



# Livestock Slaughter

ISSN: 0499-0544

---

Released January 25, 2024, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

## Record Low Veal and Lamb and Mutton Production in December

**December 2022** contained 22 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

**December 2023** contained 21 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

**Commercial red meat production** for the United States totaled 4.55 billion pounds in December, up 2 percent from the 4.47 billion pounds produced in December 2022.

**Beef production**, at 2.19 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.59 million head, down 3 percent from December 2022. The average live weight was up 17 pounds from the previous year, at 1,401 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 3.9 million pounds, 14 percent below December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 22,500 head, down 32 percent from December 2022. The average live weight was up 56 pounds from last year, at 293 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 2.34 billion pounds, up 5 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 10.8 million head, up 5 percent from December 2022. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year, at 291 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 10.7 million pounds, was down 3 percent from December 2022. Sheep slaughter totaled 182,400 head, 2 percent above last year. The average live weight was 115 pounds, down 7 pounds from December a year ago.

**January to December 2023 commercial red meat production** was 54.4 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 2022. Accumulated beef production was down 5 percent from last year, veal was down 11 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 1 percent.

**This page intentionally left blank.**

## Contents

Commercial Red Meat Production – United States.....	4
Federally Inspected Red Meat Production – United States.....	4
Livestock Slaughter and Average Live Weight – United States.....	5
Commercial Red Meat Production – States and United States.....	6
Commercial Cattle Slaughter – States and United States: December 2022 and 2023 .....	7
Commercial Calf Slaughter – States and United States: December 2022 and 2023.....	8
Commercial Hog Slaughter – States and United States: December 2022 and 2023.....	9
Commercial Sheep and Lamb Slaughter – States and United States: December 2022 and 2023 .....	10
Livestock Slaughtered Under Federal Inspection by Class – United States.....	11
Federally Inspected Slaughter Average Dressed Weight by Class – United States.....	11
Federally Inspected Slaughter – Regions and United States: December 2023 .....	12
Federally Inspected Slaughter – Regions and United States: January to December 2023 .....	13
Federally Inspected Slaughter Percent of Total Commercial Slaughter – United States.....	13
Terms and Definitions Used for Livestock Slaughter Estimates .....	14
Statistical Methodology.....	15
Information Contacts.....	16

## Commercial Red Meat Production – United States

[Totals, accumulated totals, and percentages based on unrounded data]

Type	December 2022	November 2023	December 2023	December 2023 as % of		January to December		
				December 2022	November 2023	2022	2023	2023 as % of 2022
	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Beef .....	2,225.6	2,280.9	2,189.8	98	96	28,291.2	26,964.3	95
Veal .....	4.5	4.3	3.9	86	90	53.9	47.9	89
Pork .....	2,230.1	2,388.2	2,342.0	105	98	26,995.6	27,299.5	101
Lamb and mutton .....	11.0	11.2	10.7	97	96	131.6	129.6	99
Total red meat .....	4,471.1	4,684.5	4,546.3	102	97	55,472.2	54,441.4	98

## Federally Inspected Red Meat Production – United States

[Totals, accumulated totals, and percentages based on unrounded data]

Type	December 2022	November 2023	December 2023	December 2023 as % of		January to December		
				December 2022	November 2023	2022	2023	2023 as % of 2022
	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Beef .....	2,193.7	2,247.3	2,158.9	98	96	27,838.8	26,547.2	95
Veal .....	4.4	4.1	3.7	85	91	52.5	46.5	89
Pork .....	2,220.4	2,377.4	2,332.4	105	98	26,870.6	27,176.4	101
Lamb and mutton .....	9.8	10.1	9.5	97	94	116.2	114.3	98
Total red meat .....	4,428.4	4,638.9	4,504.6	102	97	54,878.0	53,884.4	98

## Livestock Slaughter and Average Live Weight – United States

[Totals, accumulated totals, and percentages based on unrounded data]

Species	December 2022	November 2023	December 2023	December 2023 as % of 2022	January to December		
					2022	2023	2023 as % of 2022
<b>Cattle</b>				(percent)			(percent)
Number of head							
Federally inspected .... 1,000	2,638.1	2,681.3	2,548.7	97	33,666.4	32,232.5	96
Other ..... 1,000	46.6	48.6	44.7	96	658.9	607.1	92
Commercial ..... 1,000	2,684.7	2,729.9	2,593.4	97	34,325.3	32,839.5	96
Average live weight							
Federally inspected .. pounds	1,388	1,390	1,404	101	1,372	1,368	100
Other ..... pounds	1,212	1,214	1,220	101	1,210	1,213	100
Commercial ..... pounds	1,384	1,387	1,401	101	1,369	1,365	100
<b>Calves</b>							
Number of head							
Federally inspected .... 1,000	32.4	23.4	21.8	67	362.2	285.7	79
Other ..... 1,000	0.5	0.8	0.6	133	7.1	7.5	107
Commercial ..... 1,000	32.9	24.2	22.5	68	369.2	293.2	79
Average live weight							
Federally inspected .. pounds	236	300	292	124	251	278	111
Other ..... pounds	332	334	323	98	367	354	96
Commercial ..... pounds	237	301	293	123	253	280	111
<b>Hogs</b>							
Number of head							
Federally inspected .... 1,000	10,246.5	11,082.6	10,775.8	105	124,673.6	127,334.0	102
Other ..... 1,000	52.5	56.3	49.7	95	648.1	635.1	98
Commercial ..... 1,000	10,299.0	11,138.9	10,825.5	105	125,321.7	127,969.1	102
Average live weight							
Federally inspected .. pounds	292	289	291	100	290	287	99
Other ..... pounds	251	263	264	105	265	267	101
Commercial ..... pounds	292	289	291	100	289	287	99
<b>Sheep and lambs</b>							
Number of head							
Federally inspected .... 1,000	154.4	168.4	159.7	103	1,758.7	1,838.8	105
Other ..... 1,000	24.1	21.2	22.8	95	312.9	310.2	99
Commercial ..... 1,000	178.5	189.7	182.4	102	2,071.6	2,149.0	104
Average live weight							
Federally inspected .. pounds	126	118	117	93	131	123	94
Other ..... pounds	96	100	99	104	98	98	100
Commercial ..... pounds	122	116	115	95	126	119	95
<b>Goats</b>							
Number of head							
Federally inspected .... 1,000	47.0	47.5	51.2	109	499.2	527.9	106
Other ..... 1,000	11.8	10.3	11.6	99	108.1	107.3	99
Commercial ..... 1,000	58.8	57.7	62.8	107	607.3	635.2	105
Average live weight							
Federally inspected .. pounds	65	63	63	97	65	64	99
Other ..... pounds	85	85	79	93	85	85	100
Commercial ..... pounds	69	67	66	96	68	68	99
<b>Bison</b>							
Number of head							
Federally inspected .... 1,000	6.4	6.6	6.2	97	72.2	75.2	104
Other ..... 1,000	0.3	0.3	0.3	130	3.0	3.4	114
Commercial ..... 1,000	6.6	6.9	6.5	98	75.1	78.6	105

## Commercial Red Meat Production – States and United States

[Includes total beef, veal, pork, lamb, and mutton. Totals and percentages based on unrounded data]

State	December	November	December	December 2023 as
	2022	2023	2023	% of 2022
	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Alabama .....	1.1	1.2	1.1	101
Alaska .....	0.1	(Y)	(Y)	(X)
Arizona .....	39.6	40.5	36.7	93
Arkansas .....	0.4	0.5	0.4	123
California .....	153.1	104.4	101.2	66
Colorado .....	156.3	172.5	161.4	103
Delaware-Maryland .....	2.7	2.6	2.5	91
Florida .....	6.2	7.2	5.3	85
Georgia .....	14.2	12.6	12.8	90
Hawaii .....	0.8	0.8	0.7	84
Idaho .....	34.1	43.9	40.0	118
Illinois .....	262.4	283.0	287.4	110
Indiana .....	159.4	165.6	158.4	99
Iowa .....	687.1	796.9	784.3	114
Kansas .....	483.4	480.7	481.1	100
Kentucky .....	49.8	56.0	54.1	108
Louisiana .....	0.3	0.3	0.3	84
Michigan .....	106.8	120.4	111.5	104
Minnesota .....	239.3	244.7	228.7	96
Mississippi .....	0.7	0.8	0.8	105
Missouri .....	166.2	187.9	180.7	109
Montana .....	2.2	4.0	1.9	84
Nebraska .....	624.5	669.5	660.1	106
Nevada .....	(Y)	0.1	(Y)	(X)
New England <sup>1</sup> .....	2.6	2.9	2.8	104
New Jersey .....	4.1	3.9	4.1	101
New Mexico .....	0.4	0.4	0.3	88
New York .....	3.5	3.2	3.1	89
North Carolina .....	248.8	232.0	223.9	90
North Dakota .....	0.7	0.5	0.6	81
Ohio .....	22.5	24.6	23.6	105
Oklahoma .....	104.3	95.8	98.0	94
Oregon .....	2.5	2.5	2.2	87
Pennsylvania .....	129.6	136.9	129.4	100
South Carolina .....	15.3	16.3	15.2	100
South Dakota .....	117.1	132.0	127.8	109
Tennessee .....	25.3	26.6	26.3	104
Texas .....	371.8	378.6	361.6	97
Utah .....	42.7	47.4	44.0	103
Virginia .....	1.3	1.3	1.3	98
Washington .....	78.5	75.4	73.1	93
West Virginia .....	1.0	1.2	1.1	111
Wisconsin .....	107.5	106.0	95.9	89
Wyoming .....	0.8	0.9	0.7	84
United States .....	4,471.1	4,684.5	4,546.3	102

(X) Not applicable.

(Y) Less than level of precision shown.

<sup>1</sup> New England includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

## Commercial Cattle Slaughter – States and United States: December 2022 and 2023

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
Alabama .....	1.0	0.6	1,054	702	1,085	1,116
Alaska .....	0.1	0.1	79	71	1,101	1,132
Arizona .....	45.6	40.9	64,471	59,449	1,418	1,454
Arkansas .....	0.5	0.6	539	637	1,064	1,061
California .....	137.0	111.9	183,372	153,567	1,347	1,383
Colorado .....	171.7	174.0	245,366	253,199	1,430	1,456
Delaware-Maryland .....	2.6	2.4	3,734	3,366	1,409	1,407
Florida .....	10.1	8.0	11,705	9,831	1,167	1,227
Georgia .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Hawaii .....	1.1	0.9	1,362	1,119	1,230	1,194
Idaho .....	47.0	54.2	59,891	67,904	1,281	1,258
Illinois .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Indiana .....	3.9	3.6	4,699	4,342	1,205	1,205
Iowa .....	44.8	44.8	63,173	64,346	1,412	1,437
Kansas .....	535.9	530.6	752,707	748,613	1,405	1,411
Kentucky .....	5.7	5.5	6,219	6,154	1,102	1,114
Louisiana .....	0.5	0.4	377	388	807	889
Michigan .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Minnesota .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi .....	0.5	0.5	433	462	947	1,010
Missouri .....	26.5	27.6	30,788	30,959	1,169	1,127
Montana .....	2.8	2.2	3,481	2,696	1,223	1,249
Nebraska .....	545.2	549.8	803,896	820,544	1,476	1,494
Nevada .....	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
New England <sup>1</sup> .....	3.1	2.9	3,435	3,479	1,123	1,191
New Jersey .....	4.2	4.3	4,827	4,902	1,148	1,151
New Mexico .....	0.4	0.4	475	461	1,124	1,036
New York .....	3.7	3.6	4,406	4,249	1,199	1,193
North Carolina .....	5.9	6.0	7,239	7,449	1,233	1,238
North Dakota .....	0.9	0.7	1,136	896	1,310	1,306
Ohio .....	5.8	5.8	7,721	7,667	1,331	1,332
Oklahoma .....	4.4	5.4	5,348	6,223	1,228	1,179
Oregon .....	1.9	1.4	2,153	1,707	1,125	1,240
Pennsylvania .....	89.8	85.5	112,326	110,634	1,258	1,299
South Carolina .....	22.7	22.0	29,283	29,329	1,293	1,342
South Dakota .....	37.3	34.8	53,327	50,918	1,439	1,473
Tennessee .....	3.0	3.1	2,884	3,062	985	994
Texas .....	463.6	445.6	613,635	593,106	1,327	1,335
Utah .....	47.7	47.8	66,616	68,710	1,397	1,438
Virginia .....	1.5	1.6	1,682	1,610	1,088	1,038
Washington .....	93.0	82.1	129,431	118,619	1,394	1,448
West Virginia .....	1.3	1.5	1,360	1,572	1,022	1,043
Wisconsin .....	118.0	102.8	164,627	144,125	1,403	1,410
Wyoming .....	1.1	1.0	1,264	1,081	1,166	1,135
United States .....	2,684.7	2,593.4	3,708,554	3,625,443	1,384	1,401

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(X) Not applicable.

(Y) Less than level of precision shown.

<sup>1</sup> New England includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

## Commercial Calf Slaughter – States and United States: December 2022 and 2023

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
Alabama .....	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Alaska .....	(D)	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)
Arizona .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Arkansas .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
California .....	2.6	(D)	261	(D)	102	(D)
Colorado .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Delaware-Maryland .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Florida .....	0.2	(D)	85	(D)	425	(D)
Georgia .....	0.2	0.1	87	60	480	458
Hawaii .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Idaho .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Illinois .....	0.1	0.3	37	106	362	409
Indiana .....	0.7	0.6	298	242	441	401
Iowa .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Kansas .....	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Kentucky .....	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Louisiana .....	(D)	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)
Michigan .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Minnesota .....	(D)	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)
Mississippi .....	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)	(D)
Missouri .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Montana .....	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Nebraska .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Nevada .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
New England <sup>1</sup> .....	0.2	0.2	45	55	259	314
New Jersey .....	1.4	1.6	547	588	381	379
New Mexico .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
New York .....	5.4	2.6	497	236	93	92
North Carolina .....	0.1	0.1	34	44	318	354
North Dakota .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Ohio .....	9.1	3.9	1,237	1,046	136	268
Oklahoma .....	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Oregon .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Pennsylvania .....	7.0	7.8	3,051	3,466	438	445
South Carolina .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
South Dakota .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Tennessee .....	(D)	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)
Texas .....	0.1	0.1	48	23	435	407
Utah .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Virginia .....	0.1	0.1	27	38	289	277
Washington .....	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)	(D)
West Virginia .....	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Wisconsin .....	2.3	0.1	1,096	46	480	493
Wyoming .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
United States .....	32.9	22.5	7,757	6,545	237	293

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(X) Not applicable.

(Y) Less than level of precision shown.

<sup>1</sup> New England includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

## Commercial Hog Slaughter – States and United States: December 2022 and 2023

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
Alabama .....	1.9	2.5	798	1,079	415	436
Alaska .....	0.1	(Y)	17	(X)	281	(X)
Arizona .....	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Arkansas .....	0.2	0.4	61	100	292	278
California .....	236.4	82.9	64,574	18,678	273	226
Colorado .....	3.5	4.1	510	488	148	121
Delaware-Maryland .....	2.0	1.9	536	519	262	266
Florida .....	4.6	5.0	598	579	129	116
Georgia .....	5.6	5.2	1,525	1,430	272	273
Hawaii .....	0.2	0.1	43	35	261	254
Idaho .....	12.0	12.8	3,481	3,228	290	253
Illinois .....	935.7	1,048.7	269,535	302,592	288	289
Indiana .....	743.5	747.1	208,810	208,156	281	279
Iowa .....	3,055.8	3,449.2	879,350	1,007,536	288	292
Kansas .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Kentucky .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Louisiana .....	0.5	0.2	76	30	149	196
Michigan .....	301.5	332.7	89,810	99,020	298	298
Minnesota .....	983.1	966.7	276,855	272,365	282	282
Mississippi .....	4.0	4.2	636	667	157	160
Missouri .....	676.8	730.8	201,579	221,034	298	303
Montana .....	1.4	1.3	400	366	286	283
Nebraska .....	593.0	688.3	172,291	201,746	291	293
Nevada .....	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
New England <sup>1</sup> .....	2.3	2.6	606	694	268	264
New Jersey .....	11.0	11.1	914	934	83	84
New Mexico .....	0.2	0.1	40	31	244	255
New York .....	2.4	1.9	580	464	240	241
North Carolina .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
North Dakota .....	0.3	0.2	91	66	302	315
Ohio .....	79.5	84.8	23,129	24,677	291	291
Oklahoma .....	455.9	419.3	134,131	123,483	294	294
Oregon .....	4.6	4.6	1,323	1,169	290	254
Pennsylvania .....	288.0	288.2	82,467	83,098	286	288
South Carolina .....	4.2	3.7	876	760	210	208
South Dakota .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Tennessee .....	80.5	82.5	35,774	36,998	445	449
Texas .....	26.5	26.6	6,245	4,931	236	185
Utah .....	(D)	2.4	(D)	609	(D)	251
Virginia .....	(D)	1.2	(D)	382	(D)	322
Washington .....	1.4	(D)	375	(D)	261	(D)
West Virginia .....	0.7	0.7	200	199	284	297
Wisconsin .....	66.0	67.5	28,668	28,955	435	430
Wyoming .....	0.2	0.2	46	50	267	250
United States .....	10,299.0	10,825.5	3,001,367	3,149,370	292	291

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(X) Not applicable.

(Y) Less than level of precision shown.

<sup>1</sup> New England includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

## Commercial Sheep and Lamb Slaughter – States and United States: December 2022 and 2023

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
Alabama .....	(D)	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)
Alaska .....	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Arizona .....	0.1	0.7	10	76	98	108
Arkansas .....	0.1	0.1	8	14	114	95
California .....	24.0	25.3	3,598	3,597	150	142
Colorado .....	31.4	32.4	5,115	4,932	163	152
Delaware-Maryland .....	2.0	1.8	198	166	99	95
Florida .....	2.5	3.0	128	155	51	52
Georgia .....	1.6	(D)	109	(D)	66	(D)
Hawaii .....	0.1	0.1	9	13	137	133
Idaho .....	0.3	0.2	44	24	152	139
Illinois .....	6.4	6.8	549	583	85	86
Indiana .....	6.3	6.1	695	614	111	101
Iowa .....	0.1	0.2	21	19	148	125
Kansas .....	0.3	0.3	30	34	90	100
Kentucky .....	1.2	1.3	117	135	101	101
Louisiana .....	0.8	0.8	41	47	53	58
Michigan .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Minnesota .....	0.6	0.8	53	59	82	77
Mississippi .....	0.1	0.1	9	7	84	66
Missouri .....	0.7	0.8	63	71	85	84
Montana .....	0.4	0.4	54	58	128	132
Nebraska .....	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Nevada .....	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
New England <sup>1</sup> .....	4.5	4.9	403	452	89	92
New Jersey .....	17.3	15.7	1,415	1,283	82	82
New Mexico .....	0.6	0.5	87	72	141	135
New York .....	7.2	7.0	692	600	96	85
North Carolina .....	2.5	3.6	160	232	63	64
North Dakota .....	(Y)	0.1	(X)	9	(X)	140
Ohio .....	4.0	4.8	642	730	159	153
Oklahoma .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Oregon .....	4.1	4.1	510	598	125	146
Pennsylvania .....	10.5	13.1	1,077	1,262	102	97
South Carolina .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
South Dakota .....	0.3	0.2	42	28	141	121
Tennessee .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas .....	21.6	22.7	2,345	2,330	108	103
Utah .....	1.8	1.3	245	174	140	135
Virginia .....	0.9	1.3	64	96	70	73
Washington .....	1.2	1.2	163	163	137	136
West Virginia .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin .....	2.6	1.1	399	127	151	121
Wyoming .....	0.1	0.1	10	12	140	138
United States .....	178.5	182.4	21,698	21,011	122	115

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(X) Not applicable.

(Y) Less than level of precision shown.

<sup>1</sup> New England includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

## Livestock Slaughtered Under Federal Inspection by Class – United States

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

Class	December 2022	November 2023	December 2023	January to December		December 2022	November 2023	December 2023	January to December	
				2022	2023				2022	2023
<b>Cattle</b>	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent of total)	(percent of total)	(percent of total)	(percent of total)	(percent of total)
Steers .....	1,194.9	1,209.2	1,197.8	15,811.0	15,075.3	45.3	45.1	47.0	47.0	46.8
Heifers .....	814.0	856.9	797.2	10,292.0	10,033.4	30.9	32.0	31.3	30.6	31.1
All cows .....	588.0	570.7	516.6	6,998.9	6,592.2	22.3	21.3	20.3	20.8	20.5
Dairy cows .....	266.3	229.7	224.7	3,047.3	3,076.0	10.1	8.6	8.8	9.1	9.5
Other cows .....	321.7	341.0	291.9	3,951.6	3,516.2	12.2	12.7	11.5	11.7	10.9
Bulls .....	41.2	44.4	37.2	564.5	531.5	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.7	1.6
Total .....	2,638.1	2,681.3	2,548.7	33,666.4	32,232.5	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Calves and vealers</b> .....	32.4	23.4	21.8	362.2	285.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Hogs</b>										
Barrows and gilts .....	9,975.0	10,799.8	10,498.5	121,313.9	123,845.6	97.4	97.4	97.4	97.3	97.3
Sows .....	250.1	257.9	254.2	3,066.7	3,183.7	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.5
Boars .....	21.3	24.8	23.2	293.0	304.7	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Total .....	10,246.5	11,082.6	10,775.8	124,673.6	127,334.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Sheep</b>										
Mature sheep .....	9.7	10.4	10.2	110.5	117.7	6.3	6.2	6.4	6.3	6.4
Lambs and yearlings .....	144.7	158.0	149.5	1,648.3	1,721.0	93.7	93.8	93.6	93.7	93.6
Total .....	154.4	168.4	159.7	1,758.7	1,838.8	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

## Federally Inspected Slaughter Average Dressed Weight by Class – United States

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

Class	December 2022	November 2023	December 2023	January to December	
				2022	2023
	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
<b>Cattle</b> .....					
Steers <sup>1</sup> .....	833	840	849	829	825
Heifers <sup>1</sup> .....	923	935	941	909	908
All cows <sup>1</sup> .....	846	851	851	836	829
Bulls <sup>1</sup> .....	632	619	628	631	627
<b>Calves and vealers</b> .....	843	851	862	871	870
<b>Hogs</b> .....	137	178	172	146	164
Barrows and gilts <sup>2</sup> .....	217	215	217	216	213
Sows <sup>2</sup> .....	215	213	215	214	211
Boars <sup>2</sup> .....	295	297	296	299	299
<b>Sheep</b> .....	195	196	218	193	193
Mature sheep <sup>3</sup> .....	64	60	60	66	62
Lambs and yearlings <sup>3</sup> .....	63	64	64	64	64
	64	60	59	66	62

<sup>1</sup> Included in cattle average dressed weight.

<sup>2</sup> Included in hog average dressed weight.

<sup>3</sup> Included in sheep average dressed weight.

## Federally Inspected Slaughter – Regions and United States: December 2023

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

Standard federal regions <sup>1</sup>	Cattle							Calves
	Total	Steers	Heifers	Cows			Bulls	Total
				All	Dairy	Other		
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
1 .....	2.6	1.1	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2
2 .....	7.8	2.1	2.2	3.3	2.9	0.4	0.2	4.1
3 .....	88.0	35.1	3.7	44.4	33.2	11.2	4.7	8.0
4 .....	67.6	3.7	2.2	54.6	12.4	42.2	7.1	0.4
5 .....	248.7	111.6	(D)	96.6	55.1	41.5	(D)	4.8
6 .....	446.6	185.1	148.6	104.3	28.6	75.7	8.6	(D)
7 .....	1,142.8	613.6	449.7	74.6	7.4	67.1	5.0	(Y)
8 .....	254.8	138.2	(D)	21.7	6.2	15.6	(D)	(Y)
9 .....	153.2	59.3	21.8	69.9	51.6	18.3	2.1	(D)
10 .....	136.7	48.0	40.3	46.7	27.0	19.8	1.7	(D)
United States .....	2,548.7	1,197.8	797.2	516.6	224.7	291.9	37.2	21.8
Hogs								
	Hogs			Sheep				
	Total	Barrows and gilts	Sows	Bucks	Total	Mature sheep	Lambs and yearlings	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
1 .....	2.4	2.4	(Y)	(Y)	4.8	0.2	4.6	
2 .....	13.0	13.0	(Y)	(Y)	22.1	2.2	19.9	
3 .....	290.2	289.9	(D)	(D)	17.0	1.9	15.1	
4 .....	(D)	(D)	81.8	(D)	10.8	0.9	10.0	
5 .....	3,227.0	3,117.7	105.2	4.0	26.2	1.9	24.4	
6 .....	442.2	442.0	(D)	(D)	16.2	(D)	(D)	
7 .....	4,880.9	4,800.9	66.1	13.9	1.0	(D)	(D)	
8 .....	(D)	(D)	0.5	(Y)	33.4	0.7	32.8	
9 .....	77.1	77.1	(Y)	(Y)	23.7	1.6	22.2	
10 .....	18.5	18.4	(Y)	(Y)	4.4	0.2	4.2	
United States .....	10,775.8	10,498.5	254.2	23.2	159.7	10.2	149.5	

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(Y) Less than level of precision shown.

States included in regions are as follows: 1 - Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont; 2 - New Jersey, New York; 3 - Delaware-Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia; 4 - Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee; 5 - Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin; 6 - Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas; 7 - Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska; 8 - Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming; 9 - Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada; 10 - Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington.

## Federally Inspected Slaughter – Regions and United States: January to December 2023

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

Standard federal regions <sup>1</sup>	Cattle								Calves	
	Total	Steers	Heifers	Cows			Bulls			
				All	Dairy	Other				
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	
1 .....	31.9	13.2	10.6	5.0	2.7	2.3	3.1	2.0		
2 .....	94.3	27.3	22.9	40.4	36.0	4.4	3.7	54.6		
3 .....	1,140.2	448.9	49.1	574.9	439.4	135.5	67.2	83.9		
4 .....	898.6	57.3	32.5	715.1	159.4	555.7	93.7	5.2		
5 .....	3,154.5	1,427.4	(D)	1,213.6	744.1	469.5	(D)	81.6		
6 .....	5,681.8	2,343.7	1,902.4	1,328.2	413.0	915.2	107.5	(D)		
7 .....	14,145.1	7,576.1	5,578.4	908.3	88.4	819.9	82.4	0.5		
8 .....	3,294.3	1,752.8	(D)	272.2	71.0	201.2	(D)	(Y)		
9 .....	2,073.3	826.0	306.6	911.7	736.5	175.3	29.0	(D)		
10 .....	1,718.4	602.5	462.5	622.9	385.6	237.3	30.5	(D)		
United States .....	32,232.5	15,075.3	10,033.4	6,592.2	3,076.0	3,516.2	531.5	285.7		
Hogs										
	Hogs				Sheep					
	Total	Barrows and gilts	Sows	Boars	Total	Mature sheep	Lambs and yearlings			
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)		
1 .....	28.4	27.9	0.3	0.1	50.1	2.7	47.4			
2 .....	124.6	124.0	0.5	0.1	250.9	22.6	228.4			
3 .....	3,376.8	3,373.4	(D)	(D)	179.7	18.1	161.6			
4 .....	(D)	(D)	946.2	(D)	124.4	11.0	113.4			
5 .....	38,318.5	36,913.1	1,346.7	58.8	330.5	22.3	308.2			
6 .....	5,709.1	5,706.2	(D)	(D)	138.6	(D)	(D)			
7 .....	56,557.7	55,509.0	877.8	170.9	11.4	(D)	(D)			
8 .....	(D)	(D)	6.7	0.4	413.4	10.7	402.7			
9 .....	1,004.2	1,003.8	0.4	0.1	280.7	20.5	260.3			
10 .....	219.6	219.1	0.3	0.1	59.0	3.0	55.9			
United States .....	127,334.0	123,845.6	3,183.7	304.7	1,838.8	117.7	1,721.0			

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(Y) Less than level of precision shown.

<sup>1</sup> States included in regions are as follows: 1 - Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont; 2 - New Jersey, New York; 3 - Delaware-Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia; 4 - Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee; 5 - Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin; 6 - Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas; 7 - Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska; 8 - Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming; 9 - Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada; 10 - Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington.

## Federally Inspected Slaughter Percent of Total Commercial Slaughter – United States

Species	December 2022	November 2023	December 2023	January to December	
				2022	2023
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle .....	98.3	98.2	98.3	98.1	98.2
Calves .....	98.6	96.7	97.2	98.1	97.4
Hogs .....	99.5	99.5	99.5	99.5	99.5
Sheep .....	86.5	88.8	87.5	84.9	85.6

## **Terms and Definitions Used for Livestock Slaughter Estimates**

**Average Live Weight:** The weight of the whole animal, before slaughter. Excludes post-mortem condemnations.

**Commercial Production:** Includes slaughter and meat production in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms. Based on packers' dressed weights.

**Custom-Exempt Plants:** Plants that do not sell meat but operate on a custom basis only are custom-exempt. The animals and meat are not inspected, but the facilities must meet health standards. These are considered NFI plants and head kill is included in NFI totals.

**Dressed Weight:** The weight of a chilled animal carcass. Beef with kidney knob in; veal with hide off; lamb and mutton with pluck out; pork with leaf fat and kidneys out, jowls on and head off.

**Dressing Percent:** Usually expressed as a percentage yield of chilled carcass in relation to the weight of the live animal on hoof. For example, a live hog that weighed 200 pounds on hoof and yielded a carcass weighing 140 pounds would have a dressing percentage of 70.

**Federally Inspected (FI) Plants:** Plants that transport meat interstate must employ federal inspectors to assure compliance with USDA standards. Any state whose commercial plants operate entirely under federal inspection may still have custom-exempt establishments for which NFI estimates are made.

**Food and Meat Inspection:** Includes examination, checking, or testing of a carcass and/or meat against established government standards and involves checking the facility for cleanliness, health of animals, or parts of animals and quality of the meat produced.

**Non-Federally Inspected (NFI) Plants:** Plants which sell and transport only intrastate. State inspectors assure compliance with individual state standards for these NFI plants. Mobile slaughtering units are excluded and are considered farm slaughter.

**Number of Head:** Includes post-mortem condemnations.

**Plant, Slaughter:** An establishment where animals are killed and butchered.

**Red Meat:** Red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter excluding condemnation and is comprised of beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. The FI red meat production is equal to the total carcass weight after slaughter. The NFI meat production formula is (NFI head kill) X (live weight) X (FI dressing percentage) = NFI red meat production.

**Slaughter:** Killing and butchering of animals primarily for food.

**Slaughter, Farm:** Animals slaughtered on farms primarily for home consumption. Excludes custom slaughter for farmers at commercial establishments, but includes mobile slaughtering on farms. These estimates appear only in the annual slaughter release.

**Talmedge-Aiken (TA) Plants:** Slaughter plants in which USDA is responsible for inspection. However, federal inspection is carried out by State employees. These plants are considered to be federally inspected.

**Total Live Weight:** The total weight of live animals, before slaughter. Excludes post-mortem condemnations.

**Wholesome Meat Act:** Legislation that specifies that all meat produced for sale in the United States must be inspected. Meat that is transported interstate must be inspected in compliance with Federal (USDA) Standards.

## **Statistical Methodology**

**Data Sources:** Primary data for the *Livestock Slaughter* publication are obtained from electronic reports completed by inspectors from the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), USDA, which provide daily counts of animals slaughtered in Federally Inspected (FI) plants, in addition to total live and dressed weights. These counts are combined with data from State-administered Non-Federally Inspected (NFI) slaughter plants to derive total commercial slaughter estimates.

There are approximately 950 livestock slaughter plants in the United States operating under Federal Inspection and nearly 1,950 Non-Federally Inspected (State-inspected or custom-exempt) slaughter plants. Slaughter from State-inspected Talmedge-Aiken plants is included in FI totals (see Terms and Definitions, page 14). To prevent duplication in reporting between FI and NFI plants and assure all FI plants are included, certificates prepared by FSIS identifying operating status are constantly monitored.

**Revision Policy:** Number of head slaughtered, live weights, and dressed weights are subject to revision the following month after the monthly release. Annual totals are published in the slaughter summary each April which includes any revisions made to current and previous year's published data. Revisions are generally the result of late reports received from slaughter plants and are usually less than one-half of one percent. No revisions will be made to the previous year's data after the publication of the annual summary in April.

**Procedures and Reliability:** The livestock slaughter data is obtained electronically on a daily basis and summarized approximately two weeks after the week of slaughter. A computer program compares each plant's data with the historical data for that plant. Data are checked for unusual values for head kill, patterns of kill, average weights, and dressing percent, based on each plant's past operating profile. In addition, the computer program provides a listing of missing reports for follow-up contact with FSIS. Average live and dressed weights and dressing percentages by State are compared with the previous weeks as an additional check. Fluctuations are frequently the result of plants permanently or temporarily closing and a shift in the species reported.

The FSIS District Veterinary Medical Specialists (DVMS) are contacted by e-mail or telephone for missing or potentially erroneous slaughter data. This assures that plants slaughtering a large number of head or several species are accounted for each week. Any corrections FSIS makes to the slaughter data are included in the summary.

Computer imputation may be necessary for incomplete reports. The imputation of live and dressed weights is based on the current week reported data of plants of similar size and location. Imputation for live and dressed weight data for cattle and hogs is less than 10 percent and 7 percent, respectively. The imputation for calves and sheep is more frequent and variable. If no data is received electronically or by other means, for plants slaughtering fewer than 50 total head weekly of only one species, data are imputed. The imputation of head for any plant is based on the historical data for that particular plant. The imputation of head slaughtered is rare but when necessary, the imputed head kill for missing plants usually is less than 1 percent of the United States head kill totals.

FI data are summarized weekly and accumulated to a monthly total for this release. These weekly totals are published by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) in **Livestock, Meat, Wool Market News**, Weekly Summary, and statistics are also available on the NASS website. NFI data are summarized monthly only.

Livestock slaughter estimates are based on a census of operating plants and therefore, have no sampling error. However, they may be subject to non-sampling errors such as omissions, duplications and mistakes in reporting, recording and processing the data. These errors are minimized through rigid quality controls in the computer edit program and summarization process, and a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

No data are published when an individual plant's data could be divulged. If not published, as indicated with a (D), these data are still included in United States and region totals. A review of the data is made annually to determine the publishable data.

## Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to [nass@usda.gov](mailto:nass@usda.gov).

Travis Averill, Chief, Livestock Branch .....	(202) 692-0069
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section .....	(202) 690-2424
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter .....	(202) 690-8632
Ryan Cowen – Cattle, Cattle on Feed .....	(202) 720-3040
Kim Dapra – Milk Production and Milk Cows .....	(512) 501-3266
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products .....	(202) 690-3347
Anthony Fischer – Hogs and Pigs .....	(202) 720-3106
Suzanne Richards – Sheep and Goats .....	(202) 720-4448

## Access to NASS Reports

For your convenience, you may access NASS reports and products the following ways:

- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site: [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)
- Both national and state specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov) and click on “National” or “State” in upper right corner above “search” box to create an account and select the reports you would like to receive.
- Cornell’s Mann Library has launched a new website housing NASS’s and other agency’s archived reports. The new website, <https://usda.library.cornell.edu>. All email subscriptions containing reports will be sent from the new website, <https://usda.library.cornell.edu>. To continue receiving the reports via e-mail, you will have to go to the new website, create a new account and re-subscribe to the reports. If you need instructions to set up an account or subscribe, they are located at: <https://usda.library.cornell.edu/help>. You should whitelist [notifications@usda-esmis.library.cornell.edu](mailto:notifications@usda-esmis.library.cornell.edu) in your email client to avoid the emails going into spam/junk folders.

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: [nass@usda.gov](mailto:nass@usda.gov).

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#) (PDF), found online at [www.ascr.usda.gov/filing-program-discrimination-complaint-usda-customer](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/filing-program-discrimination-complaint-usda-customer), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).



USDA'S 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
**AGRICULTURAL  
OUTLOOK FORUM**  
CULTIVATING THE FUTURE

Hybrid  
Event



**February 15-16, 2024 • Crystal City Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VA**

[Register to Attend In-Person or Virtually](#)

## The Agricultural Outlook Forum

- USDA's largest annual gathering and the agricultural sector's premiere event
- Brings together more than 1,500 sector leaders and professionals to connect and discuss current and key emerging issues in agriculture
- More than 30 sessions covering commodity markets and outlook, international trade, agricultural policy, as well as cutting edge topics that will influence the future of agriculture



**For More Information**, please contact the Forum Coordinator [Mirvat Sewadeh](#) at 202-720-5447