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## Germany

### Livestock and Products

## Estimate of Slaughter Age Distribution in German Cattle

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**Report Highlights:**

The German Federal Office of Statistics does not issue slaughter figures by slaughter age. As a rough estimate, 40 percent of the slaughtered cattle in the years 2000 through 2002 was 30 months or older. About 50 percent were 24 months of age or older at time of slaughter. The EU's cattle identification and registration system does indicate the age of each animal at the time of slaughter, and is used to determine if BSE testing is required.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Berlin [GM1]  
[GM]

The German office of statistics issues slaughter numbers by animal groups, i.e. bulls, oxen, heifers, cows and calves, but not by age (see table 1). Therefore a breakout of slaughter by age has to be deduced by other means and can only be a rough estimate. Although age figures are not published, the age of each animal at slaughter time is known, based on the EU's mandatory bovine animal identification and registration system. Therefore, knowing which bovines are over 24 month and must be tested for BSE is not an issue.

**Table 1: Cattle Slaughter in Germany by Year and Animal Group**

Category	Year		
	2000	2001	2002
Total slaughter	4,011,600	4,356,900	4,272,000
breakout: Calves	419,000	382,700	349,500
Bulls	1,679,000	1,869,300	1,735,100
Oxen	45,700	53,100	57,300
Heifers	363,900	590,500	603,600
Cows	1,504,000	1,461,300	1,526,500
Number of BSE tests carried out	Not published	2,869,176	3,030,777

Source: German Federal Office of Statistics /  
German Federal Ministry of Consumer Protection, Food, and Agriculture (BMVEL)

BSE test are obligatory in Germany for all risk animals plus all cattle slaughtered at the age of 24 months and older. However, the number of BSE-tests alone cannot be used as age-indicator as a substantial percentage of younger animals are tested on a voluntary basis.

The estimates presented in table 2 were deducted by assuming that the different animal groups show the following age characteristics:

- Calves: All under 12 months.
- Bulls: Mostly under 24 months,  
about 30,000 breeding bulls over 30 months.
- Oxen: Over 24 months but under 30 months.
- Heifers: Show large variation in age.  
Roughly between 20 and 30 % are over 30 months.
- Cows: All over 30 months.

**Table 2: Estimated number and percentage of cattle slaughtered at 24 and 30 month in Germany by Year**

	2000	2001	2002
Rough estimate of number of animals, which were <u>30 month</u> of age or older at time of slaughter *	1,625,000	1,640,000	1,700,000
Percent of total slaughter	41	38	40
Rough estimate of number of animals, which were <u>24 month</u> of age or older at time of slaughter **	1,943,600	2,134,900	2,217,400
Percent of total slaughter	48	49	52

\* = calculated as number of cows plus number of breeding bulls plus 25 percent of heifers

\*\* = calculated as number of cows plus number of breeding bulls plus number of oxen plus number of heifers

Source: FAS Berlin calculations