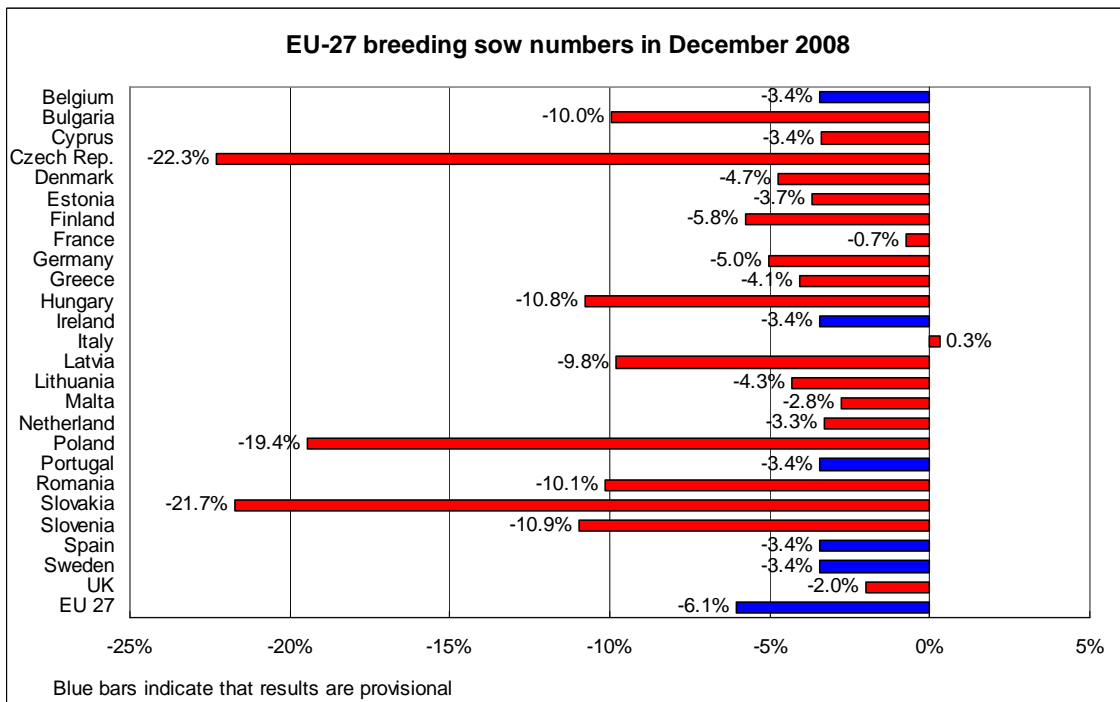


EU PIG SURVEY RESULTS: DECEMBER 2008

December 2008 EU pig survey results have been published. These indicate that the total EU-27 breeding herd fell by an unprecedented six per cent compared with a year earlier. Numbers of slaughter pigs and slaughter pigs were both down five per cent. The complete results can be found here:

http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/agri/pig/library?l=pigmeat_public_domain/public_statistics/eur_2005_telxls/EN_1.0_&a=d

Record feed costs throughout Europe in the year to mid-2008 had a significant impact on pig numbers, as the following chart shows. Declines were recorded in every member state except Italy, although the most marked contractions were seen in eastern European countries.



These results indicate that EU pig meat production will remain well down on year earlier levels, at least through to mid-2009 and possibly through to the end of the year.

Tony Fowler
13 March 2009