



18 December 2014

United Kingdom Slaughter Statistics – November 2014

Contents

Section 1	Monthly numbers of home killed livestock slaughtered	page 2
Section 2	Average dressed carcass weights	page 2
Section 3	Monthly volumes of home killed meat production	page 3
Section 4	Average weekly numbers of livestock slaughtered	page 3
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 carcass weight and meat production information. The key results for **November 2014** are given below:

- **Cattle:** UK prime cattle (steers, heifers and young bulls) slaughterings were 2.5% higher than in November 2013 at 162 thousand head. Beef and veal production was 74 thousand tonnes, 3.2% higher than in November 2013.
- **Sheep:** UK clean sheep slaughterings were 8.9% higher than in November 2013 at 1168 thousand head. Mutton and lamb production was 26 thousand tonnes, 5.7% higher than in November 2013.
- **Pigs:** UK clean pig slaughterings were 4.7% higher than in November 2013 at 867 thousand head. Pigmeat production was 74 thousand tonnes, 6.9% higher than in November 2013.

This notice will be updated at 09:30 on 15th January 2015. 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: Ben Drummond, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Room 201, Foss House, Kings Pool, 1 - 2 Peasholme Green, York YO1 7PX.
Tel: ++ 44 (0)1904 455059, email: ben.drummond@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

	November 2013 4 weeks	September 2014 4 weeks	October 2014 5 weeks	November 2014 4 weeks	yr on yr % change
Steers	74	79	110	84	14%
Heifers	62	54	71	63	1.6%
Young Bulls	22	18	21	15	-33%
Cows and Adult Bulls	58	49	68	57	-1.4%
Calves ⁽¹⁾	8	11	14	9	19%
Clean Sheep	1073	1134	1553	1168	8.9%
Ewes and Rams	164	154	200	133	-19%
Clean Pigs	828	822	1030	867	4.7%
Sows and Boars	20	19	24	19	-4.4%

(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

	September 2014	October 2014	November 2014
Steers	362.6	361.3	360.2
Heifers	322.1	322.1	322.0
Young Bulls	345.7	340.2	344.1
Cows and Adult Bulls	311.8	311.2	308.0
Calves ⁽¹⁾	38.8	40.5	44.0
Clean Sheep	19.2	19.3	19.4
Ewes and Rams	25.8	25.7	26.7
Clean Pigs	81.7	82.1	82.2
Sows and Boars	139.6	142.5	149.9

(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

	September 2014 4 weeks	October 2014 5 weeks	November 2014 4 weeks
Beef	68	91	74
Mutton and Lamb	26	35	26
Pigmeat	70	88	74

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										
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Steers	18	16	17	19	19	19	19	18	17	18	20	22	21
Heifers	15	13	15	15	15	14	14	13	12	12	13	14	16
Young Bulls	6	5	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	5	5	4	4
Cows and Adult Bulls	14	10	12	12	11	9	10	10	10	11	12	14	14
Calves ⁽¹⁾	2	1	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	2
Clean Sheep	268	267	211	200	207	221	201	232	255	270	284	311	292
Ewes and Rams	41	43	36	36	33	32	30	33	34	39	38	40	33
Clean Pigs	207	190	188	196	195	187	188	193	194	194	205	206	217
Sows and Boars	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	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

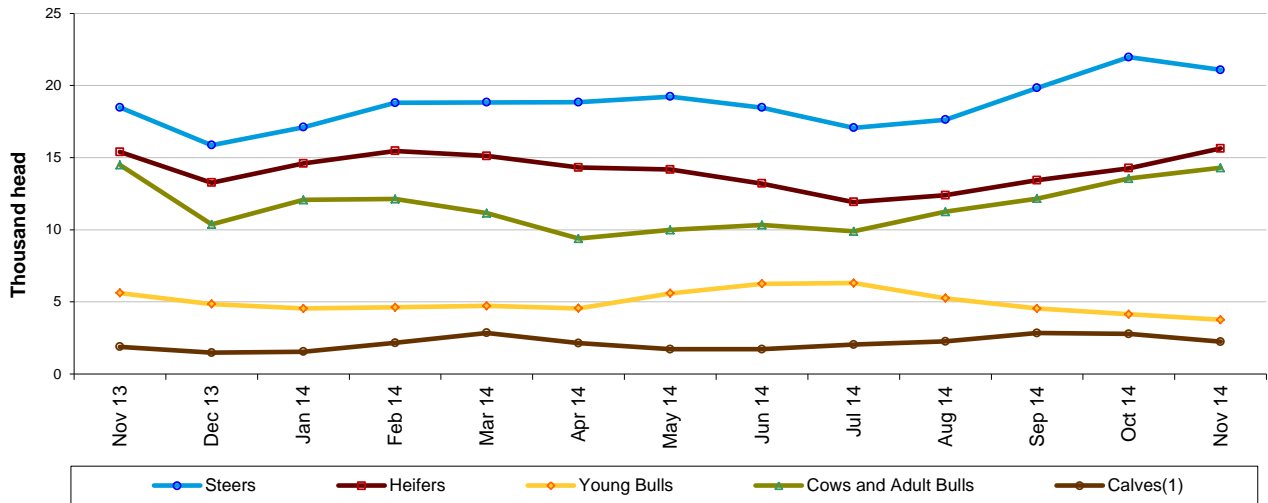


Figure 4:2 United Kingdom average weekly numbers of sheep slaughtered

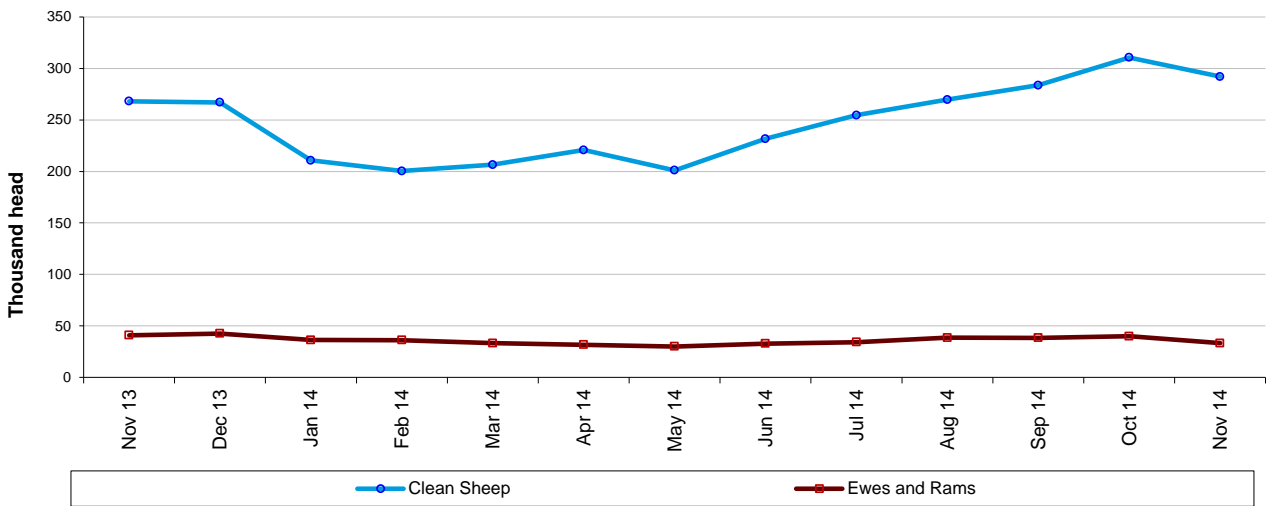
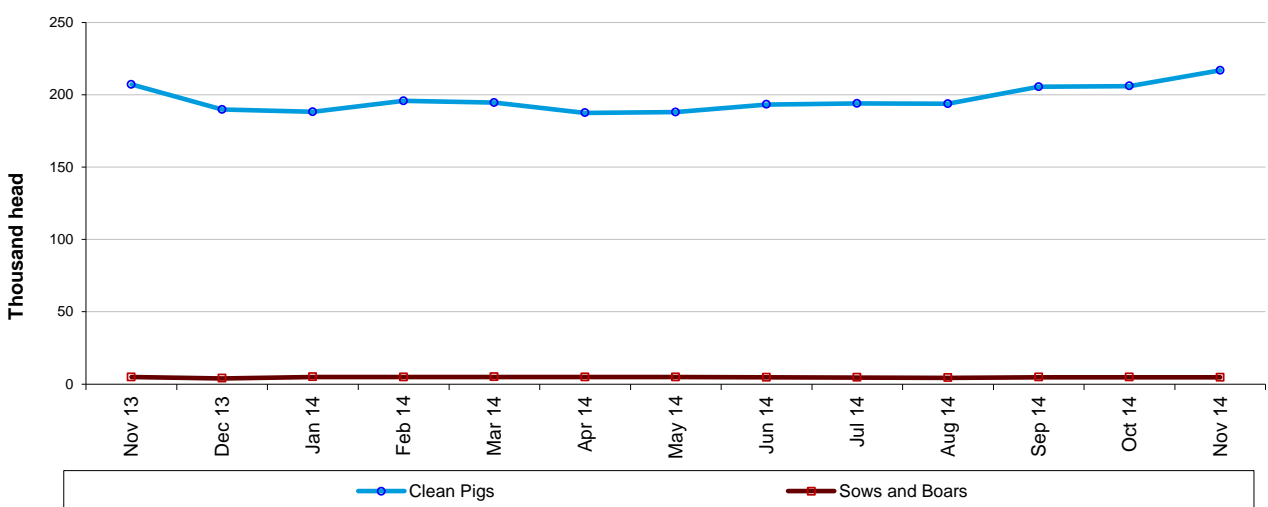


Figure 4:3 United Kingdom average weekly numbers of pigs slaughtered



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		
	September 2014	October 2014	November 2014
	4weeks	5weeks	4weeks
England & Wales			
Steers	49	69	54
Heifers	35	45	37
Young Bulls	13	15	11
Cows and Adult Bulls	36	52	42
Calves ⁽¹⁾	11	13	8
Clean Sheep	966	1348	1011
Ewes and Rams	146	192	126
Clean Pigs	672	840	711
Sows and Boars	19	24	18
Scotland			
Steers	17	21	15
Heifers	11	14	14
Young Bulls	3	4	2
Cows and Adult Bulls	5	6	6
Calves ⁽¹⁾	0	0	0
Clean Sheep	120	150	122
Ewes and Rams	2	3	3
Clean Pigs	23	29	25
Sows and Boars	0	0	0
Great Britain			
Steers	66	90	69
Heifers	46	59	52
Young Bulls	16	19	13
Cows and Adult Bulls	41	58	48
Calves ⁽¹⁾	11	13	8
Clean Sheep	1086	1498	1133
Ewes and Rams	148	194	129
Clean Pigs	695	869	736
Sows and Boars	19	24	18
Northern Ireland			
Steers	14	20	15
Heifers	8	12	11
Young Bulls	2	2	2
Cows and Adult Bulls	7	10	9
Calves ⁽¹⁾	1	1	1
Clean Sheep	49	55	34
Ewes and Rams	6	5	4
Clean Pigs	126	161	131
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 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.

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 May to October 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 October 2014 UK Beef production has been revised by around 366 tonnes (0.4%).