



22 August 2013

United Kingdom Slaughter Statistics – July 2013

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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 2013** are given below:

- **Cattle:** UK prime cattle slaughterings were 3.1 per cent lower than in July 2012 at 173 thousand head. Beef and veal production was 76 thousand tonnes, 7.6 per cent lower than in July 2012.
- **Sheep:** UK clean sheep slaughterings were 2.0 per cent higher than in July 2012 at 1172 thousand head. Mutton and lamb production was 26 thousand tonnes, 0.6 per cent higher than in July 2012.
- **Pigs:** UK clean pig slaughterings were 0.7 per cent higher than in July 2012 at 964 thousand head. Pigmeat production was 79 thousand tonnes, 1.6 per cent higher than in July 2012.

This notice will be updated at 09:30 on 19 September 2013. Additional time series which now include weekly slaughter averages and production 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 livestock slaughtered

Table 1 shows monthly estimates of the number of cattle, sheep and pigs slaughtered for meat for human consumption in the United Kingdom. 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 2013 4 weeks	June 2013 4 weeks	July 2013 5 weeks
Steers	73	69	77
Heifers	55	54	61
Young Bulls	24	28	35
Cows and Adult Bulls	42	41	53
Calves	5	4	7
Other Sheep and Lambs	729	836	1172
Ewes and Rams	143	148	166
Clean Pigs	733	744	964
Sows and Boars	19	20	23

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 2013	June 2013	July 2013
Steers	362.5	360.6	359.3
Heifers	315.5	315.3	314.1
Young Bulls	338.2	344.0	343.1
Cows and Adult Bulls	306.7	311.1	308.5
Calves	53.8	56.3	48.0
Other Sheep and Lambs	19.1	19.2	18.7
Ewes and Rams	26.7	27.0	25.5
Clean Pigs	78.3	78.2	78.3
Sows and Boars	143.6	145.7	152.7

Section 3: Monthly volumes of meat production

Table 3 shows the monthly volumes of meat produced in the United Kingdom. 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 2013 4 weeks	June 2013 4 weeks	July 2013 5 weeks
Beef	65	65	76
Mutton and Lamb	18	20	26
Pigmeat	60	61	79

Section 4: Average weekly numbers of 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

	2012			2013									
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Steers	17	17	19	20	20	17	17	19	18	19	18	17	15
Heifers	12	12	13	14	15	14	14	15	14	14	14	13	12
Young Bulls	7	6	6	5	5	4	4	5	5	5	6	7	7
Cows and Adult Bulls	12	12	14	16	17	12	13	12	10	11	10	10	11
Calves	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
Other Sheep and Lambs	230	262	260	293	268	263	220	224	224	196	182	209	234
Ewes and Rams	35	38	37	44	38	39	38	40	37	35	36	37	33
Clean Pigs	192	195	197	201	208	192	189	197	192	189	183	186	193
Sows and Boars	5	5	6	5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5

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

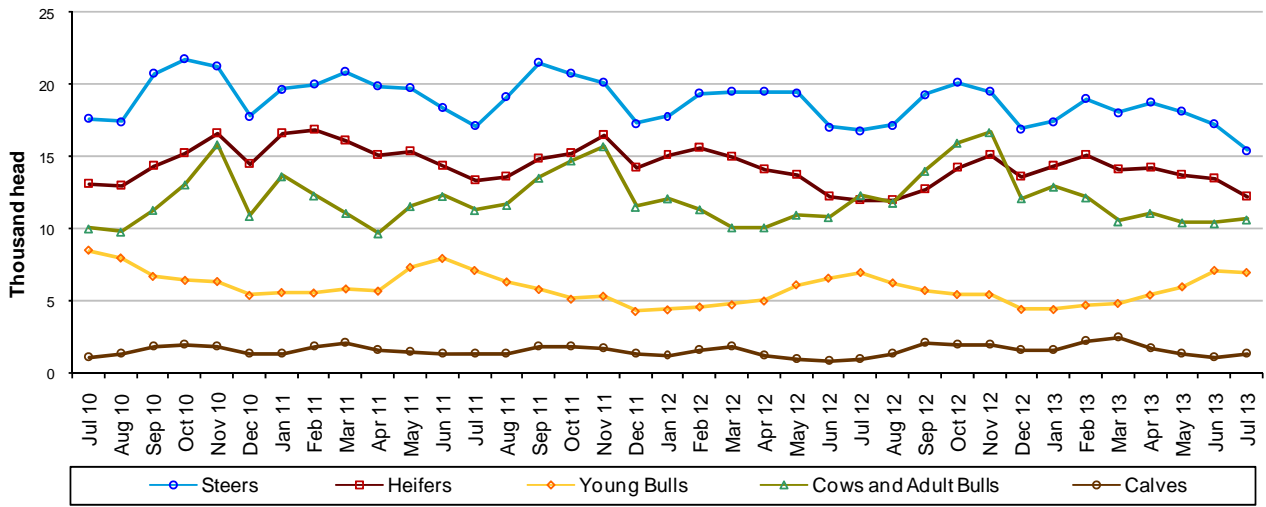


Figure 4:2 United Kingdom average weekly numbers of sheep slaughtered

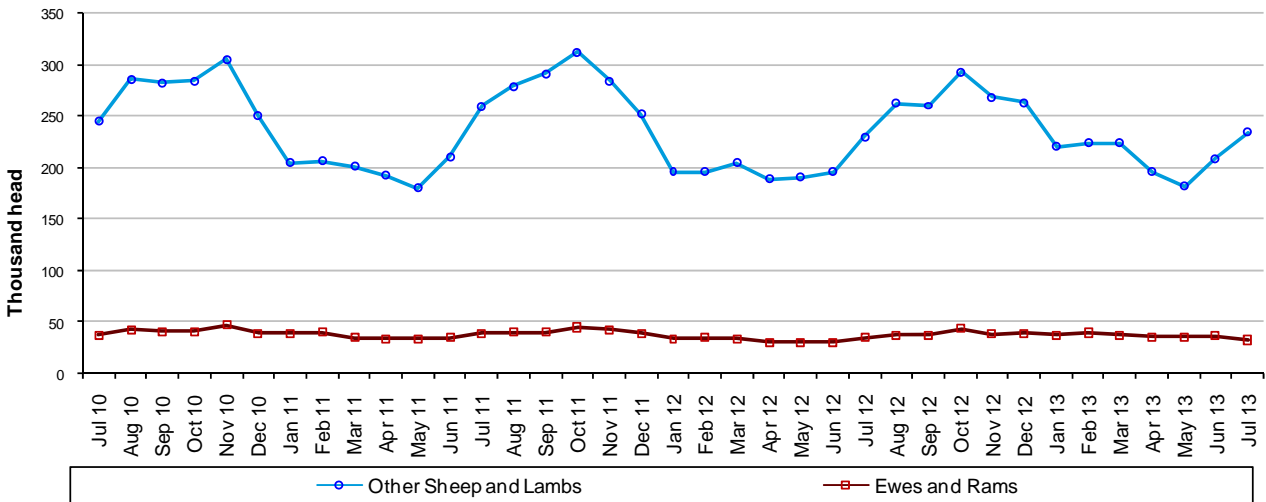
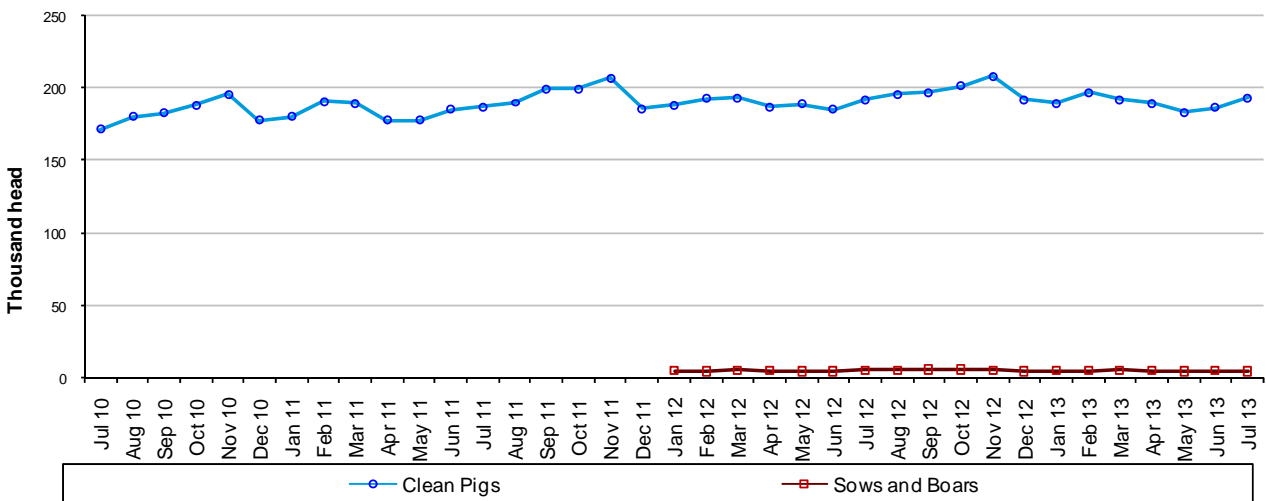


Figure 4:3 United Kingdom average weekly numbers of pigs slaughtered



Data for Jul 10 – Dec 11 is confidential

Section 5: Monthly numbers of 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

	May 2013	June 2013	July 2013
	4 weeks	4 weeks	5 weeks
England & Wales			
Steers	44	43	49
Heifers	33	33	38
Young Bulls	15	18	22
Cows and Adult Bulls	30	31	38
Calves	5	4	6
Other Sheep and Lambs	662	742	1016
Ewes and Rams	139	142	159
Clean Pigs	598	603	787
Sows and Boars	19	20	23
Scotland			
Steers	17	16	18
Heifers	12	12	14
Young Bulls	3	4	6
Cows and Adult Bulls	5	4	6
Calves	0	0	0
Other Sheep and Lambs	46	63	111
Ewes and Rams	2	3	3
Clean Pigs	22	22	27
Sows and Boars	0	0	0
Great Britain			
Steers	61	59	66
Heifers	45	45	52
Young Bulls	18	23	28
Cows and Adult Bulls	34	35	44
Calves	5	4	6
Other Sheep and Lambs	708	805	1127
Ewes and Rams	140	145	162
Clean Pigs	621	625	814
Sows and Boars	19	20	23
Northern Ireland			
Steers	12	10	11
Heifers	10	9	10
Young Bulls	5	6	7
Cows and Adult Bulls	8	7	9
Calves	0	0	1
Other Sheep and Lambs	21	32	45
Ewes and Rams	3	3	4
Clean Pigs	112	119	150
Sows and Boars	0	0	0

Section 6: Methodology, notes and revisions policy

1. The information in this notice is used by the UK government and the EU as evidence for assessing market conditions and evaluating agricultural policy. The slaughter statistics are also required by the EU under Regulation (EC) No 1165/2008. Other users include the food and farming industry, academia and the general public. Contact details are available on the front page of this notice, for you to send feedback or ask questions about the information provided.
2. Defra runs a monthly survey of registered England and Wales slaughterhouses. It is a statutory survey (approximately 105) 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%. These data are supplemented by administrative data for smaller slaughterhouses. Similar surveys are run by RERAD in Scotland and by DARD in Northern Ireland. The England and Wales slaughter survey accounts for around 90% of the E&W slaughterhouse throughput for each livestock type.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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

6. 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.
7. **This month minor revisions have been made to the data from June 2013 onwards for the reasons given above.**