



19 June 2014

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

- **Cattle:** UK prime cattle (steers, heifers and young bulls) slaughterings were 3.2% higher than in May 2013 at 156 thousand head. Beef and veal production was 68 thousand tonnes, almost 5% higher than in May 2013.
- **Sheep:** UK clean sheep slaughterings were 10% higher than in May 2013 at 799 thousand head, Mutton and lamb production was 19 thousand tonnes, 8.2% higher than in May 2013.
- **Pigs:** UK clean pig slaughterings were 2.5% higher than in May 2013 at 751 thousand head, pigmeat production was 63 thousand tonnes, 5.1% higher than in May 2013.

This notice will be updated at 09:30 on 17 July 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

	March 2014 4 weeks	April 2014 5 weeks	May 2014 4 weeks
Steers	75	94	77
Heifers	60	72	56
Young Bulls	19	23	23
Cows and Adult Bulls	45	47	38
Calves (1)	11	11	7
Clean Sheep	826	1104	799
Ewes and Rams	133	159	123
Clean Pigs	778	937	751
Sows and Boars	20	24	19

(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

	March 2014	April 2014	May 2014
Steers	372.2	376.3	373.8
Heifers	328.2	327.5	327.1
Young Bulls	341.2	346.0	351.2
Cows and Adult Bulls	322.0	321.2	322.1
Calves (1)	41.5	52.1	67.3
Clean Sheep	20.1	20.4	19.6
Ewes and Rams	27.7	28.3	29.0
Clean Pigs	81.0	80.5	80.4
Sows and Boars	142.1	144.0	144.4

(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 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

	March 2014 4 weeks	April 2014 5 weeks	May 2014 4 weeks
Beef	69	82	68
Mutton and Lamb	20	27	19
Pigmeat	66	79	63

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								
	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	
Steers	18	17	16	15	18	19	18	16	17	19	19	19	19	
Heifers	14	13	12	12	14	15	15	13	15	15	15	14	14	
Young Bulls	6	7	7	6	6	5	6	5	5	5	5	5	6	
Cows and Adult Bulls	10	10	11	11	13	14	14	10	12	12	11	9	9	
Calves (1)	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	3	2	2	
Clean Sheep	182	209	239	265	277	301	268	267	211	200	207	221	200	
Ewes and Rams	36	37	39	43	42	47	41	43	36	36	33	32	31	
Clean Pigs	183	186	193	192	198	202	207	190	188	196	195	187	188	
Sows and Boars	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	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

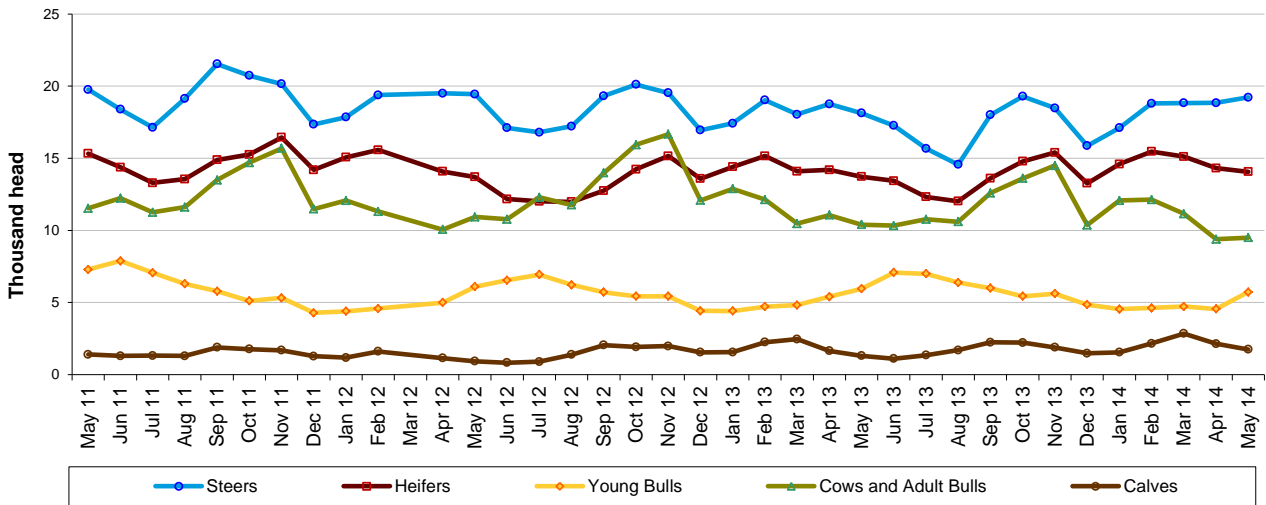


Figure 4:2 United Kingdom average weekly numbers of sheep slaughtered

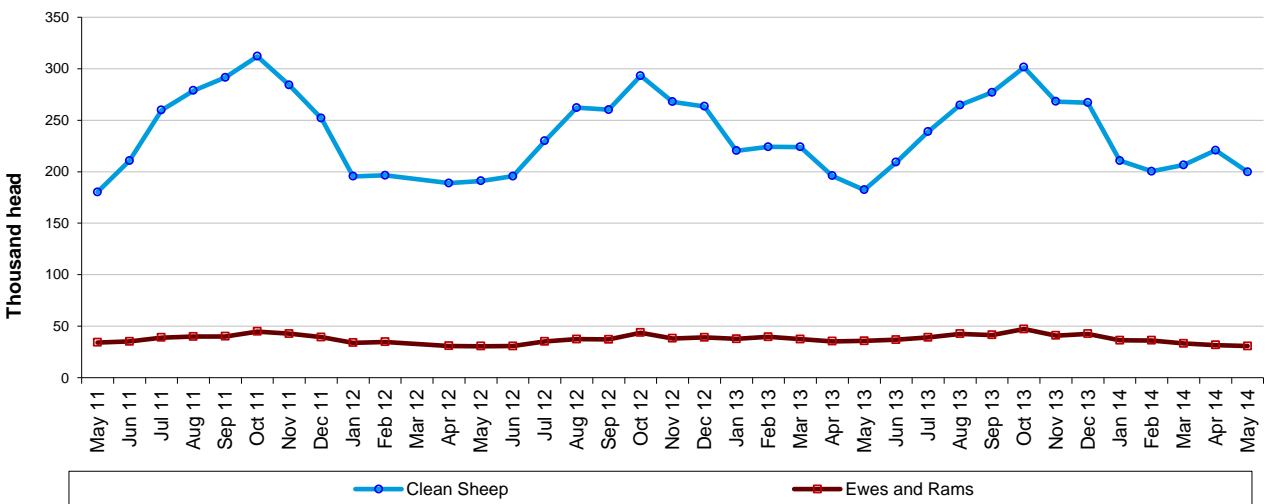
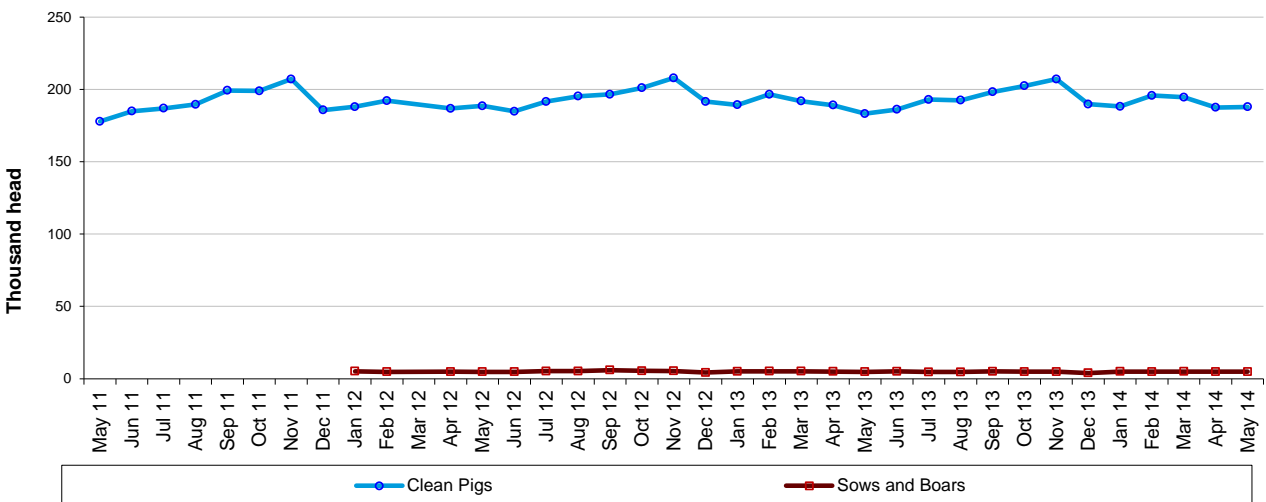


Figure 4:3 United Kingdom average weekly numbers of pigs slaughtered



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

	thousand head		
	March 2014	April 2014	May 2014
	4 weeks	5 weeks	4 weeks
England & Wales			
Steers	47	58	46
Heifers	37	43	33
Young Bulls	13	16	15
Cows and Adult Bulls	33	35	28
Calves ⁽¹⁾	11	9	6
Clean Sheep	708	955	708
Ewes and Rams	128	151	117
Clean Pigs	633	765	614
Sows and Boars	20	24	19
Scotland			
Steers	18	22	18
Heifers	14	16	12
Young Bulls	2	2	3
Cows and Adult Bulls	5	5	4
Calves ⁽¹⁾	0	0	0
Clean Sheep	98	125	68
Ewes and Rams	2	3	2
Clean Pigs	24	27	21
Sows and Boars	0	0	0
Great Britain			
Steers	65	80	64
Heifers	51	59	46
Young Bulls	15	18	18
Cows and Adult Bulls	38	40	32
Calves ⁽¹⁾	11	9	6
Clean Sheep	806	1080	776
Ewes and Rams	130	154	119
Clean Pigs	656	791	635
Sows and Boars	20	24	19
Northern Ireland			
Steers	11	14	13
Heifers	10	13	11
Young Bulls	4	5	5
Cows and Adult Bulls	7	7	6
Calves ⁽¹⁾	1	1	1
Clean Sheep	20	24	24
Ewes and Rams	3	5	4
Clean Pigs	122	146	117
Sows and Boars	0	0	0

(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 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.

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. This month minor revisions have been made to the data for April 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 April 2014 UK Beef production has only been revised by around 1200 tonnes (1.5%).