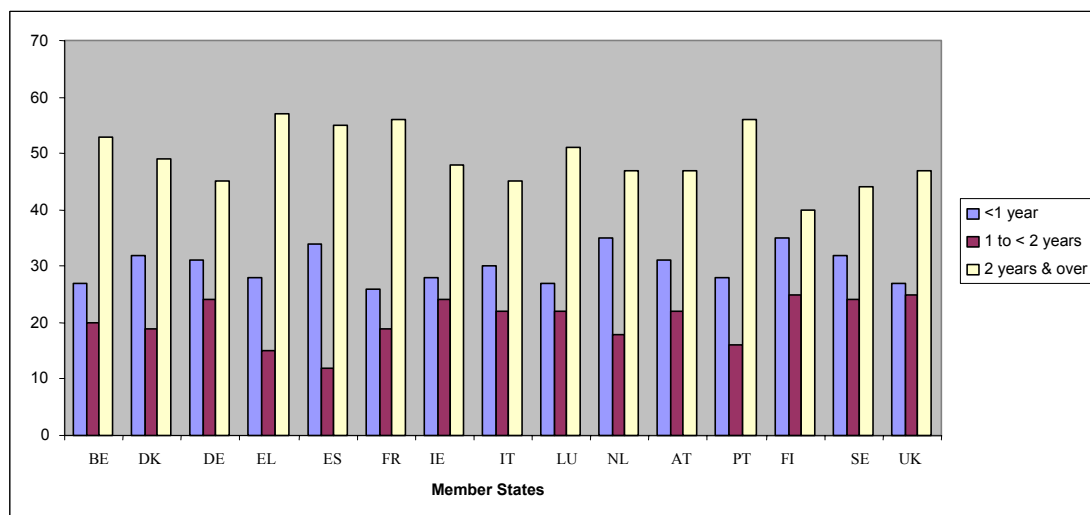
Figure 2: Member States' shares of the EU-15 cattle population, 2002



### Breakdown of the cattle population by main category

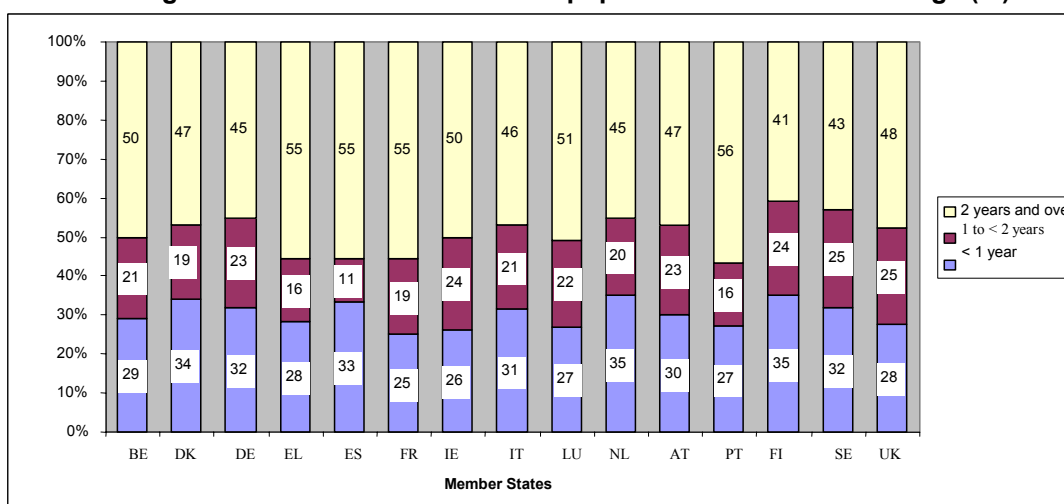
In the breakdown of cattle by main category (age group – Figure 3), cattle aged 2 years or over are seen to be in the majority in all Member States: in November/December 2002, over 40% of cattle were in this age group. The percentages were highest in Greece (57%), Portugal (56%), France (56%) and Spain (55%).

**Figure 3: Breakdown of the cattle population in 2002 (%)**



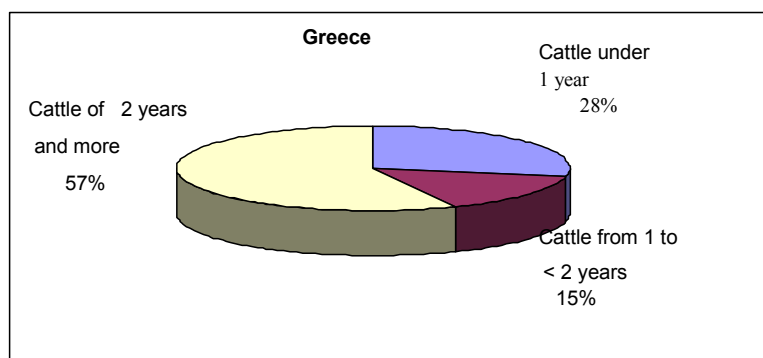
Over this period of several years there was little variation in the distribution of the cattle population across the three age groups. Figure 4 shows the breakdown by Member States of the average cattle population for the period 1994-2002. In most Member States, 20-25% of cattle were in the 1 to < 2 years age group; in Spain the figure was 11% and in Greece and Portugal 16%. The northern Member States appear to hold more young cattle; except in Italy, the age of cattle increases towards the south.

**Figure 4: Breakdown of the cattle population - 1994-2002 average (%)**

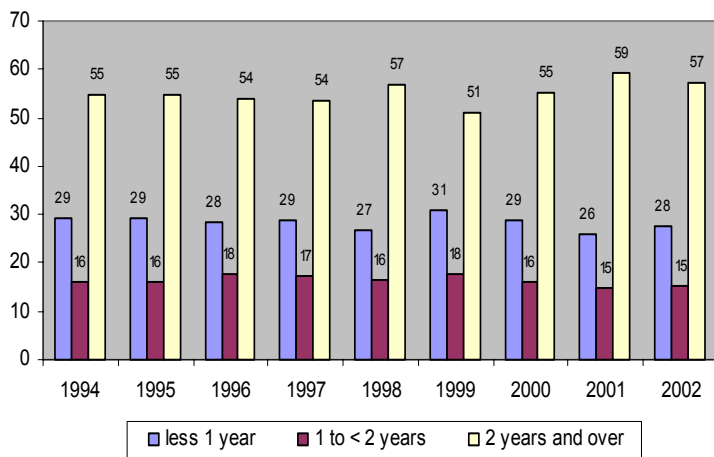


As mentioned above, in 2002 cattle aged 2 years or over accounted for 57% of the total population in Greece. Figure 5 shows the breakdown of Greek cattle by age.

**Figure 5: Breakdown of the cattle population in Greece, 2002**



**Figure 6: Breakdown of the cattle population in Greece**

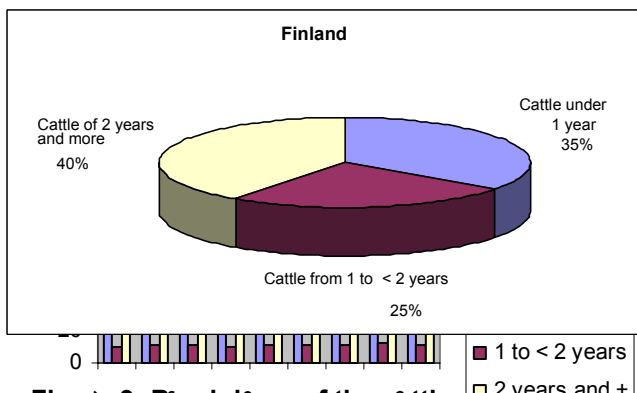


The biggest changes in the distribution of cattle by age group during the period 1994-2002 were noted in Greece. While, on average, 55% of cattle were aged 2 years or over in 1994-2002, only 51% were in this age group in 1999, but as many as 59% by 2001. This increase was offset by the fall-off from 31% in 1999 to 26% in 2001 in cattle under a year old and from 18% in 1999 to 15% in 2001 in cattle aged 1 year to under 2 years (see Figure 6).

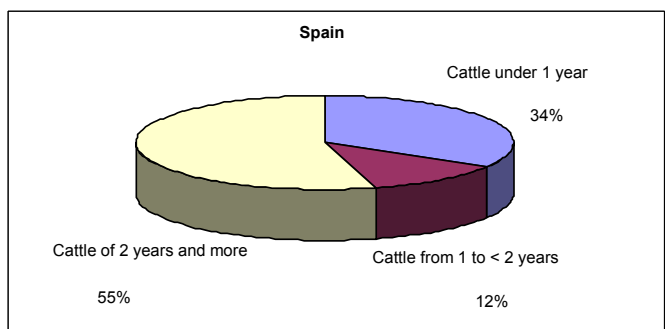
In 2002 Finland has the smallest percentage of cattle aged 2 years or over: 40% (see Figure 7). Of the Member States. Finland and the United Kingdom had the highest proportions (25%) of cattle aged 1 year to under 2 years. Cattle less than a year old accounted for 35% of the Finnish bovine population — the highest percentage in the EU. In 2002 the same proportion of cattle aged less than a year (35%) was recorded in the Netherlands. The age groups of cattle remained fairly stable in Finland in the period 1994-2002.

In Spain the proportion of cattle aged under a year was close to that of Finland in 2002, at 34%. Cattle aged 1 year to under 2 years were least well represented in 2002, at 12%, while animals aged 2 years or over were in the majority (55%) (see Figure 8).

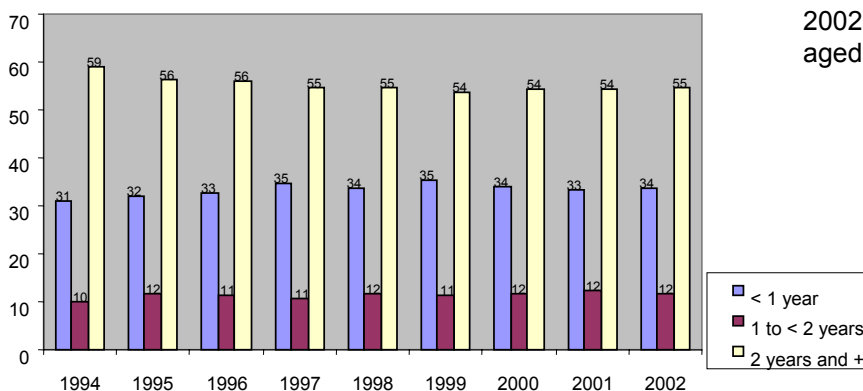
**Figure 7 : Breakdown of the cattle population, Finland, 2002**



**Figure 7 : Breakdown of the cattle population, Spain, 2002**



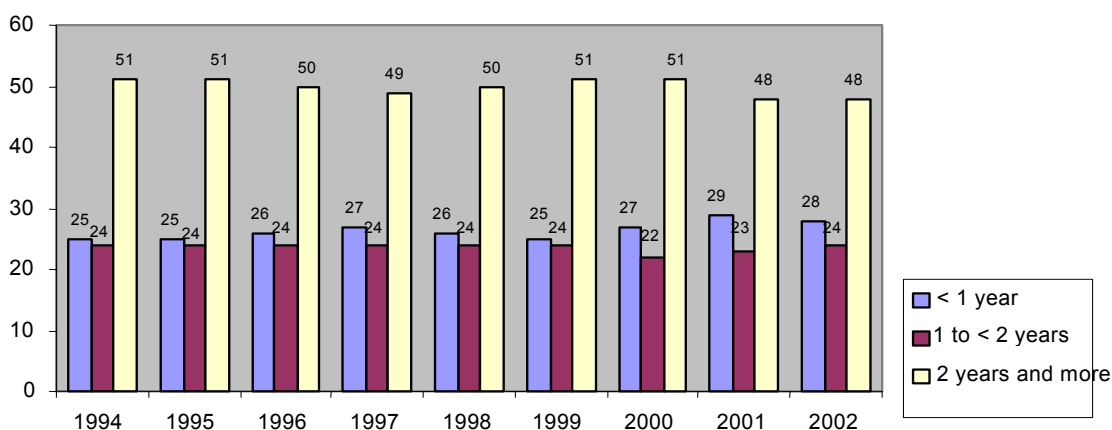
**Figure 9: Breakdown of the cattle population in Spain**



years or over fell from 59% in 1994 to 54% in 1999-2001. In 2002 it reached the 1994-2002 level of 55%. The proportion of cattle aged less than a year rose (see Figure 9).

Ireland, too, saw a drop in the percentage of cattle aged 2 years or over in the period 1994-2002, but an increase in the percentage of cattle less than a year old (see Figure 10).

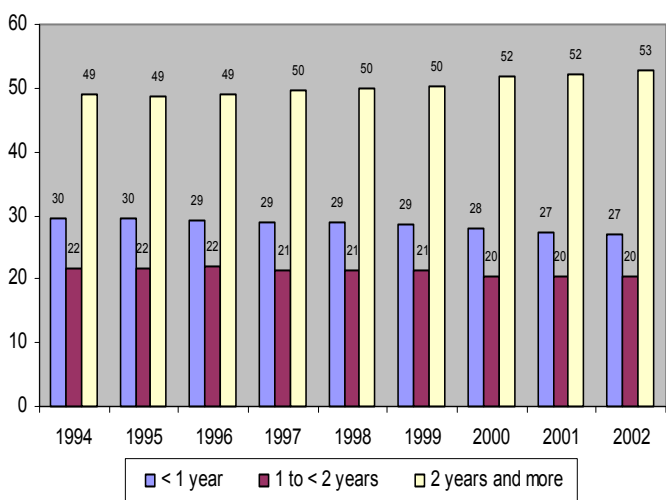
**Figure 10: Breakdown of the cattle population, Ireland**



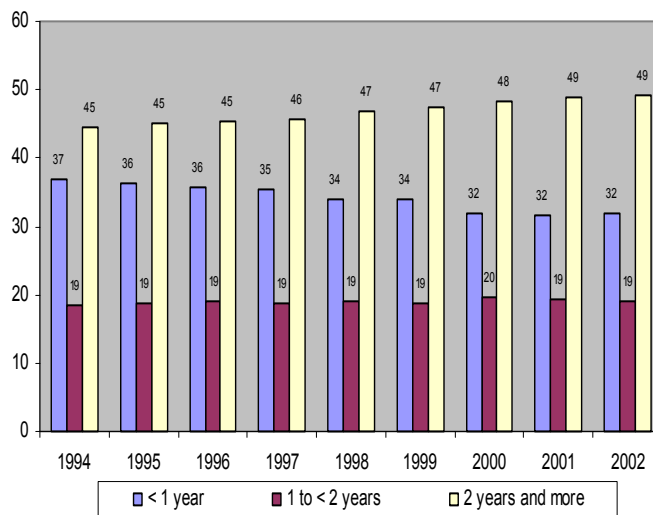
Increases in the percentages of cattle aged 2 years or over were recorded in *Belgium*, *Denmark* and the *Netherlands*. The growth in Belgium was offset by the decline in the other two age groups (Figure 11). In Denmark, only the proportion of cattle aged under a year fell; that of cattle aged 1 year to under 2 years remained stable (see Figure 12). The Netherlands saw a substantial drop in the percentage of cattle aged 1 year to under 2 years (see Figure 13).

The relative sizes of the age groups remained fairly stable in the other Member States.

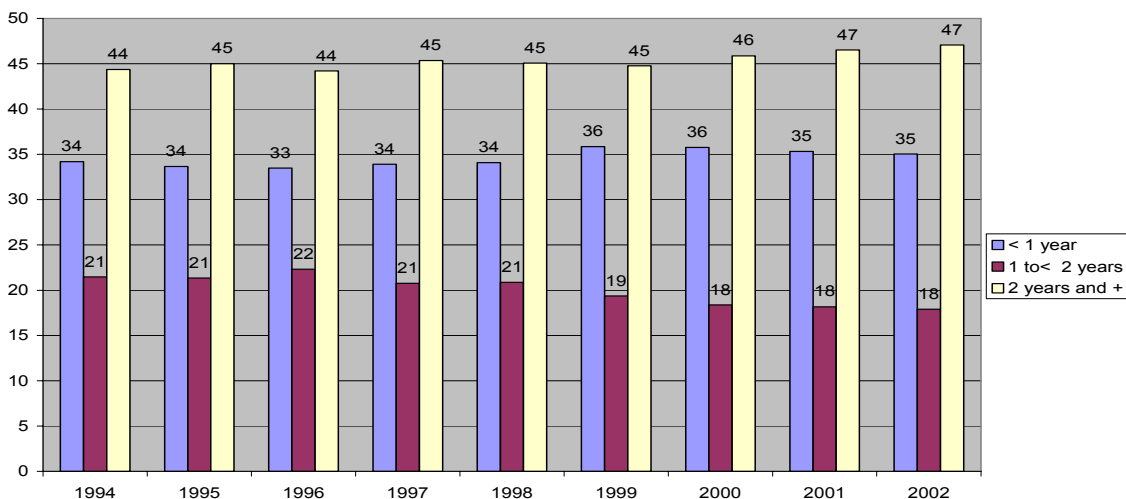
**Figure 11: Breakdown of the cattle population, Belgium**



**Figure 12 : Breakdown of the cattle population, Denmark**



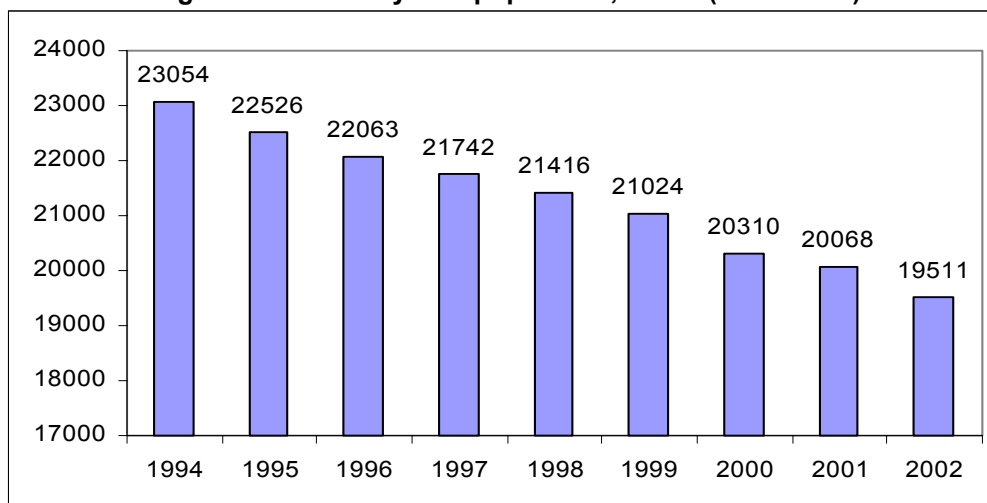
**Figure 13: Breakdown of the cattle population, the Netherlands**



## Trends in the dairy cattle population

Dairy cows make up a very large proportion of the cattle population aged 2 years or over. In 2002 there were 19.5 million dairy cows in the EU. In the period 1994-2002, the dairy cow population fell by 3.5 million head (see Figure 14), with the biggest decline, 3.4%, recorded from 1999 to 2000. This fall-off may have been the result of the milk quotas associated with better productivity.

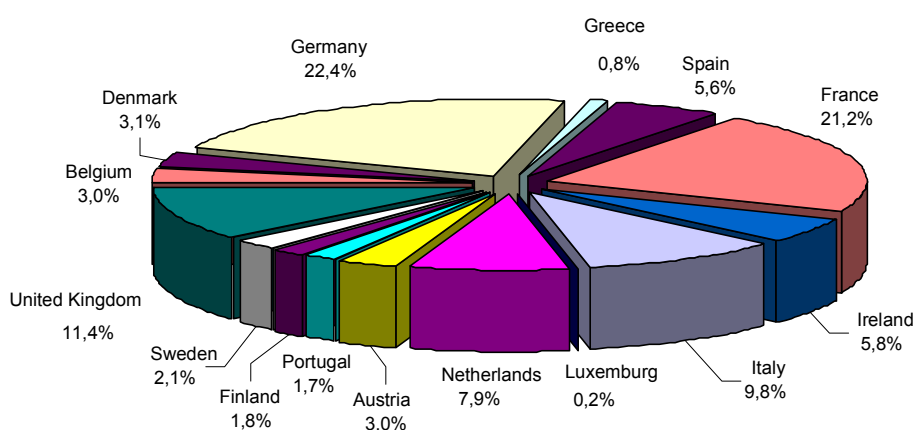
**Figure 14: The dairy cow population, EU-15 ('000 head)**



Source : Eurostat

In 2002 *Germany* had the highest dairy cow population in the EU: 4.4 million, or 22.4% of the total (see Figure 15), despite a fall of 900 000 head from 1994 to 2002 (see Table 2).

**Figure 15: Dairy cows in the Member States as percentages of the total EU-15 population, 2002**



The cattle surveys conducted in other Member States with high cattle populations (*France, the United Kingdom*) confirm a decline. In *France*, the only increase in the dairy cow population in the period 1994-2002 was 1% from 2000 to 2001; in the *United Kingdom*, dairy cow numbers were up by 1.2% from 2001 to 2002.

*Ireland and Finland*, as well as *Germany*, saw a fall-off in dairy cow numbers in the period 1994-2002. The biggest drop (-12.8%) was recorded in *Austria* from 1994 to 1995.

Table 2

Cow milk livestock in the Member States (1000 heads)										2002/1994 (%)
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	
Belgium	720	684	650	640	632	619	629	611	591	82.1
Denmark	717	714	697	695	680	681	644	628	613	85.5
Germany	5273	5229	5195	5026	4833	4710	4564	4475	4373	82.9
Greece	175	185	184	184	172	154	180	172	165	94.4
Spain	1331	1281	1279	1254	1278	1207	1141	1159	1102	82.8
France	4760	4700	4566	4502	4432	4424	4153	4195	4133	86.8
Ireland	1233	1221	1216	1201	1199	1174	1153	1148	1129	91.5
Italy	2167	2080	2125	2078	2116	2126	1772	2078	1911	88.2
Luxembourg	49	48	48	47	47	45	44	44	42	85.9
Netherlands	1757	1777	1646	1674	1600	1570	1532	1551	1546	88.0
Austria	810	706	698	720	729	698	621	598	589	72.7
Portugal	379	384	376	377	372	357	355	338	341	89.9
Finland	413	402	396	383	380	374	358	352	343	83.1
Sweden	503	482	478	462	471	447	426	425	403	80.2
United Kingdom	2768	2632	2511	2498	2475	2438	2339	2203	2229	80.5
<b>UE-15</b>	<b>23054</b>	<b>22526</b>	<b>22063</b>	<b>21742</b>	<b>21416</b>	<b>21024</b>	<b>19910</b>	<b>19977</b>	<b>19511</b>	<b>84.6</b>

Source : Eurostat

Table 3 shows the trend by Member State in the shares of dairy cows and suckler cows in the cattle population from 1994 to 2002. In the *Netherlands*, dairy cows accounted for most of the total cattle population, at 41% in 2002 — the highest in the period observed. In *Denmark* and *Finland*, 35% and 34% respectively of cattle in 2002 were dairy cows; in *Ireland*, only 18% were dairy cows.

The proportion of dairy cows fell in *Spain* from 25% in 1994 to 18% in 2002, and in *Portugal* from 28% in 1994 to 24% in 2002. In *Austria*, dairy cows accounted for 28% of cattle in 2002, an average of 31% in the period 1994-2002, and 35% in 1994. In *Greece* the proportion of dairy cows fell from 34% in 1994 to 24% in 1999. The suckler cow population usually reverses the trend in the dairy cow population. Table 3 breaks down the cow population by type of production. Several Member States are developing a strong dairy production potential, while in others the two categories of cow are more evenly balanced.

Table 3 - Share of the cows on the total number of cattle

Country \ Year	Milkcows										Other cows (of which suckler cows)							
	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02
Belgium	23	22	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	15	16	17	17	18	18	18	18	18
Denmark	34	34	34	34	35	34	34	34	35	5	6	6	6	6	7	6	7	6
Germany	33	33	33	33	32	32	31	31	32	4	4	4	5	5	5	6	6	6
Greece	34	34	31	31	30	24	32	31	29	17	17	19	20	23	17	17	21	19
Spain	25	23	22	21	21	19	19	18	18	28	28	29	28	28	29	31	30	30
France	23	23	22	22	22	22	21	21	21	19	19	20	20	20	20	21	21	21
Ireland	19	19	18	17	17	18	18	18	18	15	16	16	17	17	18	18	18	18
Italy	30	28	29	28	29	29	28	30	29	9	9	9	9	9	10	7	6	7
Luxembourg	24	23	23	23	23	22	22	22	22	14	15	14	15	15	15	16	16	16
Netherlands	38	39	38	39	38	38	39	40	41	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Austria	35	30	31	33	34	32	29	28	28	4	9	9	8	7	8	12	12	12
Portugal	28	28	27	27	26	25	25	24	24	20	21	23	24	24	24	24	25	26
Finland	35	34	34	34	35	35	35	35	34	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Sweden	28	27	27	27	28	27	26	26	25	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	10	10
United Kingdom	23	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	15	16	16	17	17	17	16	16	16
<b>EU 15</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>

# Further information:

## ➤ Databases

NewCronos, Theme 5

To obtain information or to order publications, databases and special sets of data, please contact the **Data Shop** network:

DANMARK	DEUTSCHLAND	ESPAÑA	FRANCE	ITALIA – Roma
<b>DANMARKS STATISTIK</b> <b>Bibliotek og Information</b> <b>Eurostat Data Shop</b> Sejrogade 11 DK-2100 KØBENHAVN Ø Tlf. (45) 39 17 30 30 Fax (45) 39 17 30 03 E-mail: bib@dst.dk URL: <a href="http://www.dst.dk/bibliotek">http://www.dst.dk/bibliotek</a>	<b>Statistisches Bundesamt</b> <b>Eurostat Data Shop Berlin</b> Otto-Braun-Straße 70-72 (Eingang: Karl-Marx-Allee) D-10178 Berlin Tel. (49) 1888-644 94 27/28 (49) 611 75 94 27 Fax (49) 1888-644 94 30 E-Mail: <a href="mailto:datashop@destatis.de">datashop@destatis.de</a> URL: <a href="http://www.eu-datashop.de/">http://www.eu-datashop.de/</a>	<b>INE</b> <b>Eurostat Data Shop</b> Paseo de la Castellana, 183 Despacho 011B Entrada por Estébanez Caldeón E-28046 MADRID Tel. (34) 915 839 167/ 915 839 500 Fax (34) 915 830 357 E-mail: <a href="mailto:datashop@ine.es">datashop@ine.es</a> URL: <a href="http://www.ine.es/produser/datashop/index.html">http://www.ine.es/produser/datashop/index.html</a> <i>Member of the MIDAS Net</i>	<b>INSEE Info Service</b> <b>Eurostat Data Shop</b> 195, rue de Bercy Tour Gamma A F-75582 PARIS CEDEX 12 Tél. (33) 1 53 17 88 44 Fax (33) 1 53 17 88 22 E-mail: <a href="mailto:datashop@insee.fr">datashop@insee.fr</a> <i>Member of the MIDAS Net</i>	<b>ISTAT</b> <b>Centro di informazione statistica</b> <b>Sede di Roma</b> <b>Eurostat Data Shop</b> Via Cesare Balbo, 11a I-00184 Roma Tel. (39) 06 46 73 32 28 Fax (39) 06 46 73 31 01/ 07 E-mail: <a href="mailto:datashop@istat.it">datashop@istat.it</a> URL: <a href="http://www.istat.it/Prodotti-e/Allegati/Eurostatdatashop.html">http://www.istat.it/Prodotti-e/Allegati/Eurostatdatashop.html</a> <i>Member of the MIDAS Net</i>
ITALIA – Milano	NEDERLAND	PORTUGAL	SUOMI/FINLAND	SVERIGE
<b>ISTAT</b> <b>Ufficio Regionale per la Lombardia</b> <b>Eurostat Data Shop</b> Via Fieno 3 I-20123 MILANO Tel. (39) 02 80 61 32 460 Fax (39) 02 80 61 32 304 E-mail: <a href="mailto:mileuro@tin.it">mileuro@tin.it</a> URL: <a href="http://www.istat.it/Prodotti-e/Allegati/Eurostatdatashop.html">http://www.istat.it/Prodotti-e/Allegati/Eurostatdatashop.html</a> <i>Member of the MIDAS Net</i>	<b>Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek</b> <b>Eurostat Data Shop - Voorburg</b> Postbus 4000 NL-2270 JM VOORBURG Nederland Tel. (31) 70 337 49 00 Fax (31) 70 337 59 84 E-mail: <a href="mailto:datashop@cbs.nl">datashop@cbs.nl</a> URL: <a href="http://www.cbs.nl/eurodatashop">www.cbs.nl/eurodatashop</a>	<b>Eurostat Data Shop Lisboa</b> <b>INE/Serviço de Difusão</b> Av. António José de Almeida, 2 P-1000-043 LISBOA Tel. (351) 21 842 61 00 Fax (351) 21 842 63 64 E-mail: <a href="mailto:data.shop@ine.pt">data.shop@ine.pt</a>	<b>Statistics Finland</b> <b>Eurostat Data Shop Helsinki</b> <b>Tilastokirjasto</b> PL 2B FIN-00022 Tilastokeskus Työpajakatu 13 B, 2 Kerros, Helsinki P. (358) 9 17 34 22 21 F. (358) 9 17 34 22 79 Sähköposti: <a href="mailto:datashop@stat.fi">datashop@stat.fi</a> URL: <a href="http://www.tilastokeskus.fi/tk/kk/datashop/">http://www.tilastokeskus.fi/tk/kk/datashop/</a>	<b>Statistics Sweden</b> <b>Information service</b> <b>Eurostat Data Shop</b> Karlavägen 100 - Box 24 300 S-104 51 STOCKHOLM Tfn (46) 8 50 69 48 01 Fax (46) 8 50 69 48 99 E-post: <a href="mailto:infoservice@scb.se">infoservice@scb.se</a> URL: <a href="http://www.scb.se/templates/Standard_22884.asp">http://www.scb.se/templates/Standard_22884.asp</a>
UNITED KINGDOM	NORGE	SCHWEIZ/SUISSE/SVIZZERA	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
<b>Eurostat Data Shop</b> <b>Office for National Statistics</b> Room 1.015 Cardiff Road Newport South Wales NP10 8XG United Kingdom Tel. (44) 1633 81 33 69 Fax (44) 1633 81 33 33 E-mail: <a href="mailto:eurostat.datashop@ons.gov.uk">eurostat.datashop@ons.gov.uk</a>	<b>Statistics Norway</b> <b>Library and Information Centre</b> <b>Eurostat Data Shop</b> Kongens gate 6 Boks 8131 Dep. N-0033 OSLO Tel. (47) 21 09 46 42 / 43 Fax (47) 21 09 45 04 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Datashop@ssb.no">Datashop@ssb.no</a> URL: <a href="http://www.ssb.no/biblioteket/datashop/">http://www.ssb.no/biblioteket/datashop/</a>	<b>Statistisches Amt des Kantons Zürich</b> <b>Eurostat Data Shop</b> Bleichenweg 5 CH-8090 Zürich Tel. (41) 1 225 12 12 Fax (41) 1 225 12 99 E-mail: <a href="mailto:datashop@statistik.zh.ch">datashop@statistik.zh.ch</a> URL: <a href="http://www.statistik.zh.ch">http://www.statistik.zh.ch</a>	<b>Harver Analytics</b> <b>Eurostat Data Shop</b> 60 East 42nd Street Suite 3310 NEW YORK, NY 10165 USA Tel. (1) 212 986 93 00 Fax (1) 212 986 69 81 E-mail: <a href="mailto:eurodata@haver.com">eurodata@haver.com</a> URL: <a href="http://www.haver.com/">http://www.haver.com/</a>	

**Media Support Eurostat (for professional journalists only):**  
 Bech Building Office A4/017 • L-2920 Luxembourg • Tel. (352) 4301 33408 • Fax (352) 4301 35349 • e-mail: [eurostat-mediasupport@cec.eu.int](mailto:eurostat-mediasupport@cec.eu.int)

## For information on methodology:

Francis Weiler, Eurostat / E2, L-2920 Luxembourg, Tel. (352) 4301 37218, Fax (352) 4301 37318,  
 E-mail: [Francis.Weiler@cec.eu.int](mailto:Francis.Weiler@cec.eu.int)

ORIGINAL: French

Please visit our web site at [www.europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/) for further information!

A list of worldwide sales outlets is available at the **Office for Official Publications of the European Communities**.

2 rue Mercier – L-2985 Luxembourg  
 Tel. (352) 2929 42118 Fax (352) 2929 42709  
 URL: <http://publications.eu.int>  
 E-mail: [info-info-opoce@cec.eu.int](mailto:info-info-opoce@cec.eu.int)

BELGIQUE/BELGIË – DANMARK – DEUTSCHLAND – GREECE/ELLADA – ESPAÑA – FRANCE – IRELAND – ITALIA – LUXEMBOURG – NEDERLAND – ÖSTERREICH  
 PORTUGAL – SUOMI/FINLAND – SVERIGE – UNITED KINGDOM – ISLAND – NORGE – SCHWEIZ/SUISSE/SVIZZERA – BALGARIJA – ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA – CYPRUS  
 EESTI – HRVATSKA – MAGYARORSZÁG – MALTA – POLSKA – ROMÂNIA – RUSSIA – SLOVAKIA – SLOVENIA – TÜRKIYE – AUSTRALIA – CANADA – EGYPT – INDIA  
 ISRAËL – JAPAN – MALAYSIA – PHILIPPINES – SOUTH KOREA – THAILAND – UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

# Order form

I would like to subscribe to *Statistics in focus* (from 1.1.2004 to 31.12.2004):  
 (for the Data Shop and sales office addresses see above)  
 All 9 themes (approximately 200 issues)

- Paper: EUR 240  
 Language required:  DE  EN  FR

*Statistics in focus* can be downloaded (pdf file) free of charge from the Eurostat web site. You only need to register. For other solutions, contact your Data Shop.

- Please send me a free copy of 'Eurostat mini-guide' (catalogue containing a selection of Eurostat products and services)  
 Language required:  DE  EN  FR
- I would like a free subscription to 'Statistical References', the information letter on Eurostat products and services  
 Language required:  DE  EN  FR

Mr  Mrs  Ms  
 (Please use block capitals)

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_ Forename: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Department: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Function: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Post code: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Country: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tel.: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment on receipt of invoice, preferably by:

- Bank transfer  
 Visa  Eurocard

Card No: \_\_\_\_\_ Expires on: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Please confirm your intra-Community VAT number:**  
 If no number is entered, VAT will be automatically applied. Subsequent reimbursement will not be possible.