The UK sheep yearbook 2019

BEEF & LAMB

Contents

Chapter 1 – Introduction

Some of the statistics in the latest edition of the UK sheep yearbook underplay the fact that, despite high prices early in the year, 2018 was a challenging year for many of the nation's sheep farmers. The weather had the biggest role to play, against a backdrop of continued political uncertainty.

The Beast from the East hit lamb flocks hard in the spring and, unfortunately, both ewes and many lambs were lost. Imports from New Zealand were lower than a year earlier and the tight supply situation drove prices to record highs. The GB deadweight SQQ price topped £6/kg in April. These high prices also served to reduce the competitiveness of UK sheep meat on the continent.

The market returned to balance in the autumn, despite the smaller lamb crop, and prices returned to slightly above the five-year average for the rest of the year. The summer's weather, however, was unrelenting and drought affected grazing in large areas of the country. This raised concerns about the availability of forage for the winter and the rising cost of buying in feed. Feed demand and prices both increased, affecting costs and cash flows. Ewe and ewe lamb slaughter picked up as farmers were forced to rationalise their flocks. Some ewes put to the tup in autumn were in less than ideal condition, potentially limiting the recovery in the lamb crop in 2019. The effects of the weather will continue to be felt in the coming years, through a smaller breeding flock and lower domestic sheep meat production.

Sterling continued to remain weak, but with lower domestic production, exports suffered, falling by 7.3%. Imports also fell compared with the year before, by 3.3%, as New Zealand turned more of its attention to Asia. Including stock changes, supplies of sheep meat available for consumption fell slightly, to approximately 293 thousand tonnes.

The content of ***The UK sheep yearbook*** provides an overview of the facts and figures from the sheep meat sector during 2018. We hope that it serves as a useful reference guide for industry and other interested stakeholders.

Chapter 2 – Marketing chain

Table 2.1 Lamb and mutton balance sheet, UK, 2018

	2018 ('000 tonnes)	Change on year (%)
Production	288.6	-3.6
Fresh/frozen imports	90.5	-3.5
Processed imports	1.3	12.5
Total imports	91.9	-3.3
Exports	87.3	-7.3
Total consumption	**293.2**	**-2.3**

Total consumption is a balance calculation based upon total supplies available for consumption, i.e. production + imports - exports

All data has been converted to carcase weight equivalent

Source: AHDB, Defra, IHS Maritime & Trade – Global Trade Atlas®/HMRC

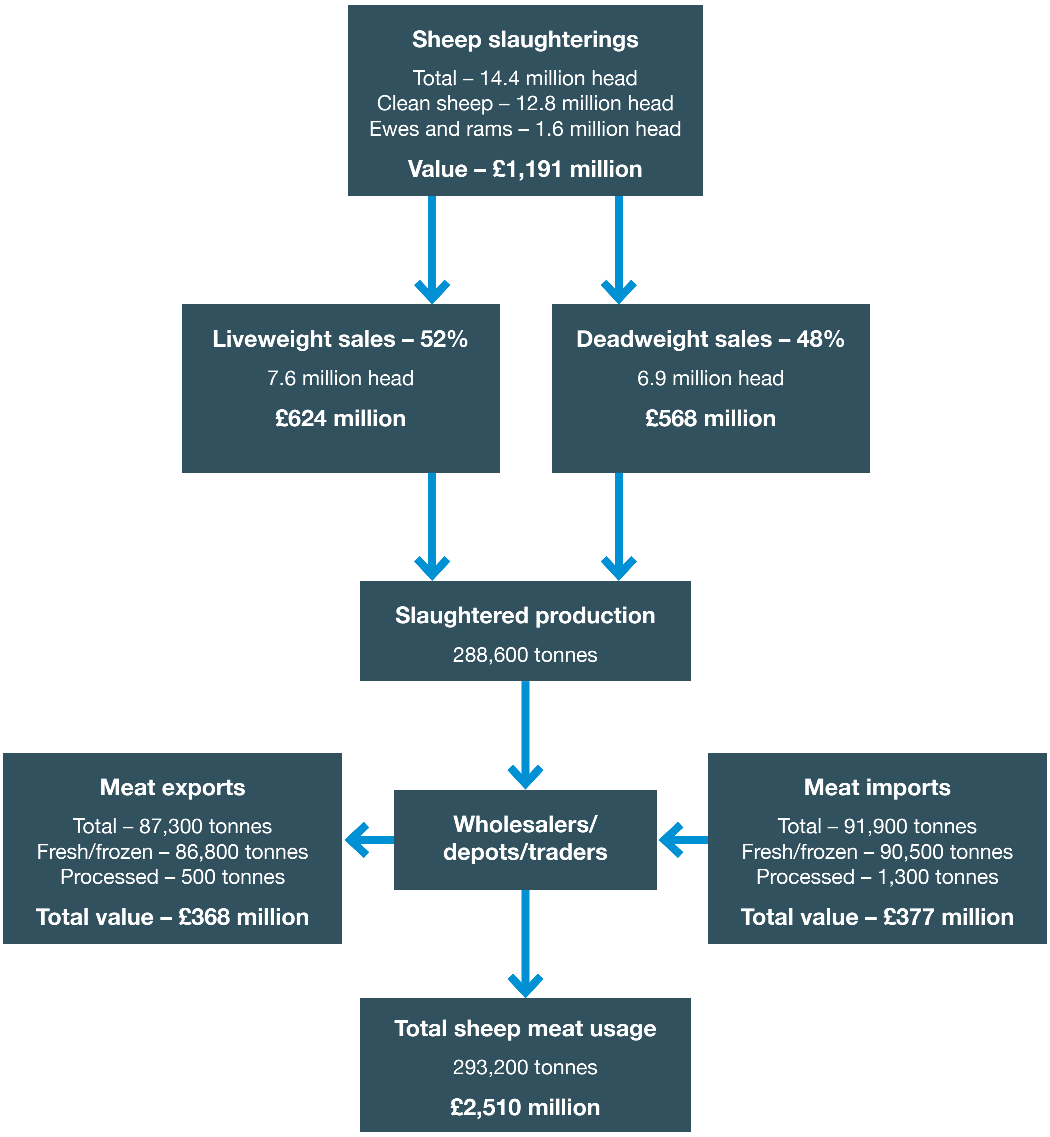

Figure 2.1 UK product flows in the sheep marketing chain, 2018

Liveweight and deadweight percentage splits are estimated using GB data
Totals may not add up due to rounding
All data has been converted to carcase weight equivalent

Source: AHDB, Defra, IHS Maritime & Trade – Global Trade Atlas®/HMRC

Chapter 3 – Livestock numbers

Table 3.1 Sheep numbers by region, UK, June 2018

	2018 ('000 head)	Change on year (%)
England		
Breeding ewes	7,383	0.0
Other sheep & rams	8,268	-1.2
Total sheep & lambs	**15,651**	**-0.7**
Wales		
Breeding ewes	4,758	-4.1
Other sheep & rams	4,772	-5.9
Total sheep & lambs	**9,531**	**-5.0**
Scotland		
Breeding ewes	3,188	-4.8
Other sheep & rams	3,405	-6.4
Total sheep & lambs	**6,593**	**-5.6**
Northern Ireland		
Breeding ewes	957	-1.7
Other sheep & rams	1,049	-2.7
Total sheep & lambs	**2,006**	**-2.3**
UK		
Breeding ewes	16,286	-2.3
Other sheep & rams	17,495	-3.7
Total sheep & lambs	**33,781**	**-3.0**

Historical data available on **www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/structure-of-the-livestock-industry-in-england-at-december**

Source: Defra

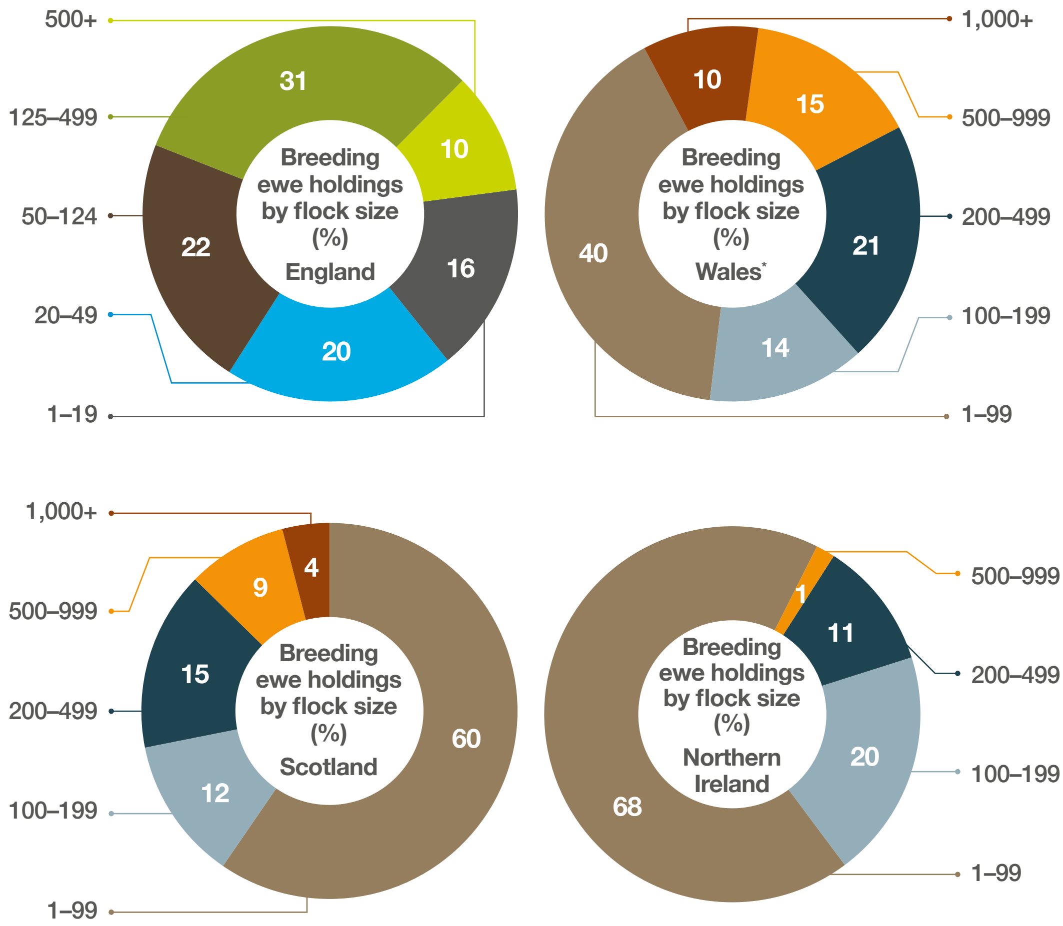

Figure 3.1 Breeding ewe holdings by flock size and region, UK, June 2017

*Data shown is for 2016

Totals may not add up due to rounding

Source: Defra, Daera, Scottish Government, Welsh Government

Chapter 4 – Slaughterings and production

Table 4.1 Red meat production, UK, 2018

	2018 ('000 tonnes)	Change on year (%)
Beef and veal	922.5	2.0
Lamb and mutton	288.6	-3.6
Pig meat	926.6	2.7
Total red meat[a]	**2,137.7**	**1.5**

a = excludes offal

Historical data available on **www.gov.uk/government/statistics/cattle-sheep-and-pig-slaughter**

Source: Defra

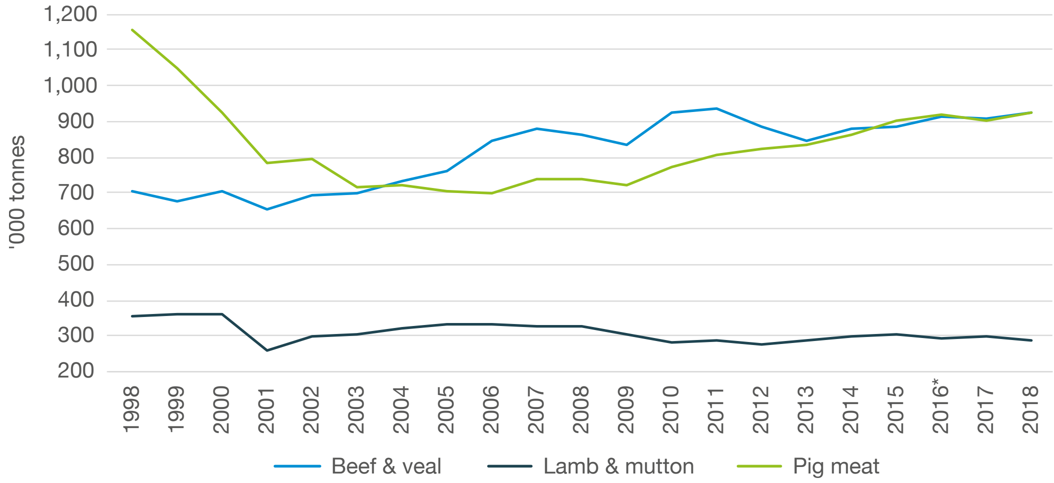

Figure 4.1 Trends in red meat production, UK, 1998–2018

*Defra changed to calendar months from February 2016

Historical data available on **www.gov.uk/government/statistics/cattle-sheep-and-pig-slaughter**

Source: Defra

Table 4.2 Sheep slaughtering by region, UK, 2018

	Slaughterings ('000 head)			
	England & Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	UK
Lambs & clean sheep	11,325	1,098	394	12,817
Ewes & rams	1,554	22	25	1,601
Total sheep	**12,879**	**1,120**	**419**	**14,418**

Historical data available on **www.gov.uk/government/statistics/cattle-sheep-and-pig-slaughter**

Source: Defra

Table 4.3 Sheep average carcase weights, UK, 2018

	2018 (kg dw)	Change on year (%)
Sheep & lambs	19.3	-0.2
Ewes & rams	25.5	-3.7

Historical data available on **www.gov.uk/government/statistics/cattle-sheep-and-pig-slaughter**

Source: Defra

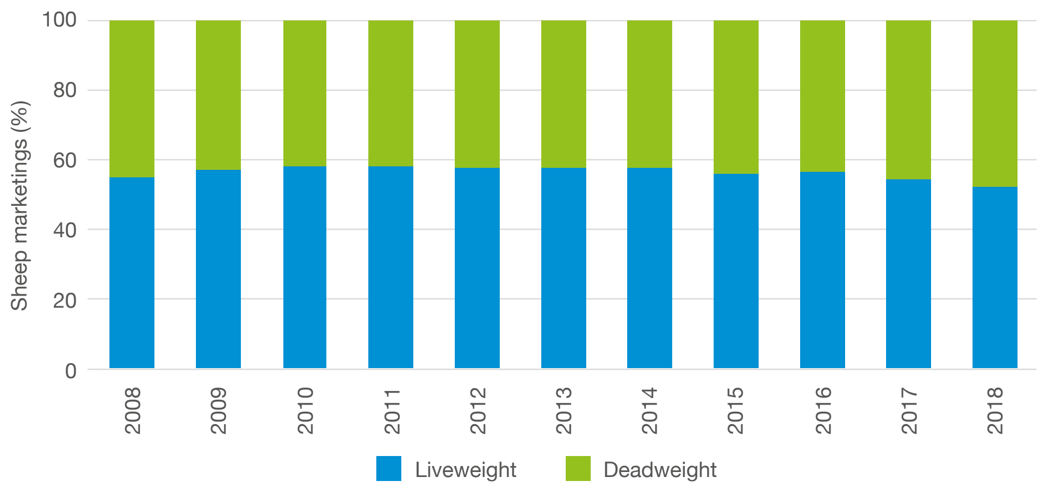

Figure 4.2 Liveweight/deadweight sheep marketings, GB, 2008–2018

Chapter 5 – Livestock and meat prices

Table 5.1 Deadweight prime sheep prices, GB, 2018

	2018 (p/kg dw)	Change on year (%)
SQQ R3L	445.1	6.6
SQQ overall	444.1	6.8

SQQ = standard quality quotation for lambs 12–21.5 kg
Old-season lambs reported to third Monday in May, new season thereafter

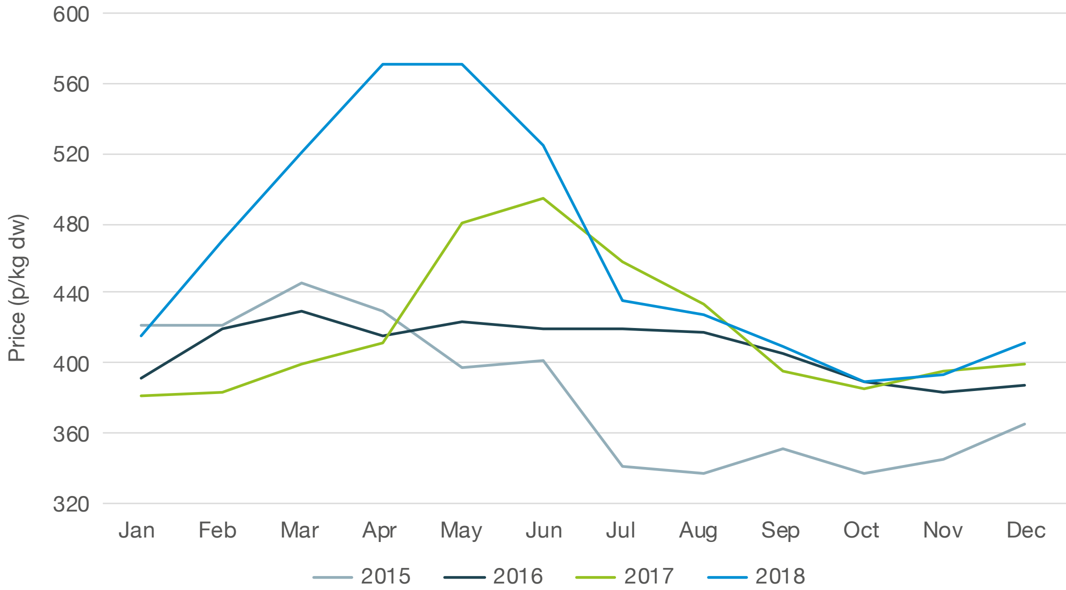

Figure 5.1 Seasonality of deadweight prime sheep prices, GB, 2015–2018
Based on GB monthly deadweight prices for standard quality quotation lambs
Old-season lambs reported to third Monday in May, new season thereafter

Table 5.2 Liveweight finished prime sheep prices, GB, 2018

	2018	Change on year (%)
Lamb SQQ (p/kg)[a]	199.0	6.8
Ewes (£ per head)	60.40	2.4

SQQ = standard quality quotation for lambs 12–21.5 kg
a = old-season lambs reported to third Monday in May, new season thereafter
Source: AHDB, LAA, IAAS

Table 5.3 Store lamb prices, England & Wales, 2018

	2018 (£ per head)	Change on year (%)
New-season lambs	54.68	2.3
Old-season lambs	63.07	16.5

Source: AHDB, LAA

Chapter 6 – Carcase classification

Table 6.1 Distribution of prime sheep carcases by conformation and fat class, GB, 2018

%		Fat class							
		1	2	3L	3H	4L	4H	5	**Total**
Conformation	E	0.0	1.0	3.5	1.6	0.4	0.1	0.0	**6.6**
	U	0.1	2.8	13.9	7.3	1.7	0.3	0.1	**26.2**
	R	0.5	8.2	28.3	13.2	2.7	0.4	0.1	**53.4**
	O	0.6	3.6	7.0	2.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	**13.5**
	P	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	**0.2**
	Total	**1.2**	**15.8**	**52.9**	**24.3**	**5.0**	**0.8**	**0.2**	

Includes both new- and old-season lambs
Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding
Source: AHDB, MLCSL

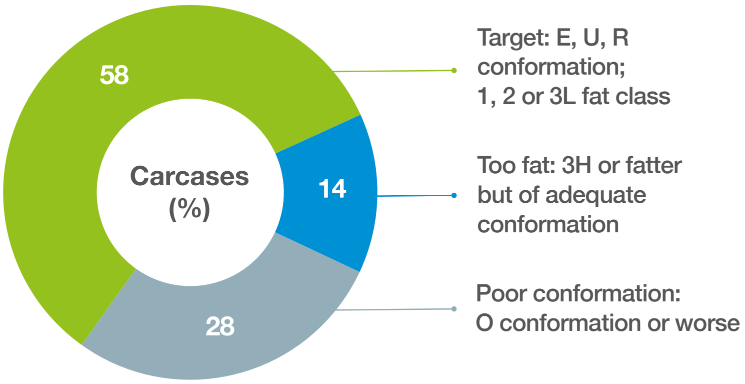

Figure 6.1 Prime sheep carcases meeting target specification, GB, 2018
Source: AHDB, MLCSL

Chapter 7 – Abattoirs

Table 7.1 Red meat abattoirs by type, England, 2018

	2018	Change on year (%)
Number of abattoirs killing cattle	148	-3.9
Number of abattoirs killing sheep	149	-0.7
Number of abattoirs killing pigs	115	2.7
Total number of abattoirs	**179**	**-2.7**

Table 7.2 Size profile of abattoirs slaughtering sheep, England, 2018

Size group (head)	Number of abattoirs	Total throughput (head)	Share of throughput (%)
1–1,000	35	14,045	0.1
1,001–5,000	39	82,385	0.8
5,001–10,000	18	139,329	1.4
10,001–20,000	10	152,245	1.5
20,001–30,000	8	191,200	1.9
30,001–50,000	6	213,261	2.1
50,001–100,000	11	789,790	7.9
>100,000	22	8,376,933	84.1
Total	**149**	**9,959,188**	**100.0**

Chapter 8 – Auction markets

Table 8.1 Auction market centres by region, GB, 2018

England	Wales	Scotland	GB
76	26	26	128

Data relates to markets reporting cattle and sheep to AHDB

Source: AHDB, LAA, IAAS

Table 8.2 Auction market throughputs by region, GB, 2018

	England	Wales	Scotland	GB
New-season lambs	2,014,593	686,208	404,564	3,105,365
Old-season lambs	1,510,196	352,985	405,787	2,268,968
Cull ewes	1,283,344	395,608	275,602	1,954,554

Data relates to finished markets only

Source: AHDB, LAA, IAAS

Table 8.3 Auction market sheep sales by region, GB, 2018

England	Wales	Scotland	GB
3,368	1,203	661	5,232

Data relates to finished markets only

Source: AHDB, LAA, IAAS

Table 8.4 Sheep auction markets by size, GB, 2018

Size group (head)	Auction market centres (number)	Total marketings (head)	Share of throughput (%)
1–20,000	23	191,141	2.6
20,001–40,000	21	587,694	8.0
40,001–60,000	18	832,555	11.4
60,001–80,000	12	797,993	10.9
80,001–100,000	10	893,084	12.2
>100,000	24	4,026,420	54.9
Total	**108**	**7,328,887**	**100.0**

Data relates to finished markets only

Source: AHDB, LAA, IAAS

Chapter 9 – Imports and exports

Table 9.1 Volume and value of sheep meat imports, UK, 2018

	2018	Change on year (%)
Fresh/frozen		
Volume ('000 tonnes)	77.5	-3.5
Value (£ million)	373.5	0.9
Offal		
Volume ('000 tonnes)	8.7	15.1
Value (£ million)	14.2	29.1

Volumes are shipped product weight. Data as at April 2019

Source: IHS Maritime & Trade – Global Trade Atlas®/HMRC

Table 9.2 Imports of fresh/frozen sheep meat by source, UK, 2018

	2018 ('000 tonnes)	Change on year (%)
Fresh/frozen		
Carcases	3.3	7.7
Bone-in cuts	48.0	-3.9
Boneless cuts	26.1	-3.9
Frozen	46.1	0.0
Fresh/chilled	31.3	-8.1
Total	**77.5**	**-3.5**
EU-28		
Irish Republic	7.4	-22.2
Netherlands	3.4	33.3
Spain	1.4	8.2
France	1.1	114.6
Total	**14.7**	**0.2**
Non-EU		
New Zealand	50.9	-2.1
Australia	9.7	-13.4
Total	**62.7**	**-4.3**

Volumes are shipped product weight. Data as at April 2019

Source: IHS Maritime & Trade – Global Trade Atlas®/HMRC

Table 9.3 Imports of sheep offal by source, UK, 2018

	2018 ('000 tonnes)	Change on year (%)
New Zealand	6.0	2.3
Total	**8.7**	**15.1**

Volumes are shipped product weight. Data as at April 2019

Source: IHS Maritime & Trade – Global Trade Atlas®/HMRC

Figure 9.1 Imports of sheep meat by product, UK, 2018

Volumes are shipped product weight. Data as at April 2019

Source: IHS Maritime & Trade – Global Trade Atlas®/HMRC

Table 9.4 Volume and value of sheep meat exports, UK, 2018

	2018	Change on year (%)
	Fresh/frozen	
Volume ('000 tonnes)	83.2	-7.4
Value (£ million)	367.6	-4.6
	Offal	
Volume ('000 tonnes)	5.2	-8.2
Value (£ million)	8.9	-5.9

Volumes are shipped product weight. Data as at April 2019

Source: IHS Maritime & Trade – Global Trade Atlas®/HMRC

Table 9.5 Exports of fresh/frozen sheep meat by destination, UK, 2018

	2018 ('000 tonnes)	Change on year (%)
	Fresh/frozen	
Bone-in carcases	52.5	-6.2
Boneless cuts	30.6	-9.3
Frozen	9.3	-21.0
Fresh/chilled	73.9	-5.4
Total	**83.2**	**-7.4**
	EU-28	
France	35.6	-12.9
Germany	15.2	8.2
Ireland	9.3	1.4
Belgium	7.7	0.0
Netherlands	5.1	-4.2
Total	**79.1**	**-6.3**
	Non-EU	
Hong Kong	2.7	-27.5
Ghana	0.4	-26.4
Total	**4.1**	**25.4**

Volumes are shipped product weight. Data as at April 2019

Source: IHS Maritime & Trade – Global Trade Atlas®/HMRC

Table 9.6 Exports of sheep offal by destination, UK, 2018

	2018	Change on year (%)
	EU-28	
Volume ('000 tonnes)	3.6	17.2
Value (£ million)	5.8	33.8
	Non-EU	
Volume ('000 tonnes)	1.6	-38.0
Value (£ million)	3.1	-39.3
	Total	
Volume ('000 tonnes)	5.2	-8.2
Value (£ million)	8.9	-5.9

Volumes are shipped product weight. Data as at April 2019

Source: IHS Maritime & Trade – Global Trade Atlas®/HMRC

Chapter 10 – Consumption

Table 10.1 Meat consumption, UK, 2018

	2018 ('000 tonnes)	Change on year (%)
Beef and veal	1,228	1.7
Lamb and mutton	293	-2.3
Pig meat	1,726	0.5
Poultry	2,447	2.2
Total meat	**5,694**	**1.3**

Consumption is a balance calculation based upon total supplies available for consumption, i.e. production + imports - exports

Source: AHDB. Calculations based on data from Defra, IHS Maritime & Trade – Global Trade Atlas®/HMRC

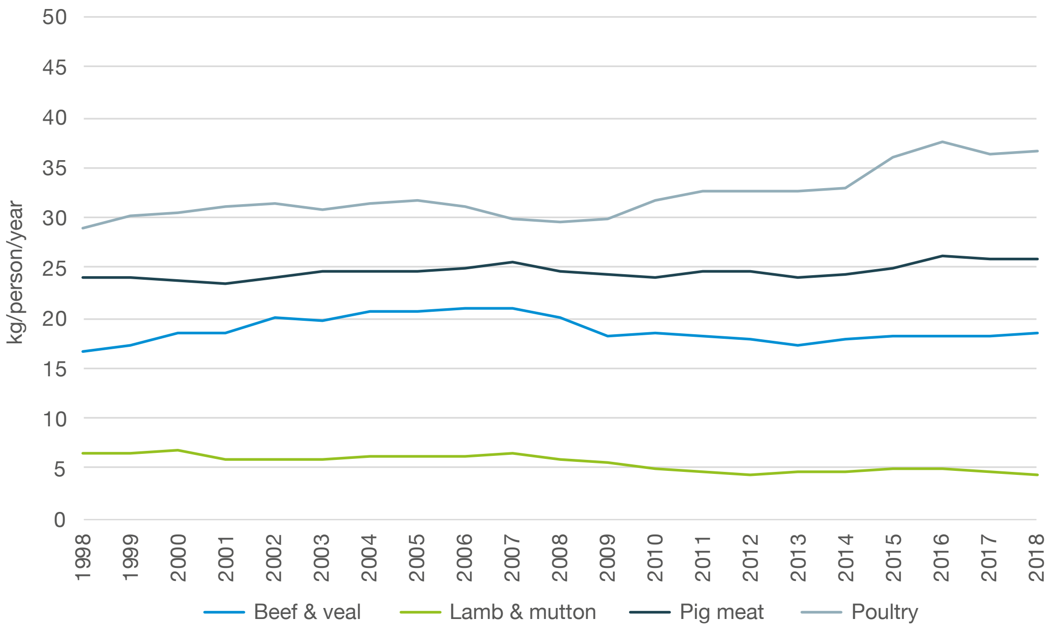

Figure 10.1 Trends in per capita meat consumption, UK, 1998–2018

Per capita consumption is a calculation based upon total supplies available for consumption, i.e. production + imports - exports divided by the mid-year population estimate

All data has been converted to carcase weight equivalent

Source: AHDB. Calculations based on data from Defra, IHS Maritime & Trade – Global Trade Atlas®/HMRC, Office for National Statistics

Table 10.2 Self-sufficiency rates, UK, 2018

	2018 (%)	Change on year*
Beef and veal	75.1	0.2
Lamb and mutton	98.5	-1.3
Pig meat	53.7	1.1
Poultry	77.7	2.0
Total meat	**70.9**	**1.2**

*Change in percentage points

Self-sufficiency (%) = production/consumption (where consumption is production + imports - exports)

Source: AHDB. Calculations based on data from Defra, IHS Maritime & Trade – Global Trade Atlas®/HMRC

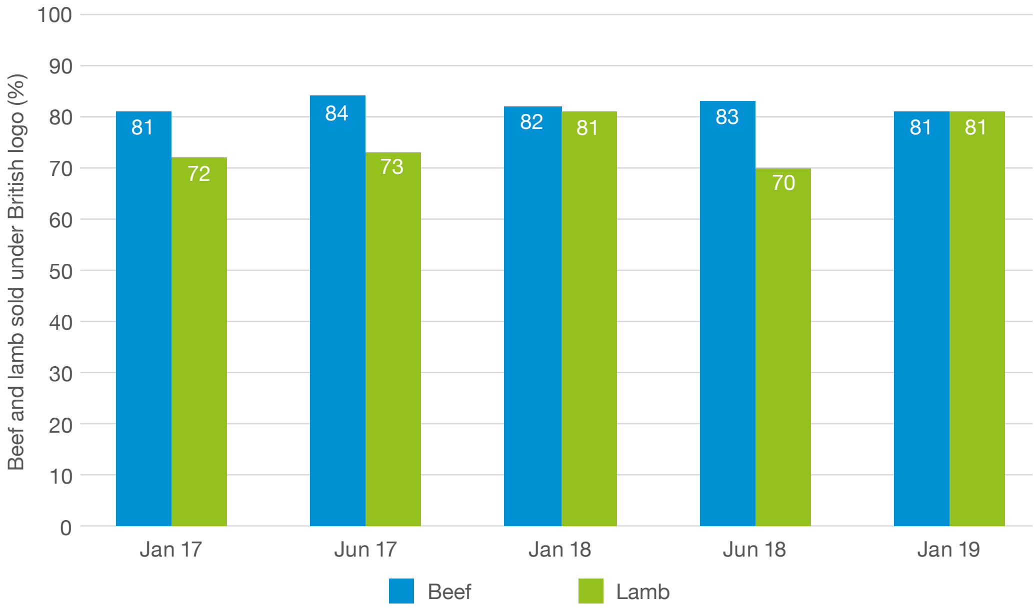

Figure 10.2 Percentage of beef and lamb sold under British logo, GB, 2017–2019

Source: ESA

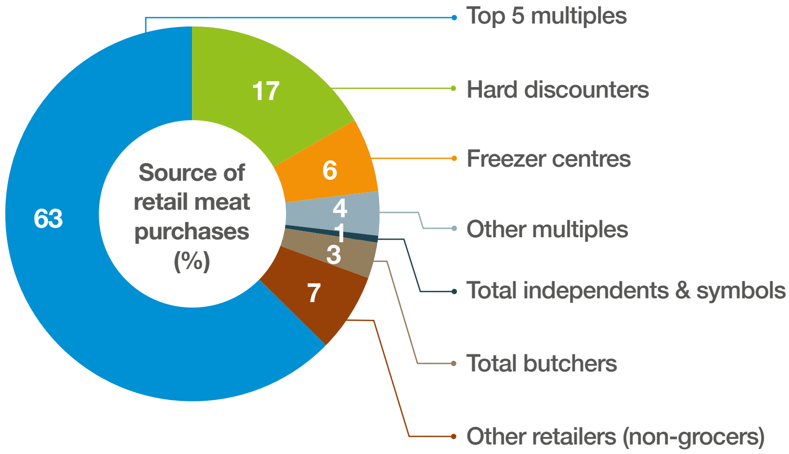

Figure 10.3 Source of retail meat purchases by volume, GB, 2018

Data covers 52 weeks ending 30 December 2018

Source: Kantar Worldpanel

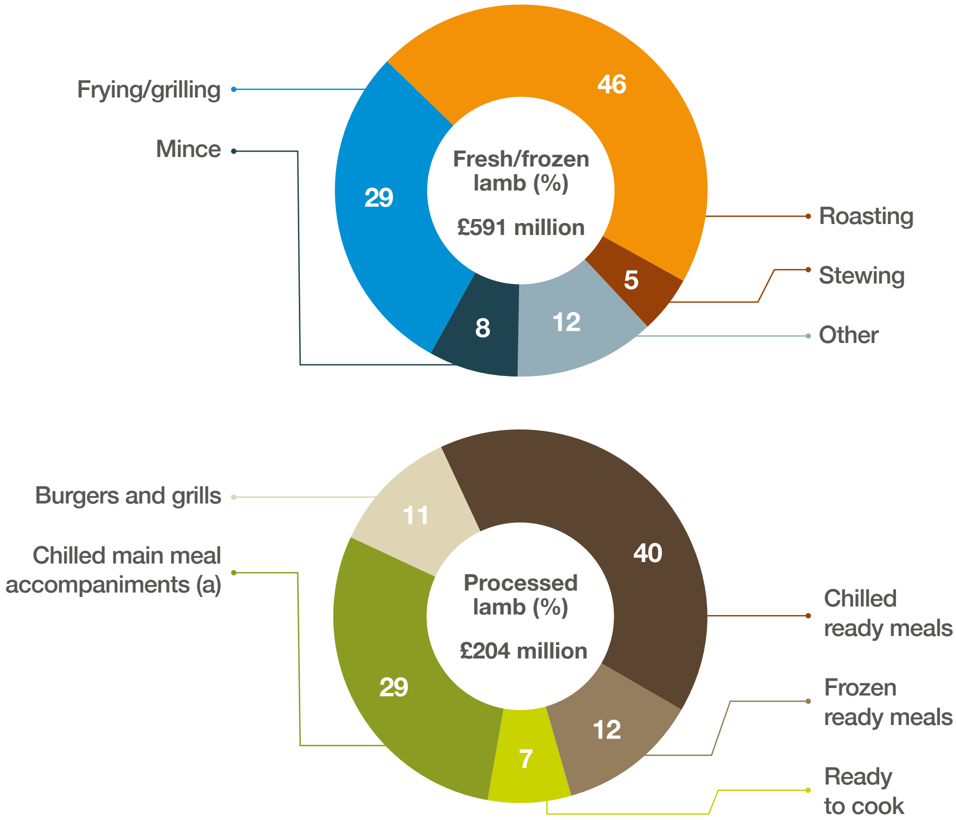

Figure 10.4 Retail expenditure profile for lamb, GB, 2018

a = includes single-protein meal solutions
Data covers 52 weeks ending 30 December 2018

Source: Kantar Worldpanel

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