



22 May 2014

United Kingdom Slaughter Statistics – April 2014

Contents

Section 1	Monthly numbers of home killed livestock slaughtered	page 2
Section 2	Average dressed carcase weights	page 2
Section 3	Monthly volumes of home killed meat production	page 3
Section 4	Average weekly numbers of livestock slaughtered	page 3 to page 4
Section 5	Monthly numbers of livestock slaughtered by country	page 5
Section 6	Methodology, notes and revisions policy	page 6

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 **April 2014** are given below:

- **Cattle:** UK prime cattle (steers, heifers and young bulls) slaughterings were 1.7% lower than in April 2013 at 189 thousand head. Beef and veal production was 84 thousand tonnes, slightly higher than in April 2013, as strong weights helped to offset the fall in slaughterings.
- **Sheep:** UK clean sheep slaughterings were 12% higher than in April 2013 at 1.1 million head and with continued strong weights, Mutton and lamb production was 27 thousand tonnes, 15% higher than in April 2013.
- **Pigs:** UK clean pig slaughterings were 0.8% lower than in April 2013 at 937 thousand head but with weights remaining strong, pigmeat production was 79 thousand tonnes, 1.0% higher than in April 2013.

This notice will be updated at 09:30 on 19 June 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>

Enquiries on this publication to: Sarah Thompson, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Room 201, Foss House, Kings Pool, 1 - 2 Peasholme Green, York YO1 7PX.
Tel: ++ 44 (0)1904 455097, email:sarah.thompson@defra.gsi.gov.uk

A National Statistics publication. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference. For general enquiries about National Statistics, contact the National Statistics Public Enquiry Service: tel. 0845 601 3034 email info@statistics.gov.uk. You can also find National Statistics on the internet at <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/>.

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

	February 2014 4 weeks	March 2014 4 weeks	April 2014 5 weeks
Steers	75	75	95
Heifers	62	60	71
Young Bulls	18	19	23
Cows and Adult Bulls	49	45	51
Calves	9	11	11
Clean Sheep	801	826	1094
Ewes and Rams	145	133	161
Clean Pigs	783	778	937
Sows and Boars	19	20	24

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

	February 2014	March 2014	April 2014
Steers	367.6	372.2	376.3
Heifers	322.2	328.2	327.5
Young Bulls	339.4	341.2	346.0
Cows and Adult Bulls	321.8	322.0	320.5
Calves	49.3	41.5	52.3
Clean Sheep	19.6	20.1	20.4
Ewes and Rams	26.9	27.7	28.3
Clean Pigs	81.2	81.0	80.5
Sows and Boars	142.6	142.1	144.0

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

	February 2014 4 weeks	March 2014 4 weeks	April 2014 5 weeks
Beef	70	69	84
Mutton and Lamb	20	20	27
Pigmeat	66	66	79

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								
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Steers	19	18	17	16	15	18	19	18	16	17	19	19	19
Heifers	14	14	13	12	12	14	15	15	13	15	15	15	14
Young Bulls	5	6	7	7	6	6	5	6	5	5	5	5	5
Cows and Adult Bulls	11	10	10	11	11	13	14	14	10	12	12	11	10
Calves	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	3	2
Clean Sheep	196	182	209	239	265	277	301	268	267	211	200	207	219
Ewes and Rams	35	36	37	39	43	42	47	41	43	36	36	33	32
Clean Pigs	189	183	186	193	192	198	202	207	190	188	196	195	187
Sows and Boars	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	5	5

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

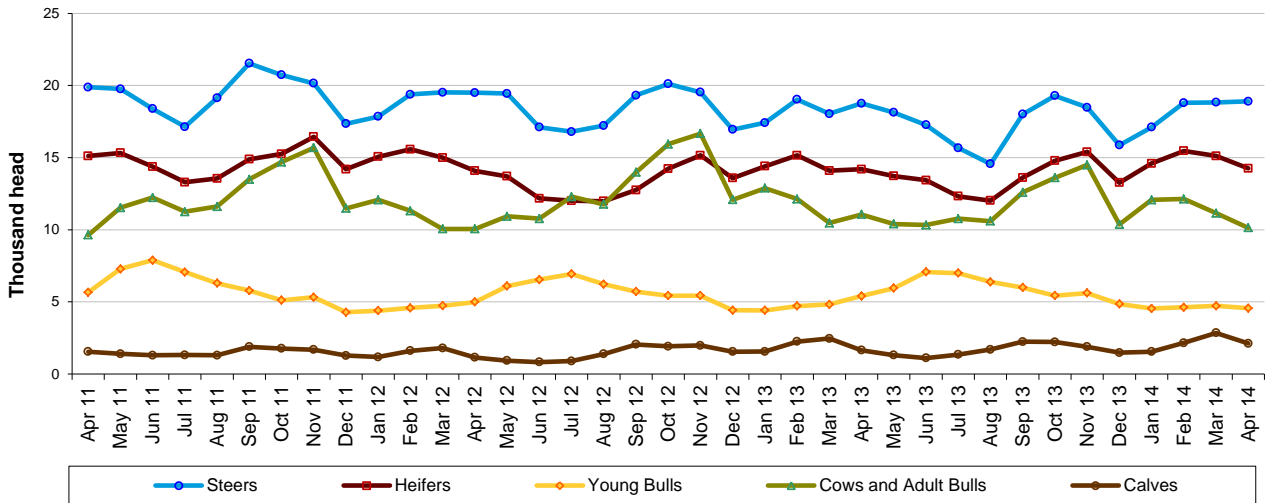


Figure 4:2 United Kingdom average weekly numbers of sheep slaughtered

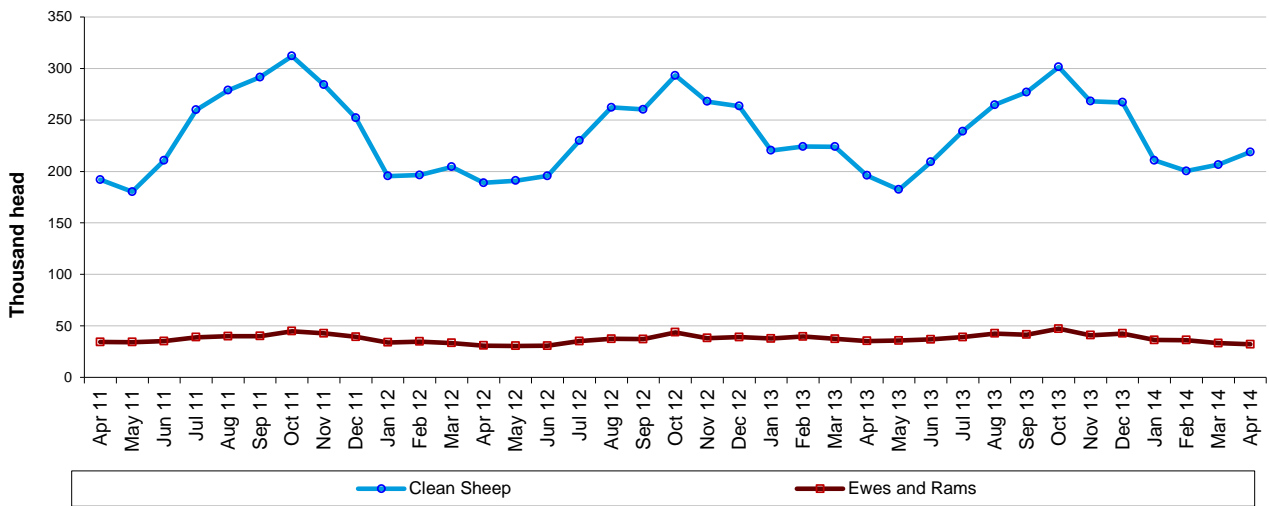
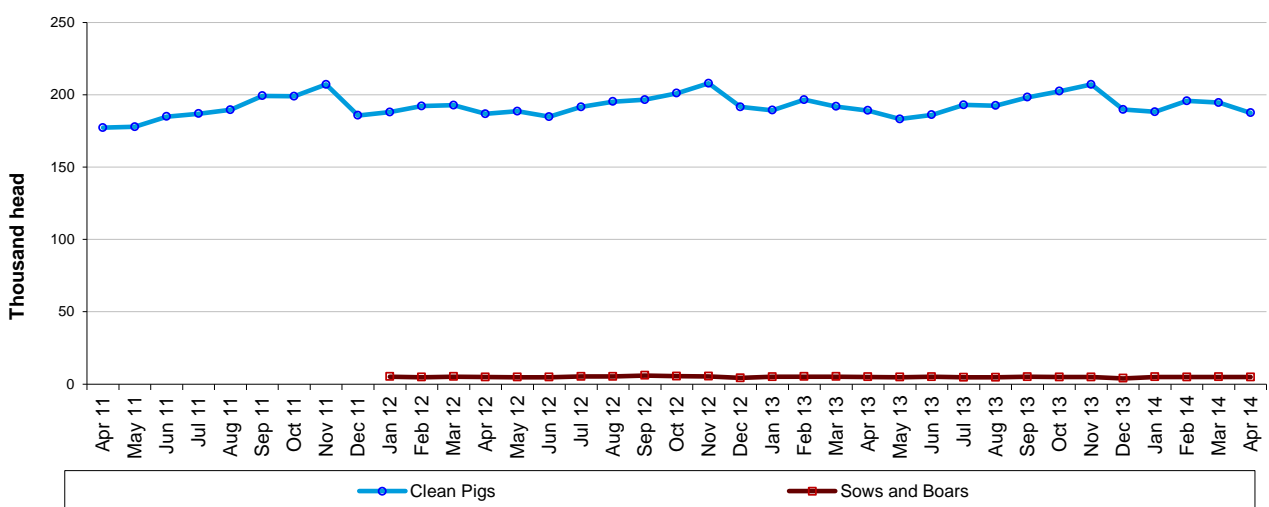


Figure 4:3 United Kingdom average weekly numbers of pigs slaughtered



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

	February 2014	March 2014	April 2014
	4 weeks	4 weeks	5 weeks
England & Wales			
Steers	47	47	58
Heifers	37	37	43
Young Bulls	12	13	16
Cows and Adult Bulls	36	33	39
Calves	8	11	9
Clean Sheep	669	708	946
Ewes and Rams	139	128	153
Clean Pigs	636	633	764
Sows and Boars	19	20	24
Scotland			
Steers	17	18	22
Heifers	14	14	16
Young Bulls	2	2	2
Cows and Adult Bulls	5	5	5
Calves	0	0	0
Clean Sheep	107	98	125
Ewes and Rams	3	2	3
Clean Pigs	23	24	27
Sows and Boars	0	0	0
Great Britain			
Steers	64	65	80
Heifers	51	51	58
Young Bulls	14	15	18
Cows and Adult Bulls	41	38	44
Calves	8	11	9
Clean Sheep	776	806	1070
Ewes and Rams	141	130	156
Clean Pigs	660	656	791
Sows and Boars	19	20	24
Northern Ireland			
Steers	11	11	14
Heifers	11	10	13
Young Bulls	5	4	5
Cows and Adult Bulls	8	7	7
Calves	1	1	1
Clean Sheep	25	20	24
Ewes and Rams	4	3	5
Clean Pigs	123	122	146
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 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 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 March 2014 as administrative data has now been received for this month, so has replaced previous estimates and amended survey data has been received. The scale of revision is small, for example the March 2014 UK Mutton and Lamb production has only been revised by around 260 tonnes (1%).**