



21 August 2014

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

- **Cattle:** UK prime cattle (steers, heifers and young bulls) slaughterings were 1.4% higher than in July 2013 at 177 thousand head. Beef and veal production was 79 thousand tonnes, 3% higher than in July 2013 due to continuing heavy carcase weights.
- **Sheep:** UK clean sheep slaughterings were 6.3% higher than in July 2013 at 1270 thousand head. Mutton and lamb production was 29 thousand tonnes, 5.4% higher than in July 2013.
- **Pigs:** UK clean pig slaughterings were 0.5% higher than in July 2013 at 970 thousand head. Pigmeat production was 80 thousand tonnes, 1.7% higher than in July 2013.

This notice will be updated at 09:30 on 18 September 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

	May 2014 4 weeks	June 2014 4 weeks	July 2014 5 weeks
Steers	77	74	85
Heifers	57	53	61
Young Bulls	22	25	32
Cows and Adult Bulls	40	41	50
Calves ⁽¹⁾	7	6	10
Clean Sheep	804	925	1270
Ewes and Rams	120	131	171
Clean Pigs	752	773	970
Sows and Boars	19	19	23

(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

	May 2014	June 2014	July 2014
Steers	373.8	375.2	368.9
Heifers	327.1	328.6	326.1
Young Bulls	351.1	350.9	353.6
Cows and Adult Bulls	321.6	322.6	317.0
Calves ⁽¹⁾	67.9	63.7	54.4
Clean Sheep	19.6	19.0	19.0
Ewes and Rams	29.0	28.1	26.8
Clean Pigs	80.4	79.9	79.5
Sows and Boars	144.4	147.7	146.6

(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

	May 2014 4 weeks	June 2014 4 weeks	July 2014 5 weeks
Beef	68	67	79
Mutton and Lamb	19	21	29
Pigmeat	63	64	80

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							
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Steers	16	15	18	19	18	16	17	19	19	19	19	18	17
Heifers	12	12	14	15	15	13	15	15	15	14	14	13	12
Young Bulls	7	6	6	5	6	5	5	5	5	5	6	6	6
Cows and Adult Bulls	11	11	13	14	14	10	12	12	11	9	10	10	10
Calves ⁽¹⁾	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	3	2	2	2	2
Clean Sheep	239	265	277	301	268	267	211	200	207	221	201	231	254
Ewes and Rams	39	43	42	47	41	43	36	36	33	32	30	33	34
Clean Pigs	193	192	198	202	207	190	188	196	195	187	188	193	194
Sows and Boars	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	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

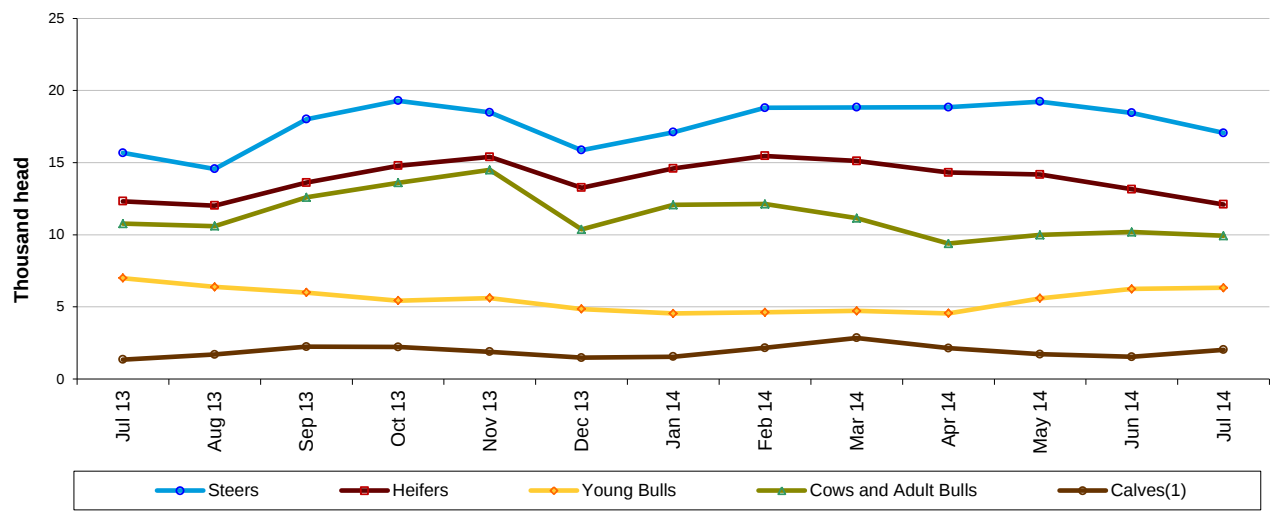


Figure 4:2 United Kingdom average weekly numbers of sheep slaughtered

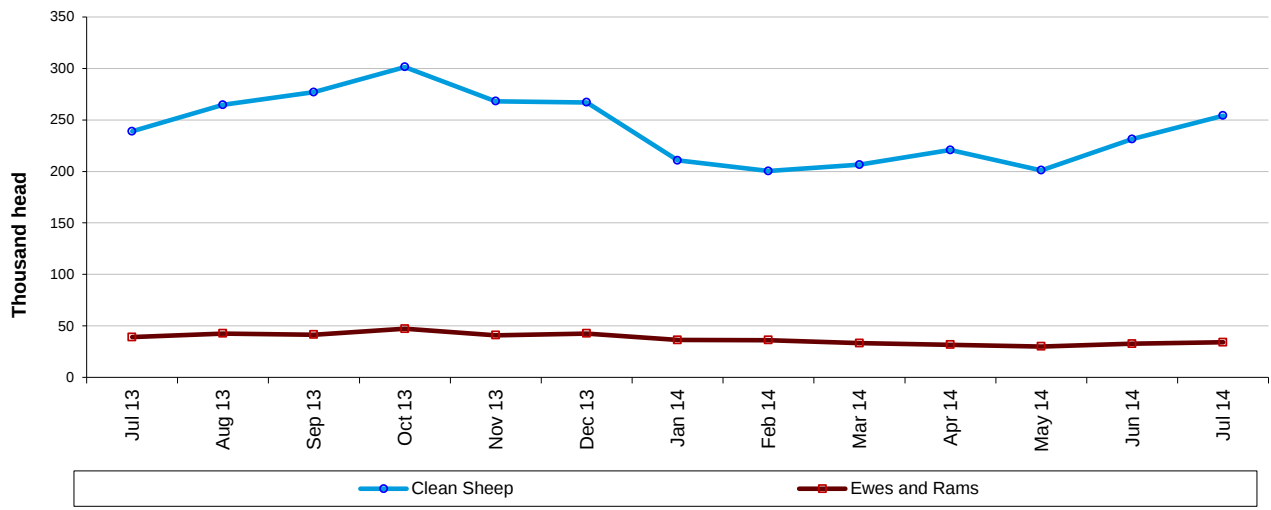
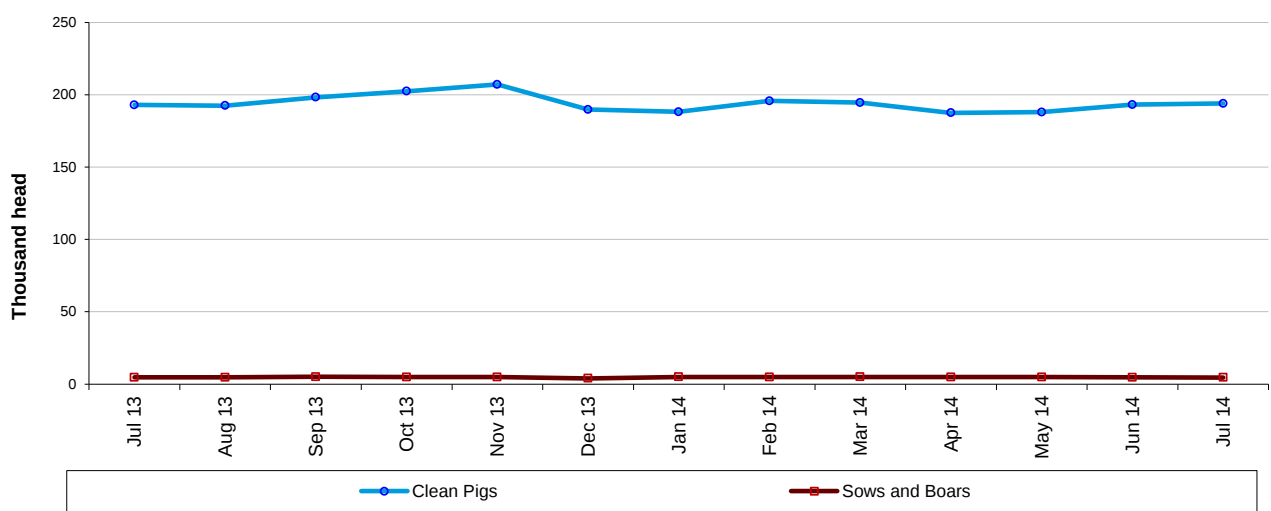


Figure 4:3 United Kingdom average weekly numbers of pigs slaughtered



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

	May 2014 4 weeks	June 2014 4 weeks	July 2014 5 weeks
England & Wales			
Steers	46	47	56
Heifers	34	33	40
Young Bulls	15	16	20
Cows and Adult Bulls	30	31	38
Calves ⁽¹⁾	6	5	9
Clean Sheep	713	811	1091
Ewes and Rams	114	125	164
Clean Pigs	614	628	793
Sows and Boars	19	19	22
Scotland			
Steers	18	18	19
Heifers	12	12	13
Young Bulls	3	4	7
Cows and Adult Bulls	4	4	5
Calves ⁽¹⁾	0	0	0
Clean Sheep	68	71	118
Ewes and Rams	2	2	2
Clean Pigs	21	24	29
Sows and Boars	0	0	0
Great Britain			
Steers	64	65	75
Heifers	46	45	53
Young Bulls	18	20	27
Cows and Adult Bulls	34	35	42
Calves ⁽¹⁾	6	5	9
Clean Sheep	781	883	1209
Ewes and Rams	117	128	167
Clean Pigs	635	652	822
Sows and Boars	19	19	23
Northern Ireland			
Steers	13	9	10
Heifers	11	8	8
Young Bulls	5	5	4
Cows and Adult Bulls	6	6	7
Calves ⁽¹⁾	1	1	1
Clean Sheep	24	43	61
Ewes and Rams	4	4	4
Clean Pigs	117	121	148
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 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.

Revisions policy

10. 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.

11. **Revisions have been made to the data for May and June 2014 as further administrative estimates and amended survey data has been received. For example mutton and lamb production has been revised upwards by 264 thousand tonnes in June; beef and veal production has been revised upwards by a total of 704 thousand tonnes since May.**