

UK SLAUGHTER STATISTICS

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

This monthly notice will be updated at 09:30 on 23 February 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 **December 2011** are given below:

- ***Cattle:** UK prime cattle slaughterings for December 2011 were 146 thousand head with beef and veal production at 65 thousand tonnes.
- ***Sheep:** UK clean sheep slaughterings were 1016 thousand head for December 2011 with mutton and lamb production at 23 thousand tonnes.
- ***Pigs:** UK clean pig slaughterings for December 2011 were 747 thousand head with pigmeat production at 61 thousand tonnes.

* **December 2011 is a 4 week statistical month and therefore data are not comparable with December 2010 as this was a 5 week statistical month.**

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	October 2011 5 weeks	November 2011 4 weeks	December 2011 4 weeks
Steers	104	81	70
Heifers	76	66	58
Young Bulls	26	21	17
Cows and Adult Bulls	73	63	47
Calves	9	7	5
Other Sheep and Lambs	1560	1136	1016
Ewes and Rams	224	171	157
Clean Pigs	994	829	747
Sows and Boars	*	*	*

* 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	October 2011	November 2011	December 2011
Steers	359.0	359.5	364.2
Heifers	314.0	316.6	319.7
Young Bulls	344.1	347.4	348.3
Cows and Adult Bulls	310.7	310.4	311.1
Calves	45.5	49.3	50.3
Other Sheep and Lambs	18.9	19.2	18.8
Ewes and Rams	25.7	25.0	24.7
Clean Pigs	78.2	78.8	78.1
Sows and Boars	154.8	144.1	151.2

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	October 2011 5 weeks	November 2011 4 weeks	December 2011 4 weeks
Beef	93	77	65
Mutton and Lamb	35	26	23
Pigmeat	82	68	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	2010 2011												
	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Steers	18	20	20	21	20	20	18	17	19	22	21	20	18
Heifers	14	17	17	16	15	15	14	13	14	15	15	16	14
Young Bulls	5	6	6	6	6	7	8	7	6	6	5	5	4
Cows and Adult Bulls	11	14	12	11	10	12	12	11	12	13	15	16	12
Calves	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	1
Other Sheep and Lambs	250	205	207	201	192	180	211	260	279	291	312	284	254
Ewes and Rams	39	39	40	35	34	34	35	39	40	40	45	43	39
Clean Pigs	178	180	191	189	177	178	185	187	190	199	199	207	187
Sows and Boars	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

* Data are confidential

Chart 4:1 United Kingdom average weekly slaughtering – Cattle

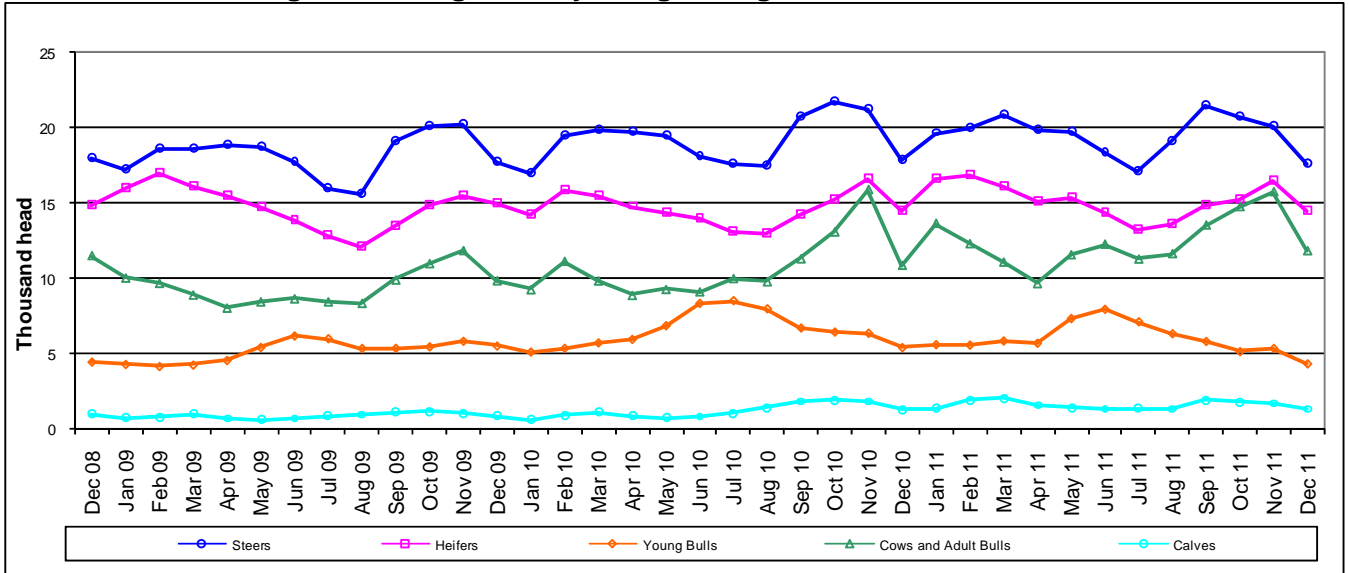


Chart 4:2 United Kingdom average weekly slaughtering – Sheep

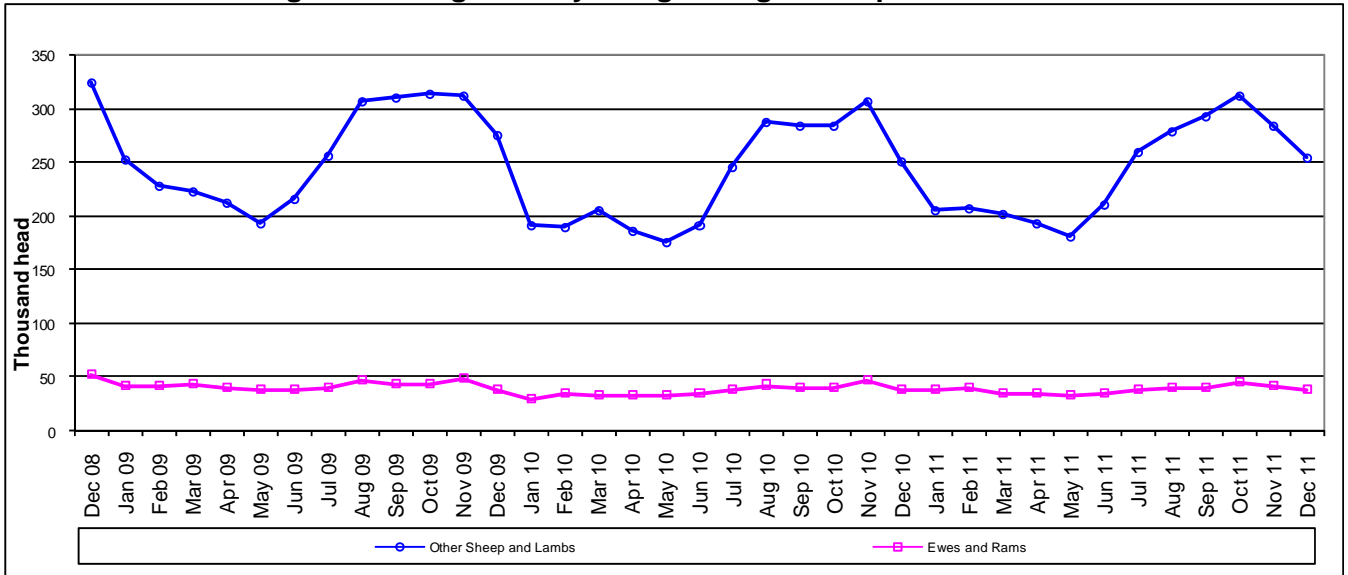
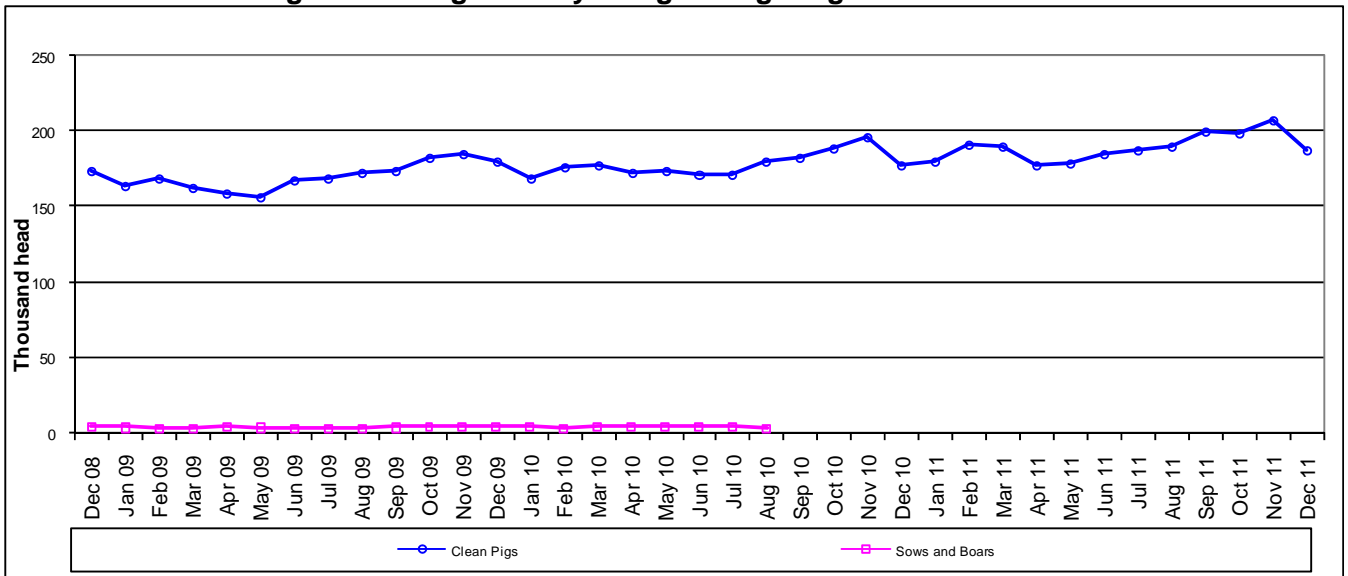


Chart 4:3 United Kingdom average weekly slaughtering - Pigs



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

	October 2011 5 weeks	November 2011 4 weeks	December 2011 4 weeks
England & Wales			
Steers	61	50	43
Heifers	45	39	33
Young Bulls	18	15	12
Cows and Adult Bulls	53	48	35
Calves	8	6	5
Other Sheep and Lambs	1336	964	873
Ewes and Rams	216	165	152
Clean Pigs	768	639	577
Sows and Boars	*	*	*
Scotland			
Steers	22	18	16
Heifers	20	16	16
Young Bulls	2	2	2
Cows and Adult Bulls	8	6	5
Calves	0	0	0
Other Sheep and Lambs	191	147	119
Ewes and Rams	3	3	2
Clean Pigs	68	59	56
Sows and Boars	0	0	0
Great Britain			
Steers	84	68	59
Heifers	65	56	49
Young Bulls	21	17	14
Cows and Adult Bulls	61	54	40
Calves	8	6	5
Other Sheep and Lambs	1526	1111	992
Ewes and Rams	220	167	154
Clean Pigs	836	697	633
Sows and Boars	*	*	*
Northern Ireland			
Steers	20	13	11
Heifers	11	10	9
Young Bulls	5	4	4
Cows and Adult Bulls	12	9	8
Calves	1	1	0
Other Sheep and Lambs	34	25	24
Ewes and Rams	5	4	2
Clean Pigs	159	131	113
Sows and Boars	0	0	0

* Data are confidential

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 November 2011 onwards.**