



# Livestock Slaughter

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## Commercial Red Meat Production Down 4 Percent From Last Year

**Commercial red meat production** for the United States totaled 4.17 billion pounds in March, down 4 percent from the 4.35 billion pounds produced in March 2011.

**Beef production**, at 2.16 billion pounds, was 5 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.75 million head, down 7 percent from March 2011. The average live weight was up 23 pounds from the previous year, at 1,299 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 10.0 million pounds, 18 percent below March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 59,400 head, down 19 percent from March 2011. The average live weight was down 1 pound from last year, at 283 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 1.99 billion pounds, down 3 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 9.52 million head, down 4 percent from March 2011. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 279 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 14.2 million pounds, was up 1 percent from March 2011. Sheep slaughter totaled 190,200 head, 2 percent below last year. The average live weight was 149 pounds, up 3 pounds from March a year ago.

**January to March 2012 commercial red meat production** was 12.2 billion pounds, up slightly from 2011. Accumulated beef production was down 2 percent from last year, veal was down 9 percent, pork was up 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 7 percent.

**March 2011** contained 23 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

**March 2012** contained 22 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 5 Saturdays.

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## Commercial Red Meat Production – United States

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

Type	March 2011	February 2012	March 2012	March 2012 as % of		January to March		
				March 2011	February 2012	2011	2012	2012 as % of 2011
	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Beef .....	2,266.2	2,009.0	2,157.6	95	107	6,409.5	6,280.4	98
Veal .....	12.1	9.8	10.0	82	102	33.4	30.2	91
Pork .....	2,054.4	1,882.9	1,987.9	97	106	5,718.7	5,857.8	102
Lamb and mutton .....	14.1	12.3	14.2	101	115	36.2	38.6	107
Total red meat .....	4,346.7	3,914.0	4,169.7	96	107	12,197.8	12,207.0	100

## Federally Inspected Red Meat Production – United States

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

Type	March 2011	February 2012	March 2012	March 2012 as % of		January to March		
				March 2011	February 2012	2011	2012	2012 as % of 2011
	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Beef .....	2,236.7	1,981.2	2,131.2	95	108	6,323.9	6,194.0	98
Veal .....	11.8	9.6	9.8	83	102	32.6	29.5	91
Pork .....	2,040.1	1,870.1	1,975.1	97	106	5,680.5	5,819.4	102
Lamb and mutton .....	13.6	11.8	13.6	100	115	34.7	37.0	107
Total red meat .....	4,302.2	3,872.7	4,129.7	96	107	12,071.7	12,079.9	100

## Livestock Slaughter, Number of Head and Average Live Weight – United States

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

Species	March 2011	February 2012	March 2012	March 2012 as % of 2011	January to March		
					2011	2012	2012 as % of 2011
				(percent)			(percent)
<b>Cattle</b>							
Number of head							
Federally inspected ..... 1,000	2,913.0	2,514.7	2,710.3	93	8,180.3	7,890.6	96
Other ..... 1,000	46.1	43.0	40.8	88	134.2	134.0	100
Commercial ..... 1,000	2,959.1	2,557.7	2,751.1	93	8,314.4	8,024.5	97
Live weight per head							
Federally inspected ..... pounds	1,278	1,310	1,302	102	1,290	1,305	101
Other ..... pounds	1,125	1,141	1,141	101	1,129	1,139	101
Commercial ..... pounds	1,276	1,307	1,299	102	1,287	1,302	101
<b>Calves</b>							
Number of head							
Federally inspected ..... 1,000	71.8	59.3	58.5	81	210.5	184.4	88
Other ..... 1,000	1.2	0.9	1.0	77	3.3	3.0	91
Commercial ..... 1,000	73.0	60.2	59.4	81	213.8	187.3	88
Live weight per head							
Federally inspected ..... pounds	281	274	281	100	268	271	101
Other ..... pounds	431	417	427	99	434	424	98
Commercial ..... pounds	284	276	283	100	270	273	101
<b>Hogs</b>							
Number of head							
Federally inspected ..... 1,000	9,794.6	8,974.8	9,453.6	97	27,270.6	27,895.2	102
Other ..... 1,000	78.0	69.7	68.1	87	212.2	208.6	98
Commercial ..... 1,000	9,872.5	9,044.5	9,521.6	96	27,482.9	28,103.8	102
Live weight per head							
Federally inspected ..... pounds	278	278	279	100	278	279	100
Other ..... pounds	255	253	259	102	250	254	102
Commercial ..... pounds	278	278	279	100	278	278	100
<b>Sheep and lambs</b>							
Number of head							
Federally inspected ..... 1,000	183.5	154.6	180.0	98	479.4	488.3	102
Other ..... 1,000	10.3	10.8	10.2	99	30.8	32.1	104
Commercial ..... 1,000	193.8	165.4	190.2	98	510.2	520.4	102
Live weight per head							
Federally inspected ..... pounds	148	153	152	102	145	152	105
Other ..... pounds	99	98	107	109	97	101	104
Commercial ..... pounds	146	149	149	102	142	149	105
<b>Goats</b>							
Number of head							
Federally inspected ..... 1,000	42.6	38.4	44.1	104	121.1	125.8	104
Other ..... 1,000	12.8	14.1	11.4	89	38.6	39.3	102
Commercial ..... 1,000	55.3	52.6	55.5	100	159.7	165.1	103
Live weight per head							
Federally inspected ..... pounds	65	62	63	98	64	63	99
Other ..... pounds	77	62	77	100	71	68	95
Commercial ..... pounds	67	62	66	98	65	64	98
<b>Bison</b>							
Number of head							
Federally inspected ..... 1,000	3.9	3.4	3.2	83	11.2	10.5	94
Other ..... 1,000	0.9	0.8	0.8	84	2.6	2.5	97
Commercial ..... 1,000	4.8	4.2	4.0	83	13.7	13.0	94

## Commercial Red Meat Production – States and United States

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

State	March 2011	February 2012	March 2012	March 2012 as % of 2011
	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Alabama .....	1.9	1.4	1.6	85
Alaska .....	-	-	-	-
Arizona .....	33.4	30.7	33.9	101
Arkansas .....	3.8	3.5	3.8	101
California .....	154.8	136.6	147.9	96
Colorado .....	191.4	175.0	185.3	97
Delaware-Maryland .....	3.2	2.7	2.8	87
Florida .....	10.1	8.0	9.6	94
Georgia .....	10.9	11.3	11.8	108
Hawaii .....	1.0	0.9	0.8	87
Idaho .....	13.4	3.3	3.4	26
Illinois .....	237.9	234.5	248.3	104
Indiana .....	158.6	142.5	148.3	93
Iowa .....	600.6	532.1	564.5	94
Kansas .....	459.2	398.1	441.9	96
Kentucky .....	51.4	46.6	48.6	95
Louisiana .....	0.6	0.5	0.5	79
Michigan .....	41.8	40.5	41.1	98
Minnesota .....	239.3	226.7	239.9	100
Mississippi .....	3.1	2.5	2.6	85
Missouri .....	160.1	145.2	158.2	99
Montana .....	0.8	0.7	0.7	91
Nebraska .....	609.0	572.4	605.7	99
Nevada .....	0.1	0.1	0.1	89
New England <sup>1</sup> .....	1.3	1.2	1.3	95
New Jersey .....	5.0	4.1	4.4	88
New Mexico .....	0.4	0.3	0.3	76
New York .....	2.5	2.4	2.6	104
North Carolina .....	219.4	204.2	205.1	94
North Dakota .....	4.1	2.8	2.7	66
Ohio .....	26.4	22.7	22.4	85
Oklahoma .....	115.1	93.6	97.1	84
Oregon .....	5.9	5.6	5.9	99
Pennsylvania .....	112.3	105.0	107.8	96
South Carolina .....	21.6	19.1	20.6	95
South Dakota .....	95.7	81.1	86.6	90
Tennessee .....	19.9	17.4	18.3	92
Texas .....	453.8	389.3	416.5	92
Utah .....	38.0	41.1	41.9	110
Virginia .....	40.9	37.2	45.8	112
Washington .....	72.8	68.1	76.9	106
West Virginia .....	0.6	0.5	0.6	106
Wisconsin .....	124.1	102.1	111.1	90
Wyoming .....	0.5	0.5	0.5	103
United States .....	4,346.7	3,914.0	4,169.7	96

- Represents zero.

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

## Commercial Cattle Slaughter – States and United States: March 2011 and 2012

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

State	Number slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	2011 (1,000 head)	2012 (1,000 head)	2011 (1,000 pounds)	2012 (1,000 pounds)	2011 (pounds)	2012 (pounds)
Alabama .....	0.7	0.6	725	545	1,010	982
Alaska .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arizona .....	44.7	46.2	57,618	60,042	1,293	1,301
Arkansas .....	0.7	0.6	693	594	979	959
California .....	155.5	147.6	197,101	189,472	1,291	1,293
Colorado .....	223.7	206.9	291,493	278,720	1,304	1,348
Delaware-Maryland .....	3.5	3.0	4,511	3,968	1,306	1,321
Florida .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Georgia .....	19.9	21.0	19,586	20,959	985	999
Hawaii .....	1.1	1.0	1,275	1,112	1,139	1,134
Idaho .....	17.7	2.3	21,549	2,420	1,247	1,120
Illinois .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Indiana .....	3.5	2.9	3,695	3,104	1,059	1,063
Iowa .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Kansas .....	563.2	533.3	709,736	681,352	1,260	1,278
Kentucky .....	1.6	1.5	1,665	1,589	1,013	1,029
Louisiana .....	0.5	0.5	429	369	800	798
Michigan .....	48.3	46.9	65,688	64,701	1,373	1,386
Minnesota .....	73.1	66.9	104,823	97,371	1,443	1,461
Mississippi .....	0.2	0.1	110	54	578	721
Missouri .....	7.5	5.1	8,983	5,648	1,204	1,108
Montana .....	0.9	0.8	1,057	1,003	1,156	1,194
Nebraska .....	585.1	554.4	770,231	750,567	1,318	1,355
Nevada .....	0.1	0.1	116	90	1,023	972
New England <sup>1</sup> .....	1.5	1.4	1,528	1,417	1,042	1,046
New Jersey .....	3.6	3.1	4,036	3,556	1,122	1,139
New Mexico .....	0.4	0.3	546	331	1,263	1,229
New York .....	2.6	2.6	2,938	2,934	1,146	1,162
North Carolina .....	19.7	17.8	22,673	20,827	1,157	1,172
North Dakota .....	3.4	3.3	4,541	4,458	1,352	1,351
Ohio .....	10.1	7.9	11,787	9,294	1,176	1,185
Oklahoma .....	2.7	2.2	2,860	2,345	1,068	1,067
Oregon .....	4.0	4.6	4,948	5,590	1,263	1,233
Pennsylvania .....	87.6	82.6	105,008	99,981	1,209	1,215
South Carolina .....	14.5	12.7	16,489	14,954	1,157	1,191
South Dakota .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Tennessee .....	4.2	3.8	3,530	3,113	851	841
Texas .....	599.0	542.0	731,261	672,623	1,225	1,244
Utah .....	46.6	49.1	61,604	67,807	1,325	1,384
Virginia .....	1.3	1.0	1,392	1,120	1,080	1,072
Washington .....	91.7	94.0	118,634	125,133	1,300	1,336
West Virginia .....	0.7	0.7	765	767	1,084	1,047
Wisconsin .....	151.3	133.5	200,488	177,721	1,337	1,339
Wyoming .....	0.6	0.6	708	748	1,120	1,260
United States .....	2,959.1	2,751.1	3,761,349	3,566,623	1,276	1,299

- Represents zero.

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

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

## Commercial Calf Slaughter – States and United States: March 2011 and 2012

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

State	Number slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	2011 (1,000 head)	2012 (1,000 head)	2011 (1,000 pounds)	2012 (1,000 pounds)	2011 (pounds)	2012 (pounds)
Alabama .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Alaska .....	(D)	-	(D)	-	(D)	-
Arizona .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arkansas .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
California .....	17.1	13.4	1,705	1,404	100	106
Colorado .....	(D)	-	(D)	-	(D)	-
Delaware-Maryland .....	0.3	0.3	70	73	260	264
Florida .....	(D)	0.1	(D)	28	(D)	437
Georgia .....	-	0.1	-	76	-	774
Hawaii .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Idaho .....	(D)	-	(D)	-	(D)	-
Illinois .....	1.7	1.2	757	494	439	429
Indiana .....	(D)	0.4	(D)	113	(D)	287
Iowa .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kansas .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kentucky .....	0.1	-	51	-	566	-
Louisiana .....	0.4	0.3	223	146	537	517
Michigan .....	1.7	1.6	684	694	419	429
Minnesota .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Missouri .....	0.1	-	28	-	435	-
Montana .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nebraska .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nevada .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
New England <sup>1</sup> .....	0.6	0.5	93	81	165	169
New Jersey .....	8.1	6.2	3,211	2,589	396	417
New Mexico .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
New York .....	7.5	6.9	756	719	108	105
North Carolina .....	0.2	0.1	83	37	526	507
North Dakota .....	(D)	-	(D)	-	(D)	-
Ohio .....	9.5	7.6	2,343	1,842	268	245
Oklahoma .....	0.1	0.1	36	50	396	456
Oregon .....	(D)	-	(D)	-	(D)	-
Pennsylvania .....	10.8	9.6	4,554	4,118	422	430
South Carolina .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Dakota .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Tennessee .....	0.1	0.1	24	25	434	447
Texas .....	1.5	0.6	918	398	660	633
Utah .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Virginia .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Washington .....	3.1	2.2	221	139	72	64
West Virginia .....	(D)	-	(D)	-	(D)	-
Wisconsin .....	9.8	8.1	4,352	3,648	446	448
Wyoming .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
United States .....	73.0	59.4	20,311	16,760	284	283

- Represents zero.

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

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

## Commercial Hog Slaughter – States and United States: March 2011 and 2012

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

State	Number slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	2011 (1,000 head)	2012 (1,000 head)	2011 (1,000 pounds)	2012 (1,000 pounds)	2011 (pounds)	2012 (pounds)
Alabama .....	6.5	5.5	2,757	2,275	427	416
Alaska .....	(D)	-	(D)	-	(D)	-
Arizona .....	0.2	0.2	39	44	236	279
Arkansas .....	11.1	11.4	5,105	5,188	462	456
California .....	226.3	209.0	55,556	50,948	246	244
Colorado .....	0.8	0.8	202	188	266	242
Delaware-Maryland .....	1.6	1.3	414	326	259	259
Florida .....	6.3	5.1	918	773	146	151
Georgia .....	6.2	6.6	1,580	1,634	254	247
Hawaii .....	1.3	1.1	323	279	249	249
Idaho .....	11.0	11.1	2,807	2,820	255	255
Illinois .....	822.3	892.7	231,749	252,590	282	283
Indiana .....	758.4	714.0	206,003	193,256	272	271
Iowa .....	2,686.3	2,519.9	747,492	705,181	278	280
Kansas .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Kentucky .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Louisiana .....	1.3	1.0	268	200	213	197
Michigan .....	11.0	11.0	4,308	4,248	393	388
Minnesota .....	904.8	924.7	243,372	250,620	270	271
Mississippi .....	11.7	9.9	4,246	3,647	363	367
Missouri .....	721.1	722.4	205,377	205,539	285	285
Montana .....	0.7	0.7	191	162	264	247
Nebraska .....	667.1	684.1	183,798	190,212	276	278
Nevada .....	-	0.1	-	14	-	254
New England <sup>1</sup> .....	1.7	1.6	406	420	244	258
New Jersey .....	8.7	9.9	893	979	103	99
New Mexico .....	0.1	0.1	21	23	254	254
New York .....	2.2	2.4	394	510	182	211
North Carolina .....	1,014.6	941.0	274,966	258,165	271	274
North Dakota .....	8.8	0.3	2,231	82	252	294
Ohio .....	92.0	83.2	25,058	22,097	273	266
Oklahoma .....	525.0	449.1	148,536	126,332	283	281
Oregon .....	17.0	14.8	4,318	3,762	255	254
Pennsylvania .....	240.1	237.5	62,421	61,834	260	261
South Carolina .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
South Dakota .....	435.1	384.4	116,203	104,372	267	272
Tennessee .....	57.2	53.3	26,719	24,793	468	466
Texas .....	38.0	27.6	10,885	8,622	286	312
Utah .....	4.6	3.9	737	566	163	144
Virginia .....	195.8	220.5	52,776	59,698	270	271
Washington .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
West Virginia .....	0.4	0.6	102	159	240	251
Wisconsin .....	48.5	45.3	21,924	20,507	455	454
Wyoming .....	0.4	0.3	92	81	233	263
United States .....	9,872.5	9,521.6	2,739,640	2,653,411	278	279

- Represents zero.

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

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

## Commercial Sheep and Lamb Slaughter – States and United States: March 2011 and 2012

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

State	Number slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	2011 (1,000 head)	2012 (1,000 head)	2011 (1,000 pounds)	2012 (1,000 pounds)	2011 (pounds)	2012 (pounds)
Alabama .....	-	0.1	-	4	-	70
Alaska .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arizona .....	0.2	0.3	30	36	137	133
Arkansas .....	-	0.1	-	6	-	105
California .....	26.9	27.6	3,964	4,023	147	146
Colorado .....	92.7	92.1	15,210	15,873	164	173
Delaware-Maryland .....	3.2	2.9	326	291	101	100
Florida .....	0.2	0.3	12	19	62	70
Georgia .....	0.2	0.4	17	32	72	88
Hawaii .....	-	0.1	-	9	-	129
Idaho .....	0.1	0.1	20	19	137	135
Illinois .....	9.6	12.4	1,467	1,938	153	157
Indiana .....	2.5	2.7	265	293	107	108
Iowa .....	8.5	0.1	1,266	21	150	153
Kansas .....	0.2	0.3	18	28	87	101
Kentucky .....	0.9	0.9	120	112	132	131
Louisiana .....	0.3	0.2	20	18	78	78
Michigan .....	15.2	15.3	2,035	2,038	134	134
Minnesota .....	1.0	0.2	137	21	143	119
Mississippi .....	(D)	0.2	(D)	15	(D)	67
Missouri .....	0.3	0.3	35	41	118	134
Montana .....	0.2	0.2	19	17	106	113
Nebraska .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nevada .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
New England <sup>1</sup> .....	2.1	2.3	199	205	94	91
New Jersey .....	8.9	8.9	772	737	87	83
New Mexico .....	1.0	0.9	162	139	155	155
New York .....	2.4	3.8	199	346	83	91
North Carolina .....	1.1	1.0	84	78	75	81
North Dakota .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ohio .....	0.5	0.5	58	53	107	107
Oklahoma .....	0.2	0.3	19	39	122	138
Oregon .....	1.9	2.3	285	330	147	146
Pennsylvania .....	2.6	4.1	259	401	99	98
South Carolina .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
South Dakota .....	0.2	0.2	24	22	138	114
Tennessee .....	0.6	0.6	50	46	78	77
Texas .....	3.9	3.9	262	359	66	92
Utah .....	2.7	2.4	390	337	147	142
Virginia .....	0.5	0.3	45	34	91	103
Washington .....	0.6	0.5	96	93	159	175
West Virginia .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin .....	0.5	0.8	71	116	135	142
Wyoming .....	0.1	0.1	10	9	133	158
United States .....	193.8	190.2	28,172	28,350	146	149

- Represents zero.

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

<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	March 2011	February 2012	March 2012	January to March		March 2011	February 2012	March 2012	January to March	
				2011	2012				2011	2012
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent of total)				
<b>Cattle</b>										
Steers .....	1,410	1,185	1,303	3,914	3,773	48.4	47.1	48.1	47.9	47.8
Heifers .....	904	781	839	2,530	2,386	31.0	31.1	31.0	30.9	30.2
All cows .....	545	508	522	1,596	1,603	18.7	20.2	19.3	19.5	20.3
Dairy cows .....	268	261	278	781	803	9.2	10.4	10.3	9.5	10.2
Other cows .....	277	247	244	815	800	9.5	9.8	9.0	10.0	10.1
Bulls .....	54	40	46	140	129	1.9	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.6
Total .....	2,913	2,515	2,710	8,180	7,891	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Calves and vealers</b> .....	72	59	58	211	184	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Hogs</b>										
Barrows and gilts .....	9,501	8,712	9,178	26,467	27,086	97.0	97.1	97.1	97.1	97.1
Sows .....	265	235	245	723	725	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.6
Boars .....	29	28	30	81	85	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Total .....	9,795	8,975	9,454	27,271	27,895	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Sheep</b>										
Mature sheep .....	11	8	9	28	26	5.9	5.5	5.0	5.9	5.3
Lambs and yearlings .....	173	146	171	451	462	94.1	94.5	95.0	94.1	94.7
Total .....	183	155	180	479	488	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	March 2011	February 2012	March 2012	January to March	
				2011	2012
	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
<b>Cattle</b> .....	771	790	788	776	787
Steers <sup>1</sup> .....	827	855	846	837	851
Heifers <sup>1</sup> .....	770	795	793	777	793
All cows <sup>1</sup> .....	613	622	626	614	617
Bulls <sup>1</sup> .....	877	877	889	870	876
<b>Calves and vealers</b> .....	168	163	168	159	161
<b>Hogs</b> .....	208	208	209	208	209
Barrows and gilts <sup>2</sup> .....	206	206	206	206	206
Sows <sup>2</sup> .....	308	307	309	307	307
Boars <sup>2</sup> .....	211	209	206	210	208
<b>Sheep</b> .....	74	77	76	73	76
Mature sheep <sup>3</sup> .....	69	65	66	69	65
Lambs and yearlings <sup>3</sup> .....	74	77	76	73	77

<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: March 2012

[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 .....	1.2	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.5	
2 .....	5.6	1.6	0.6	3.0	2.6	0.4	0.5	13.1	
3 .....	84.4	31.6	1.4	49.2	39.4	9.8	2.1	9.9	
4 .....	70.2	2.5	1.1	56.8	16.3	40.6	9.8	0.3	
5 .....	315.2	136.0	34.9	135.1	79.3	55.8	9.2	18.7	
6 .....	540.4	286.7	149.0	94.2	34.9	59.3	10.5	0.6	
7 .....	1,129.9	581.8	484.5	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	-	
8 .....	269.2	131.6	117.8	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	-	
9 .....	194.3	84.6	16.3	89.9	79.3	10.6	3.4	13.2	
10 .....	100.1	46.2	33.4	19.3	16.7	2.7	1.2	2.2	
United States .....	2,710.3	1,303.1	839.4	522.2	278.0	244.1	45.7	58.5	
	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 .....	1.4	1.3	-	-	2.2	0.1	2.1		
2 .....	12.2	11.9	0.1	0.2	12.1	1.8	10.3		
3 .....	457.9	456.8	(D)	(D)	7.8	0.3	7.5		
4 .....	1,294.6	1,223.5	(D)	(D)	3.4	0.9	2.5		
5 .....	2,647.7	2,534.8	107.5	5.3	29.6	2.5	27.1		
6 .....	480.6	465.4	15.1	-	1.5	0.5	1.0		
7 .....	3,940.9	3,865.9	53.8	21.1	0.5	-	0.5		
8 .....	387.8	387.7	0.1	-	94.2	2.4	91.9		
9 .....	203.8	203.7	0.1	-	26.3	0.4	25.9		
10 .....	26.7	26.7	-	-	2.4	0.1	2.3		
United States .....	9,453.6	9,177.7	245.3	30.5	180.0	9.0	171.0		

- Represents zero.

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

<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 March 2012

[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 .....	3.8	1.6	0.9	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.6	1.6
2 .....	17.0	5.0	1.8	8.8	7.6	1.3	1.4	40.8
3 .....	255.5	90.6	10.4	148.6	118.8	29.8	5.9	27.9
4 .....	208.2	6.9	3.4	169.3	47.5	121.8	28.5	0.8
5 .....	931.5	380.2	100.7	425.1	237.2	188.0	25.4	59.5
6 .....	1,593.9	793.6	468.3	302.5	97.2	205.2	29.5	3.6
7 .....	3,251.1	1,701.7	1,356.7	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	0.1
8 .....	785.8	413.0	313.8	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	-
9 .....	562.0	241.2	46.0	264.6	224.1	40.5	10.2	43.4
10 .....	281.9	139.0	84.4	55.4	45.0	10.4	3.1	6.6
United States .....	7,890.6	3,772.8	2,386.4	1,602.5	803.0	799.5	128.8	184.4
	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 .....	4.0	3.8	0.1	0.1	5.7	0.3	5.4	
2 .....	35.5	34.6	0.4	0.4	31.2	5.0	26.2	
3 .....	1,289.5	1,286.4	(D)	(D)	21.1	1.3	19.8	
4 .....	3,894.5	3,681.8	(D)	(D)	9.0	2.4	6.6	
5 .....	7,801.1	7,466.9	318.9	15.2	76.7	7.1	69.5	
6 .....	1,467.1	1,420.7	45.5	1.0	4.4	1.8	2.6	
7 .....	11,569.5	11,358.1	154.9	56.4	1.3	-	1.2	
8 .....	1,157.6	1,157.2	0.4	-	260.1	6.4	253.7	
9 .....	596.4	596.2	0.2	-	72.7	1.1	71.7	
10 .....	80.0	79.9	0.1	-	6.1	0.4	5.7	
United States .....	27,895.2	27,085.6	724.7	84.9	488.3	25.9	462.5	

- Represents zero.

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

<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	March 2011	February 2012	March 2012	January to March	
				2011	2012
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle .....	98.4	98.3	98.5	98.4	98.3
Calves .....	98.3	98.5	98.4	98.5	98.4
Hogs .....	99.2	99.2	99.3	99.2	99.3
Sheep .....	94.7	93.5	94.6	94.0	93.8

## 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 nearly 800 livestock slaughter plants in the United States operating under Federal Inspection and over 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)

Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch .....	(202) 720-3570
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section .....	(202) 690-2424
Travis Averill – Cattle, Cattle on Feed .....	(202) 720-3040
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter .....	(515) 284-4340
Doug Bounds – Hogs and Pigs, Goats .....	(202) 720-3106
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows .....	(202) 720-3278
Lorie Warren – Dairy Products, Sheep .....	(202) 690-3236

## 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 “Receive NASS Updates” box under “Receive reports by Email,” click on “National” or “State” to select the reports you would like to receive.
- Printed reports may be purchased from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) by calling toll-free (800) 999-6779, or (703) 605-6220 if calling from outside the United States or Canada. Accepted methods of payment are Visa, MasterCard, check, or money order.

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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