



# Livestock Slaughter

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## Red Meat Production Down 1 Percent From Last December

**December 2017** contained 21 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

**December 2018** contained 21 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

**Commercial red meat production** for the United States totaled 4.37 billion pounds in December, down 1 percent from the 4.40 billion pounds produced in December 2017.

**Beef production**, at 2.12 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.58 million head, down slightly from December 2017. The average live weight was down 12 pounds from the previous year, at 1,368 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 6.5 million pounds, 2 percent below December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 53,600 head, up 16 percent from December 2017. The average live weight was down 35 pounds from last year, at 210 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 2.23 billion pounds, down slightly from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 10.5 million head, down slightly from December 2017. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 286 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 13.2 million pounds, was up 3 percent from December 2017. Sheep slaughter totaled 201,800 head, 7 percent above last year. The average live weight was 131 pounds, down 5 pounds from December a year ago.

**January to December 2018 commercial red meat production** was 53.4 billion pounds, up 3 percent from 2017. Accumulated beef production was up 3 percent from last year, veal was up 2 percent, pork was up 3 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 5 percent.

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## Commercial Red Meat Production – United States

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

Type	December 2017	November 2018	December 2018	December 2018 as % of		January to December		
				December 2017	November 2018	2017	2018	2018 as % of 2017
	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Beef .....	2,148.4	2,313.5	2,115.8	98	91	26,187.8	26,867.4	103
Veal .....	6.6	6.7	6.5	98	97	74.4	75.7	102
Pork .....	2,235.0	2,347.9	2,232.1	100	95	25,584.3	26,315.1	103
Lamb and mutton .....	12.8	12.8	13.2	103	103	145.0	152.5	105
Total red meat .....	4,402.7	4,681.0	4,367.6	99	93	51,991.5	53,410.8	103

## Federally Inspected Red Meat Production – United States

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

Type	December 2017	November 2018	December 2018	December 2018 as % of		January to December		
				December 2017	November 2018	2017	2018	2018 as % of 2017
	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Beef .....	2,123.0	2,288.6	2,091.4	99	91	25,855.7	26,535.8	103
Veal .....	6.4	6.6	6.3	99	97	72.5	74.0	102
Pork .....	2,224.1	2,337.4	2,221.8	100	95	25,436.8	26,177.8	103
Lamb and mutton .....	11.8	11.8	11.9	101	100	132.4	139.6	105
Total red meat .....	4,365.3	4,644.4	4,331.3	99	93	51,497.3	52,927.1	103

## Livestock Slaughter and Average Live Weight – United States

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

Species	December 2017	November 2018	December 2018	December 2018 as % of 2017	January to December		
					2017	2018	2018 as % of 2017
				(percent)			(percent)
<b>Cattle</b>							
Number of head							
Federally inspected ..... 1,000	2,543.2	2,762.1	2,544.0	100	31,704.3	32,518.1	103
Other ..... 1,000	37.2	36.7	36.2	97	485.1	482.3	99
Commercial ..... 1,000	2,580.4	2,798.8	2,580.2	100	32,189.4	33,000.4	103
Live weight per head							
Federally inspected .. pounds	1,382	1,372	1,370	99	1,351	1,352	100
Other ..... pounds	1,189	1,185	1,184	100	1,188	1,196	101
Commercial ..... pounds	1,380	1,370	1,368	99	1,349	1,350	100
<b>Calves</b>							
Number of head							
Federally inspected ..... 1,000	45.6	54.9	53.0	116	503.3	571.4	114
Other ..... 1,000	0.8	0.6	0.6	82	9.0	8.4	93
Commercial ..... 1,000	46.4	55.5	53.6	116	512.3	579.8	113
Live weight per head							
Federally inspected .. pounds	242	209	209	86	248	224	91
Other ..... pounds	400	373	355	89	393	378	96
Commercial ..... pounds	245	210	210	86	250	226	91
<b>Hogs</b>							
Number of head							
Federally inspected ..... 1,000	10,400.3	10,981.7	10,402.5	100	120,516.6	123,696.2	103
Other ..... 1,000	60.2	58.0	57.9	96	800.6	740.5	92
Commercial ..... 1,000	10,460.6	11,039.7	10,460.5	100	121,317.2	124,436.8	103
Live weight per head							
Federally inspected .. pounds	286	286	286	100	283	283	100
Other ..... pounds	247	248	244	99	253	254	101
Commercial ..... pounds	286	285	286	100	282	283	100
<b>Sheep and lambs</b>							
Number of head							
Federally inspected ..... 1,000	170.1	174.1	176.2	104	1,937.2	1,999.8	103
Other ..... 1,000	18.0	19.2	25.6	142	240.9	250.5	104
Commercial ..... 1,000	188.1	193.2	201.8	107	2,178.1	2,250.3	103
Live weight per head							
Federally inspected .. pounds	138	136	134	97	136	139	102
Other ..... pounds	112	104	105	93	108	106	98
Commercial ..... pounds	136	133	131	96	133	136	102
<b>Goats</b>							
Number of head							
Federally inspected ..... 1,000	46.7	46.4	50.1	107	488.8	514.2	105
Other ..... 1,000	10.0	9.1	12.8	128	108.9	103.4	95
Commercial ..... 1,000	56.7	55.5	62.9	111	597.7	617.6	103
Live weight per head							
Federally inspected .. pounds	63	65	65	103	63	65	103
Other ..... pounds	80	78	85	106	82	82	99
Commercial ..... pounds	66	67	69	105	66	67	102
<b>Bison</b>							
Number of head							
Federally inspected ..... 1,000	3.4	4.4	3.7	109	51.8	51.1	99
Other ..... 1,000	0.4	0.5	0.6	139	6.6	5.8	88
Commercial ..... 1,000	3.8	4.9	4.3	112	58.4	56.9	97

## 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 2017	November 2018	December 2018	December 2018 as % of 2017
	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Alabama .....	1.1	1.1	1.1	97
Alaska .....	0.1	0.1	(Y)	(X)
Arizona .....	36.4	38.9	33.9	93
Arkansas .....	0.4	0.2	0.3	85
California .....	121.8	128.9	125.0	103
Colorado .....	183.2	195.4	166.3	91
Delaware-Maryland .....	2.8	3.1	2.9	104
Florida .....	2.5	2.3	2.2	87
Georgia .....	13.2	13.2	13.3	101
Hawaii .....	0.8	0.7	0.7	87
Idaho .....	19.6	29.2	27.8	142
Illinois .....	282.6	287.4	288.2	102
Indiana .....	159.5	158.2	145.3	91
Iowa .....	642.3	705.3	661.4	103
Kansas .....	482.4	504.3	464.6	96
Kentucky .....	46.0	48.8	46.6	101
Louisiana .....	0.3	0.4	0.4	108
Michigan .....	72.6	86.3	86.5	119
Minnesota .....	248.7	248.1	234.3	94
Mississippi .....	0.5	0.6	0.6	112
Missouri .....	174.0	166.1	164.5	95
Montana .....	1.3	1.7	1.1	82
Nebraska .....	675.8	715.5	648.1	96
Nevada .....	0.1	0.1	0.1	102
New England <sup>1</sup> .....	2.0	2.3	2.1	103
New Jersey .....	3.2	3.3	3.6	112
New Mexico .....	0.3	0.3	0.3	80
New York .....	3.2	3.3	3.4	105
North Carolina .....	223.0	233.8	220.3	99
North Dakota .....	0.5	0.5	0.5	90
Ohio .....	18.6	20.3	19.4	105
Oklahoma .....	96.8	106.3	101.5	105
Oregon .....	4.5	4.0	3.6	80
Pennsylvania .....	116.4	127.9	122.9	106
South Carolina .....	9.3	9.3	9.1	98
South Dakota .....	129.3	133.9	123.3	95
Tennessee .....	24.3	25.7	22.8	94
Texas .....	347.9	396.1	359.1	103
Utah .....	43.2	49.7	43.8	101
Virginia .....	41.3	48.6	46.8	113
Washington .....	72.7	77.4	72.6	100
West Virginia .....	0.8	0.9	0.9	113
Wisconsin .....	97.0	100.9	96.0	99
Wyoming .....	0.4	0.4	0.3	74
United States .....	4,402.7	4,681.0	4,367.6	99

(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 2017 and 2018

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	2017 (1,000 head)	2018 (1,000 head)	2017 (1,000 pounds)	2018 (1,000 pounds)	2017 (pounds)	2018 (pounds)
Alabama .....	0.4	0.4	374	368	1,058	993
Alaska .....	(Y)	0.1	(X)	61	(X)	1,028
Arizona .....	43.6	39.6	60,459	54,987	1,388	1,390
Arkansas .....	0.4	0.5	422	432	973	946
California .....	113.4	116.4	151,548	153,150	1,346	1,325
Colorado .....	198.7	179.9	282,049	256,014	1,421	1,425
Delaware-Maryland .....	2.9	3.1	3,858	4,141	1,323	1,332
Florida .....	3.7	(D)	4,313	(D)	1,180	(D)
Georgia .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Hawaii .....	1.0	1.0	1,165	1,039	1,195	1,073
Idaho .....	26.7	38.0	33,368	48,733	1,267	1,297
Illinois .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Indiana .....	2.5	2.5	2,819	2,881	1,107	1,152
Iowa .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Kansas .....	537.0	529.2	744,776	723,164	1,387	1,367
Kentucky .....	1.4	2.6	1,541	2,702	1,070	1,051
Louisiana .....	0.3	0.4	268	361	777	837
Michigan .....	40.7	45.6	57,634	63,364	1,425	1,398
Minnesota .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi .....	0.2	0.3	135	245	821	894
Missouri .....	3.5	3.6	4,065	4,117	1,153	1,156
Montana .....	1.3	1.3	1,782	1,449	1,346	1,112
Nebraska .....	593.3	580.4	862,939	836,145	1,456	1,442
Nevada .....	0.1	0.1	84	100	1,022	1,024
New England <sup>1</sup> .....	2.0	2.2	2,348	2,417	1,176	1,126
New Jersey .....	3.1	3.5	3,406	3,916	1,095	1,117
New Mexico .....	0.4	0.3	456	299	1,197	1,072
New York .....	3.1	3.4	3,719	4,096	1,220	1,232
North Carolina .....	5.0	4.9	6,079	6,031	1,233	1,237
North Dakota .....	0.6	0.5	756	693	1,306	1,269
Ohio .....	4.3	4.4	4,976	5,746	1,166	1,299
Oklahoma .....	2.4	2.1	2,365	2,319	990	1,109
Oregon .....	(D)	1.3	(D)	1,530	(D)	1,148
Pennsylvania .....	84.5	86.6	104,172	105,738	1,237	1,225
South Carolina .....	13.7	14.0	16,844	16,613	1,239	1,195
South Dakota .....	32.2	35.0	46,253	49,770	1,444	1,427
Tennessee .....	5.4	0.9	4,985	919	945	1,039
Texas .....	430.1	447.8	565,030	585,015	1,317	1,310
Utah .....	50.8	51.8	69,530	70,189	1,370	1,357
Virginia .....	1.2	1.1	1,297	1,172	1,089	1,095
Washington .....	85.9	85.4	119,614	119,610	1,397	1,405
West Virginia .....	1.0	1.2	1,007	1,182	990	963
Wisconsin .....	106.8	108.8	148,875	150,169	1,402	1,389
Wyoming .....	0.5	0.5	588	474	1,099	1,022
United States .....	2,580.4	2,580.2	3,551,923	3,520,842	1,380	1,368

(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 2017 and 2018

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	2017 (1,000 head)	2018 (1,000 head)	2017 (1,000 pounds)	2018 (1,000 pounds)	2017 (pounds)	2018 (pounds)
Alabama .....	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Alaska .....	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Arizona .....	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)	(D)
Arkansas .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
California .....	5.8	8.5	634	826	112	98
Colorado .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Delaware-Maryland .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Florida .....	0.1	(Y)	30	(X)	458	(X)
Georgia .....	0.1	0.1	62	37	479	448
Hawaii .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Idaho .....	2.6	3.6	231	319	87	88
Illinois .....	0.1	0.1	21	33	377	424
Indiana .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Iowa .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Kansas .....	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Kentucky .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Louisiana .....	(D)	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)
Michigan .....	0.1	0.1	30	30	300	300
Minnesota .....	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Mississippi .....	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Missouri .....	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Montana .....	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Nebraska .....	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)	(D)
Nevada .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
New England <sup>1</sup> .....	0.2	0.2	43	51	183	207
New Jersey .....	2.0	2.1	758	788	379	380
New Mexico .....	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
New York .....	7.0	9.2	843	938	121	103
North Carolina .....	0.1	(Y)	22	(X)	335	(X)
North Dakota .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Ohio .....	13.5	15.9	2,193	2,262	163	142
Oklahoma .....	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Oregon .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Pennsylvania .....	8.3	8.1	3,508	3,413	426	423
South Carolina .....	(D)	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)
South Dakota .....	(D)	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)
Tennessee .....	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Texas .....	0.2	0.1	99	44	449	431
Utah .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Virginia .....	0.1	(D)	19	(D)	296	(D)
Washington .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
West Virginia .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin .....	5.0	4.7	2,418	2,202	488	470
Wyoming .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
United States .....	46.4	53.6	11,267	11,221	245	210

(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 2017 and 2018

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
Alabama .....	3.3	3.2	1,361	1,334	409	421
Alaska .....	0.2	0.1	44	14	286	267
Arizona .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Arkansas .....	0.8	0.4	201	119	261	270
California .....	201.0	202.7	50,952	52,411	254	259
Colorado .....	1.6	1.3	384	301	238	232
Delaware-Maryland .....	1.9	1.7	474	442	256	265
Florida .....	4.6	5.1	611	644	133	126
Georgia .....	5.7	5.6	1,357	1,365	237	242
Hawaii .....	0.5	0.4	113	97	243	251
Idaho .....	13.9	14.4	3,700	3,972	267	276
Illinois .....	1,021.1	1,036.6	293,446	298,378	287	288
Indiana .....	743.9	681.6	209,322	190,992	282	280
Iowa .....	2,878.4	3,002.9	824,692	853,211	287	284
Kansas .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Kentucky .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Louisiana .....	1.2	1.0	188	175	155	179
Michigan .....	172.6	226.9	52,163	66,589	302	294
Minnesota .....	1,052.7	986.0	290,495	272,504	276	276
Mississippi .....	(D)	3.5	(D)	529	(D)	150
Missouri .....	786.7	732.9	228,306	216,170	290	295
Montana .....	1.1	1.1	299	266	279	249
Nebraska .....	671.9	648.4	189,732	183,882	282	284
Nevada .....	0.1	(Y)	14	(X)	270	(X)
New England <sup>1</sup> .....	3.1	3.1	784	778	253	250
New Jersey .....	10.1	10.4	895	921	89	88
New Mexico .....	0.2	0.2	47	50	285	258
New York .....	2.4	2.1	541	479	224	224
North Carolina .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
North Dakota .....	0.4	0.3	112	93	303	323
Ohio .....	66.6	69.4	19,689	19,944	296	288
Oklahoma .....	449.5	466.0	125,236	132,221	279	284
Oregon .....	10.4	11.8	2,773	3,245	266	276
Pennsylvania .....	266.8	279.4	72,001	79,339	270	284
South Carolina .....	(D)	4.9	(D)	1,078	(D)	220
South Dakota .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Tennessee .....	72.2	74.6	32,735	33,591	454	451
Texas .....	25.5	26.9	6,272	6,649	246	247
Utah .....	4.3	5.1	738	839	173	165
Virginia .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Washington .....	0.8	0.9	211	238	274	264
West Virginia .....	0.7	0.6	206	178	303	278
Wisconsin .....	56.9	52.1	24,758	22,226	436	428
Wyoming .....	0.3	0.1	82	24	315	242
United States .....	10,460.6	10,460.5	2,990,547	2,990,801	286	286

(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 2017 and 2018

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	2017 (1,000 head)	2018 (1,000 head)	2017 (1,000 pounds)	2018 (1,000 pounds)	2017 (pounds)	2018 (pounds)
Alabama .....	0.1	(Y)	5	(X)	55	(X)
Alaska .....	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Arizona .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Arkansas .....	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
California .....	25.0	26.7	3,590	3,746	144	140
Colorado .....	70.2	64.9	11,455	10,693	163	165
Delaware-Maryland .....	4.2	3.5	389	334	92	95
Florida .....	1.0	1.6	61	86	60	54
Georgia .....	1.5	2.0	100	143	66	73
Hawaii .....	(D)	0.1	(D)	11	(D)	139
Idaho .....	0.2	0.2	26	25	134	143
Illinois .....	5.0	5.9	474	575	95	98
Indiana .....	3.7	4.6	434	520	119	114
Iowa .....	0.2	0.2	33	29	165	167
Kansas .....	0.4	0.4	40	36	94	101
Kentucky .....	1.1	1.3	133	151	123	116
Louisiana .....	0.3	0.3	18	18	54	54
Michigan .....	19.8	17.3	2,910	2,425	147	140
Minnesota .....	0.4	0.6	44	54	107	99
Mississippi .....	0.5	0.8	30	52	60	68
Missouri .....	0.8	0.9	75	73	91	79
Montana .....	0.4	0.5	51	57	139	122
Nebraska .....	0.1	0.1	16	16	155	156
Nevada .....	0.1	(Y)	8	(X)	123	(X)
New England <sup>1</sup> .....	2.7	3.1	254	289	93	92
New Jersey .....	11.9	14.6	930	1,144	78	78
New Mexico .....	0.5	0.7	77	100	145	146
New York .....	6.4	6.5	645	618	101	96
North Carolina .....	1.1	1.2	76	81	70	66
North Dakota .....	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Ohio .....	3.3	5.3	444	825	134	155
Oklahoma .....	0.5	1.5	44	138	93	94
Oregon .....	3.0	4.7	419	640	141	138
Pennsylvania .....	6.8	8.1	714	797	106	98
South Carolina .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
South Dakota .....	0.4	0.3	57	57	160	164
Tennessee .....	0.9	0.8	71	57	76	70
Texas .....	7.9	14.5	855	1,334	108	92
Utah .....	1.6	1.6	219	211	136	133
Virginia .....	0.7	0.7	48	48	72	70
Washington .....	1.5	1.3	209	176	137	137
West Virginia .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin .....	1.8	3.2	286	514	155	163
Wyoming .....	0.1	0.1	12	12	144	152
United States .....	188.1	201.8	25,509	26,352	136	131

(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 2017	November 2018	December 2018	January to December		December 2017	November 2018	December 2018	January to December	
				2017	2018				2017	2018
	(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)
<b>Cattle</b>										
Steers .....	1,284.7	1,372.2	1,253.6	16,770.6	16,636.7	50.5	49.7	49.3	52.9	51.2
Heifers .....	735.9	823.7	753.5	8,611.1	9,166.8	28.9	29.8	29.6	27.2	28.2
All cows .....	481.2	524.6	498.4	5,772.5	6,177.1	18.9	19.0	19.6	18.2	19.0
Dairy cows .....	247.3	268.0	261.2	2,988.4	3,153.0	9.7	9.7	10.3	9.4	9.7
Other cows .....	233.9	256.6	237.1	2,784.1	3,024.1	9.2	9.3	9.3	8.8	9.3
Bulls .....	41.5	41.5	38.5	550.2	537.6	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.7
Total .....	2,543.2	2,762.1	2,544.0	31,704.3	32,518.1	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Calves and vealers</b> .....	45.6	54.9	53.0	503.3	571.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Hogs</b>										
Barrows and gilts .....	10,126.2	10,697.1	10,135.6	117,195.1	120,305.3	97.4	97.4	97.4	97.2	97.3
Sows .....	241.4	253.7	238.9	2,951.7	3,014.5	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.4
Boars .....	32.7	30.8	28.0	369.8	376.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Total .....	10,400.3	10,981.7	10,402.5	120,516.6	123,696.2	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Sheep</b>										
Mature sheep .....	7.8	8.8	10.1	101.6	106.6	4.6	5.1	5.7	5.2	5.3
Lambs and yearlings .....	162.3	165.3	166.1	1,835.5	1,893.1	95.4	94.9	94.3	94.8	94.7
Total .....	170.1	174.1	176.2	1,937.2	1,999.8	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 2017	November 2018	December 2018	January to December	
				2017	2018
	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
<b>Cattle</b> .....	837	830	824	817	818
Steers <sup>1</sup> .....	903	901	894	877	880
Heifers <sup>1</sup> .....	843	837	831	812	817
All cows <sup>1</sup> .....	643	629	633	642	645
Bulls <sup>1</sup> .....	878	868	862	896	889
<b>Calves and vealers</b> .....	141	120	120	145	130
<b>Hogs</b> .....	214	213	214	211	212
Barrows and gilts <sup>2</sup> .....	212	211	212	209	209
Sows <sup>2</sup> .....	306	302	302	308	305
Boars <sup>2</sup> .....	198	191	187	201	192
<b>Sheep</b> .....	69	68	67	68	70
Mature sheep <sup>3</sup> .....	65	65	63	67	67
Lambs and yearlings <sup>3</sup> .....	70	68	68	68	70

<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 2018

[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 .....	1.9	0.8	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
2 .....	6.7	1.8	1.5	2.9	2.7	0.2	0.6	11.3
3 .....	89.4	31.2	1.5	53.6	42.1	11.5	3.2	8.3
4 .....	47.6	2.7	1.1	37.3	12.9	24.4	6.5	0.2
5 .....	270.4	125.5	(D)	107.0	69.6	37.5	(D)	21.0
6 .....	446.5	211.9	140.4	86.3	30.4	55.9	8.0	0.1
7 .....	1,136.3	622.3	452.6	53.3	6.0	47.3	8.2	(Y)
8 .....	264.6	146.0	(D)	32.7	7.8	24.9	(D)	(Y)
9 .....	156.5	67.3	12.5	74.8	63.9	10.8	2.0	8.3
10 .....	124.0	44.2	27.1	50.2	25.8	24.5	2.4	3.6
United States .....	2,544.0	1,253.6	753.5	498.4	261.2	237.1	38.5	53.0
	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 .....	2.8	2.7	(Y)	(Y)	3.0	0.2	2.8	
2 .....	12.4	12.4	0.1	(Y)	20.5	2.4	18.0	
3 .....	495.9	494.8	(D)	(D)	13.3	1.2	12.1	
4 .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	7.9	1.1	6.8	
5 .....	3,028.1	2,915.8	108.3	3.9	30.0	2.2	27.8	
6 .....	489.8	489.7	0.1	(Y)	4.5	0.6	3.8	
7 .....	4,394.9	4,329.0	48.7	17.2	1.1	(Y)	1.1	
8 .....	(D)	(D)	0.5	(Y)	66.3	1.3	65.0	
9 .....	196.9	196.8	0.1	(Y)	24.7	0.9	23.8	
10 .....	26.7	26.7	(Y)	(Y)	5.0	0.2	4.8	
United States .....	10,402.5	10,135.6	238.9	28.0	176.2	10.1	166.1	

(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 – Regions and United States: January to December 2018

[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)	(1,000 head)
1 .....	22.3	9.2	6.0	4.8	2.2	2.6	2.2	2.6
2 .....	78.4	21.2	14.4	35.8	33.7	2.1	6.9	116.2
3 .....	1,109.7	380.2	22.3	660.8	525.9	134.9	46.4	102.2
4 .....	613.9	41.4	13.6	478.8	146.9	331.9	80.0	3.2
5 .....	3,305.2	1,565.8	(D)	1,282.9	844.1	438.9	(D)	222.6
6 .....	5,822.9	2,908.9	1,688.9	1,123.1	342.0	781.1	102.0	1.1
7 .....	14,511.6	8,344.4	5,349.4	703.1	64.7	638.4	114.6	0.5
8 .....	3,578.5	1,991.7	(D)	372.3	95.1	277.3	(D)	(Y)
9 .....	1,963.7	821.9	163.0	944.6	782.9	161.7	34.2	90.2
10 .....	1,512.0	552.1	354.9	570.5	315.5	255.1	34.5	32.9
United States .....	32,518.1	16,636.7	9,166.8	6,177.1	3,153.0	3,024.1	537.6	571.4
	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 .....	31.5	30.8	0.5	0.1	30.7	1.5	29.3	
2 .....	129.3	128.4	0.7	0.2	209.2	19.1	190.1	
3 .....	5,805.8	5,793.2	(D)	(D)	152.7	14.8	137.8	
4 .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	89.5	13.5	76.0	
5 .....	36,397.4	34,953.5	1,388.9	55.0	345.6	24.2	321.4	
6 .....	5,862.0	5,858.3	1.8	1.9	46.0	6.6	39.4	
7 .....	52,112.0	51,146.7	735.8	229.5	13.9	0.4	13.5	
8 .....	(D)	(D)	7.2	0.6	755.8	16.3	739.5	
9 .....	2,094.5	2,093.7	0.7	0.1	304.9	7.8	297.0	
10 .....	341.7	341.0	0.5	0.1	51.6	2.5	49.1	
United States .....	123,696.2	120,305.3	3,014.5	376.4	1,999.8	106.6	1,893.1	

(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 2017	November 2018	December 2018	January to December	
				2017	2018
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle .....	98.6	98.7	98.6	98.5	98.5
Calves .....	98.4	98.9	98.8	98.2	98.6
Hogs .....	99.4	99.5	99.4	99.3	99.4
Sheep .....	90.4	90.1	87.3	88.9	88.9

## 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 800 livestock slaughter plants in the United States operating under Federal Inspection and about 1,900 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 15). 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.

## 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  $(\text{NFI head kill}) \times (\text{live weight}) \times (\text{FI dressing percentage}) = \text{NFI red meat production}$ .

**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.

## 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@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov).

Travis Averill, Chief, Livestock Branch .....	(202) 720-3570
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section .....	(202) 690-2424
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter .....	(202) 690-8632
Holly Brenize – Sheep and Goats .....	(202) 720-0585
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products .....	(202) 720-4448
Heidi Gleich – Cattle, Cattle on Feed .....	(202) 720-3040
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows .....	(202) 720-3278
Seth Riggins – Hogs and Pigs .....	(202) 720-3106

## 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: <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 <http://www.nass.usda.gov> and in the “Follow NASS” box under “Receive reports by Email,” click on “National” or “State” to select the reports you would like to receive.

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@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov).

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