

UK SLAUGHTER STATISTICS

The latest National Statistics produced by Defra on UK slaughterings of cattle, sheep and pigs were released on 18 October 2012 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

This monthly notice will be updated at 09:30 on 22 November 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 **September 2012** are given below:

- **Cattle:** UK prime cattle slaughterings were 8.0 per cent lower than in September 2011 at 155 thousand head. Beef and veal production was 71 thousand tonnes, 5.8 per cent lower than in September 2011.
- **Sheep:** UK clean sheep slaughterings were 11 per cent lower than in September 2011 at 1038 thousand head. Mutton and lamb production was 23 thousand tonnes, 11 per cent lower than in September 2011.
- **Pigs:** UK clean pig slaughterings were 1.6 per cent lower than in September 2011 at 785 thousand head. Pigmeat production was 65 thousand tonnes, 2.5 per cent lower than in September 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	July 2012 5 weeks	August 2012 4 weeks	September 2012 4 weeks
Steers	84	70	82
Heifers	60	48	50
Young Bulls	35	25	23
Cows and Adult Bulls	61	46	54
Calves	4	6	8
Other Sheep and Lambs	1149	1053	1038
Ewes and Rams	176	150	148
Clean Pigs	958	781	785
Sows and Boars	26	21	24

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	July 2012	August 2012	September 2012
Steers	369.7	366.7	366.0
Heifers	320.3	318.2	317.6
Young Bulls	348.5	350.3	345.6
Cows and Adult Bulls	312.2	305.2	303.9
Calves	53.9	47.3	51.1
Other Sheep and Lambs	18.5	18.7	18.6
Ewes and Rams	27.1	26.3	26.3
Clean Pigs	77.1	77.7	77.8
Sows and Boars	151.9	150.0	145.8

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	July 2012	August 2012	September 2012
	5 weeks	4 weeks	4 weeks
Beef	82	64	71
Mutton and Lamb	26	24	23
Pigmeat	78	64	65

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								
	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Steers	22	21	20	17	18	19	20	20	19	17	17	17	21
Heifers	15	15	16	14	15	16	15	14	14	12	12	12	13
Young Bulls	6	5	5	4	4	5	5	5	6	7	7	6	6
Cows and Adult Bulls	13	15	16	11	12	11	10	10	11	11	12	12	13
Calves	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	2
Other Sheep and Lambs	291	312	284	252	195	196	204	189	191	196	230	263	259
Ewes and Rams	40	45	43	39	34	35	33	31	31	31	35	38	37
Clean Pigs	199	199	207	186	188	192	193	187	189	185	192	195	196
Sows and Boars	*	*	*	*	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	6

* Data are confidential

Chart 4:1 United Kingdom average weekly slaughtering – Cattle

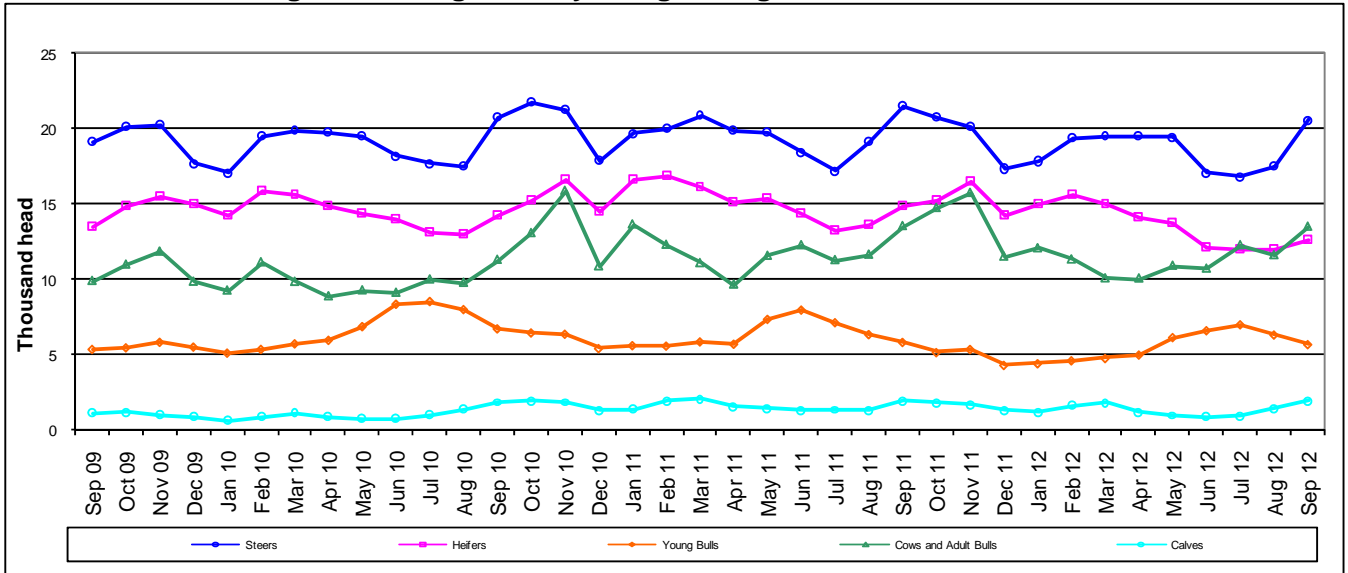


Chart 4:2 United Kingdom average weekly slaughtering – Sheep

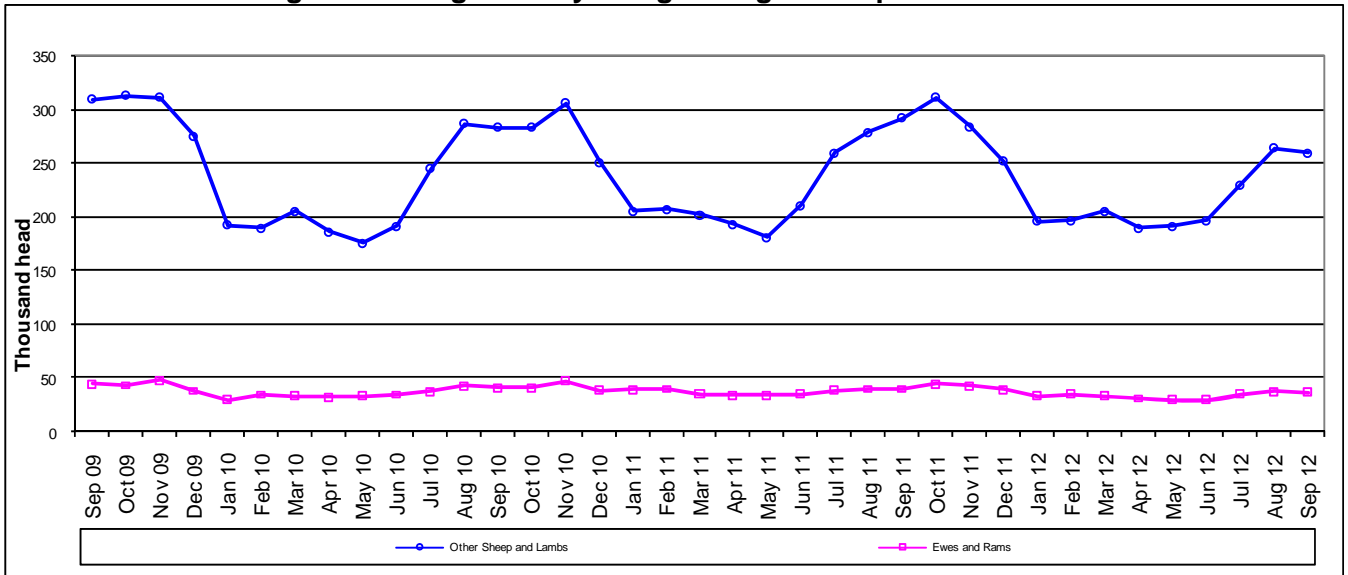
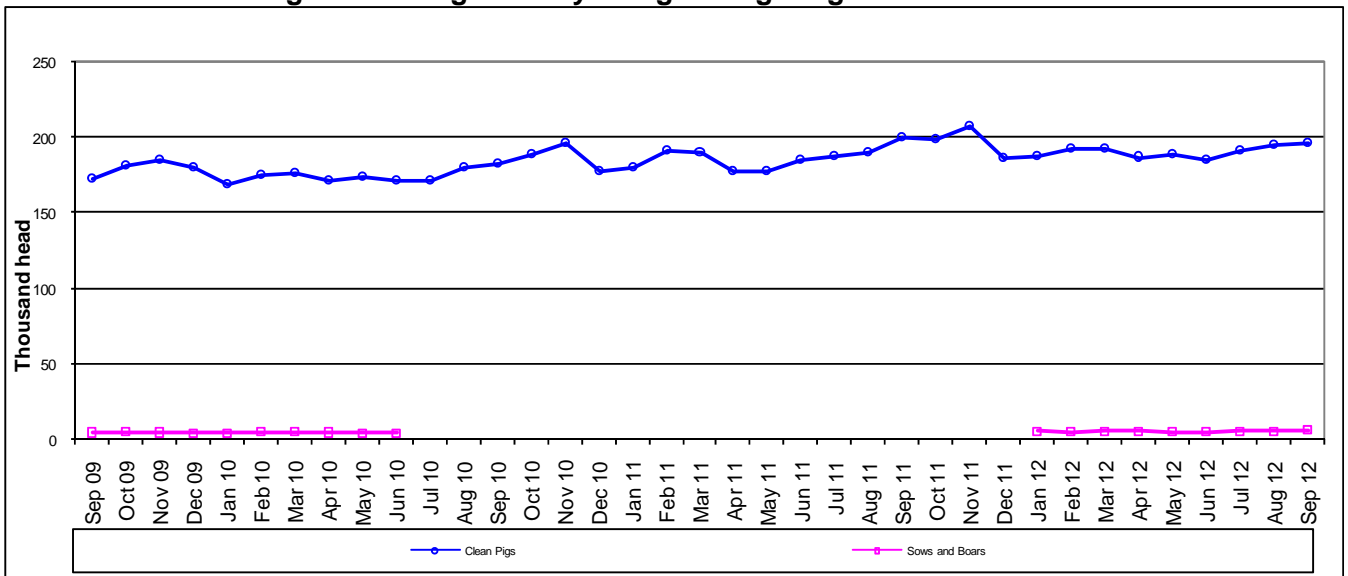


Chart 4:3 United Kingdom average weekly slaughtering - Pigs



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

	July 2012 5 weeks	August 2012 4 weeks	September 2012 4 weeks
England & Wales			
Steers	52	41	44
Heifers	38	29	30
Young Bulls	23	17	16
Cows and Adult Bulls	44	33	38
Calves	4	5	7
Other Sheep and Lambs	982	892	870
Ewes and Rams	169	145	142
Clean Pigs	744	600	608
Sows and Boars	26	21	24
Scotland			
Steers	19	15	23
Heifers	13	10	11
Young Bulls	5	4	2
Cows and Adult Bulls	7	5	6
Calves	0	0	0
Other Sheep and Lambs	126	116	123
Ewes and Rams	2	2	2
Clean Pigs	61	52	49
Sows and Boars	0	0	0
Great Britain			
Steers	71	57	67
Heifers	51	40	42
Young Bulls	29	20	18
Cows and Adult Bulls	51	38	44
Calves	4	5	7
Other Sheep and Lambs	1107	1008	993
Ewes and Rams	172	147	144
Clean Pigs	805	652	657
Sows and Boars	26	21	24
Northern Ireland			
Steers	13	13	15
Heifers	9	8	9
Young Bulls	6	5	4
Cows and Adult Bulls	10	8	10
Calves	0	0	0
Other Sheep and Lambs	41	45	44
Ewes and Rams	4	3	4
Clean Pigs	153	129	128
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 July 2012 onwards.**