

# Sheep



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## **November 1, 1997, Sheep and Lambs Totals 7.86 Million Head**

**All sheep and lambs** in the United States on November 1, 1997 totaled 7.86 million head, 7 percent below November 1, 1996. The number of breeding sheep and lambs on hand November 1, 1997 reached 5.42 million head, 8 percent below November 1, 1996. Market sheep and lambs (including newborns) at 2.45 million head were 4 percent below November 1, 1996.

**Of the November 1 breeding herd** 4.47 million head were ewes one year old and older, 195,000 head were rams one year old and older, and 750,000 head were replacement lambs (including newborn lambs).

**Of the total market lambs** (including newborn lambs), 16.9 percent were under 65 pounds, 28.7 percent were 65 to 84 pounds, 31.4 percent were 85 to 105 pounds and 23.0 percent were over 105 pounds on November 1.

**Region 3** (CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY) accounted for 31.6 percent of the total sheep and lambs. Region 1 (AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA) accounted for 21.5 percent followed closely by Region 2 (NM & TX) with 21.2 percent. Region 4 (IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK) had 12.7 percent and the remainder was in Region 5 (all other States)

**All Sheep and Lambs Inventory: By Region  
and United States, November 1, 1996-97**

Regions <sup>1</sup>	All Sheep and Lambs		97 as % of 96	Breeding Sheep and Lambs		Market Sheep and Lambs	
	1996	1997		1996	1997	1996	1997
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Pct</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>
Region 1	1,805	1,690	94	1,130	1,060	675	630
Region 2	1,745	1,670	96	1,440	1,280	305	390
Region 3	2,760	2,485	90	1,860	1,685	900	800
Region 4	1,130	995	88	705	635	425	360
Region 5	1,010	1,020	101	755	755	255	265
US	8,450	7,860	93	5,890	5,415	2,560	2,445

<sup>1</sup> States included in regions as follows: 1 - AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA; 2 - NM & TX; 3 - CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY; 4 - IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK; 5 - all other States.

**Breeding Sheep and Lambs Inventory: By Region  
and United States, November 1, 1996-97**

Regions <sup>1</sup>	Breeding Sheep-One Year Old & Older				Replacement Lambs		Total Breeding Sheep and Lambs	
	Ewes		Rams		1996	1997	1996	1997
	1996	1997	1996	1997				
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>
Region 1	915	860	40	40	175	160	1,130	1,060
Region 2	1,170	1,060	55	50	215	170	1,440	1,280
Region 3	1,535	1,425	50	45	275	215	1,860	1,685
Region 4	580	540	30	20	95	75	705	635
Region 5	585	585	45	40	125	130	755	755
US	4,785	4,470	220	195	885	750	5,890	5,415

<sup>1</sup> States included in regions as follows: 1 - AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA; 2 - NM & TX; 3 - CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY; 4 - IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK; 5 - all other States.

**Market Sheep and Lambs Inventory: By Region  
and United States, November 1, 1997**

Regions <sup>1</sup>	Market Lambs					Market Sheep	Market Sheep and Lambs
	Under 65 Pounds	65 to 84 lbs	85 to 105 lbs	Over 105 Pounds	Total		
	<i>1,000 Head</i>						
Region 1	125	130	185	165	605	25	630
Region 2	85	145	110	45	385	5	390
Region 3	45	230	275	230	780	20	800
Region 4	80	110	85	75	350	10	360
Region 5	65	65	90	30	250	15	265
US	400	680	745	545	2,370	75	2,445

<sup>1</sup> States included in regions as follows: 1 - AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA; 2 - NM & TX; 3 - CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY; 4 - IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK; 5 - all other States.

**Market Sheep and Lambs Inventory: By Region  
and United States, November 1, 1996**

Region <sup>1</sup>	Market Lambs					Market Sheep	Market Sheep and Lambs
	Under 65 Pounds	65 to 84 lbs	85 to 105 lbs	Over 105 Pounds	Total		
	<i>1,000 Head</i>						
Region 1	140	195	250	60	645	30	675
Region 2	50	160	60	30	300	5	305
Region 3	40	245	380	220	885	15	900
Region 4	95	135	100	90	420	5	425
Region 5	55	85	70	20	230	25	255
US	380	820	860	420	2,480	80	2,560

<sup>1</sup> States included in regions as follows: 1 - AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA; 2 - NM & TX; 3 - CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY; 4 - IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK; 5 - all other States.

## **Reliability of November 1 Sheep Estimates**

**Survey Procedures:** A random sample of U.S. producers was surveyed to provide data for these estimates. Survey procedures ensured that all sheep producers, regardless of size, had a chance to be included in the survey. Large producers were sampled more heavily than small operations. About 2,800 operators were contacted during the first half of November by mail, telephone and face-to-face personal interview. Regardless of when operators responded, they were asked to report inventories as of November 1.

**Estimation Procedures:** These sheep estimates were prepared by the Agricultural Statistics Board. National and State survey data were reviewed for reasonableness and with estimates from past years. A projected balance sheet for calendar year 1997 was also used. The balance sheet begins with the previous inventory estimate, adds estimates of births and imports, and subtracts estimates of slaughter, exports and deaths. This indicated ending inventory level is compared with the Agricultural Statistics Board estimate for reasonableness.

**Revision Policy:** Revisions to previous estimates are made to improve the current estimate. Previous year estimates are subject to revision when current estimates are made. Estimates will also be reviewed after data from the Department of Commerce's five-year census of Agriculture are available. No revisions will be made after that date.

The next "Sheep" report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on January 30, 1998.

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