



20 February 2014

## United Kingdom Slaughter Statistics – January 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 carcass weight and meat production information. The key results for **January 2014** are given below:

- **Cattle:** UK prime cattle (steers, heifers and young bulls) slaughterings were 1.0 per cent lower than in January 2013 at 179 thousand head. Beef and veal production was 81 thousand tonnes, 1.5 per cent lower than in January 2013.
- **Sheep:** UK clean sheep slaughterings were 5.5 per cent lower than in January 2013 at 1041 thousand head. Mutton and lamb production was 26 thousand tonnes, 1.2 per cent higher than in January 2013.
- **Pigs:** UK clean pig slaughterings were slightly higher than in January 2013 at 947 thousand head. Pigmeat production was 81 thousand tonnes, 1.7 per cent higher than in January 2013.

This notice will be updated at 09:30 on 20 March 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

	<b>November 2013</b> 4 weeks	<b>December 2013</b> 4 weeks	<b>January 2014</b> 5 weeks
Steers	74	63	86
Heifers	62	53	71
Young Bulls	22	19	22
Cows and Adult Bulls	58	41	59
Calves	8	6	8
Clean Sheep	1073	1067	1041
Ewes and Rams	164	171	214
Clean Pigs	828	759	947
Sows and Boars	20	16	25

## 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

	<b>November 2013</b>	<b>December 2013</b>	<b>January 2014</b>
Steers	356.3	361.0	364.6
Heifers	316.1	318.9	323.8
Young Bulls	336.5	337.2	336.7
Cows and Adult Bulls	304.9	307.9	319.3
Calves	51.2	51.6	55.0
Clean Sheep	19.1	18.6	19.3
Ewes and Rams	26.0	25.8	28.1
Clean Pigs	80.2	79.1	81.2
Sows and Boars	144.4	152.8	148.3

### 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

	November 2013 4 weeks	December 2013 4 weeks	January 2014 5 weeks
Beef	71	59	81
Mutton and Lamb	25	24	26
Pigmeat	69	62	81

### Section 4: Average weekly numbers of home killed livestock slaughtered

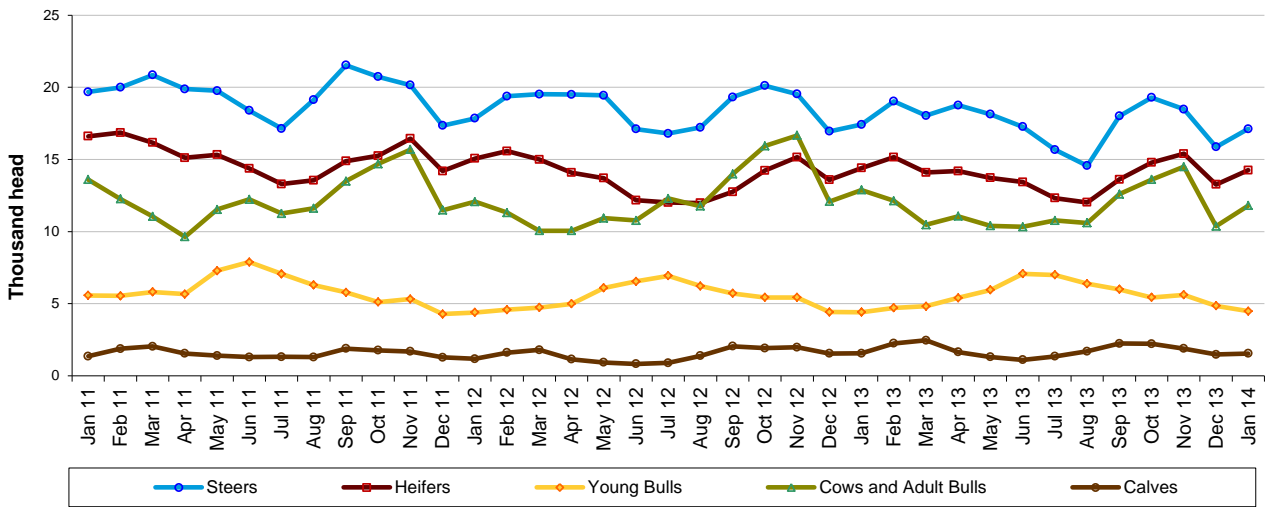
Table 4 shows the average weekly slaughter figures for the last thirteen months. The monthly slaughter figures in section one are affected by the number of weeks in the statistical month. To get a clearer measure of trends weekly averages are calculated by dividing the number of livestock slaughtered 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.

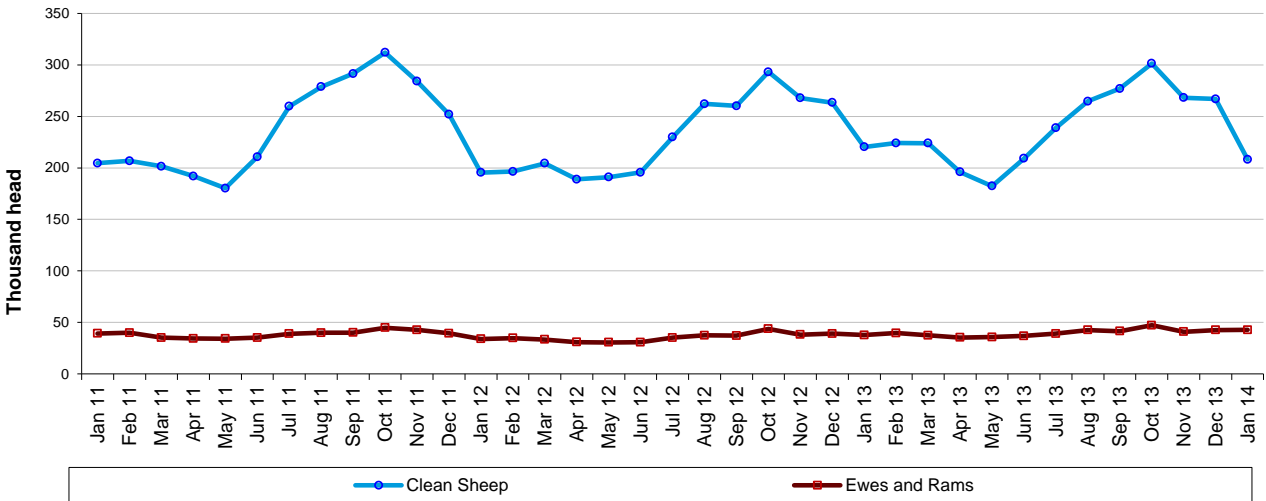
**Table 4: United Kingdom average weekly numbers of livestock slaughtered**

	2013												2014
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Steers	17	19	18	19	18	17	16	15	18	19	18	16	17
Heifers	14	15	14	14	14	13	12	12	14	15	15	13	14
Young Bulls	4	5	5	5	6	7	7	6	6	5	6	5	4
Cows and Adult Bulls	13	12	10	11	10	10	11	11	13	14	14	10	12
Calves	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	2
Clean Sheep	220	224	224	196	182	209	239	265	277	301	268	267	208
Ewes and Rams	38	40	37	35	36	37	39	43	42	47	41	43	43
Clean Pigs	189	197	192	189	183	186	193	192	198	202	207	190	189
Sows and Boars	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	5

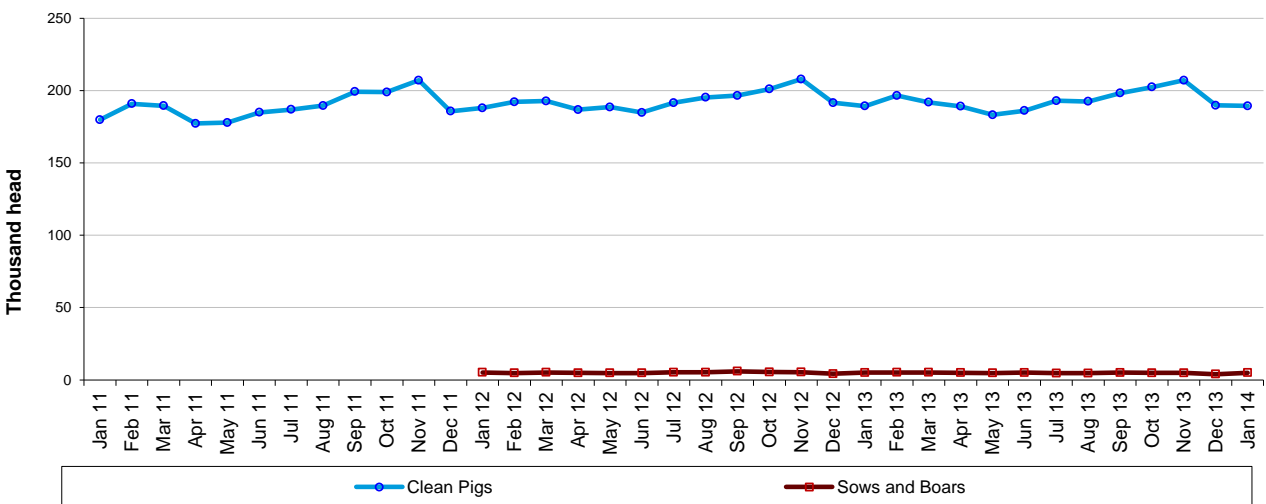
**Figure 4:1 United Kingdom average weekly numbers of cattle slaughtered**



**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**

	November 2013	December 2013	January 2014
	4 weeks	4 weeks	5 weeks
thousand head			
<b>England &amp; Wales</b>			
Steers	47	40	56
Heifers	38	30	42
Young Bulls	15	11	15
Cows and Adult Bulls	43	31	45
Calves	7	5	7
Clean Sheep	906	916	867
Ewes and Rams	157	165	206
Clean Pigs	677	624	763
Sows and Boars	19	16	24
<b>Scotland</b>			
Steers	15	14	18
Heifers	14	14	17
Young Bulls	2	2	2
Cows and Adult Bulls	6	4	6
Calves	0	0	0
Clean Sheep	122	120	138
Ewes and Rams	3	3	3
Clean Pigs	25	23	27
Sows and Boars	0	0	0
<b>Great Britain</b>			
Steers	62	54	74
Heifers	52	44	59
Young Bulls	17	13	17
Cows and Adult Bulls	49	35	51
Calves	7	5	7
Clean Sheep	1028	1036	1005
Ewes and Rams	160	168	209
Clean Pigs	702	647	789
Sows and Boars	20	16	25
<b>Northern Ireland</b>			
Steers	11	10	12
Heifers	10	9	12
Young Bulls	5	6	6
Cows and Adult Bulls	9	7	8
Calves	1	1	1
Clean Sheep	45	31	36
Ewes and Rams	4	3	5
Clean Pigs	126	112	157
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](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 from November 2013 onwards. Administrative data has now been received for these months, so has replaced previous estimates. Scotland have also supplied amended slaughter numbers and carcass weights. The scale of revision is small, for example the December 2013 UK Beef production has only been revised by around 1 thousand tonnes (1.9%).**