

A photograph of several pigs in a pen, overlaid with a blue tint. The pigs are of various breeds, including some with curly hair. One pig in the foreground has a white tag on its ear.

2011 PIG COST OF PRODUCTION IN SELECTED COUNTRIES

£160

AHDB Market Intelligence



CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
METHODOLOGY	4
KEY POINTS	5
COST OF PRODUCTION	6
Aggregate results for 2011	6
Comparisons with previous years (sterling)	6
Comparisons with previous years (Euros)	7
FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE SUMMARY	9
Feed costs	9
Summary of financial performance	12
PHYSICAL PERFORMANCE SUMMARY	13
Pigs weaned per sow per year	15
Pigs finished per sow per year	16
MONITORING CHANGES IN COSTS OF PRODUCTION	17
Feed cost movements	17
Total production costs	18
Net margins in Great Britain	19
APPENDIX	20
European pig industry trends, 2011	20
National carcase dressing specifications	21
Additional tables and figures	22
Standardising the physical results	26
List of tables and charts	29

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the latest in a series of annual reports examining the relative costs of pig meat production up to farmgate level in selected countries. All these figures relate to 2011.

The EU pig market in 2011 was characterised by high prices for both pigs and for pig feed. During the first half of the year, tight supplies in global markets led to record prices for both wheat and maize. These, in turn, led to higher prices for pig feed and the overall cost of pig production. While prices subsided somewhat following the Northern Hemisphere harvest, they remained high by historical standards and well above their level before the 2010 harvest.

In January 2011, EU pig prices fell sharply, partly as a result of subdued consumer demand as a result of the dioxin crisis in Germany. However, they recovered quickly, following the normal seasonal trend, by rising throughout the spring before stabilising over the summer. However, in contrast to previous years, prices remained firm throughout the autumn, before rising slightly at the end of the year. This was largely the result of strong export demand from non-EU markets, notably in the Far East, although there was also some tightening of EU pig supplies.

British pig slaughterings reached their highest level since 2002, largely as a result of further productivity gains, although in many respects performance is still lagging well behind the leading EU Member States.

To assist producers in comparing their physical performance with other pig businesses in England, BPEX has a Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) section on its website which is updated quarterly based on Agrosoft data. The section provides average, top third and top 10 per cent performance for the 'super six' KPIs for indoor and outdoor breeding herds, rearing and finishing herds. For more information visit www.bpex.org.uk and go to the 'Prices, Facts and Figures' section (Costings and Herd Performance).



This report examines the relative costs of production in selected countries. This is a joint project currently involving the following organisations in 15 countries, which are known collectively as InterPIG.

- Great Britain – AHDB Market Intelligence, BPEX
- Austria – VLV Upper Austria
- Belgium – Flemish Government and Boerenbond Belgie
- Brazil – Embrapa Swine and Poultry
- Canada – Canadian Pork Council
- Czech Republic – Institute of Agricultural Economics and Information (UZEI)
- Denmark – Landbrug & Fødevarer, Videncenter for Svineproduktion
- France – IFIP
- Germany – Institut für Betriebswirtschaft (FAL), and Interessengemeinschaft der Schweinehalter (ISN)
- Ireland – Teagasc Rural Economy Research
- Italy – Centro Ricerche Produzioni Animali
- Netherlands – Agricultural Economics Research Institute (LEI Wageningen UR), and Product Boards for Livestock, Meat and Eggs (PVE)
- Spain – SIP Consultors
- Sweden – Svenska Pig
- USA – Iowa State University

We continue to work with other countries and organisations who wish to provide standardised results for international comparison.

The cost and performance data relates to average performance from the national recording systems operating in the participating countries. Definitions have been standardised across countries. For example, the definition of a sow is from first insemination to slaughter and the results are based on average present sows (average daily number of sows in the year).

There will inevitably still be some national differences in definition but where this has occurred the data has been adjusted in the most appropriate way. The results are believed to provide a clear indication of the relative average costs of production within each country and to provide an accurate comparison within 1-2p/kg deadweight. In an attempt to continue to improve the accuracy of the data provided, the glossary of terms and formulae used in calculations is monitored and updated. As a result, there may be some discrepancies between previous publications as formulae are re-aligned.

KEY POINTS

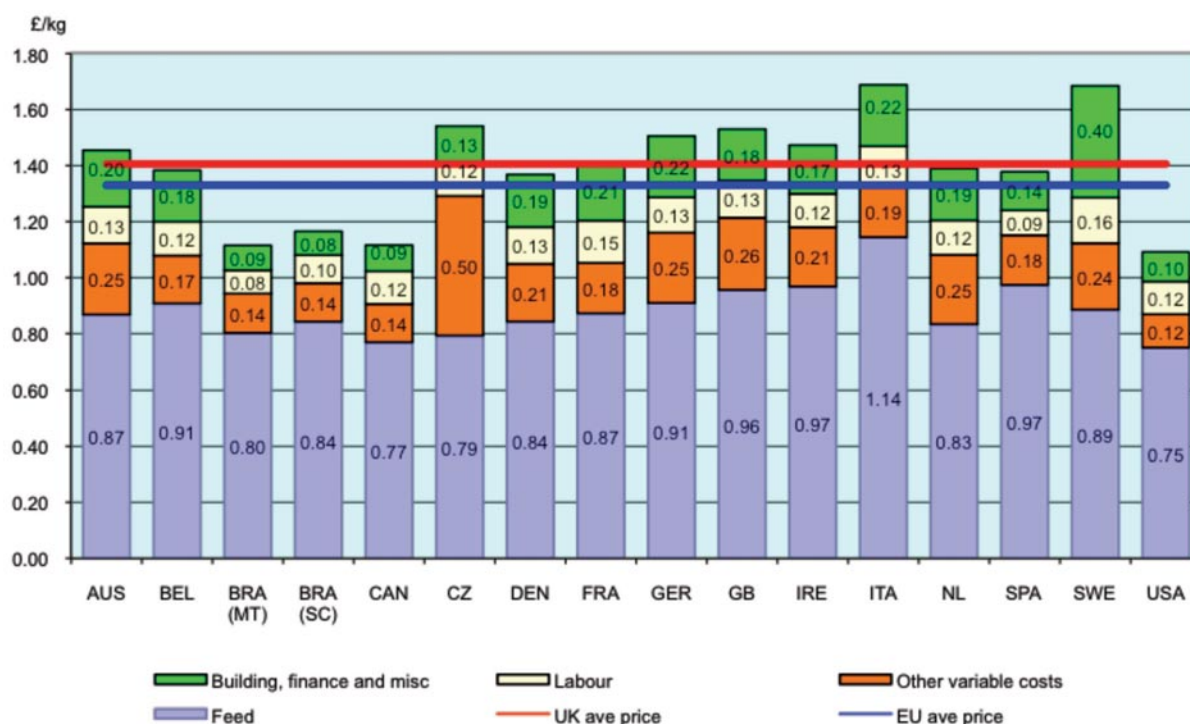
- The cost of pig meat production in Great Britain increased by seven per cent in 2011, to £1.53/kg. The average cost of production in the EU was £1.48/kg deadweight, up 12 per cent. The increase in production costs in Great Britain was below the European average in part because GB feed prices had already begun to increase in 2010, earlier than in some other countries
- Despite the higher relative cost of production in Great Britain, most aspects of physical performance did improve between 2010 and 2011
- Average producer prices were generally higher in 2011 than in 2010, although the increase was smaller in the UK than elsewhere in the EU. Despite this, rising costs meant that no EU country had production costs below the EU average reference price
- Average feed prices were markedly higher in 2011 than in 2010, although they gradually eased back as the year progressed. This meant that the contribution of feed to overall production costs increased across all InterPIG member countries
- In 2011 as a whole, EU feed costs increased by 17 per cent compared with a year earlier, in sterling terms. The cost increase in Great Britain was 12 per cent, the second lowest in the EU, partly because costs had increased more in 2010 than elsewhere in Europe
- The overall average number of pigs weaned per sow per year in the European InterPIG countries showed a two per cent increase in 2011, up from 24.53 in 2010 to 25.10. There was a three per cent increase in pigs weaned per sow in Great Britain to 22.56, although this was still the lowest among the EU countries
- The main reason that Great Britain has a below average number of pigs weaned per sow lies in the number of pigs born alive per litter. The 2011 average, at 11.39, was lower than all but one of the European InterPIG members, although it was an increase compared to 11.20 in 2010. The EU average was 12.50
- The average number of pigs finished per sow in Great Britain increased slightly in 2011. At 21.96 pigs per sow, average performance was 0.56 pigs higher than in 2010 and 1.14 pigs higher than in 2006
- Great Britain produced 1.69 tonnes of carcass meat per sow in 2011, four per cent higher than in 2010 because of the increased number of pigs finished per sow, along with a small increase in carcass weights.

COST OF PRODUCTION

Aggregate results for 2011

The production costs of pig meat in 2011 for all the countries covered in this report are shown below in Figure 1. This data includes all variable costs (other than transport of pigs to abattoirs) and fixed costs. Fixed costs include depreciation and interest costs for capital items such as buildings and equipment. Costs for regular and casual labour are included but no allowances are made for directors' salaries or partners' drawings.

Figure 1 Cost of production in selected countries, 2011



The average cost of production in the EU in 2011 was £1.48/kg deadweight, 12 per cent higher than the previous year. Costs of production in Great Britain were higher at £1.53, a rise of nearly seven per cent compared with the previous year. Italy had the highest costs at £1.69, due to Italian pigs being finished at heavier weights than in other EU countries and with a rise of 11 per cent in costs. Sweden had the second highest production cost experiencing a rise of 16 per cent year on year, taking its cost to £1.68. The lowest production costs in the EU were in Denmark (£1.37), Belgium (£1.38), Spain (£1.38) and the Netherlands (£1.39).

The average UK reference price was higher during 2011 than in 2010, averaging £1.41/kg, six per cent above the EU average of £1.33/kg. The average costs of production throughout the year were estimated to be above the average price received for 11 of the 12 months. These figures imply a loss of 12 pence on every kg of pig meat produced in the UK in 2011. Across the EU countries which were sampled, there was a technical loss of 15 pence on every kg of pig meat produced, with no EU country having production costs below the EU average reference price.

Comparisons with previous years (in sterling terms)

Costs of production in 2011, compared with results for the five previous years, are shown in Table 1. The average cost of production in the EU countries was up 12 per cent compared with 2010 levels for the same countries and stood at £1.48/kg. All EU countries, except Czech Rep, experienced increased costs of production, mainly due to higher feed costs.

Table 1 Average costs of production, 2006-2011 (£/kg deadweight)

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2011/10 % change
Austria	1.01	1.06	1.34	1.28	1.36	1.45	+7
Belgium	0.87	1.01	1.29	1.24	1.25	1.38	+11
Brazil (MT)	na	na	na	na	0.86	1.11	+29
Brazil (SC)	na	0.63	0.88	0.88	0.93	1.17	+25
Canada	0.61	0.90	0.85	0.91	0.94	1.12	+18
Czech. Rep.	na	na	1.62	1.53	1.57	1.54	-2
Denmark	0.82	0.93	1.25	1.25	1.19	1.37	+15
France	0.86	0.98	1.25	1.24	1.20	1.41	+18
Germany	0.96	1.05	1.35	1.35	1.29	1.51	+17
Great Britain	0.99	1.16	1.32	1.32	1.42	1.53	+7
Ireland	0.96	1.06	1.34	1.31	1.28	1.47	+15
Italy	1.11	1.23	1.49	1.54	1.52	1.69	+11
Netherlands	0.84	0.96	1.26	1.28	1.20	1.39	+16
Spain	0.93	1.04	1.29	1.27	1.20	1.38	+15
Sweden	0.98	1.11	1.42	1.30	1.45	1.68	+16
USA	0.62	0.68	0.87	0.97	0.96	1.09	+14
EU	0.94	1.05	1.35	1.32	1.33	1.48	+12

Comparisons with previous years (in euro terms)

Between 2004 and 2007 there was very little change in the value of the pound against the euro, so exchange rate fluctuations had little impact on relative competitiveness. During 2008, however, the value of sterling declined by 12 per cent against the euro. Between then and the end of 2011, the euro fluctuated against the pound but remained at a higher level than before. On average, the euro was slightly stronger against the pound in 2011 than in 2010. Consequently, the increase in average costs was slightly lower in euro terms, as shown in Table 2, than in sterling terms.

Table 2 Ranking of EU production costs, 2006-2011 (Euros/kg deadweight)

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2011/10 % change
Austria	1.51	1.59	1.75	1.45	1.61	1.68	+4
Belgium	1.32	1.53	1.68	1.41	1.48	1.61	+9
Brazil (MT)	na	na	na	na	1.02	1.30	+28
Brazil (SC)	na	na	na	na	1.10	1.35	+23
Canada	0.91	1.35	1.10	1.03	1.11	1.29	+17
Czech. Rep.	na	na	2.11	1.73	1.85	1.78	-4
Denmark	1.24	1.41	1.64	1.42	1.41	1.59	+12
France	1.31	1.48	1.64	1.41	1.42	1.65	+16
Germany	1.46	1.60	1.78	1.54	1.52	1.76	+15
Great Britain	1.52	1.76	1.73	1.50	1.68	1.78	+6
Ireland	1.47	1.61	1.74	1.48	1.52	1.72	+13
Italy	1.68	1.84	1.93	1.74	1.79	1.96	+10
Netherlands	1.28	1.47	1.66	1.45	1.42	1.62	+14
Spain	1.40	1.56	1.67	1.44	1.42	1.60	+13
Sweden	1.50	1.70	1.87	1.48	1.72	1.97	+14
USA	0.94	1.01	1.12	1.10	1.12	1.27	+13
EU	1.42	1.59	1.77	1.50	1.57	1.73	+10

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

Table 3 contains financial performance data for 2011, while Table 4 presents comparisons with 2009 and 2010. Among the EU countries there was a range of 32p/kg between the highest-cost producer and the lowest-cost producer, nearly half the range in 2010. The recorded differences are due to a combination of physical performance and the prices of inputs (eg feed prices or wage rates).

Table 3 Summary of financial performance, 2010 (£/kg deadweight)

	AUS	BEL	BRA (MT)	BRA (SC)	CAN	CZ	DEN	FRA	GER
Feed	0.87	0.91	0.80	0.84	0.77	0.79	0.84	0.87	0.91
Other variable costs	0.25	0.17	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.50	0.21	0.18	0.25
Total variable costs	1.12	1.08	0.94	0.98	0.91	1.29	1.05	1.05	1.16
Labour	0.13	0.12	0.08	0.10	0.12	0.12	0.13	0.15	0.13
Building, finance and misc	0.20	0.18	0.09	0.08	0.09	0.13	0.19	0.21	0.22
Total fixed costs	0.33	0.30	0.17	0.18	0.21	0.25	0.32	0.36	0.34
Total	1.45	1.38	1.11	1.17	1.12	1.54	1.37	1.41	1.51
	GB	IRE	ITA	NL	SPA	SWE	USA	AVE EU	
Feed	0.96	0.97	1.14	0.83	0.97	0.89	0.75	0.91	
Other variable costs	0.26	0.21	0.19	0.25	0.18	0.24	0.12	0.24	
Total variable costs	1.21	1.18	1.33	1.08	1.15	1.12	0.87	1.15	
Labour	0.13	0.12	0.13	0.12	0.09	0.16	0.12	0.13	
Building, finance and misc	0.18	0.17	0.22	0.19	0.14	0.40	0.10	0.20	
Total fixed costs	0.32	0.29	0.35	0.31	0.23	0.56	0.22	0.33	
Total	1.53	1.47	1.69	1.39	1.38	1.68	1.09	1.48	

Feed costs

Market developments in 2011

Cereal prices began 2011 at unprecedented levels, following the drought-affected harvest of 2010 and the subsequent Russian wheat export ban. Prices for wheat were particularly high but all grains were affected. A more productive harvest in 2011 meant that wheat prices were moderated somewhat in the second half of the year, although they remained much higher than they were before the 2010 harvest. However, a disappointing US crop meant that maize prices remained high and the normal discount relative to wheat was eroded. Global cereals demand continued to grow, with animal feed the principal driver, particularly in developing countries.

UK feed wheat futures prices were above £200 per tonne for most of the period from late January until mid May. Following the switch to new crop contracts, the price fell to just under £170 per tonne and by the end of the year they were below £150.

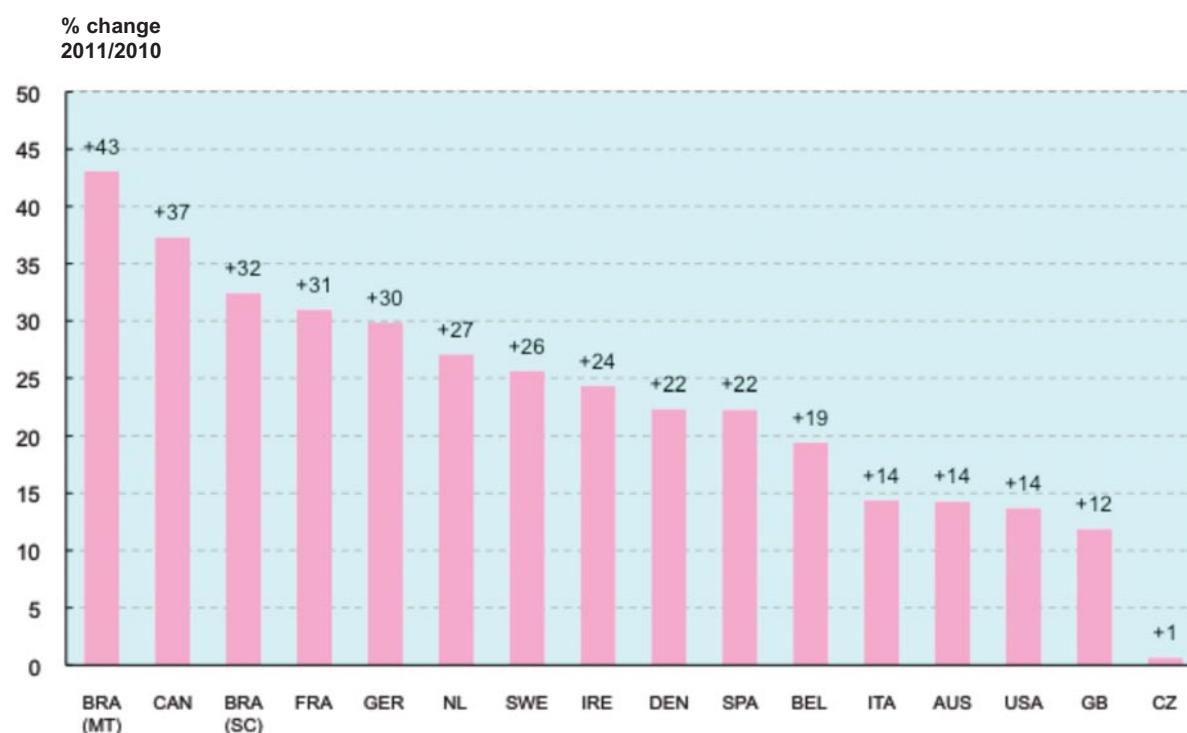
During 2011, global soyameal values were less volatile than they had been in recent years. From the start of the year until the US harvest was underway in September, Chicago soyameal futures fluctuated around \$400 per tonne, higher than their level for most of 2010 but below the peaks recorded in 2008 and 2009. A strong US harvest then led to prices falling through most of the rest of the year to reach a low point of just over \$300 per tonne in mid December, the lowest level since June 2010. From here, prices began to rally on concerns over dryness in South America, reaching \$340 by the end of the year. As with cereals, demand for animal feed, notably from China, continued to rise steadily in 2011.

Global price trends impacted on UK prices, with home-produced Hi-pro soyameal starting the year at around £380 per tonne but falling to just over £280 by the year end.

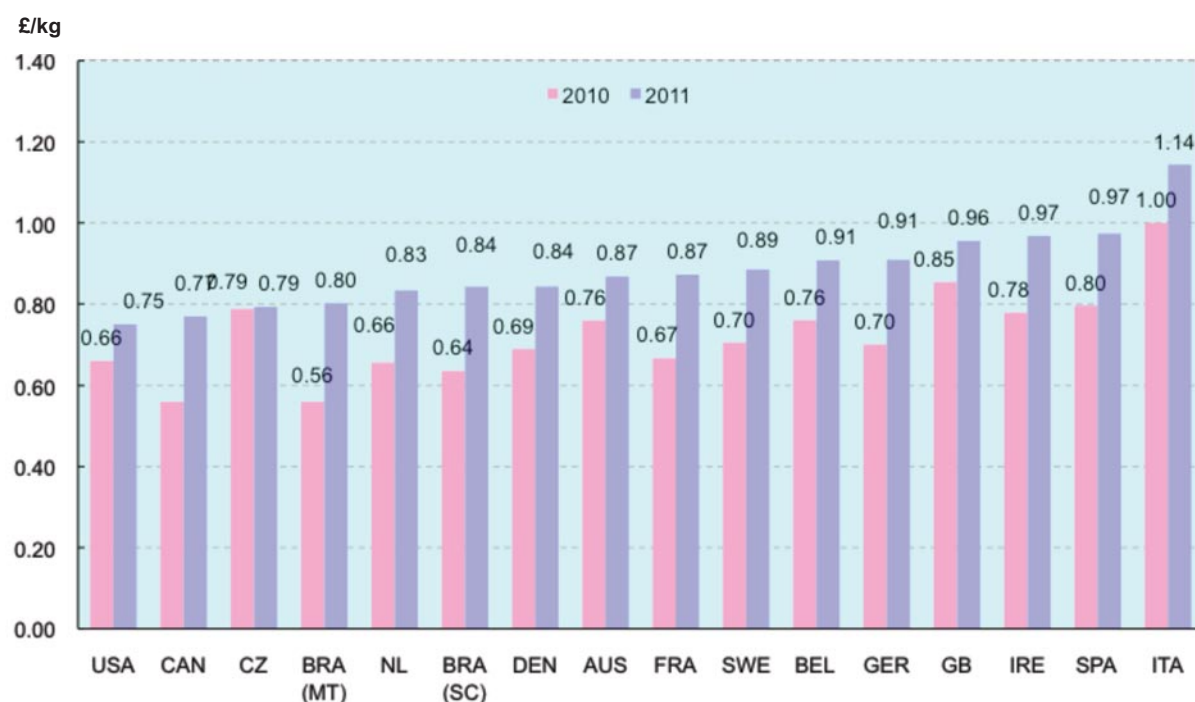
The impact on pig producers' feed costs in 2011

With prices of raw materials inflated for much of the year, it is no surprise that prices for compound pig feed were also much higher in 2011 than in 2010. Across the EU members of InterPIG, prices rose by an average of just over 20 per cent, with sow feed rising most rapidly. Prices rose even more quickly in Brazil and Canada, albeit from a lower level. Compound feed prices were broadly comparable across the EU countries, typically less than 10 per cent different from the average, although they were somewhat lower in the Czech Republic.

Figure 2 Changes in feed costs, 2011



The higher prices for feed meant that its contribution to overall costs of production was much greater during 2011 than in 2010 in all InterPIG countries, except for the Czech Republic where a marked improvement in feed efficiency largely offset price rises. Across other countries, feed costs for 2011 as a whole (in sterling) rose by between 12 per cent in Great Britain and 43 per cent in Brazil (Mato Grosso). Sharp rises in Brazil and Canada brought them closer into line with feed prices elsewhere, having been well below average in previous years. Increases in Great Britain and Austria were more modest than elsewhere in the EU, partly because prices had already begun to increase in 2010, earlier than elsewhere.

Figure 3 Feed costs, 2011

Feed costs averaged 95.6p/kg in Great Britain compared with the 85.4p recorded in 2010 and 75.7p in 2009. The significant increase in feed costs in Great Britain during 2010 was amongst the highest in the InterPIG group, meaning that the 2011 increase was lower than in most other countries. Nevertheless, feed costs in Great Britain remained five per cent above the EU average of 91.3p/kg, although this was lower than the 10 per cent gap in 2010.

Table 4 Summary of financial performance, 2009–2011 (£/kg deadweight)

	AUS			BEL			BRA (SC)		
	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011
Feed	0.68	0.76	0.87	0.74	0.76	0.91	0.63	0.64	0.84
Other variable costs	0.24	0.25	0.25	0.18	0.17	0.17	0.11	0.13	0.14
Total variable costs	0.91	1.01	1.12	0.92	0.93	1.08	0.73	0.77	0.98
Labour	0.15	0.14	0.13	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.07	0.09	0.10
Building, finance and misc	0.21	0.21	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.18	0.07	0.08	0.08
Total fixed costs	0.36	0.3	0.33	0.32	0.32	0.30	0.14	0.17	0.18
Total	1.28	1.36	1.45	1.24	1.25	1.38	0.88	0.93	1.17
	CAN			CZ			DEN		
	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011
Feed	0.55	0.56	0.77	0.77	0.79	0.79	0.68	0.69	0.84
Other variable costs	0.16	0.15	0.14	0.46	0.49	0.50	0.20	0.18	0.21
Total variable costs	0.71	0.71	0.91	1.23	1.28	1.29	0.88	0.87	1.05
Labour	0.12	0.14	0.12	0.13	0.15	0.12	0.14	0.13	0.13
Building, finance and misc	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.17	0.15	0.13	0.22	0.19	0.19
Total fixed costs	0.20	0.23	0.21	0.30	0.29	0.25	0.36	0.32	0.32
Total	0.91	0.94	1.12	1.53	1.57	1.54	1.25	1.19	1.37
	FRA			GER			GB		
	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011
Feed	0.70	0.67	0.87	0.70	0.70	0.91	0.76	0.85	0.96
Other variable costs	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.28	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.26
Total variable costs	0.87	0.85	1.05	0.98	0.95	1.16	1.01	1.11	1.21
Labour	0.16	0.16	0.15	0.13	0.12	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13
Building, finance and misc	0.21	0.19	0.21	0.24	0.21	0.22	0.18	0.19	0.18
Total fixed costs	0.37	0.35	0.36	0.37	0.34	0.34	0.31	0.32	0.32
Total	1.24	1.20	1.41	1.35	1.29	1.51	1.32	1.42	1.53
	IRE			ITA			NL		
	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011
Feed	0.82	0.78	0.97	0.99	1.00	1.14	0.68	0.66	0.83
Other variable costs	0.18	0.21	0.21	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.27	0.24	0.25
Total variable costs	1.01	0.99	1.18	1.19	1.19	1.33	0.96	0.90	1.08
Labour	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.14	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.12
Building, finance and misc	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.22	0.20	0.22	0.19	0.18	0.19
Total fixed costs	0.30	0.30	0.29	0.35	0.34	0.35	0.32	0.30	0.31
Total	1.31	1.28	1.47	1.54	1.52	1.69	1.28	1.20	1.39
	SPA			SWE			USA		
	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011
Feed	0.79	0.80	0.97	0.60	0.70	0.89	0.67	0.66	0.75
Other variable costs	0.20	0.18	0.18	0.21	0.21	0.24	0.10	0.13	0.12
Total variable costs	0.99	0.98	1.15	0.81	0.91	1.12	0.77	0.79	0.87
Labour	0.12	0.09	0.09	0.15	0.16	0.16	0.09	0.08	0.12
Building, finance and misc	0.16	0.13	0.14	0.34	0.38	0.40	0.11	0.08	0.10
Total fixed costs	0.28	0.22	0.23	0.49	0.53	0.56	0.20	0.17	0.22
Total	1.27	1.20	1.38	1.30	1.45	1.68	0.97	0.96	1.09
							EU AVE		
							2009	2010	2011
Feed	0.79	0.80	0.97	0.60	0.70	0.89	0.74	0.76	0.91
Other variable costs	0.20	0.18	0.18	0.21	0.21	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.24
Total variable costs	0.99	0.98	1.15	0.81	0.91	1.12	0.98	1.00	1.15
Labour	0.12	0.09	0.09	0.15	0.16	0.16	0.13	0.13	0.13
Building, finance and misc	0.16	0.13	0.14	0.34	0.38	0.40	0.21	0.20	0.20
Total fixed costs	0.28	0.22	0.23	0.49	0.53	0.56	0.35	0.33	0.33
Total	1.27	1.20	1.38	1.30	1.45	1.68	1.32	1.33	1.48

PHYSICAL PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

Table 5 Summary of physical performance, 2009-2011 (Part 1)

	AUS		BEL		BRA (MT)	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
Pigs weaned/sow/year	22.76	23.10	23.94	24.85	na	25.09
Pigs reared/sow/year	22.19	22.46	23.43	24.12	na	24.59
Pigs sold/sow/year	21.70	21.96	22.63	23.29	na	24.05
Litters/sow/year	2.27	2.28	2.29	2.31	na	2.39
Rearing mortality (%)	2.50%	2.80%	2.17%	2.93%	na	2.00%
Finishing mortality (%)	2.24%	2.20%	3.40%	3.44%	na	2.20%
Finishing Daily Liveweight Gain (g/day)	776	785	630	650	na	831
Finishing Feed Conversion Ratio	2.92	2.90	2.96	2.94	na	2.60
Average liveweight at slaughter (kg)	119	119	112	113	na	115
Average carcass weight – Cold (kg)	93.0	93.4	90.3	90.6	na	85.7
Carcass meat production/sow/year (kg)	2018	2051	2044	2109	na	2060
Average lean meat percentage	60.4%	60.4%	61.7%	61.7%	na	57.7%
Lean meat production/sow/year (kg)	1219	1239	1261	1301	na	1189
						1211
	BRA (SC)		CAN		CZ	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
Pigs weaned/sow/year	24.05	24.16	21.38	21.70	21.44	22.10
Pigs reared/sow/year	23.57	23.68	20.96	21.27	20.24	20.85
Pigs sold/sow/year	22.98	23.16	20.33	20.63	19.43	20.14
Litters/sow/year	2.31	2.31	2.25	2.25	na	na
Rearing mortality (%)	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%	5.60%	5.66%
Finishing mortality (%)	2.50%	2.20%	3.00%	3.00%	4.00%	3.39%
Finishing Daily Liveweight Gain (g/day)	820	820	840	890	727	734
Finishing Feed Conversion Ratio	2.60	2.60	2.75	3.00	3.20	3.24
Average liveweight at slaughter (kg)	119	118	116	117	112	112
Average carcass weight – Cold (kg)	88.7	87.9	91.2	92.5	87.3	86.9
Carcass meat production/sow/year (kg)	2037	2036	1854	1908	1696	1751
Average lean meat percentage	57.7%	57.7%	60.0%	60.0%	55.0%	55.0%
Lean meat production/sow/year (kg)	1175	1175	1112	1145	933	963
						1065
	DEN		FRA		GER	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
Pigs weaned/sow/year	27.45	28.12	26.31	26.59	23.90	24.82
Pigs reared/sow/year	26.73	27.33	25.74	26.00	23.19	24.15
Pigs sold/sow/year	25.63	26.24	24.80	25.07	22.47	23.42
Litters/sow/year	2.25	2.26	2.33	2.35	2.30	2.31
Rearing mortality (%)	2.64%	2.80%	2.16%	2.22%	3.00%	3.00%
Finishing mortality (%)	4.09%	4.00%	3.64%	3.60%	3.10%	2.70%
Finishing Daily Liveweight Gain (g/day)	898	895	788	795	740	754
Finishing Feed Conversion Ratio	2.66	2.68	2.86	2.84	2.89	2.87
Average liveweight at slaughter (kg)	107	108	116	116	120	120
Average carcass weight – Cold (kg)	80.5	81.4	88.7	89.1	92.7	93.2
Carcass meat production/sow/year (kg)	2064	2135	2201	2233	2084	2183
Average lean meat percentage	60.2%	60.2%	60.3%	60.5%	56.5%	56.7%
Lean meat production/sow/year (kg)	1243	1286	1327	1350	1176	1238
						1293

Table 5 Summary of physical performance, 2009-2011 (Part 2)

	GB		IRE		ITA	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
Pigs weaned/sow/year	22.25	22.00	24.33	25.10	22.64	22.71
Pigs reared/sow/year	21.70	21.40	23.82	24.50	21.84	22.01
Pigs sold/sow/year	21.00	20.76	23.30	23.89	21.69	21.85
Litters/sow/year	2.23	2.25	2.29	2.32	2.22	2.23
Rearing mortality (%)	2.50%	2.70%	2.10%	2.40%	3.50%	3.10%
Finishing mortality (%)	3.20%	3.00%	2.20%	2.50%	0.70%	0.70%
Finishing Daily Liveweight Gain (g/day)	819	766	828	831	640	640
Finishing Feed Conversion Ratio	2.77	2.95	2.77	2.76	3.68	3.67
Average liveweight at slaughter (kg)	103	104	104	104	166	165
Average carcass weight – Cold (kg)	78.2	78.3	79.5	78.9	128.2	126.9
Carcass meat production/sow/year (kg)	1643	1626	1852	1885	2781	2802
Average lean meat percentage	62.0%	62.0%	58.3%	58.4%	47.0%	47.0%
Lean meat production/sow/year (kg)	1019	1008	1080	1101	1307	1317
	NL		SPA		SWE	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
Pigs weaned/sow/year	27.19	27.67	23.71	24.02	23.19	23.32
Pigs reared/sow/year	26.67	27.11	22.94	23.28	22.66	22.80
Pigs sold/sow/year	26.03	26.52	21.89	22.31	22.11	22.35
Litters/sow/year	2.38	2.38	2.32	2.34	2.2	2.20
Rearing mortality (%)	1.90%	2.00%	3.25%	3.09%	2.30%	2.20%
Finishing mortality (%)	2.40%	2.20%	4.57%	4.16%	2.40%	2.00%
Finishing Daily Liveweight Gain (g/day)	792	799	667	669	876	889
Finishing Feed Conversion Ratio	2.71	2.63	2.71	2.69	2.83	2.87
Average liveweight at slaughter (kg)	117	116	105	107	117	119
Average carcass weight – Cold (kg)	90.3	91.1	79.3	80.8	87.0	88.6
Carcass meat production/sow/year (kg)	2349	2416	1736	1803	1924	1980
Average lean meat percentage	56.4%	56.5%	58.0%	58.0%	57.7%	57.9%
Lean meat production/sow/year (kg)	1325	1365	1007	1045	1110	1146
	USA		EU AVE			
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
Pigs weaned/sow/year	23.92	24.36	24.09	24.53	25.10	25.10
Pigs reared/sow/year	23.21	23.63	23.43	23.83	24.42	24.42
Pigs sold/sow/year	22.28	22.68	22.72	23.15	23.76	23.76
Litters/sow/year	2.37	2.37	2.28	2.29	2.30	2.30
Rearing mortality (%)	3.00%	3.00%	2.80%	2.91%	2.73%	2.73%
Finishing mortality (%)	4.00%	4.00%	2.99%	2.82%	2.68%	2.68%
Finishing Daily Liveweight Gain (g/day)	790	802	765	767	771	771
Finishing Feed Conversion Ratio	2.95	2.94	2.91	2.92	2.88	2.88
Average liveweight at slaughter (kg)	122	122	116	117	117	117
Average carcass weight – Cold (kg)	90.1	90.1	89.6	90.0	89.9	89.9
Carcass meat production/sow/year (kg)	2006	2043	2033	2081	2132	2132
Average lean meat percentage	57.0%	57.0%	57.8%	57.9%	58.0%	58.0%
Lean meat production/sow/year (kg)	1144	1164	1167	1197	1229	1229

Pigs weaned per sow per year

The overall average number of pigs weaned per sow per year in the European InterPIG countries showed a more than two per cent increase in 2011, up from 24.53 in 2010 to 25.10 in 2011. Performance was better in all the EU countries, with Czech Rep showing the greatest improvement, up six per cent compared with 2010. Denmark and the Netherlands again had the best results for pigs weaned, with both showing an increase of two per cent compared with 2010. Performance in Brazil was around the EU average but Canada performed below all EU countries, weaning only 22.1 pigs per sow.

The number of pigs weaned/sow in Great Britain increased by three per cent to 22.56. This was the lowest result amongst the EU countries. This remains a major cause of relatively high costs of production in Great Britain and is a problem which needs to be addressed if costs are to be reduced relative to the rest of Europe.

Pigs weaned are made up of three different elements: pigs born alive/litter, litters/sow/year (together these give pigs born/sow/year) and pre-weaning mortality. Great Britain performed at or worse than the EU average on all three of these measures.

- The GB result for litters/sow was 2.26, nearly two per cent below the EU average of 2.30 but fractionally up from 2.25 in 2010
- Pre-weaning mortality, at 12.4 per cent, was down from 12.7 per cent in 2010 and is close to the average of the EU countries
- The main reason that Great Britain has a below average number of pigs weaned/sow lies in the number of pigs born alive/litter. The 2011 average at 11.39 was an increase compared to 11.20 in 2010, but less than the other EU countries, except the Czech Republic. The EU average was 12.50.

Figure 4 Pigs weaned/sow/year, 2010–2011



Pigs finished per sow per year

The average number of pigs finished/sow in Great Britain increased slightly in 2011. At 21.33 pigs/sow, average performance was 0.57 pigs (3%) higher than in 2010 and 1.67 pigs (8.5%) higher than in 2006. Great Britain remained at the bottom of the European league in 2011.

In 2011, there was an average 23.76 pigs finished/sow in the EU, three per cent higher than in 2010. Denmark and the Netherlands continue to have the highest numbers, finishing over 26 pigs/sow, having both recorded further increases in 2011. The average number of pigs finished/sow in Brazil is close to the EU average but Canadian performance was lower, finishing 21.03 pigs/sow.

Figure 5 Pigs finished/sow/year, 2010–2011



MONITORING CHANGES IN COSTS OF PRODUCTION

The relative costs analysed in this report relate to the 2011 calendar year. The average cost of feed has increased significantly during 2010 and 2011. In 2012 high grain prices are continuing to impact on feed costs and producer margins.

This chapter examines how the changes in monthly average feed prices have affected relative costs of production in 2012. In these calculations, feed prices are the only factors that have been changed; all other variables have been left unchanged. For this reason, and also because the current feed costs will not have applied throughout 2012, these figures should not be considered as provisional 2012 results.

Feed cost movements

Table 6 Changes in feed costs, 2009–2012

	2009	2010	2011	Jan 12	Feb 12	Mar 12	Apr 12	May 12	Jun 12	Jul 12	Jul 12
Weighted average feed prices (€/tonne)											
Austria	195.4	228.7	272.7	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Belgium	216.4	229.7	273.3	259.2	267.2	269.8	280.4	293.4	297.3	302.8	+11
Brazil (SC)	192.4	201.5	251.2	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Canada	167.4	170.7	226.5	237.8	234.4	238.5	242.9	248.3	na	na	na
Czech Rep.	181.1	190.4	219.9	224.3	226.6	229.0	225.0	222.3	233.5	na	na
Denmark	202.5	211.8	259.8	242.9	245.3	259.0	267.6	272.5	278.4	280.7	+8
France	202.1	203.1	272.0	262.7	264.8	269.9	274.0	280.1	282.2	285.2	+5
Germany	203.9	214.1	280.2	na	na	na	na	299.1	299.6	307.1	+10
GB	216.8	250.2	292.6	314.9	283.1	296.3	306.4	321.7	322.9	345.1	+18
Ireland	247.7	243.5	291.3	290.1	296.6	na	na	317.1	322.6	327.2	+12
Italy	235.2	246.9	279.3	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Netherlands	212.9	219.7	278.6	274.4	276.4	279.9	285.4	293.4	298.4	303.6	+9
Spain	223.5	238.0	290.7	274.8	278.2	282.3	289.3	304.4	303.7	309.5	+6
Sweden	168.1	201.6	269.0	263.5	271.0	270.8	279.1	288.8	302.8	312.5	+16
USA	177.6	181.0	211.2	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Average	202.9	215.4	264.5	264.5	264.4	266.2	272.2	285.5	294.2	308.2	+17
Weighted average feed prices (£/tonne)											
Austria	174.0	196.1	236.5	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Belgium	192.6	197.0	237.0	215.5	223.8	225.2	230.6	235.8	239.7	238.4	+1
Brazil (SC)	171.3	172.8	217.9	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Canada	149.0	146.4	196.4	197.7	196.4	199.0	199.7	199.6	na	na	na
Czech Rep.	161.3	163.3	190.7	186.5	189.8	191.1	185.0	178.7	188.3	na	na
Denmark	180.3	181.7	225.3	201.9	205.5	216.2	220.1	219.0	224.5	221.0	-2
France	179.9	174.2	235.9	218.4	221.8	225.3	225.3	225.2	227.5	224.6	-5
Germany	181.6	183.6	243.0	na	na	na	na	240.4	241.6	241.8	-0
GB	193.0	214.6	253.8	261.8	237.1	247.3	252.0	258.6	260.3	271.7	+7
Ireland	220.6	208.8	252.6	241.1	248.4	na	na	254.9	260.1	257.7	+2
Italy	209.4	211.8	242.2	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Netherlands	189.5	188.4	241.6	228.1	231.5	233.6	234.8	235.8	240.6	239.1	-1
Spain	199.0	204.1	252.1	228.5	233.0	235.6	237.9	244.7	244.8	243.7	-3
Sweden	149.6	172.9	233.3	219.1	227.0	226.0	229.5	232.1	244.1	246.0	+5
USA	158.2	155.3	183.2	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Average	180.6	184.7	229.4	219.9	221.4	222.2	223.9	229.5	237.1	242.7	+6

The ability for producers to control their costs, such as feed, is paramount in obtaining a positive margin.

Total production costs

The estimates of total production costs in Table 7 are based on the changes in feed costs only, with all other factors being held constant. In reality, of course, there will be other changes affecting production costs. However, the dominance of feed in the cost of producing pig meat means that these other factors are likely to be dwarfed by the effects of feed price changes.

Table 7 Changes in total production costs, 2009–2012

	2009	2010	2011	Jan 12	Feb 12	Mar 12	Apr 12	May 12	Jun 12	Jul 12	Jul 12 compared with 2011
Pigmeat production costs (€/kg)											
Austria	1.45	1.61	1.68	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Belgium	1.41	1.48	1.61	1.59	1.62	1.63	1.67	1.72	1.74	1.76	+10
Brazil (SC)	0.99	1.10	1.35	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Canada	1.03	1.11	1.29	1.37	1.35	1.37	1.39	1.41	na	na	na
Czech Rep.	1.72	1.96	1.78	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Denmark	1.41	1.41	1.59	1.52	1.53	1.59	1.62	1.64	1.66	1.67	+5
France	1.39	1.40	1.65	1.63	1.63	1.65	1.67	1.69	1.70	1.71	+4
Germany	1.54	1.52	1.76	na	na	na	na	1.85	1.85	1.88	+7
GB	1.51	1.70	1.78	1.84	1.81	1.86	1.92	1.99	1.99	2.10	+18
Ireland	1.48	1.52	1.72	1.70	na	na	na	1.79	1.81	1.83	+7
Italy	1.74	1.79	1.95	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Netherlands	1.45	1.42	1.62	1.61	1.62	1.63	1.65	1.68	1.69	1.71	+6
Spain	1.44	1.42	1.60	1.56	1.57	1.59	1.62	1.67	1.67	1.69	+6
Sweden	1.48	1.72	1.97	2.06	2.09	2.08	2.12	2.14	2.21	2.29	+16
USA	1.48	1.72	1.27	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Average	1.43	1.53	1.64	1.65	1.65	1.68	1.71	1.76	1.81	1.85	+13
Pigmeat production costs (p/kg)											
Austria	1.29	1.38	1.46	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Belgium	1.26	1.27	1.39	1.32	1.36	1.36	1.38	1.39	1.40	1.39	-0
Brazil (SC)	0.88	0.94	1.17	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Canada	0.92	0.95	1.12	1.14	1.13	1.14	1.14	1.13	na	na	na
Czech Rep.	1.53	1.68	1.54	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Denmark	1.26	1.21	1.38	1.27	1.28	1.32	1.33	1.32	1.34	1.31	-5
France	1.24	1.20	1.43	1.35	1.37	1.38	1.37	1.36	1.37	1.35	-6
Germany	1.37	1.31	1.52	na	na	na	na	1.49	1.49	1.48	-3
GB	1.34	1.46	1.54	1.53	1.52	1.55	1.58	1.60	1.61	1.65	+7
Ireland	1.32	1.30	1.49	1.41	na	na	na	1.44	1.46	1.44	-3
Italy	1.55	1.53	1.69	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Netherlands	1.29	1.22	1.40	1.34	1.35	1.36	1.36	1.35	1.37	1.35	-4
Spain	1.28	1.21	1.39	1.30	1.32	1.33	1.33	1.35	1.35	1.33	-4
Sweden	1.31	1.48	1.71	1.71	1.75	1.74	1.74	1.72	1.78	1.80	+6
USA	1.31	1.48	1.10	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Average	1.28	1.31	1.42	1.37	1.39	1.40	1.40	1.41	1.46	1.46	+2

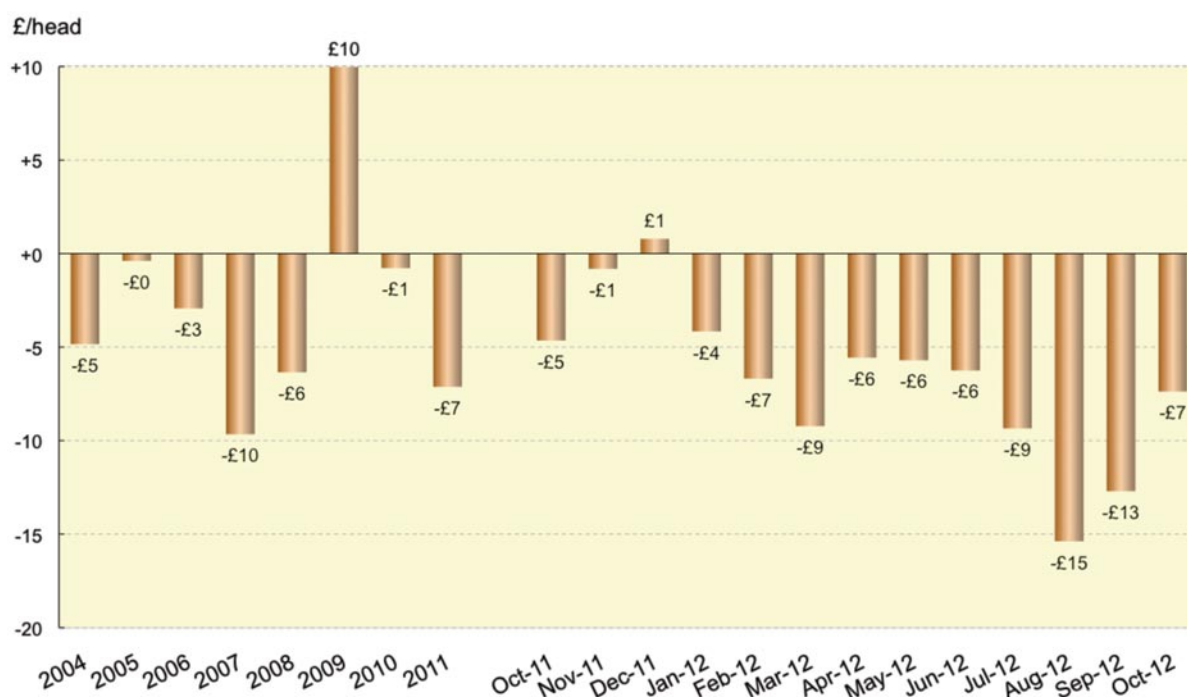
In 2011, a strengthening of sterling and increases in British feed prices, deteriorated competitiveness. This combination meant net margins worsened in 2011, continuing in 2012.

Net margins in Great Britain

The net margins shown in Figure 6 are based on the difference between the monthly DAPP and the total cost of producing pig meat (including depreciation costs) for an average producer. The results shown in the chart should, however, only be considered as indicative of general trends because:

- Physical and financial performance levels can vary greatly between producers
- The assumptions used for feed costs of spot compound prices will not apply to all producers due to the range of feed procurement strategies in the industry.

Figure 6 Estimated net margins in Great Britain, 2004–2012



During 2009 producers in Great Britain obtained a good positive margin per pig produced. This is following several years of negative returns and considerable losses in the industry where producers were reliant on having diverse enterprises in order to continue with pig production.

However, higher costs experienced during 2010 and 2011 have resulted in negative margins and continued higher costs into 2012 are estimated to have maintained losses per pig.

European pig industry trends, 2011

	AUS	BEL	BRA	CAN	CZ	DEN	FRA	GER	IRE	ITA	NL	POL	SP	SWE	UK	USA
Breeding sow numbers (000 head)	270	482	2,920	1,195	142	1,239	1,103	2,194	146	709	1,106	1,125	2,404	152	484	5,803
Annual pig slaughterings (000 head))	5,600	11,765	34,862	21,270	2982	20,875	24,804	59,590	2,905	12,346	14,594	20,978	41,743	2,845	10,066	110,860
Pigmeat production (000 head))	544	1,108	3,227	1,954	263	1,718	1,998	5,598	234	1,570	1,347	1,811	3,469	256	806	10,323
Pigmeat imports (000 tonnes cwe)*	192	143	1	223	263	137	531	1,140	90	1,069	300	624	130	136	960	432
Pigmeat exports (000 tonnes cwe)*	264	795	647	1,160	75	1,553	600	2,201	177	240	1,041	472	840	31	207	2,275
Pigmeat consumption (000 tonnes cwe)*	472	456	2,581	1,016	451	302	1,929	4,537	147	2,399	606	1,963	2,759	361	1,559	8,480
Pigmeat consumption (kg/head)*	56.1	41.6	13.1	29.5	42.8	54.3	29.7	55.5	32.8	39.6	36.4	51.4	59.8	38.3	25.0	27.2

* Estimated figures. All figures are subject to revision
Source: AHDB, Eurostat, USDA, GTIS

APPENDIX II

National carcase dressing specifications

Country	Presentation of the carcase	Payment
Austria	Without reproductive organs, tongue, spinal cord, lard, kidneys, diaphragm, brain and the organs of thoracic cavity and abdominal cavity, with the head and feet (without nails)	hot
Belgium	Without head and feet, without flare fat, kidneys and trimmings	hot -2%
Czech Republic	With the head, flare fat, skin, without brain, kidneys and organs in breast, abdomen and pelvic cavity	hot
Denmark	With head and feet, without flare fat, kidneys and trimmings	hot
France	With head (including eyes, ears and tongue), with hooves and tail, without kidneys, diaphragm and flare fat	cold
Germany	Without reproductive organs, tongue, spinal cord, lard, kidneys, diaphragm, brain and the organs of thoracic cavity and abdominal cavity	hot
Ireland	REMOVED : Oesophagus, stomach, intestines, spleen, bladder, heart, liver, lungs, testicles, hair, neck glands, fatty tissue, blood, flare fat, kidneys and diaphragm	cold
Netherlands	With the head and feet (without nails), without flare fat, kidneys and trimmings	hot
Sweden	With the head, feet and tail. No intestines of any kind. No flare fat.	cold
UK	With head, feet and tail but without flare fat, kidneys and diaphragm	cold

APPENDIX III

Additional tables and figures

Table 8 Ranking of EU production costs, 2006–2011

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% of EU ave
Denmark	1	1	1	3	1	1	92.1
Spain	5	5	4	4	2	2	93.0
Belgium	4	4	5	1	5	3	93.1
Netherlands	2	2	3	6	4	4	93.6
France	3	3	2	2	3	5	95.5
Austria	9	6	8	5	8	6	97.4
Ireland	7	8	7	8	6	7	99.5
Germany	6	7	9	10	7	8	101.8
Great Britain	10	10	6	9	9	9	103.1
Czech Republic	na	na	12	11	12	10	103.4
Italy	11	11	11	12	11	11	113.6
Sweden	8	9	10	7	10	12	114.1

Notes: Rankings – 1=lowest cost, 12=highest cost

Figure 7 Exchange rate movements, 2006–2012

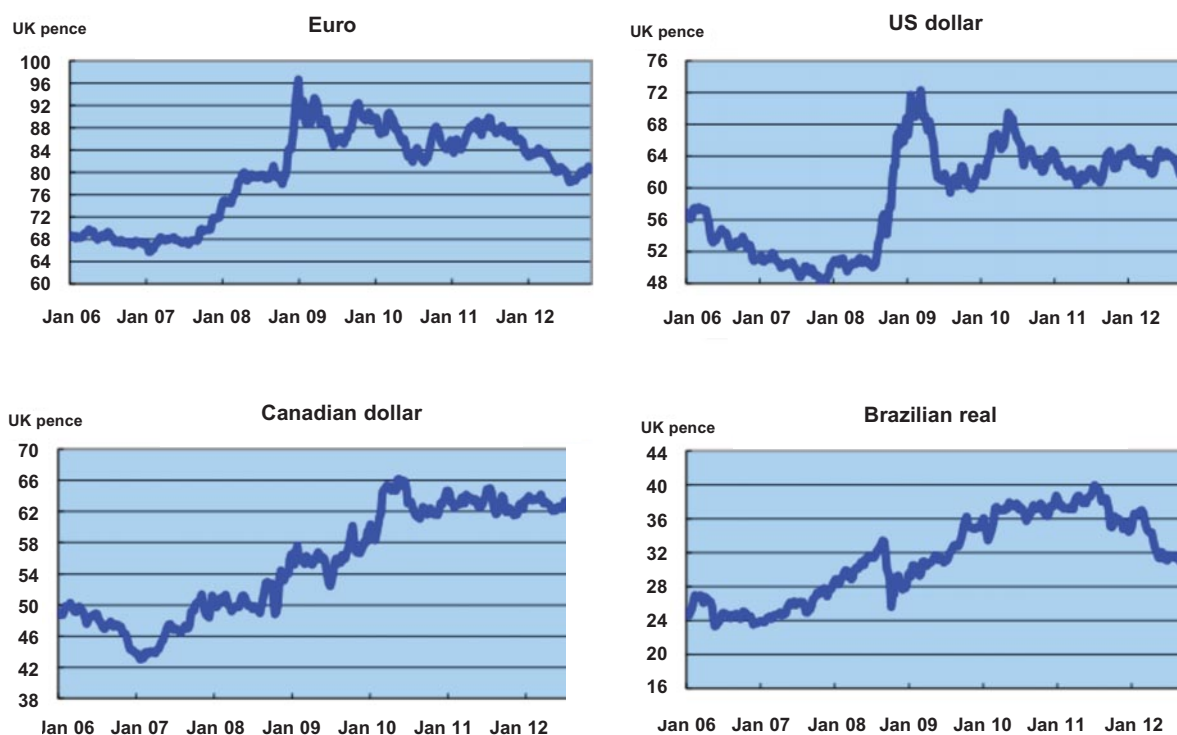


Table 9 Annual exchange rates

Year	1€ =	€:£	\$US:£	\$C:£	Real:£
2004	67.8p	1.474	1.83	2.38	5.36
2005	68.4p	1.463	1.82	2.21	4.44
2006	68.2p	1.467	1.84	2.09	4.01
2007	68.4p	1.461	2.00	2.15	3.89
2008	79.5p	1.258	1.85	1.96	3.35
2009	89.0p	1.123	1.57	1.78	3.11
2010	85.8p	1.166	1.55	1.59	2.72
2011	86.7p	1.153	1.60	1.59	2.68

Table 10 Feed prices and energy content, 2011

	AUS	BEL	BRZ (MT)	BRZ (SC)	CAN	CZ	DEN	FRA	GER
£/tonne									
Sow	233.49	234.26	207.20	216.29	182.27	185.77	214.09	235.84	249.13
Rearer	290.78	332.22	411.43	308.96	274.96	214.60	293.61	323.34	307.29
Finisher	227.42	226.64	200.93	224.65	187.84	185.77	214.80	221.18	232.74
Average	226.18	237.50	218.39	229.84	196.83	184.03	220.98	228.53	240.54
Energy content (MJ ME/kg)									
Sow	12.20	12.30	na	na	12.95	na	13.07	12.80	13.00
Rearer	13.00	13.10	na	na	13.65	na	13.94	13.30	13.40
Finisher	12.98	12.90	na	na	12.05	na	13.12	12.80	13.20
Average	12.73	12.77	na	na	12.88	na	13.38	12.97	13.20
Cost of feed (p/kg MJ ME)									
Sow	1.91	1.90	na	na	1.41	na	1.64	1.84	1.92
Rearer	2.24	2.54	na	na	2.01	na	2.11	2.43	2.29
Finisher	1.75	1.76	na	na	1.56	na	1.64	1.73	1.76
Average	1.78	1.86	na	na	1.53	na	1.65	1.76	1.82
	GB	IRE	ITA	NL	SPA	SWE	USA	AVE EU	
£/tonne									
Sow	230.53	238.54	237.83	238.95	227.30	236.22	183.39	230.16	
Rearer	299.02	331.19	316.82	337.54	369.97	340.39	224.59	313.06	
Finisher	249.15	234.54	234.36	230.95	246.90	214.33	180.77	226.56	
Average	254.19	253.25	242.46	242.03	252.61	219.32	183.41	233.47	
Energy content (MJ ME/kg)									
Sow	13.40	13.30	11.90	12.90	na	12.40	13.66	12.73	
Rearer	14.60	14.00	13.69	13.60	na	12.60	13.95	13.52	
Finisher	13.40	13.20	12.70	13.80	na	12.40	13.95	13.05	
Average	13.80	13.50	12.76	13.43	na	12.47	13.85	13.10	
Cost of feed (p/kg MJ ME)									
Sow	1.72	1.79	2.00	1.85	na	1.90	1.34	1.81	
Rearer	2.05	2.37	2.31	2.48	na	2.70	1.61	2.31	
Finisher	1.86	1.78	1.85	1.67	na	1.73	1.30	1.74	
Average	1.84	1.88	1.90	1.80	na	1.76	1.32	1.78	

Figure 8 Building, finance and miscellaneous costs, 2010–2011



Figure 9 Daily Liveweight Gains, (finishing herds), 2010–2011

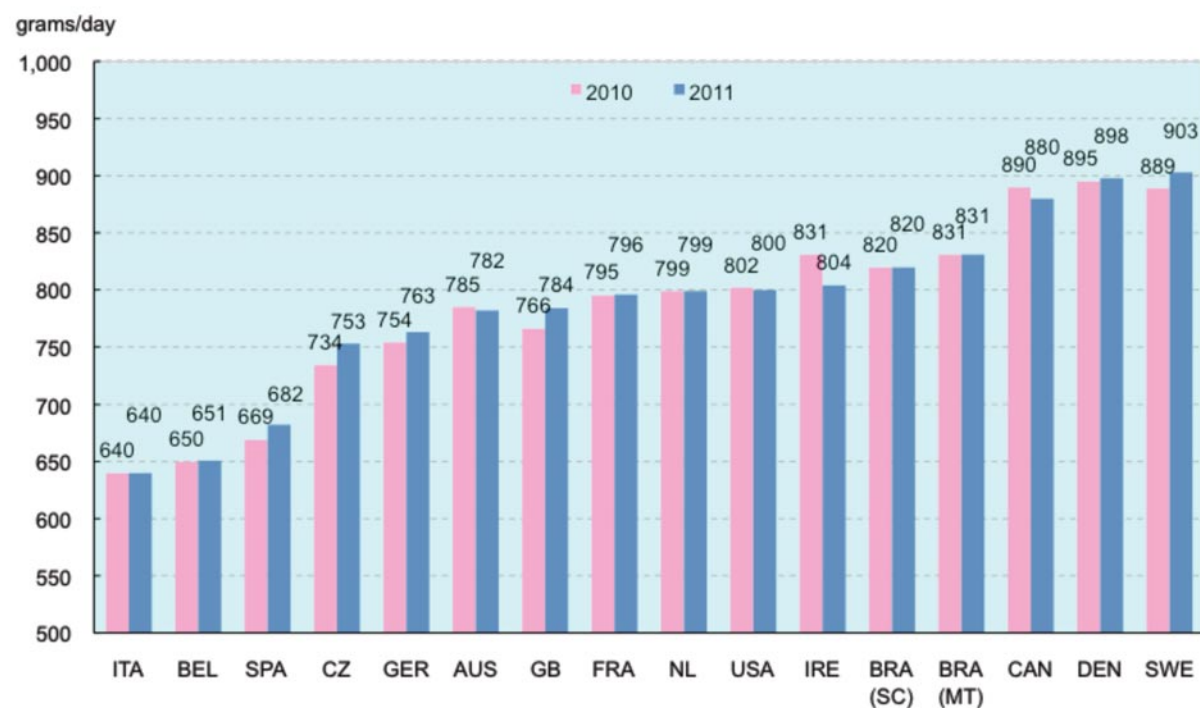


Figure 10 Feed Conversion Ratios (finishing herds), 2010–2011

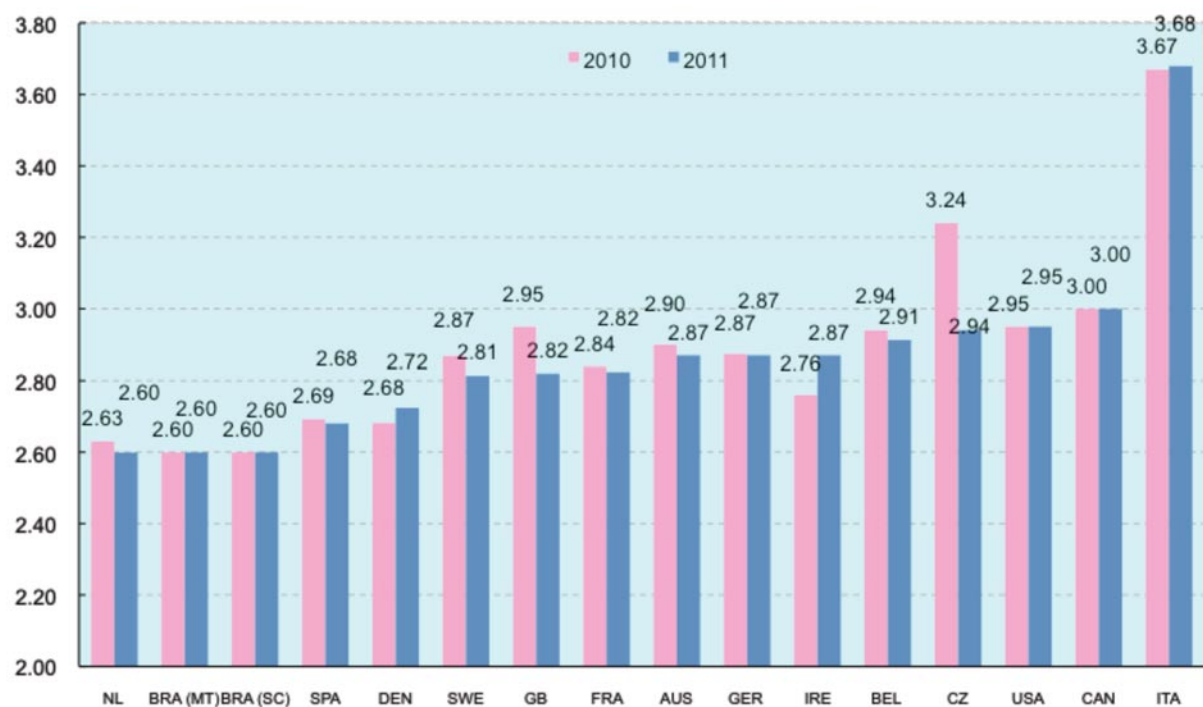
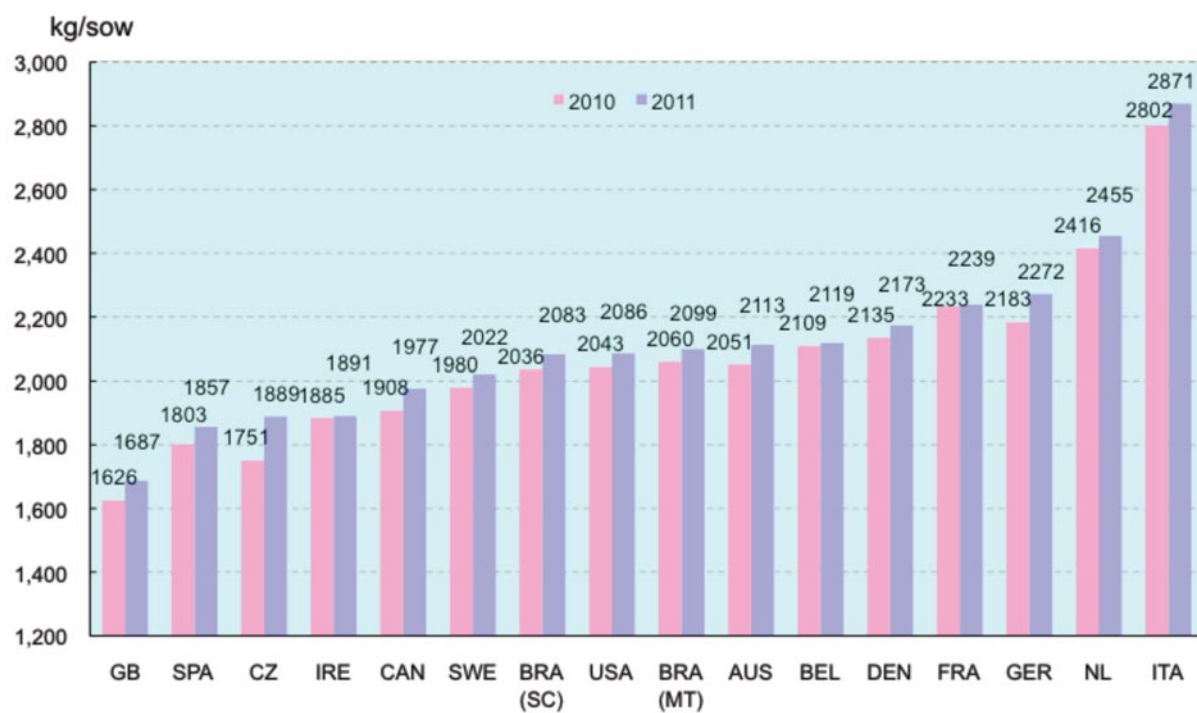


Figure 11 Carcase meat production per sow per year, 2010–2011



Standardising the Physical Results

Methodology

There is a wide variation in physical performance measures reported by InterPIG countries. Some of these variations could be due to differences between countries in the weight of animals produced. Other things being equal, an increase in slaughter weights and the length of time an animal is in the system will lead to a worsening in both the marginal daily liveweight gain (DLG) and the marginal feed conversion ratio (FCR).

Using methodology created by our French InterPIG partner, ITP, the figures have been standardised on the basis of three weights:

- Transfer from breeding unit to rearing unit: 8kg (GB = 7.6 kg in 2011)
- Transfer from rearing unit to finishing unit: 30kg (GB = 36.8 kg)
- Liveweight at slaughter: 120kg (GB = 102.55 kg).

This section examines the adjustments that have been made to the finishing FCR and DLG figures in the European InterPIG countries to exclude the differences caused by variations in national transfer and slaughter weights.

Figure 12 Standardised Daily Liveweight Gains (finishing herds), 2011

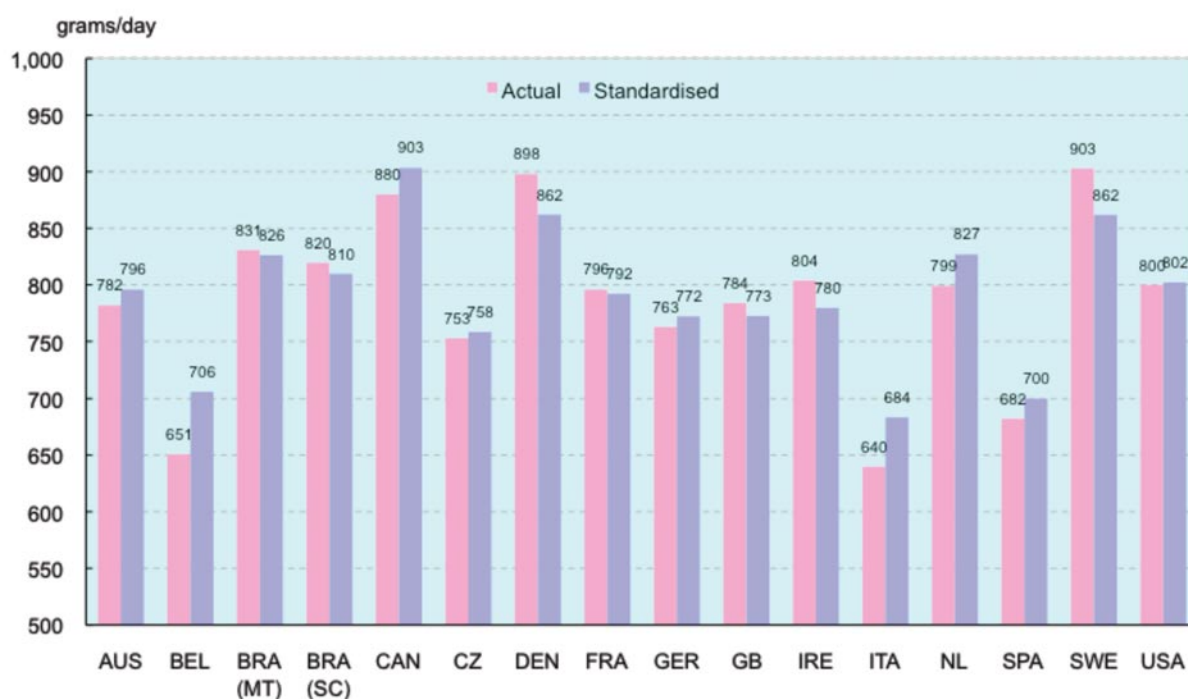


Figure 13 Standardised Feed Conversion Ratios (finishing herds), 2011



Table 11 GB and EU physical results, 2011

	GB	EU average	GB difference 2011
Pigs weaned/sow/year	22.6	25.1	-10
Pigs reared/sow/year	22.0	24.4	-10
Pigs sold/sow/year	21.3	23.8	-10
Pigs weaned/litter	10.0	10.9	-8
Litters/sow/year	2.3	2.3	-2
Rearing mortality (%)	2.6%	2.7%	-3
Finishing mortality (%)	2.9%	2.7%	+8
Transfer weight from breeding to rearing unit (kg)	7.6	7.5	+2
Lactation period (days; since 2009, before: age of weaning).	26.8	27.3	-2
Transfer weight from rearing to finishing unit (kg)	36.8	30.4	+21
Rearing Daily Liveweight Gain (g/day)	489	419	+17
Rearing Feed Conversion Ratio	1.7	1.9	-8
Finishing Daily Liveweight Gain (g/day)	784	771	+2
Finishing Feed Conversion Ratio	2.8	2.9	-2
Average number of days in rearing unit	59.7	54.1	+10
Average number of days in finishing unit	83.9	114.4	-27
Empty finishing unit days per cycle	7.0	8.0	-13
Pigs/pig place/year (finishing)	4.0	3.1	+28
Average live weight at slaughter (kg)	102.6	116.7	-12
Average carcass weight - Cold (kg)	79.1	89.9	-12
Killing-out percentage (cold weight)	77.1%	77.0%	+0
Carcass meat production/sow/year (kg)	1687	2132	-21
Average lean meat percentage	61.4%	58.0%	+6
Lean meat production/sow/year (kg)	1036	1229	-16
Sow feed/sow/year (kg)	1247	1316	-5
Weaner/rearer feed/reared pig (kg)	50	43	+17
Finishing pigs feed consumption/slaughter (kg)	187	254	-26

APPENDIX IV

Tables and charts

		Page
Table 1	Average costs of production, 2006-2011 (£/kg dw)	7
Table 2	Average costs of production, 2006-2011 (Euros/kg dw)	8
Table 3	Summary of financial performance, 2011 (£/kg dw)	9
Table 4	Summary of financial performance, 2009-2011 (£/kg dw)	12
Table 5	Summary of physical performance, 2009-2011	13
Table 6	Changes in feed costs, 2009-2012	17
Table 7	Changes in total production costs, 2009-2012	18
Table 8	Ranking of EU production costs, 2006-2011	22
Table 9	Annual exchange rates	23
Table 10	Feed prices and energy content, 2011	23
Table 11	GB and EU physical results, 2011	28
Figure 1	Cost of production in selected countries, 2011	6
Figure 2	Changes in feed costs, 2011	10
Figure 3	Feed costs, 2011	11
Figure 4	Pigs weaned/sow/year, 2010-2011	15
Figure 5	Pigs finished/sow/year, 2010-2011	16
Figure 6	Estimated net margins in Great Britain, 2004-2012	19
Figure 7	Exchange rate movements, 2006-2012	22
Figure 8	Building, finance and miscellaneous costs, 2010-2011	24
Figure 9	Daily Liveweight Gains (finishing herds), 2010-2011	24
Figure 10	Feed Conversion Ratios (finishing herds), 2010-2011	25
Figure 11	Carcase meat production/sow/year, 2010-2011	25
Figure 12	Standardised Daily Liveweight Gains (finishing herds), 2011	26
Figure 13	Standardised Feed Conversion Ratios (finishing herds), 2011	27
Appendix I	European pig industry trends, 2011	20
Appendix II	National carcase dressing specifications	21
Appendix III	Additional tables and figures	22
Appendix IV	List of tables and charts	29

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Two-Tonne Sow (2TS)

The aim of the Two-Tonne Sow (2TS) campaign is to help English producers achieve an industry average of 2,000kg of pig meat per sow per year.

The 2TS campaign provides a single pig performance target for the industry to work towards collectively. It also recognises that different businesses with different production systems or target markets may achieve this target in different ways. Those already achieving the 2TS target can use BPEX services to further improve performance.

All units have a part to play, from breeding herds to contract finishers. It is about improving performance at all stages of production.



Watch out for the Red Tractor pork campaign featuring Jimmy Doherty on Channel 4 On Demand, starting on 3 January 2013.

#giveafork

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