

UK current animal population

Official farming statistics – Livestock populations (as at 1 December 2014) for cattle, pigs and sheep came from the Defra Farming Statistics publication, link below

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/414334/structure-dec2014-uk-19mar15.pdf

The data within this publication comes from various sources depending on species and is explained following species numbers below

1) **Total number cattle and calves – 9.7 Million**

- Beef herd, female cattle aged 2 years and above **1.5 Million**
- Dairy herd, female cattle aged 2 years and above **1.9 Million**

Figures sourced from the Cattle Tracing System in England, Wales and Scotland and the equivalent APHIS system in Northern Ireland. These systems contain detailed information on the location and subsequent movements (until slaughter) of all cattle. The data include returns from all holdings with cattle so are not subject to survey error

2) **Total number sheep (including lambs) 35.7 million** (Gov.uk census report)

- of which female breeding flock = **14.8 million**

3) **Total number goats (including kids) 103,200**

Sheep and goat data came from the annual Sheep and Goat Inventory (an annual exercise requiring all sheep and goat keepers to record animals under their keepership at 1 December). It is an EU requirement to hold an annual inventory of sheep and goat keepers for livestock tracing and identification purposes.

4) **Total number of poultry 163 million**

- table chickens (broilers) **105 million**
- Laying hens/pullets **36 million**
- total breeding flock **11 million**
- turkeys **4 million**
- other poultry **7 million**

Data for poultry comes from the Defra publication – Structure of the agricultural industry in England and the UK at June. Due to production cycles, subgroups within the poultry population are often volatile as the 'point in time' nature of the June

Survey can lead to large variations in the numbers in each category. For example, numbers of table turkeys will increase at Christmas

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry-in-england-and-the-uk-at-june>

The detailed breakdown is as set out in the Poultry Pocketbook 2014

http://www.bpex.org.uk/media/2424/poultry_pocketbook_2014.pdf

5) **Pigs – 4.5 million**

- of which fattening pigs = **4million**

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/414334/structure-dec2014-uk-19mar15.pdf

Pig data came from the December survey of Pigs, which is a small sample survey of farms that keep over 750 pigs. It is used to estimate the size of the pig herd in England at 1 December each year. The pig data were gathered using 300 paper forms, achieving a response rate of 84%, so the results for pigs are subject to a degree of sampling error. Pig data relates to commercial holdings only.

A more detailed breakdown is as set out in the Pig Pocketbook 2014

http://www.bpex.org.uk/media/2426/pig_pocketbook_2014.pdf

6) **Horses 1.3 Million**

The horse data came from the British Equine Trade Association's 2011 National Equestrian Survey – link below

<http://www.beta-uk.org/pages/industry-information/market-information.php>

7) **Other animals.** Data for other animals below is taken from the Pet Food Manufacturers' Association's Pet Population Report for 2014. The pet population estimates were made over two years, with a total sample of 6000.

Dogs: 9 million **Cats:** 7.9 million **Rabbits:** 1 million **Fish kept in tanks:** 20 - 25 million **Fish kept in ponds:** 20 million **Caged birds:** 1 million **Guinea Pigs:** Half a million **Hamsters:** 400,000 **Lizards:** 400,000

<http://www.pfma.org.uk/pet-population-2014>