



# Press release

Statistics Netherlands

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## *Pig numbers down slightly*

On 1 April of this year there were 13.1 million pigs in the Netherlands, some 300 thousand fewer than one year previously and the same number as in December 1999, according to figures from Statistics Netherlands.

### *Back at the level of December 1985*

The number of pigs in the Netherlands in April 2000 is about the same as in the mid-eighties. The number of pigs grew substantially in the eighties, to fluctuate around 14.5 million from 1987 until the swine fever epidemic of 1997 and the subsequent legislation led to a decrease in that year. With the fall in the last twelve months, the number of pigs in April 2000 is back at the level of December 1985: 13.1 million.

### *Composition of pigstock unchanged*

The composition of the pig population has hardly changed since 1980. In 1980 one fifth of the pigstock consisted of young piglets, and nearly 40% of other young stock. In 2000 there are slightly fewer piglets and slightly more other young pigs. Improved breeding techniques have reduced piglet mortality, so that fewer litters are necessary to maintain pig numbers. The percentages of porkers and breeding sows have remained constant.

Statistics Netherlands  
Press Office

P.O. Box 4000  
2270 JM Voorburg  
The Netherlands  
tel. +31 70 337 58 16  
fax +31 70 337 59 71  
e-mail:  
persdienst@cbs.nl

Statistics Netherlands  
is a department of  
the Ministry of  
Economic Affairs

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For further information, please contact C. Pierik,  
tel. +31 70 337 41 85; e-mail: cprk@cbs.nl.