



15<sup>th</sup> August 2019

## United Kingdom Slaughter Statistics – July 2019

### Contents

Section 1	Monthly numbers of home killed livestock slaughtered	page 2
Section 2	Average dressed carcase 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

The key results for **July 2019 compared to July 2018** are:

- **Cattle:** UK prime cattle (steers, heifers and young bulls) slaughterings in July 2019 were down 1.0% on July 2018 at 162,000 head. Beef and veal production was 76,000 tonnes, 0.7% lower than in July 2018.
- **Sheep:** UK clean sheep slaughterings were up 5.7% on July 2018 at 1090,000 head. Mutton and lamb production was 25,000 tonnes, 9.9% higher than in July 2018.
- **Pigs:** UK clean pig slaughterings were 2.9% higher than in July 2018 at 909,000 head. Pigmeat production was 79,000 tonnes, 4.8% higher than in July 2018.

Response rates for July were 91% for England and Wales.

This notice will be updated at 09:30 on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019. Additional time series which include weekly slaughter averages, production and trade data can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/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.

**Table 1: United Kingdom monthly numbers of livestock slaughtered**

	thousand head				
	July 2018 31 days	May 2019 31 days	June 2019 30 days	July 2019 31 days	yr on yr % change
Steers	81	89	78	78	-3.9%
Heifers	59	68	60	60	1.3%
Young Bulls	23	19	21	24	3.3%
Cows and Adult Bulls	60	51	50	53	-12.1%
Calves(1)	7	9	7	9	23.7%
Clean Sheep	1031	987	907	1090	5.7%
Ewes and Rams	131	136	111	148	12.6%
Clean Pigs	883	914	809	909	2.9%
Sows and Boars	21	22	18	19	-6.8%

(1) The definition of calves from May 2014 is "Bovines less than 1 year". Please see methodology for full details.

## Section 2: Average dressed carcass weights

Table 2 shows the monthly average dressed carcass weight (DCW) of livestock slaughtered for meat for human consumption in the United Kingdom.

**Table 2: United Kingdom average dressed carcass weights**

	kilogramme			
	July 2018	May 2019	June 2019	July 2019
Steers	366.6	375.7	376.3	373.3
Heifers	327.6	336.7	337.2	337.5
Young Bulls	343.7	343.8	354.8	354.3
Cows and Adult Bulls	307.5	322.6	324.1	322.8
Calves(1)	87.6	70.7	86.5	85.5
Clean Sheep	19.1	20.6	19.9	19.5
Ewes and Rams	24.9	28.5	28.5	26.4
Clean Pigs	82.2	84.2	84.1	83.9
Sows and Boars	143.0	147.0	147.8	148.1

(1)The definition of calves from May 2014 is "Bovines less than 1 year". Please see methodology for full details.

### Section 3: Monthly volumes of home killed meat production

Table 3 shows the monthly volumes of meat produced in UK abattoirs.

**Table 3: United Kingdom monthly volumes of meat production**

thousand tonnes

	July 2018 31 days	May 2019 31 days	June 2019 30 days	July 2019 31 days	yr on yr % change
Beef	76	80	74	76	-0.7%
Mutton and Lamb	23	24	21	25	9.9%
Pigmeat	76	80	71	79	4.8%

### 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 days in the survey period. To get a clearer measure of trends weekly averages are calculated using the number of livestock slaughtered and the number of days in each period.

Longer term trends can be seen in Figures 4:1, 4:2 and 4:3, following this table.

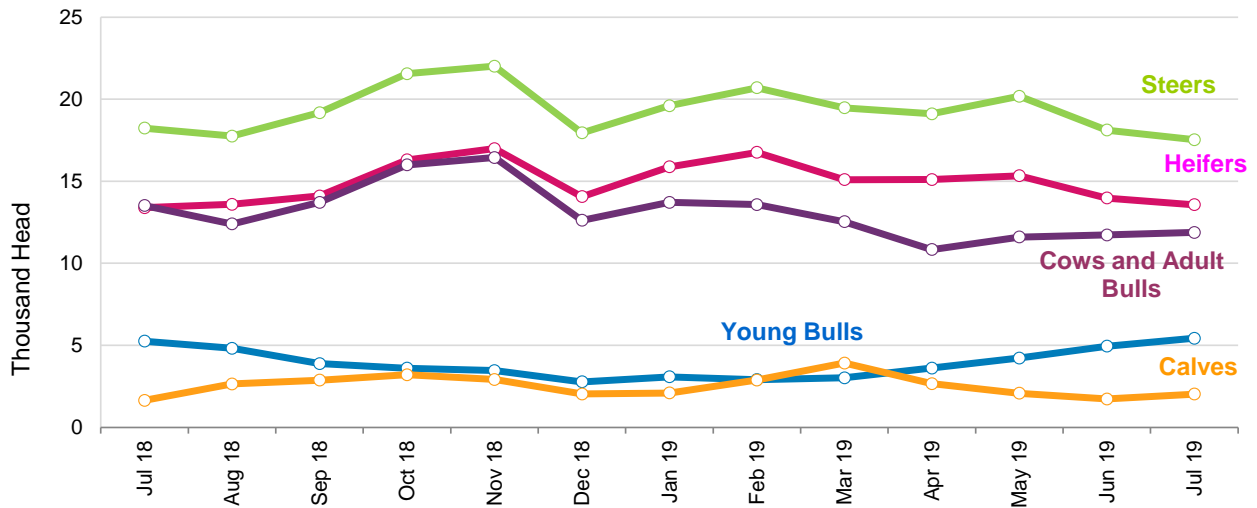
**Table 4: United Kingdom average weekly numbers of livestock slaughtered**

thousand head

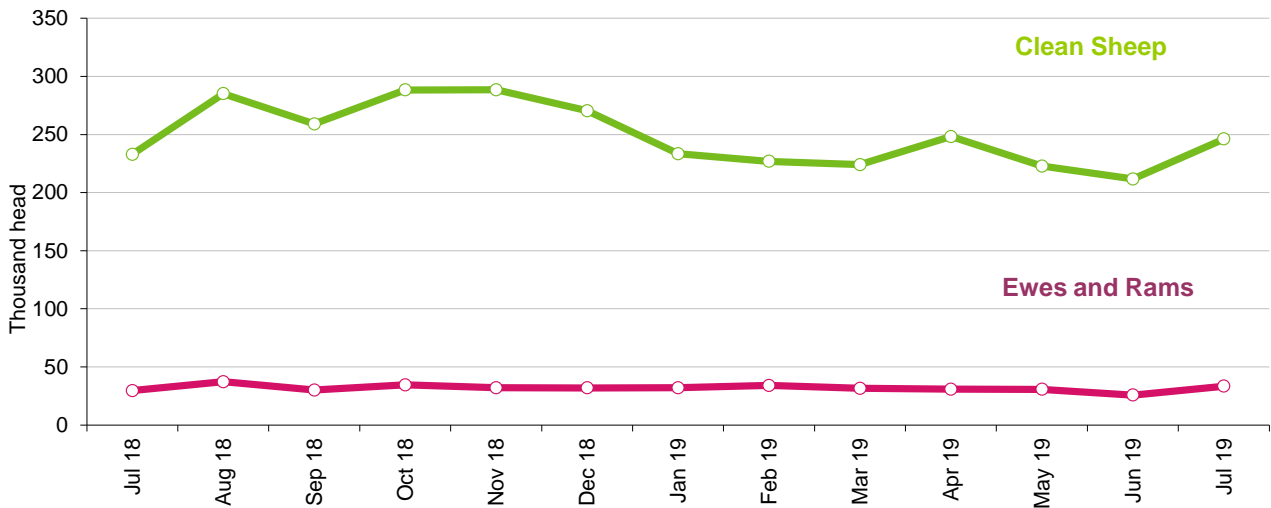
	2018						2019						
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Jul
Steers	18	18	19	22	22	18	20	21	19	19	20	18	18
Heifers	13	14	14	16	17	14	16	17	15	15	15	14	14
Young Bulls	5	5	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	5	5
Cows and Adult Bulls	14	12	14	16	16	13	14	14	13	11	12	12	12
Calves	2	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	4	3	2	2	2
Clean Sheep	233	285	259	288	288	270	233	227	224	248	223	212	246
Ewes and Rams	30	37	30	35	32	32	32	34	32	31	31	26	33
Clean Pigs	199	213	198	218	222	189	212	209	194	207	206	189	205
Sows and Boars	5	5	5	5	5	4	6	5	5	4	5	4	4

(1)The definition of calves from May 2014 is "Bovines less than 1 year". Please see methodology for full details.

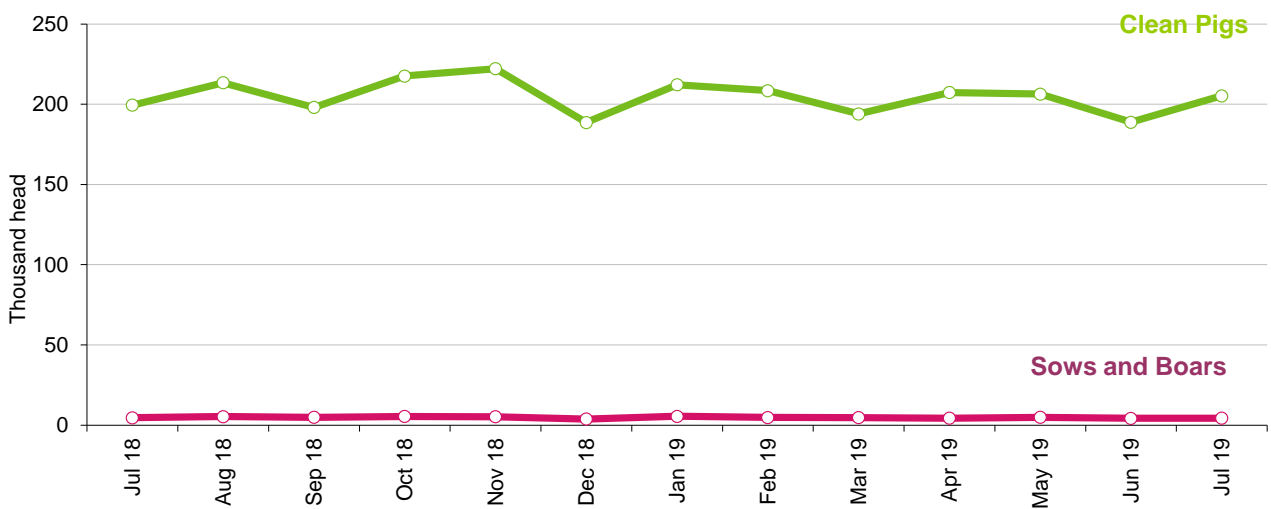
**Figure 4:1 United Kingdom average weekly numbers of cattle slaughtered**



**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 2019	June 2019	July 2019
	31 days	30 days	31 days
<b>England &amp; Wales</b>			
Steers	58	49	53
Heifers	44	38	41
Young Bulls	11	12	13
Cows and Adult Bulls	39	37	40
Calves	9	7	9
Clean Sheep	891	806	958
Ewes and Rams	132	107	144
Clean Pigs	746	644	733
Sows and Boars	20	17	18
<b>Scotland</b>			
Steers	18	16	15
Heifers	12	12	10
Young Bulls	3	4	5
Cows and Adult Bulls	5	5	4
Calves	0	0	0
Clean Sheep	69	63	92
Ewes and Rams	2	2	2
Clean Pigs	29	28	30
Sows and Boars	1	1	1
<b>Great Britain</b>			
Steers	75	66	68
Heifers	56	50	51
Young Bulls	14	16	19
Cows and Adult Bulls	44	42	45
Calves	9	7	9
Clean Sheep	960	869	1050
Ewes and Rams	134	109	146
Clean Pigs	775	672	763
Sows and Boars	22	18	19
<b>Northern Ireland</b>			
Steers	14	12	10
Heifers	12	10	9
Young Bulls	4	5	6
Cows and Adult Bulls	7	8	8
Calves	0	0	0
Clean Sheep	26	38	40
Ewes and Rams	2	2	2
Clean Pigs	139	137	147
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](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Agricultural_products#Meat_and_milk)
2. The livestock industry is also a major user of the data, including divisions of the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB). AHDB Pork (formally known as BPEX, representing the English pig industry) and AHDB Beef and Lamb (formerly 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 AHDB Beef and Lamb website refer consistently to our statistics at <http://beefandlamb.ahdb.org.uk/markets/> The AHDB Pork site provides more in-depth analysis of pigmeat production statistics at <http://pork.ahdb.org.uk/prices-stats/>
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 91) 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 DAERA 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 <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/slaughtering-cattle-and-sheep> and <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/slaughtering-pigs-2003>
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 from the Food Standards Agency (FSA) 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.
9. With effect from February 2016 the statistics published in this notice are based on calendar rather than statistical months. This change simplifies our survey processes and brings our slaughter survey in line with our milk surveys which are already run on a calendar month basis; it also removes the need for the 53 week year (which would have to be 2016). Since the end of weekly slaughter survey several years ago, there is no legislative requirement for weekly data, so since then we have derived the average weekly throughput from the monthly survey data.
10. The January 2016 data will include the last week of December 2015 and therefore be classed as a 5 week month. From 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016 onwards the statistics are based on calendar months.

## Definitions

11. 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".

## Revisions policy

12. 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.