



20 March 2014

United Kingdom Slaughter Statistics – February 2014

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Key points

This release shows the latest monthly information on the slaughtering of cattle, sheep and pigs. It also includes dressed carcase weight and meat production information. The key results for **February 2014** are given below:

- **Cattle:** UK prime cattle (steers, heifers and young bulls) slaughterings were 0.3% lower than in February 2013 at 155 thousand head. Beef and veal production was 70 thousand tonnes, 1.6% higher than in February 2013.
- **Sheep:** UK clean sheep slaughterings were 11% lower than in February 2013 at 797 thousand head. Mutton and lamb production was 19 thousand tonnes, 8.5% lower than in February 2013.
- **Pigs:** UK clean pig slaughterings were 0.6% lower than in February 2013 at 782 thousand head. Pigmeat production was 66 thousand tonnes, 0.8% higher than in February 2013.

This notice will be updated at 09:30 on 17 April 2014. Additional time series which include weekly slaughter averages, production and trade data can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/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. The survey is run according to statistical, rather than calendar months, the number of weeks in the statistical month is specified below.

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

	December 2013 4 weeks	January 2014 5 weeks	February 2014 4 weeks
Steers	63	86	75
Heifers	53	73	62
Young Bulls	19	23	18
Cows and Adult Bulls	41	60	48
Calves	6	8	9
Clean Sheep	1068	1054	797
Ewes and Rams	171	182	141
Clean Pigs	759	941	782
Sows and Boars	16	25	19

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

	December 2013	January 2014	February 2014
Steers	361.0	364.6	367.6
Heifers	318.9	323.7	322.2
Young Bulls	337.2	336.8	339.4
Cows and Adult Bulls	307.9	319.2	321.8
Calves	51.6	55.1	49.3
Clean Sheep	18.6	19.3	19.6
Ewes and Rams	25.8	28.5	26.8
Clean Pigs	79.1	81.2	81.2
Sows and Boars	152.8	148.3	142.6

Section 3: Monthly volumes of home killed meat production

Table 3 shows the monthly volumes of meat produced in UK abattoirs. Data is shown according to statistical, rather than calendar months, number of weeks in statistical month as specified.

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

	December 2013 4 weeks	January 2014 5 weeks	February 2014 4 weeks
Beef	59	82	70
Mutton and Lamb	24	26	19
Pigmeat	62	80	66

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 weeks in the statistical month. To get a clearer measure of trends weekly averages are calculated by dividing the number of livestock slaughtered each month by the number of weeks in the statistical month.

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												
	2013												2014
	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Steers	19	18	19	18	17	16	15	18	19	18	16	17	19
Heifers	15	14	14	14	13	12	12	14	15	15	13	15	15
Young Bulls	5	5	5	6	7	7	6	6	5	6	5	5	5
Cows and Adult Bulls	12	10	11	10	10	11	11	13	14	14	10	12	12
Calves	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	2
Clean Sheep	224	224	196	182	209	239	265	277	301	268	267	211	199
Ewes and Rams	40	37	35	36	37	39	43	42	47	41	43	36	35
Clean Pigs	197	192	189	183	186	193	192	198	202	207	190	188	195
Sows and Boars	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	5

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

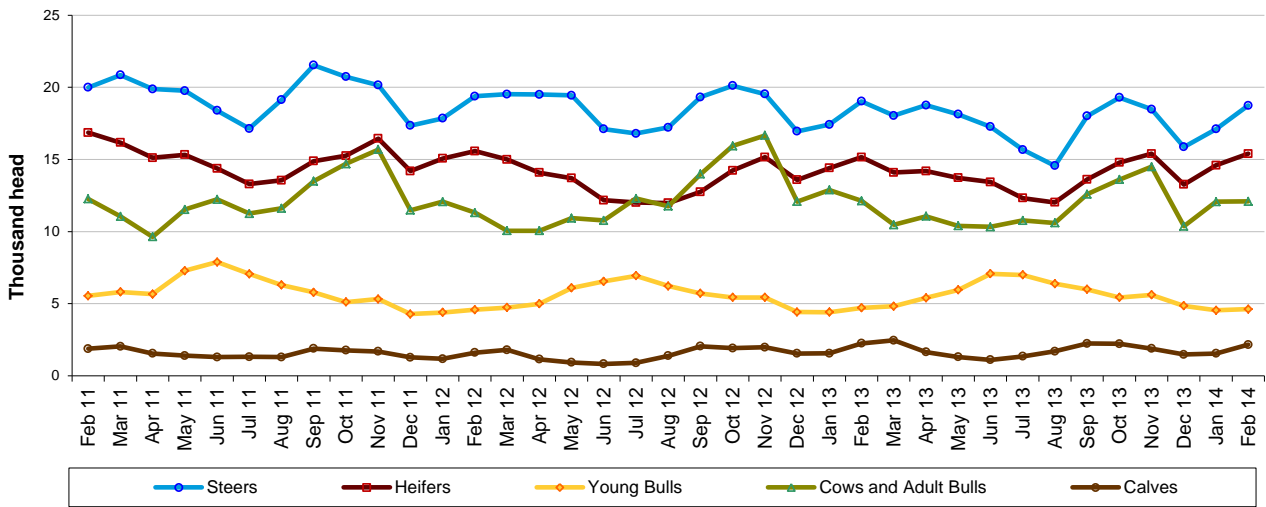


Figure 4:2 United Kingdom average weekly numbers of sheep slaughtered

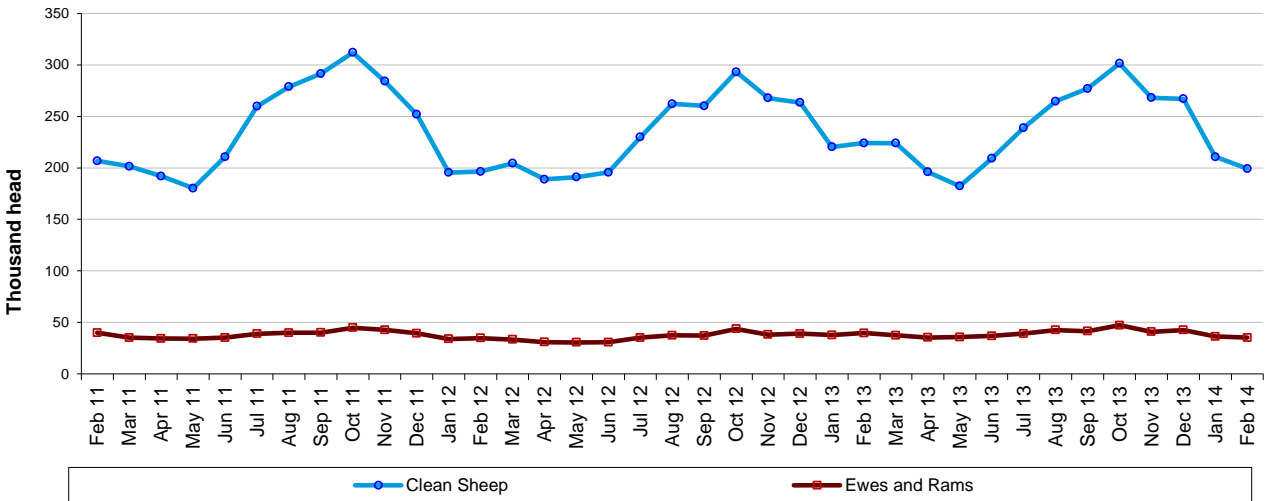
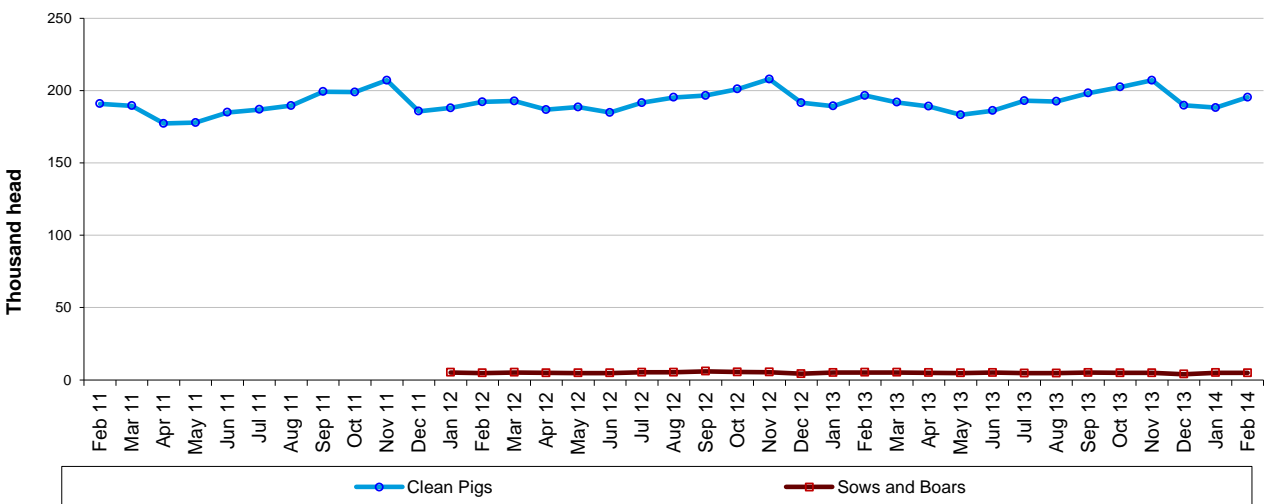


Figure 4:3 United Kingdom average weekly numbers of pigs slaughtered



Data for Oct 10 – Dec 11 is confidential

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. Data are shown in statistical months, rather than calendar months. The totals for the countries may not add up to the Great Britain totals or the United Kingdom totals in section one, due to rounding.

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

	thousand head		
	December 2013	January 2014	February 2014
	4 weeks	5 weeks	4 weeks
England & Wales			
Steers	40	56	47
Heifers	30	44	36
Young Bulls	11	15	12
Cows and Adult Bulls	31	47	36
Calves	5	7	8
Clean Sheep	916	880	664
Ewes and Rams	165	174	135
Clean Pigs	624	757	635
Sows and Boars	16	24	19
Scotland			
Steers	14	18	17
Heifers	14	17	14
Young Bulls	2	2	2
Cows and Adult Bulls	4	6	5
Calves	0	0	0
Clean Sheep	120	138	107
Ewes and Rams	3	3	3
Clean Pigs	23	27	23
Sows and Boars	0	0	0
Great Britain			
Steers	54	74	64
Heifers	44	60	50
Young Bulls	13	17	14
Cows and Adult Bulls	35	52	41
Calves	5	7	8
Clean Sheep	1036	1018	771
Ewes and Rams	168	177	137
Clean Pigs	647	783	658
Sows and Boars	16	25	19
Northern Ireland			
Steers	10	12	11
Heifers	9	12	11
Young Bulls	6	6	5
Cows and Adult Bulls	7	8	8
Calves	1	1	1
Clean Sheep	32	36	25
Ewes and Rams	3	5	4
Clean Pigs	112	157	123
Sows and Boars	0	0	0

Section 6: Data users, methodology 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 are also major users of the data, including divisions of the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) known as BPEX (representing the English pig industry) and 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 EBLEX website refer consistently to our statistics at <http://markets.eblex.org.uk/markets/market-intelligence-publications.aspx>. The BPEX site provides more in-depth analysis of pigmeat production statistics at <http://www.bpex.org.uk/prices-facts-figures/production/UKpigmeatsuppliesforecasts.aspx>
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 105) 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 DARD 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 <http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/statistics/agricultural-inputs-and-outputs.htm>
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.

Revisions policy

9. 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.
10. **This month minor revisions have been made to the data for August and Dec as a result of amended slaughter numbers and carcass weights from Northern Ireland and to January 2014 as administrative data has now been received for this month, so has replaced previous estimates. The scale of revision is small, for example the January 2014 UK Mutton and Lamb production has only been revised by around 570 tonnes (2.2%).**