

UK SLAUGHTER STATISTICS

The latest National Statistics produced by Defra on UK slaughterings of cattle, sheep and pigs were released on 19 July 2012 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

This monthly notice will be updated at 09:30 on 23 August 2012.

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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 **June 2012** are given below:

- **Cattle:** UK prime cattle slaughterings were 11 per cent lower than in June 2011 at 144 thousand head. Beef and veal production was 64 thousand tonnes, 11 per cent lower than in June 2011.
- **Sheep:** UK clean sheep slaughterings were 7 per cent lower than in June 2011 at 781 thousand head. Mutton and lamb production was 19 thousand tonnes, 5 per cent lower than in June 2011.
- **Pigs:** UK clean pig slaughterings were slightly higher than in June 2011 at 741 thousand head. Pigmeat production was 61 thousand tonnes, 1 per cent higher than in June 2011.

This notice and additional tables providing longer term trends of slaughterings, meat production and supplies are available to download at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/foodfarm/food/slaughter/>

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Section 1: UK monthly slaughter estimates

This table 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: UK monthly slaughter estimates Thousand Head

United Kingdom	April 2012 5 weeks	May 2012 4 weeks	June 2012 4 weeks
Steers	98	78	68
Heifers	70	55	49
Young Bulls	25	24	26
Cows and Adult Bulls	50	44	43
Calves	6	4	3
Other Sheep and Lambs	944	764	781
Ewes and Rams	155	122	123
Clean Pigs	934	754	741
Sows and Boars	24	19	19

Section 2: UK average dressed carcass weights

This table shows the monthly average dressed carcass weight of livestock slaughtered for meat for human consumption in the United Kingdom.

Table 2: UK average dressed carcass weights Kilogramme

United Kingdom	April 2012	May 2012	June 2012
Steers	372.2	370.3	371.2
Heifers	323.9	323.2	323.1
Young Bulls	348.8	350.1	348.5
Cows and Adult Bulls	319.6	319.4	316.6
Calves	50.4	48.1	52.9
Other Sheep and Lambs	19.8	19.8	19.7
Ewes and Rams	27.7	27.6	27.3
Clean Pigs	77.8	78.0	78.0
Sows and Boars	151.6	151.3	153.8

Section 3: UK monthly home-killed production of meat

This table 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: UK monthly home-killed production of meat

Thousand Tonnes

United Kingdom	April 2012 5 weeks	May 2012 4 weeks	June 2012 4 weeks
Beef	84	69	64
Mutton and Lamb	23	19	19
Pigmeat	76	62	61

Section 4: UK average weekly slaughterings

This following table 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 the charts following this table.

Table 4: UK average weekly slaughterings

Thousand Head

United Kingdom	2011							2012					
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Steers	18	17	19	22	21	20	17	18	19	20	20	19	17
Heifers	14	13	14	15	15	16	14	15	16	15	14	14	12
Young Bulls	8	7	6	6	5	5	4	4	5	5	5	6	7
Cows and Adult Bulls	12	11	12	13	15	16	11	12	11	10	10	11	11
Calves	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	1
Other Sheep and Lambs	211	260	279	291	312	284	252	195	196	204	189	191	195
Ewes and Rams	35	39	40	40	45	43	39	34	35	33	31	31	31
Clean Pigs	185	187	190	199	199	207	186	188	192	193	187	189	185
Sows and Boars	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	5	5	5	5	5	5

* Data are confidential

Chart 4:1 United Kingdom average weekly slaughtering – Cattle

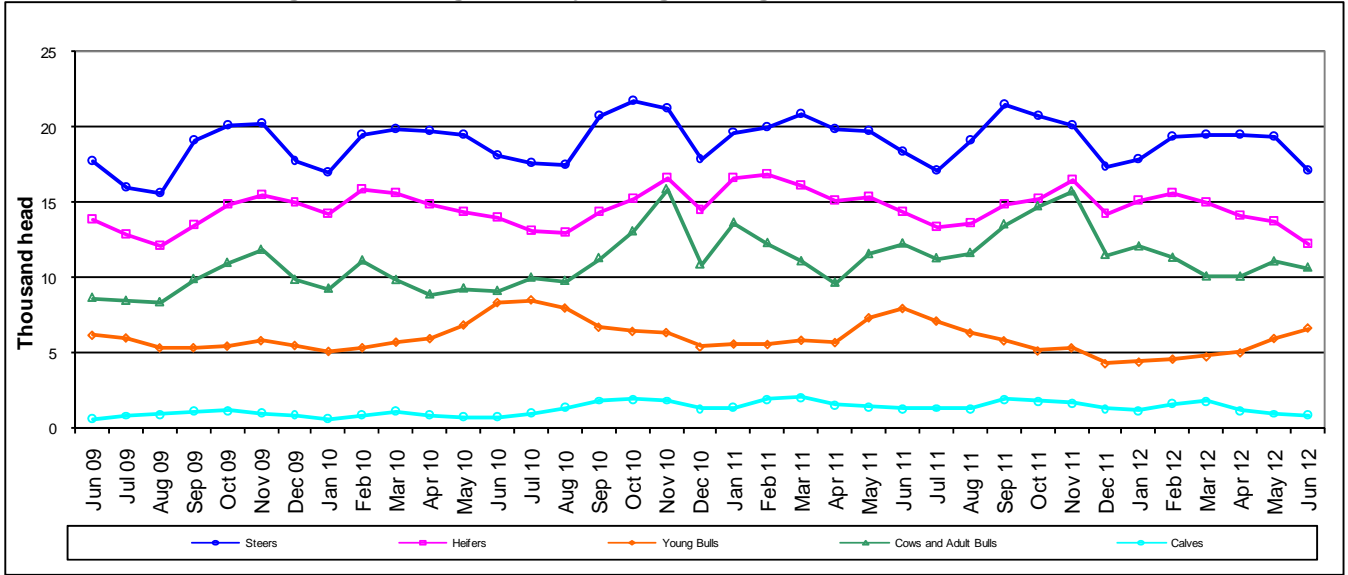


Chart 4:2 United Kingdom average weekly slaughtering – Sheep

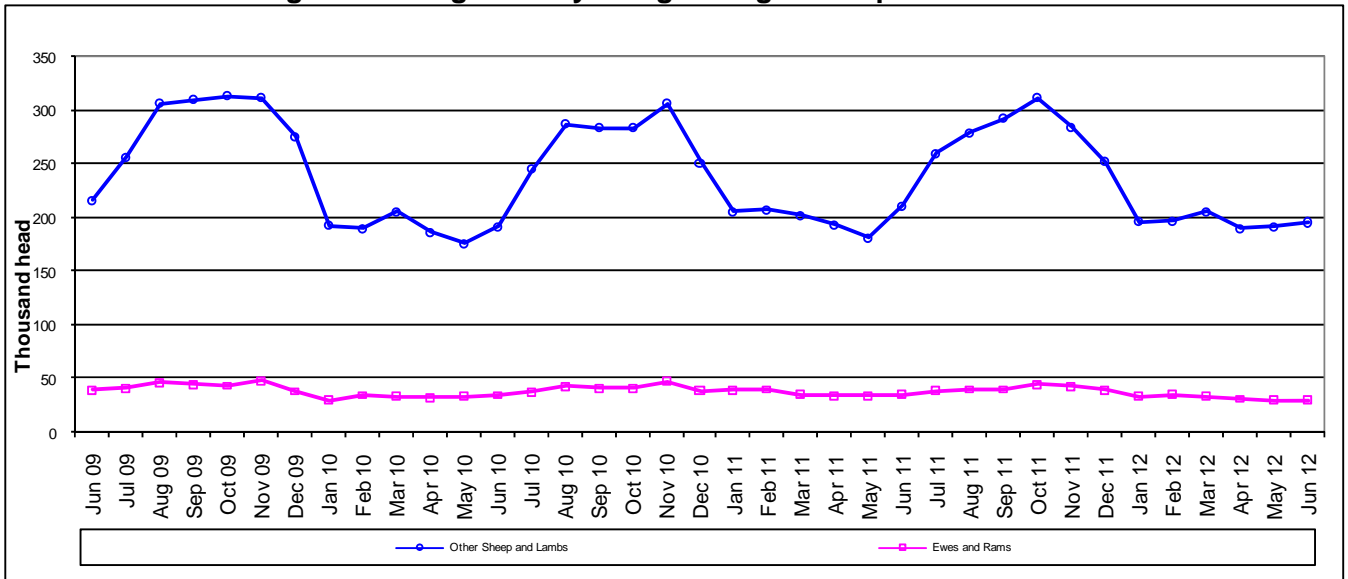
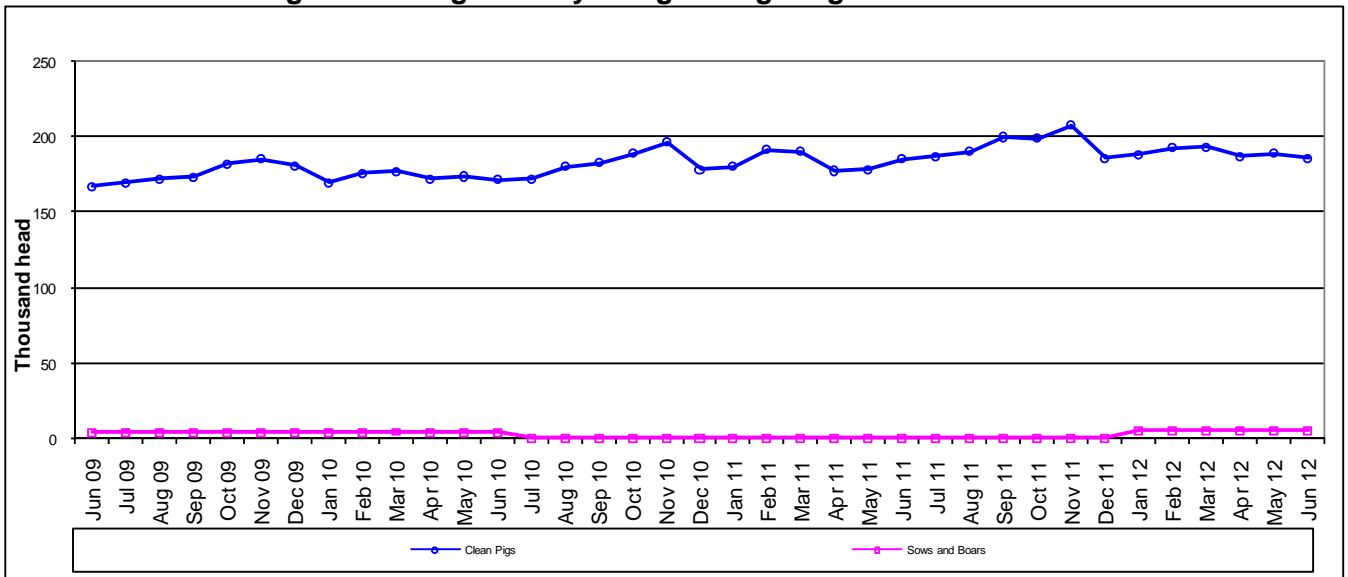


Chart 4:3 United Kingdom average weekly slaughtering - Pigs



Section 5: UK slaughterings by country

This table 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: UK slaughterings by country

Thousand Head

	April 2012 5 weeks	May 2012 4 weeks	June 2012 4 weeks
England & Wales			
Steers	60	47	42
Heifers	43	34	31
Young Bulls	17	16	17
Cows and Adult Bulls	38	32	31
Calves	5	3	3
Other Sheep and Lambs	803	681	667
Ewes and Rams	149	118	119
Clean Pigs	724	583	573
Sows and Boars	24	19	19
Scotland			
Steers	22	18	16
Heifers	16	12	11
Young Bulls	3	3	4
Cows and Adult Bulls	5	5	5
Calves	0	0	0
Other Sheep and Lambs	122	60	84
Ewes and Rams	2	2	2
Clean Pigs	58	48	49
Sows and Boars	0	0	0
Great Britain			
Steers	82	65	59
Heifers	59	46	42
Young Bulls	20	19	22
Cows and Adult Bulls	43	37	36
Calves	5	3	3
Other Sheep and Lambs	925	741	751
Ewes and Rams	151	119	121
Clean Pigs	781	631	621
Sows and Boars	24	19	19
Northern Ireland			
Steers	15	12	10
Heifers	11	9	7
Young Bulls	5	5	5
Cows and Adult Bulls	7	7	7
Calves	0	0	0
Other Sheep and Lambs	20	23	30
Ewes and Rams	3	3	2
Clean Pigs	153	123	120
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 of 109 respondents 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. 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 revisions have been made to the data from May 2012 onwards.**