



20 November 2014

United Kingdom Slaughter Statistics – October 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 **October 2014** are given below:

- **Cattle:** UK prime cattle (steers, heifers and young bulls) slaughterings were 2.1% higher than in October 2013 at 202 thousand head, the highest total since October 2011. Beef and veal production was 91 thousand tonnes, 3.5% higher than in October 2013 and the largest amount since October 2012.
- **Sheep:** UK clean sheep slaughterings were 0.9% higher than in October 2013 at 1519 thousand head. Mutton and lamb production was 34 thousand tonnes, 0.1% lower than in October 2013.
- **Pigs:** UK clean pig slaughterings were 1.8% higher than in October 2013 at 1030 thousand head. Pigmeat production was 88 thousand tonnes, 3.5% higher than in October 2013.

This notice will be updated at 09:30 on 18th December 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

	October 2013 5 weeks	August 2014 4 weeks	September 2014 4 weeks	October 2014 5 weeks	yr on yr % change
Steers	96	71	79	109	13%
Heifers	74	50	54	71	-3.5%
Young Bulls	27	21	18	21	-23%
Cows and Adult Bulls	68	45	49	67	-2.1%
Calves ⁽¹⁾	11	9	11	14	25%
Clean Sheep	1506	1078	1134	1519	0.9%
Ewes and Rams	237	154	154	199	-16%
Clean Pigs	1012	775	822	1030	1.8%
Sows and Boars	24	17	19	24	-1.8%

(1)The definition of Calves from May 2014 is "Bovines less than 1 year old". Pre-May 2014, the definition was "Bovines weighing less than 165kg". Please see Methodology page for full details.

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 2014	September 2014	October 2014
Steers	364.7	362.6	361.3
Heifers	323.8	322.1	322.1
Young Bulls	351.2	345.7	340.2
Cows and Adult Bulls	313.5	311.8	311.4
Calves ⁽¹⁾	49.5	43.8	46.3
Clean Sheep	19.1	19.2	19.3
Ewes and Rams	27.1	25.8	25.7
Clean Pigs	80.3	81.7	82.1
Sows and Boars	139.7	139.6	142.5

(1)The definition of Calves from May 2014 is "Bovines less than 1 year old". Pre-May 2014, the definition was "Bovines weighing less than 165kg". Please see Methodology page for full details.

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

	August 2014 4 weeks	September 2014 4 weeks	October 2014 5 weeks
Beef	64	68	91
Mutton and Lamb	25	26	34
Pigmeat	65	70	88

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										
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Steers	19	18	16	17	19	19	19	19	18	17	18	20	22
Heifers	15	15	13	15	15	15	14	14	13	12	12	13	14
Young Bulls	5	6	5	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	5	5	4
Cows and Adult Bulls	14	14	10	12	12	11	9	10	10	10	11	12	13
Calves ⁽¹⁾	2	2	1	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	3
Clean Sheep	301	268	267	211	200	207	221	201	232	255	270	284	304
Ewes and Rams	47	41	43	36	36	33	32	30	33	34	39	38	40
Clean Pigs	202	207	190	188	196	195	187	188	193	194	194	205	206
Sows and Boars	5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	5

(1)The definition of Calves from May 2014 is "Bovines less than 1 year old". Pre-May 2014, the definition was "Bovines weighing less than 165kg". Please see Methodology page for full details.

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

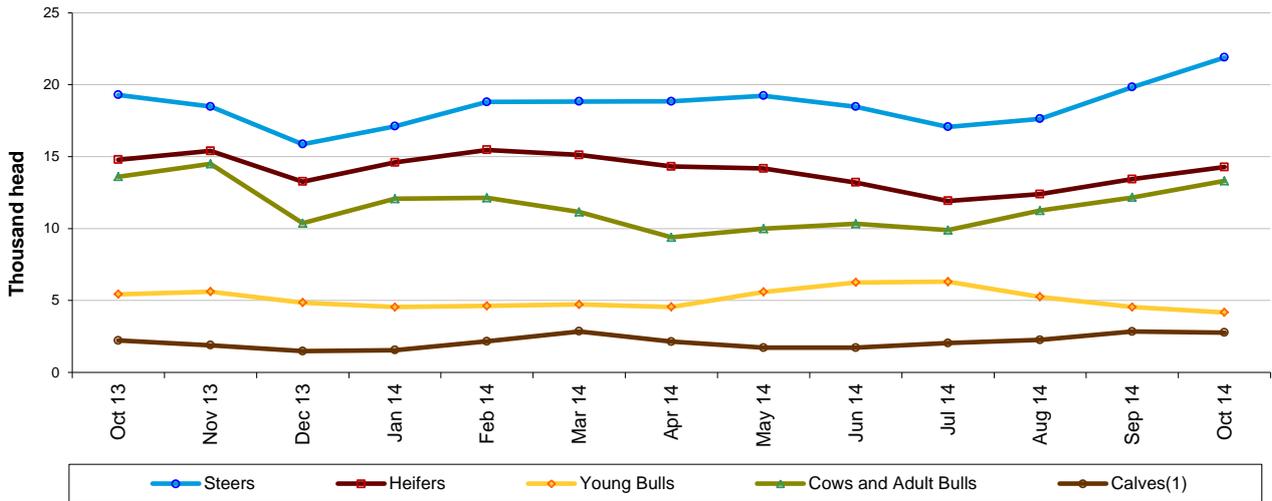


Figure 4:2 United Kingdom average weekly numbers of sheep slaughtered

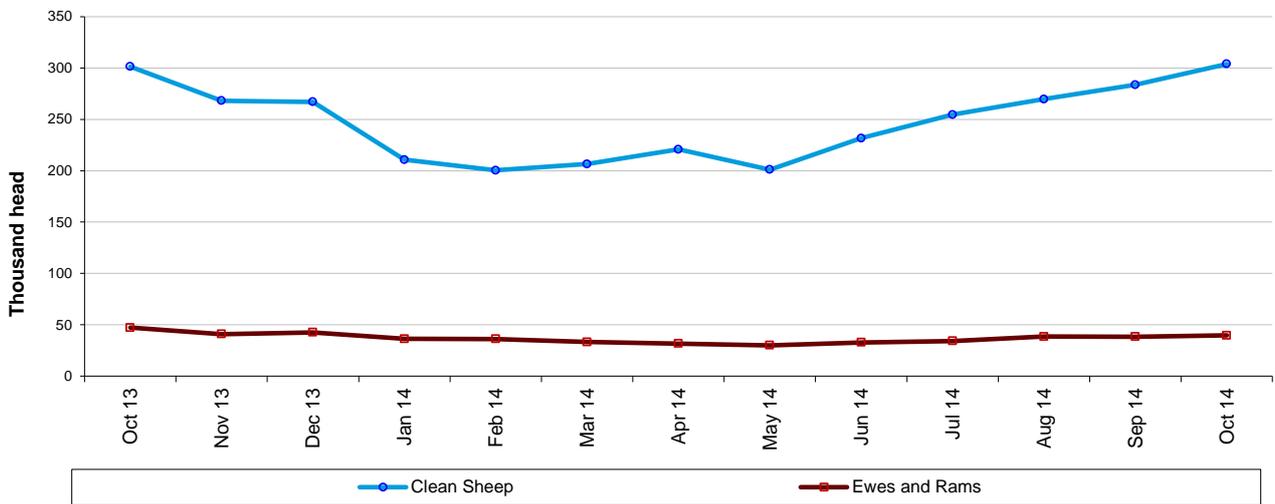
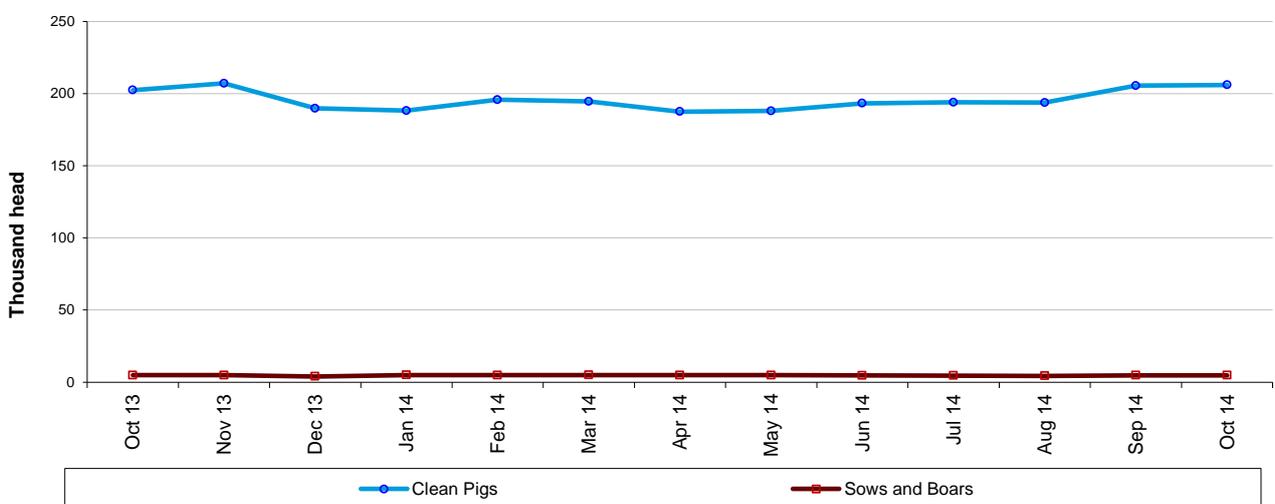


Figure 4:3 United Kingdom average weekly numbers of pigs slaughtered



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		
	August 2014	September 2014	October 2014
	4 weeks	4weeks	5weeks
England & Wales			
Steers	43	49	69
Heifers	31	35	45
Young Bulls	14	13	15
Cows and Adult Bulls	33	36	50
Calves ⁽¹⁾	8	11	13
Clean Sheep	917	966	1315
Ewes and Rams	148	146	191
Clean Pigs	629	672	840
Sows and Boars	17	19	24
Scotland			
Steers	15	17	21
Heifers	10	11	14
Young Bulls	5	3	4
Cows and Adult Bulls	5	5	6
Calves ⁽¹⁾	0	0	0
Clean Sheep	115	120	150
Ewes and Rams	2	2	3
Clean Pigs	23	23	29
Sows and Boars	0	0	0
Great Britain			
Steers	58	66	90
Heifers	42	46	59
Young Bulls	18	16	19
Cows and Adult Bulls	38	41	57
Calves ⁽¹⁾	8	11	13
Clean Sheep	1031	1086	1465
Ewes and Rams	150	148	193
Clean Pigs	652	695	869
Sows and Boars	17	19	24
Northern Ireland			
Steers	12	14	20
Heifers	8	8	12
Young Bulls	3	2	2
Cows and Adult Bulls	7	7	10
Calves ⁽¹⁾	1	1	1
Clean Sheep	47	49	55
Ewes and Rams	4	6	5
Clean Pigs	123	126	161
Sows and Boars	0	0	0

* Data are confidential

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 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 slaughtering 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 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 DARD in Northern Ireland. Scottish statistics on livestock slaughtering 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 slaughtering.
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.

Definitions

9. To align with EU regulatory requirements, the definition of calves has been changed in this survey from May 2014 onwards to refer to age of animals, rather than weight. The new definition of calves is "bovines aged 12 months or under", whereas previous data (pre-May 2014) referred to "bovines weighing less than 165kg". This change in definition has had negligible impact to both the numbers of slaughterings and the volumes of production as the levels of UK calf slaughterings are so small. Veal production only contributes around 0.7% (470 tonnes) to the total 68 thousand tonnes of beef and veal produced in May 2014. This compares to 0.4% (280 tonnes) in May 2013.

The main difference can be seen in the calf weights as they have jumped up from an average 52kg in April 2014 to 67kg in May 2014. This is due to extra (heavier) animals which are less than a year old so which now fall into the calf category.

10. 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" but this has been amended in line with EU Regulation 1165/2008 definitions. See "Revisions" section for details of the impact of this change.

Revisions policy

11. 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.

12. The change in Calves definition in May 2014 (from <165kg to 1 year old or younger) has had negligible impact to both the numbers of slaughterings and the volumes of production as the levels of UK calf slaughterings are so small. Veal production only contributes around 0.7% (470 tonnes) to the total 68 thousand tonnes of beef and veal produced in May 2014. This compares to 0.4% (280 tonnes) in May 2013. The main difference can be seen in the calf weights as they have jumped up from an average 52kg in April 2014 to 67kg in May 2014. This is due to extra (heavier) animals which are less than a year old so which now fall into the calf category.

13. **This month minor revisions have been made to the data from August and September 2014. Administrative data has now been received for these months, so has replaced previous estimates and amended survey data has been received. The scale of revision is small, for example the September 2014 UK Mutton and Lamb production has only been revised by around 309 tonnes (1.2%).**