

December 2003 survey of EU sheep and goat populations and production forecasts for 2004

Linda Harley

Downward trend in the EU sheep population and slight rise in sheep production

The sheep population in the European Union fell by 1.6% to 86.3 million head in December of 2003 compared with 2002. It has therefore been on a continuous downward trend since 1998, following two big annual increases between the end of 1995 and the end of 1997. The drop was particularly marked in Luxembourg (-12.2%), while the sheep population in Denmark climbed by 14.1 % compared to 2002. The situation is just as variable in the Acceding Countries, with changes ranging from -3.3% in Cyprus to +24.4% in Latvia. Spain and the United Kingdom account for more than half the sheep production in the EU, and both recorded small falls (-3.2% and -1.3% respectively).

As Figure 1 shows, there is a downward trend in sheep production. According to the market forecasts provided by Member States, sheep production in 2004 will continue this decline, dropping by 1.2% to 62.5 million. This slight decrease reflects the situation in the main producing countries of Spain, UK and France.

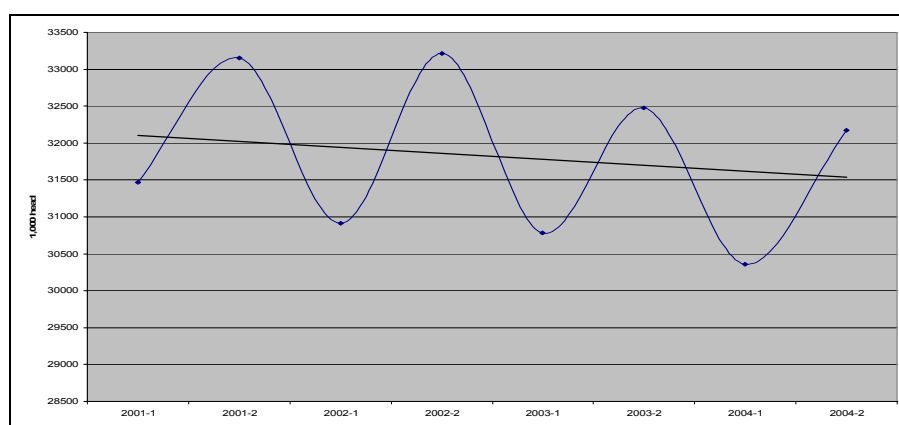


Figure 1: Gross indigenous population of sheep 2001 – 2004

Decline in goat population and production in the EU

The goat population in the European Union was 11.6 million head in December 2003. This is a drop of 2.0% on the previous year. In the top 3 goat-rearing countries, changes are Greece (-1.9%), Spain (-3.1%) and France (+1.7%)

According to the latest forecasts, goat production will decrease very slightly, by 0.1 % to 7.7 million head in 2004. However, the largest producing country, Greece (56% of the EU-15 total) is forecasting a rise of 1.1%.

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BRUTTOEIGENERZEUGUNG

GROSS INDIGENOUS PRODUCTION

PRODUCTION INDIGENE BRUTE

1000 STÜCK

1000 HEAD

1000 TETES

	EU 15	BE	DK	DE	EL	ES	FR	IE	IT	LU	NL	AT	PT	FI	SE	UK
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1 SCHAFE

SHEEP

OVINS 1

1-06	30,914.1	112.0	25.0	1,013.8	4,540.0	10,044.0	3,727.0	1,170.0	1,782.0	3.1	539.0	208.8	1,089.0	14.7	68.0	6,577.6	1-06
7-12	33,211.4	103.0	59.0	1,047.8	2,014.6	11,111.0	3,330.0	1,884.0	2,875.0	3.1	606.0	148.8	1,117.0	18.9	129.0	8,764.1	7-12
2002	64,125.6	215.0	84.0	2,061.7	6,554.6	21,155.0	7,057.0	3,054.0	4,657.0	6.3	1,145.0	357.7	2,206.0	33.6	197.0	15,341.8	2002
1-06	30,786.4	110.0	27.0	1,027.8	4,280.8	9,809.0	3,817.0	1,316.6	1,697.0	3.7	571.0	195.0	1,137.0	15.5	66.0	6,713.0	1-06
7-12	32,476.7	97.0	54.0	1,054.9	2,150.2	11,101.0	3,285.0	1,600.3	2,850.0	3.8	405.0	138.0	1,004.0	19.7	126.0	8,587.8	7-12
2003	63,263.1	207.0	81.0	2,082.7	6,431.0	20,910.0	7,102.0	2,917.0	4,547.0	7.5	976.0	333.0	2,141.0	35.2	192.0	15,300.8	2003
1-06	30,355.7 e	108.0 e	27.0	1,032.0	4,475.7	9,464.0	3,677.0	1,350.0	1,605.0	4.2	560.0	182.1 e	1,188.0	16.3 e	66.0	6,600.4	1-06
7-12	32,173.2 e	91.3 e	56.0	1,058.0	2,100.1	10,717.0	3,246.0	1,630.0	2,845.0	4.2	450.0	127.9 e	1,036.0	20.5 e	126.0	8,665.0	7-12
2004	62,528.9 e	199.4 e	83.0	2,090.0	6,575.8	20,181.0	6,923.0	2,980.0	4,450.0	8.4	1,010.0	310.0 e	2,224.0	36.9 e	192.0	15,265.4	2004
% 1-06	-0.4	-1.8	8.0	1.4	-5.7	-2.3	2.4	12.5	-4.8	18.5	5.9	-6.6	4.4	5.4	-2.9	2.1	% 1-06
% 7-12	-2.2	-5.8	-8.5	0.7	6.7	-0.1	-1.4	-15.1	-0.9	19.8	-33.2	-7.3	-10.1	4.2	-2.3	-2.0	% 7-12
%03/02	-1.3	-3.7	-3.6	1.0	-1.9	-1.2	0.6	-4.5	-2.4	19.1	-14.8	-6.9	-2.9	4.8	-2.5	-0.3	%03/02
% 1-06	-1.4	:	0.0	0.4	4.6	-3.5	-3.7	2.5	-5.4	12.8	-1.9	:	4.5	:	0.0	-1.7	% 1-06
% 7-12	-0.9	:	3.7	0.3	-2.3	-3.5	-1.2	1.9	-0.2	12.8	11.1	:	3.2	:	0.0	0.9	% 7-12
%04/03	-1.2	:	2.5	0.3	2.3	-3.5	-2.5	2.2	-2.1	12.8	3.5	:	3.9	:	0.0	-0.2	%04/03

2 ZIEGEN

GOATS

CAPRINS 1.1

1-06	5,050.4	0.0	0.0	9.8	3,124.3	756.0	672.0	0.0	285.0	0.2	21.0	45.3	134.0	0.0	0.0	2.9	1-06
7-12	3,079.2	0.0	0.0	8.4	1,261.6	1,072.0	250.0	0.0	287.0	0.2	9.0	30.9	156.0	0.0	0.0	4.1	7-12
2002	8,129.6	0.0	0.0	18.1	4,385.9	1,828.0	922.0	0.0	572.0	0.4	30.0	76.1	290.0	0.0	0.0	7.0	2002
1-06	4,768.5	0.0	0.0	11.4	2,934.4	730.0	693.0	0.0	215.0	0.5	31.0	39.0	111.0	0.0	0.0	3.2	1-06
7-12	2,934.8	0.0	0.0	8.5	1,328.3	978.0	255.0	0.0	180.0	0.8	19.0	27.6	133.0	0.0	0.0	4.6	7-12
2003	7,703.3	0.0	0.0	19.9	4,262.7	1,708.0	948.0	0.0	395.0	1.3	50.0	66.6	244.0	0.0	0.0	7.8	2003
1-06	4,834.1 e	0.0 e	0.0 e	11.4	3,028.9	700.0	704.0	0.0 e	212.0	1.2	25.0	33.6 e	114.0	0.0 e	0.0 e	4.0	1-06
7-12	2,861.5 e	0.0 e	0.0 e	8.6	1,280.5	945.0	271.0	0.0 e	177.0	1.7	15.0	24.7 e	134.0	0.0 e	0.0 e	4.0	7-12
2004	7,695.6 e	0.0 e	0.0 e	20.0	4,309.4	1,645.0	975.0	0.0 e	389.0	2.9	40.0	58.3 e	248.0	0.0 e	0.0 e	8.0	2004
% 1-06	-5.6	:	:	16.5	-6.1	-3.4	3.1	:	-24.6	212.7	47.6	-13.9	-17.2	-22.0	:	9.7	% 1-06
% 7-12	-4.7	:	:	1.3	5.3	-8.8	2.0	:	-37.3	268.9	111.1	-10.6	-14.7	-14.3	:	11.7	% 7-12
%03/02	-5.2	:	:	9.5	-2.8	-6.6	2.8	:	-30.9	243.6	66.7	-12.5	-15.9	-20.7	:	10.9	%03/02
% 1-06	1.4	:	:	0.3	3.2	-4.1	1.6	:	-1.4	117.4	-19.4	:	2.7	:	:	25.7	% 1-06
% 7-12	-2.5	:	:	1.2	-3.6	-3.4	6.3	:	-1.7	117.4	-21.1	:	0.8	:	:	-13.0	% 7-12
%04/03	-0.1	:	:	0.7	1.1	-3.7	2.8	:	-1.5	117.4	-20.0	:	1.6	:	:	2.8	%04/03

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