



15th September 2016

United Kingdom Slaughter Statistics – August 2016

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Key points

From February 2016 onwards data collection moved from a statistical month to a calendar month basis. Year on year comparisons are therefore calculated using the daily average for throughput and production to account for the varied number of days in each period.

The key results for **August 2016 compared to August 2015** are:

- **Cattle:** UK prime cattle (steers, heifers and young bulls) slaughterings in August 2016 were 1.3% higher than August 2015 at 157,000 head. Beef and veal production was 72,000 tonnes, 0.2% lower than in July 2015.
- **Sheep:** UK clean sheep slaughterings were 2.0% lower than in August 2015 at 1.2 million head. Mutton and lamb production was 27,000 tonnes, 3.3% lower than in August 2015.
- **Pigs:** UK clean pig slaughterings were 0.9% lower than in August 2015 at 902,000 head. Pigmeat production was 76,000 tonnes, 0.1% lower than in August 2015.

This notice will be updated at 09:30 on 13th October 2016. Additional time series which include weekly slaughter averages, production and trade data can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/cattle-sheep-and-pig-slaughter>

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Section 1: Monthly numbers of home killed livestock slaughtered

Table 1 shows monthly estimates of the number of home killed cattle, sheep and pigs, slaughtered as meat for human consumption in UK abattoirs. From February 2016 onwards, the survey is run according to calendar rather than statistical months. To allow a direct comparison with 2015 data which was based on a statistical month, the number of days in each period is specified below and comparisons are based on average daily throughput in the month.

Table 1: United Kingdom monthly numbers of livestock slaughtered thousand head

	August 2015 28 days	June 2016 30 days	July 2016 31 days	August 2016 31 days	yr on yr % change *
Steers	70	82	83	80	2.7%
Heifers	49	57	58	55	0.7%
Young Bulls	21	24	27	23	-2.2%
Cows and Adult Bulls	48	48	53	52	-1.1%
Calves(1)	7	8	7	10	38%
Clean Sheep	1128	1000	1126	1224	-2.0%
Ewes and Rams	134	135	137	160	8.1%
Clean Pigs	822	863	891	902	-0.9%
Sows and Boars	18	23	19	20	-3.5%

(1) The definition of calves from May 2014 is "Bovines less than 1 year". Please see methodology for full details.
*Calculated using average daily throughput in each month.

Section 2: Average dressed carcass weights

Table 2 shows the monthly average dressed carcass weight of livestock slaughtered for meat for human consumption in the United Kingdom.

Table 2: United Kingdom average dressed carcass weights kilogramme

	August 2015	June 2016	July 2016	August 2016
Steers	375.3	373.0	371.8	366.8
Heifers	330.0	322.1	331.8	329.3
Young Bulls	352.4	336.7	345.1	346.3
Cows and Adult Bulls	309.8	315.4	311.4	309.0
Calves(1)	86.1	79.1	111.2	84.1
Clean Sheep	19.5	18.4	19.0	19.0
Ewes and Rams	26.4	26.6	25.9	25.8
Clean Pigs	80.2	81.7	80.6	80.8
Sows and Boars	139.3	144.7	146.1	149.0

(1)The definition of calves from May 2014 is "Bovines less than 1 year". Please see methodology for full details.

Section 3: Monthly volumes of home killed meat production

Table 3 shows the monthly volumes of meat produced in UK abattoirs. From February 2016 onwards, the survey is run according to calendar rather than statistical months. To allow a direct comparison with 2015 data which was based on a statistical month, the number of days in each period is specified below.

Table 3: United Kingdom monthly volumes of meat production thousand tonnes

	August 2015 28 days	June 2016 30 days	July 2016 31 days	August 2016 31 days	yr on yr % change
Beef	65	73	77	72	-0.2%
Mutton and Lamb	26	22	25	27	-3.3%
Pigmeat	68	74	75	76	-0.1%

Section 4: Average weekly numbers of home killed livestock slaughtered

Table 4 shows the average weekly slaughter figures for the last thirteen months. The monthly slaughter figures in section one are affected by the number of days in the survey period. To get a clearer measure of trends weekly averages are calculated using the number of livestock slaughtered and the number of days in each period.

Longer term trends can be seen in Figures 4:1, 4:2 and 4:3, following this table.

Table 4: United Kingdom average weekly numbers of livestock slaughtered thousand head

	2015						2016							
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Jul	Aug
Steers	19	18	19	21	22	20	18	20	20	21	18	19	19	18
Heifers	12	12	12	14	15	15	13	15	14	15	13	13	13	12
Young Bulls	5	5	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	4	5	6	6	5
Cows and Adult Bulls	11	12	12	14	16	13	12	13	12	13	10	11	12	12
Calves ⁽¹⁾	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	4	2	2	2	2	2
Clean Sheep	258	282	324	275	274	290	210	207	227	202	193	233	254	276
Ewes and Rams	30	33	43	34	32	32	29	33	32	30	29	31	31	36
Clean Pigs	201	205	207	217	222	211	194	211	208	209	194	201	201	204
Sows and Boars	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4

(1)The definition of calves from May 2014 is "Bovines less than 1 year". Please see methodology for full details.

Figure 4:1 United Kingdom average weekly numbers of cattle slaughtered

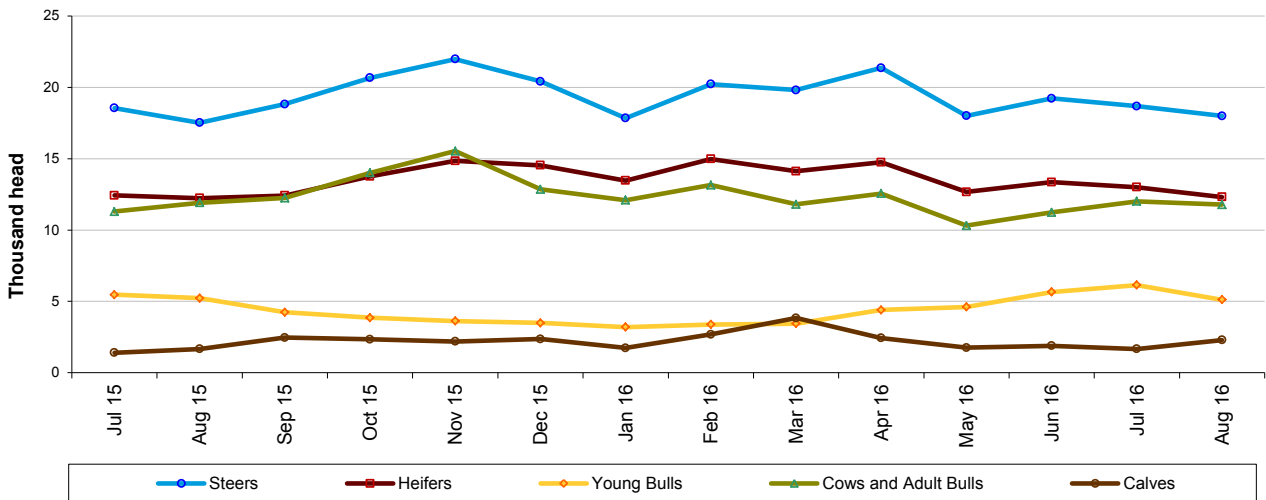


Figure 4:2 United Kingdom average weekly numbers of sheep slaughtered

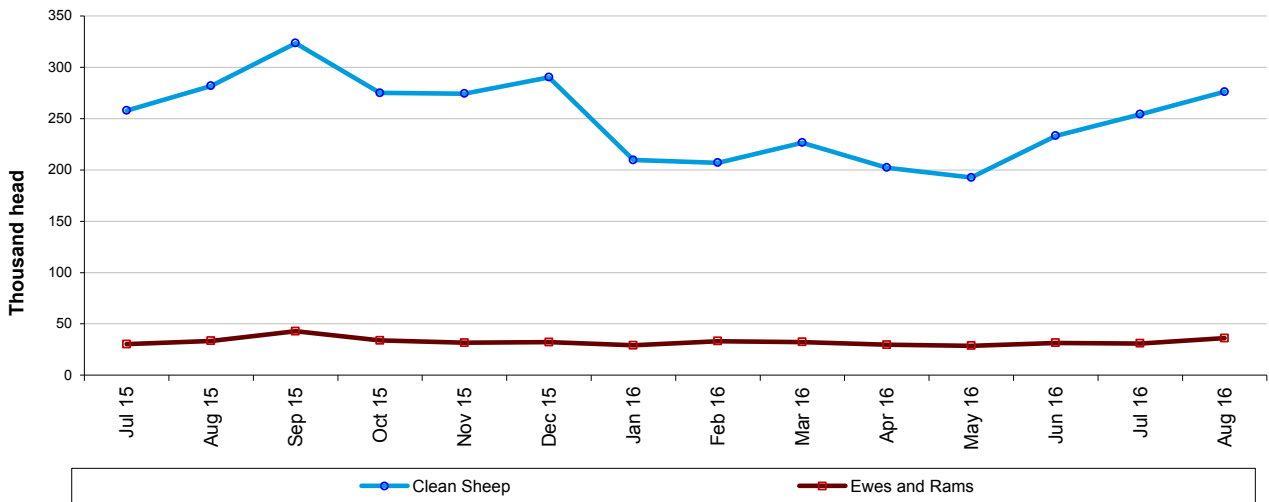
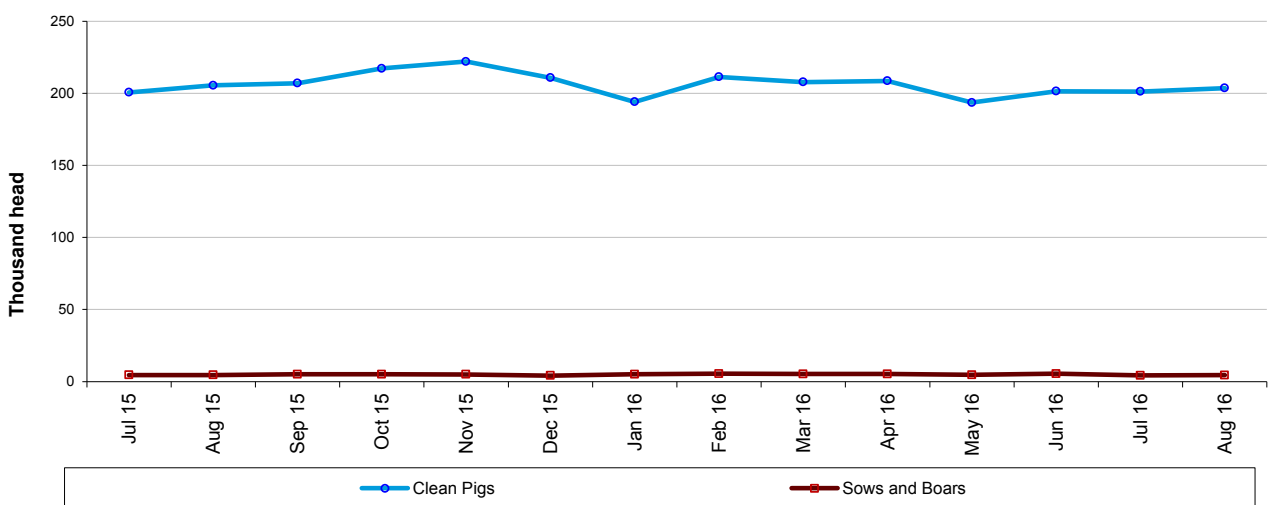


Figure 4:3 United Kingdom average weekly numbers of pigs slaughtered



Section 5: Monthly numbers of home killed livestock slaughtered by country

Table 5 shows monthly estimates of the number of cattle, sheep and pigs slaughtered for meat in England and Wales, Scotland, Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Table 5: United Kingdom monthly numbers of livestock slaughtered by country

	thousand head		
	June 2016	July 2016	August 2016
	30 days	31 days	31 days
England & Wales			
Steers	54	50	52
Heifers	37	36	36
Young Bulls	16	16	15
Cows and Adult Bulls	36	37	38
Calves	8	7	9
Clean Sheep	907	976	1073
Ewes and Rams	132	133	156
Clean Pigs	717	714	746
Sows and Boars	23	19	20
Scotland			
Steers	16	20	15
Heifers	11	12	10
Young Bulls	4	6	4
Cows and Adult Bulls	5	6	6
Calves	0	0	0
Clean Sheep	56	95	96
Ewes and Rams	1	1	1
Clean Pigs	21	27	21
Sows and Boars	0	0	0
Great Britain			
Steers	70	70	67
Heifers	49	48	46
Young Bulls	20	23	19
Cows and Adult Bulls	41	43	43
Calves	8	7	9
Clean Sheep	963	1071	1169
Ewes and Rams	133	134	158
Clean Pigs	738	741	767
Sows and Boars	23	19	20
Northern Ireland			
Steers	12	13	12
Heifers	9	9	9
Young Bulls	4	5	3
Cows and Adult Bulls	8	10	9
Calves	1	1	1
Clean Sheep	37	55	55
Ewes and Rams	1	2	2
Clean Pigs	125	150	135
Sows and Boars	0	0	0

Section 6: Data users, methodology, Definitions and revisions policy

Data users

1. Users of the data include the EU Commission where these slaughtering statistics are required monthly under Regulation no. EC.1165/2008. Detailed information on this legislation is available by selecting “Animal Production” at <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/agriculture/legislation>. European level statistics on meat products (which includes data tables showing results at EU Member State level) are available at http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Agricultural_products#Meat_and_milk
2. The livestock industry is also a major user of the data, including divisions of the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB). AHDB Pork (formally known as BPEX, representing the English pig industry) and AHDB Beef and Lamb (formerly EBLEX, representing the English beef and sheep industry). Industry users rely heavily on the numbers of slaughterings and meat production to assess the current state of the industry and predict the available supplies of meat for the coming year. This, in turn, can affect meat prices and trade decisions on levels of imports and exports to maintain supply. Users have always been very keen for the slaughtering statistics to be produced as quickly as possible so that the data is still relevant. For this reason, we collect and publish these statistics to a very tight timetable, publishing within three weeks of the survey date. The “Market Intelligence” and “Market Outlook” Reports on the AHDB Beef and Lamb website refer consistently to our statistics at <http://beefandlamb.ahdb.org.uk/markets/> The AHDB Pork site provides more in-depth analysis of pigmeat production statistics at <http://pork.ahdb.org.uk/prices-stats/>
3. Contact details are available on the front page of this notice, for you to send feedback or ask questions about the information provided.

Methodology

4. Defra runs a monthly survey of registered England and Wales slaughterhouses. It is a statutory survey (approximately 97) that collects information on livestock slaughter numbers and weight of meat produced. All major slaughterhouses participate in the survey and the response rate is typically 100%. Similar surveys are run by RERAD in Scotland and by DAERA in Northern Ireland. Scottish statistics on livestock slaughterings are available in the Economic Report on Scottish Agriculture at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Agriculture-Fisheries/PubEconomicReport> (Tables A5 and A6). This website also contains contact details and more information. Northern Ireland results are available at <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/slaughtering-cattle-and-sheep> and <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/slaughtering-pigs-2003>
5. The England and Wales slaughter survey accounts for around 90% of the E&W slaughterhouse throughput for each livestock type. These data are supplemented by administrative data for smaller slaughterhouses to give complete monthly coverage of livestock slaughterings.
6. Information on the weight of meat produced from a sample of animals weighed at slaughterhouses is obtained from survey respondents, around 55 slaughterhouse

respondents. From the information provided average dressed carcass weights for each animal type are primarily calculated by adding up the total weight of the meat produced and dividing by the number of animals weighed. Cold dressed carcass weights are recorded.

7. The volume of meat production is estimated from the number of all livestock slaughtered and average dressed carcass weight information collected. This total 'Home killed' production includes livestock imported into the United Kingdom for slaughter.
8. The data are subject to a variety of validation checks which identify inconsistencies in the data. All data are cleaned prior to publication in discussion with the survey respondents.
9. With effect from February 2016 the statistics published in this notice are based on calendar rather than statistical months. This change simplifies our survey processes and brings our slaughter survey in line with our milk surveys which are already run on a calendar month basis; it also removes the need for the 53 week year (which would have to be 2016). Since the end of weekly slaughter survey several years ago, there is no legislative requirement for weekly data, so since then we have derived the average weekly throughput from the monthly survey data.
10. The January 2016 data will include the last week of December 2015 and therefore be classed as a 5 week month. From 1st February 2016 onwards the statistics are based on calendar months.

Definitions

11. Steers (or Bullocks): Castrated males over 1 year old, raised for beef.

Heifers: Female animals that have not calved. Over 1 year old, raised for beef.

Young bulls: Non-castrated young males, raised for beef, generally slaughtered around 13 months old.

Prime cattle: All those raised specifically for beef production. Total of Steers + Heifers + Young Bulls.

Breeding bulls: Older cull males, previously used for breeding

Cows: Older cull females, previously used for breeding

Calves: All bovine animals aged 1 year old or younger. Prior to May 2014, the definition was "animals weighing less than 165kg".

Revisions policy

12. Figures in this notice are provisional and subject to revision. We will provide information about any revisions we make to previously published information in this statistics notice and the associated datasets. Revisions could occur for various reasons, including:

- a. if we have not received survey data from respondents we make an estimate based on their previous returns. These estimates will be replaced with actual survey data when it is received.
 - b. survey respondents occasionally supply amended figures for previous periods.
 - c. if we have not received administrative data for the smaller slaughterhouses we make an estimate based on previous data received. These estimates will be replaced with actual data when it is received.
13. **This month there have been revisions to the data in December 2015 and February, April, May, June & July 2016. This is due to amended FSA data and actual survey data replacing estimates. For example in December 2015 Beef and Veal production increased from 68.6 to 70.6 thousand tonnes (2.9%). In July 2016 Beef and Veal production increased from 76.4 to 76.6 thousand tonnes (0.3%).**