

UK SLAUGHTER STATISTICS

The latest National Statistics produced by Defra on UK slaughterings of cattle, sheep and pigs were released on 23 August 2012 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

This monthly notice will be updated at 09:30 on 20 September 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 **July 2012** are given below:

- **Cattle:** UK prime cattle slaughterings were 5.2 per cent lower than in July 2012 at 178 thousand head. Beef and veal production was 81 thousand tonnes, 2.1 per cent lower than in July 2011.
- **Sheep:** UK clean sheep slaughterings were 13 per cent lower than in July 2011 at 1134 thousand head. Mutton and lamb production was 26 thousand tonnes, 13 per cent lower than in July 2011.
- **Pigs:** UK clean pig slaughterings were 3.2 per cent higher than in July 2011 at 964 thousand head. Pigmeat production was 78 thousand tonnes, 4.2 per cent higher than in July 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	May 2012 4 weeks	June 2012 4 weeks	July 2012 5 weeks
Steers	78	68	84
Heifers	55	49	60
Young Bulls	24	26	35
Cows and Adult Bulls	44	43	59
Calves	4	3	5
Other Sheep and Lambs	764	781	1134
Ewes and Rams	122	123	176
Clean Pigs	754	741	964
Sows and Boars	19	19	26

* Data are confidential

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	May 2012	June 2012	July 2012
Steers	370.3	372.1	370.7
Heifers	323.2	323.2	321.2
Young Bulls	350.2	345.0	348.7
Cows and Adult Bulls	319.2	317.6	312.9
Calves	48.1	51.9	53.1
Other Sheep and Lambs	19.8	19.6	18.5
Ewes and Rams	27.6	27.3	27.1
Clean Pigs	78.0	77.8	77.1
Sows and Boars	151.3	153.9	152.0

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	May 2012 4 weeks	June 2012 4 weeks	July 2012 5 weeks
Beef	69	64	81
Mutton and Lamb	19	19	26
Pigmeat	62	61	78

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						
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Steers	17	19	22	21	20	17	18	19	20	20	19	17	17
Heifers	13	14	15	15	16	14	15	16	15	14	14	12	12
Young Bulls	7	6	6	5	5	4	4	5	5	5	6	7	7
Cows and Adult Bulls	11	12	13	15	16	11	12	11	10	10	11	11	12
Calves	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1
Other Sheep and Lambs	260	279	291	312	284	252	195	196	204	189	191	195	227
Ewes and Rams	39	40	40	45	43	39	34	35	33	31	31	31	35
Clean Pigs	187	190	199	199	207	186	188	192	193	187	189	185	193
Sows and Boars	*	*	*	*	*	*	5	5	5	5	5	5	5

* Data are confidential

Chart 4:1 United Kingdom average weekly slaughtering – Cattle

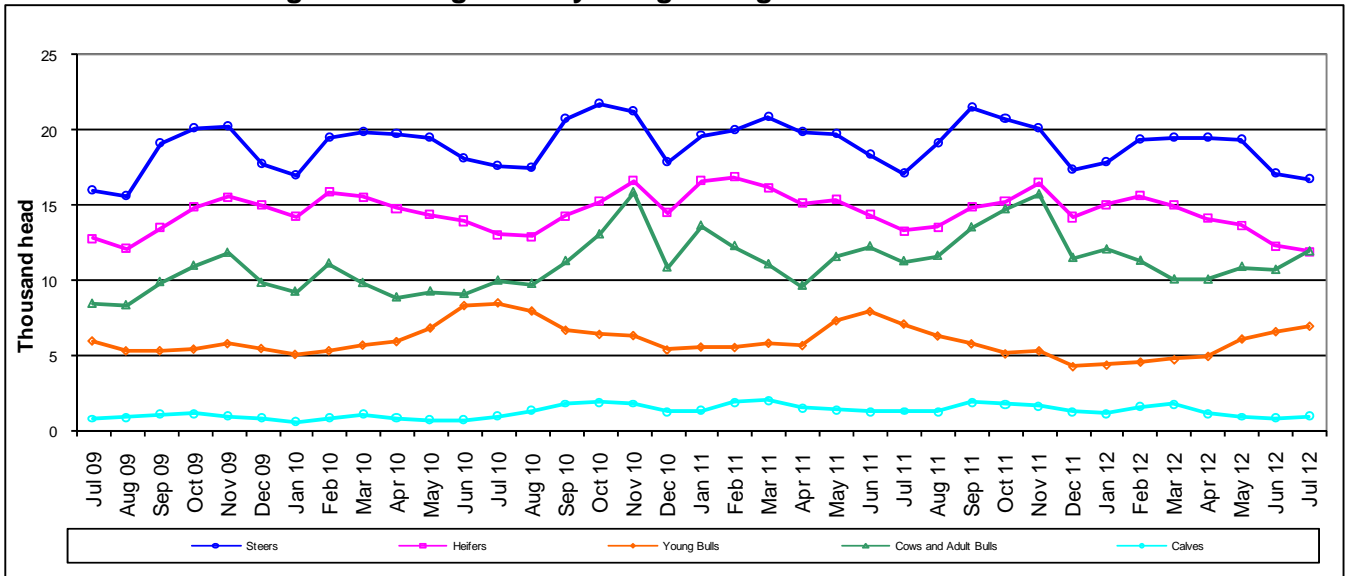


Chart 4:2 United Kingdom average weekly slaughtering – Sheep

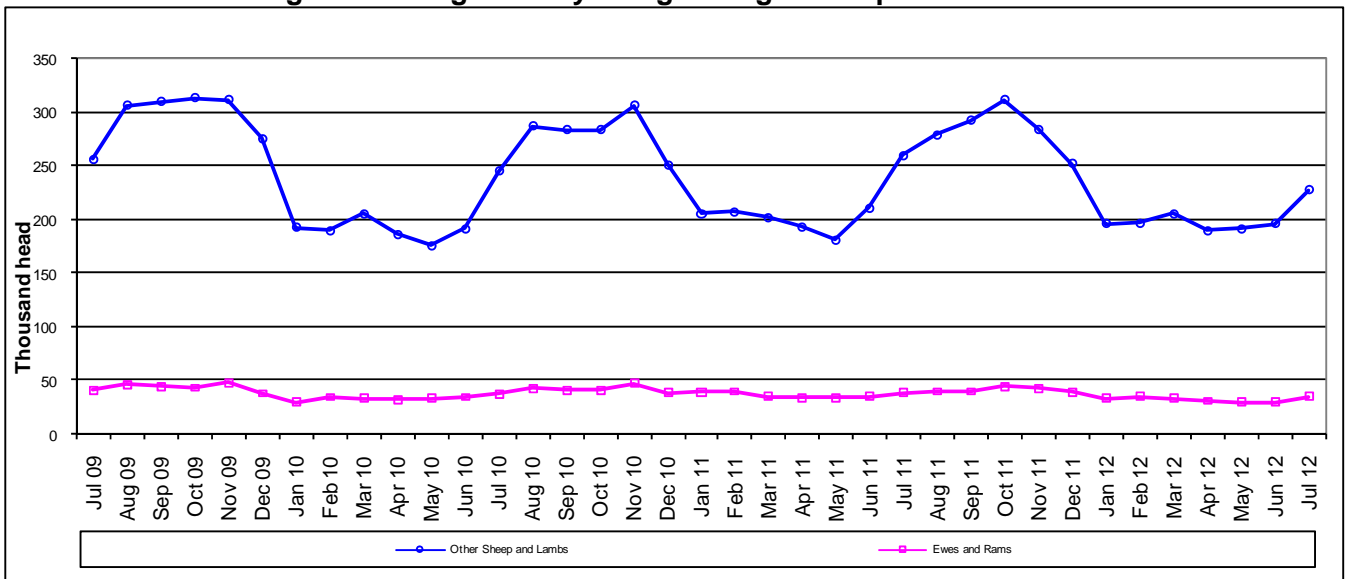
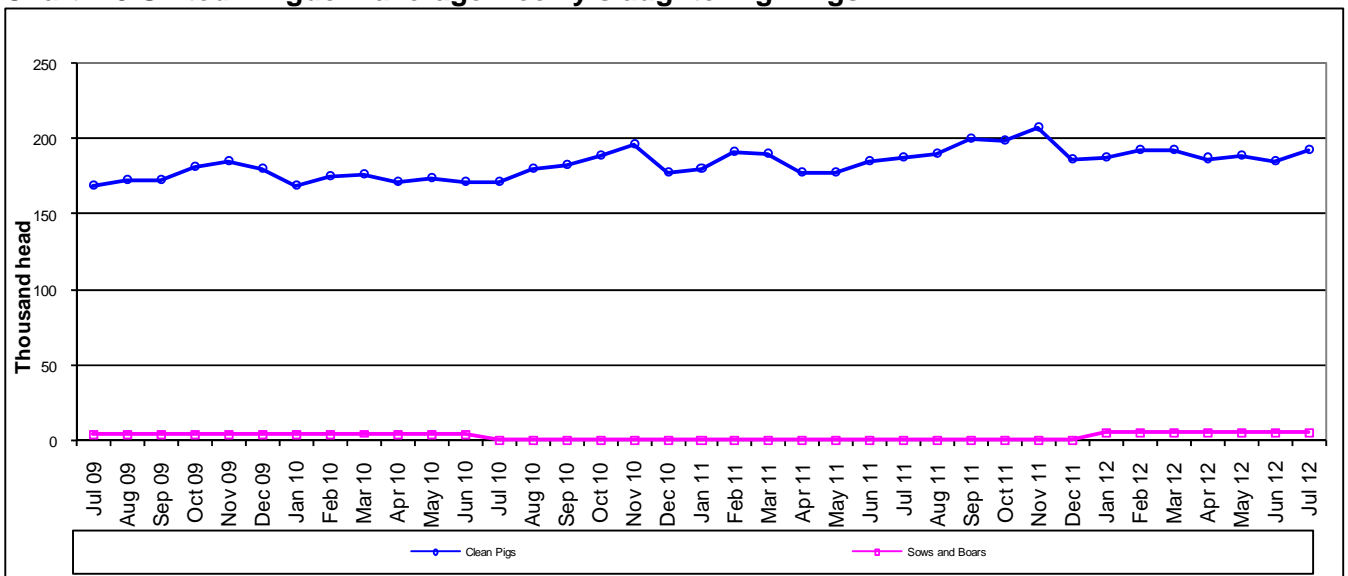


Chart 4:3 United Kingdom average weekly slaughtering - Pigs



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

	May 2012 4 weeks	June 2012 4 weeks	July 2012 5 weeks
England & Wales			
Steers	47	42	51
Heifers	34	31	37
Young Bulls	16	17	23
Cows and Adult Bulls	32	31	43
Calves	3	3	4
Other Sheep and Lambs	681	667	967
Ewes and Rams	118	119	169
Clean Pigs	583	573	750
Sows and Boars	19	19	26
Scotland			
Steers	18	16	19
Heifers	12	11	13
Young Bulls	3	4	5
Cows and Adult Bulls	5	5	7
Calves	0	0	0
Other Sheep and Lambs	60	84	126
Ewes and Rams	2	2	3
Clean Pigs	48	49	61
Sows and Boars	0	0	0
Great Britain			
Steers	65	58	70
Heifers	46	42	50
Young Bulls	20	22	29
Cows and Adult Bulls	37	36	49
Calves	3	3	4
Other Sheep and Lambs	741	752	1092
Ewes and Rams	119	121	172
Clean Pigs	631	621	811
Sows and Boars	19	19	26
Northern Ireland			
Steers	12	10	13
Heifers	9	7	9
Young Bulls	5	5	6
Cows and Adult Bulls	7	7	10
Calves	0	0	1
Other Sheep and Lambs	23	30	41
Ewes and Rams	3	2	4
Clean Pigs	123	120	153
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 March 2012 onwards.**