



Livestock Slaughter

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Commercial Red Meat Production Down from Last Year

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.00 billion pounds in December, down 5 percent from the 4.22 billion pounds produced in December 2011.

Beef production, at 2.02 billion pounds, was 5 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.54 million head, down 8 percent from December 2011. The average live weight was up 26 pounds from the previous year, at 1,323 pounds.

Veal production totaled 9.8 million pounds, 9 percent below December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 65,400 head, down 10 percent from December 2011. The average live weight was up 1 pound from last year, at 254 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.95 billion pounds, down 5 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 9.47 million head, down 5 percent from December 2011. The average live weight was down 2 pounds from the previous year, at 276 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 12.8 million pounds, was up 3 percent from December 2011. Sheep slaughter totaled 189,700 head, 5 percent above last year. The average live weight was 135 pounds, down 4 pounds from December a year ago.

January to December 2012 commercial red meat production was 49.4 billion pounds, up slightly from 2011. Accumulated beef production was down 1 percent from last year, veal was down 9 percent, pork was up 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 5 percent.

December 2011 contained 22 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

December 2012 contained 21 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

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Commercial Red Meat Production – United States

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

Type	December 2011	November 2012	December 2012	December 2012 as % of		January to December		
				December 2011	November 2012	2011	2012	2012 as % of 2011
	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Beef	2,126.3	2,206.6	2,020.4	95	92	26,195.4	25,912.2	99
Veal	10.8	10.1	9.8	91	97	129.5	118.0	91
Pork	2,065.6	2,078.7	1,953.5	95	94	22,758.2	23,250.0	102
Lamb and mutton	12.5	12.4	12.8	103	103	148.7	156.2	105
Total red meat	4,215.1	4,307.8	3,996.5	95	93	49,231.7	49,436.4	100

Federally Inspected Red Meat Production – United States

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

Type	December 2011	November 2012	December 2012	December 2012 as % of		January to December		
				December 2011	November 2012	2011	2012	2012 as % of 2011
	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Beef	2,096.4	2,178.8	1,992.3	95	91	25,854.3	25,572.6	99
Veal	10.5	9.8	9.6	91	97	126.2	115.0	91
Pork	2,052.6	2,065.1	1,940.5	95	94	22,599.2	23,090.0	102
Lamb and mutton	11.8	11.6	11.9	101	103	140.8	147.7	105
Total red meat	4,171.3	4,265.3	3,954.4	95	93	48,720.5	48,925.3	100

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

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

Species	December 2011	November 2012	December 2012	December 2012 as % of 2011	January to December		
					2011	2012	2012 as % of 2011
				(percent)			(percent)
Cattle							
Number of head							
Federally inspected 1,000	2,706.3	2,740.3	2,500.1	92	33,554.8	32,425.4	97
Other 1,000	47.1	43.5	43.4	92	531.8	525.0	99
Commercial 1,000	2,753.4	2,783.8	2,543.5	92	34,086.6	32,950.4	97
Live weight per head							
Federally inspected pounds	1,300	1,324	1,327	102	1,280	1,305	102
Other pounds	1,132	1,131	1,144	101	1,129	1,138	101
Commercial pounds	1,297	1,321	1,323	102	1,277	1,302	102
Calves							
Number of head							
Federally inspected 1,000	71.8	69.4	64.5	90	838.8	759.7	91
Other 1,000	1.1	1.1	0.9	79	13.8	12.4	90
Commercial 1,000	73.0	70.5	65.4	90	852.5	772.1	91
Live weight per head							
Federally inspected pounds	250	242	252	101	260	257	99
Other pounds	426	414	411	96	420	420	100
Commercial pounds	253	244	254	100	263	260	99
Hogs							
Number of head							
Federally inspected 1,000	9,867.6	10,030.4	9,393.3	95	109,956.3	112,265.3	102
Other 1,000	74.2	74.9	71.9	97	903.7	886.8	98
Commercial 1,000	9,941.8	10,105.3	9,465.2	95	110,860.0	113,152.2	102
Live weight per head							
Federally inspected pounds	278	276	276	99	275	275	100
Other pounds	242	252	249	103	244	250	102
Commercial pounds	278	276	276	99	275	275	100
Sheep and lambs							
Number of head							
Federally inspected 1,000	167.2	165.5	173.3	104	2,000.2	2,012.1	101
Other 1,000	12.9	16.3	16.4	127	164.1	170.8	104
Commercial 1,000	180.1	181.8	189.7	105	2,164.3	2,183.0	101
Live weight per head							
Federally inspected pounds	142	140	138	97	141	147	104
Other pounds	100	105	109	109	99	101	102
Commercial pounds	139	137	135	98	138	143	104
Goats							
Number of head							
Federally inspected 1,000	55.2	44.6	48.3	88	589.1	557.9	95
Other 1,000	17.0	17.2	17.8	105	184.6	173.9	94
Commercial 1,000	72.2	61.8	66.1	92	773.8	731.8	95
Live weight per head							
Federally inspected pounds	63	63	64	101	63	63	101
Other pounds	73	66	69	95	69	68	99
Commercial pounds	66	64	66	100	64	65	100
Bison							
Number of head							
Federally inspected 1,000	3.7	3.8	3.0	82	44.2	41.1	93
Other 1,000	1.0	0.9	1.0	99	9.5	10.3	108
Commercial 1,000	4.7	4.7	4.0	86	53.7	51.3	96

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 2011	November 2012	December 2012	December 2012 as % of 2011
	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Alabama	1.6	0.6	0.6	35
Alaska	(Y)	0.1	(Y)	(X)
Arizona	38.4	32.3	29.8	77
Arkansas	4.2	4.0	4.0	96
California	146.6	144.9	140.1	96
Colorado	179.3	193.7	167.7	94
Delaware-Maryland	3.0	2.5	2.5	83
Florida	9.5	10.4	9.2	97
Georgia	12.0	13.1	11.7	97
Hawaii	0.9	0.8	0.8	93
Idaho	3.5	3.7	3.7	106
Illinois	257.8	271.4	242.0	94
Indiana	156.1	155.2	144.8	93
Iowa	595.8	589.6	548.2	92
Kansas	416.6	440.2	410.3	98
Kentucky	48.8	44.7	44.5	91
Louisiana	0.5	0.5	0.4	82
Michigan	45.9	43.8	42.0	91
Minnesota	251.4	250.2	236.4	94
Mississippi	1.8	2.4	2.3	125
Missouri	156.7	152.7	146.2	93
Montana	1.8	1.7	1.7	97
Nebraska	606.7	624.1	577.5	95
Nevada	0.1	0.1	0.1	80
New England ¹	1.6	2.0	1.7	106
New Jersey	4.6	3.8	4.3	93
New Mexico	0.5	0.4	0.3	68
New York	3.1	3.0	2.8	89
North Carolina	203.1	229.4	206.6	102
North Dakota	2.5	0.5	0.7	28
Ohio	26.0	24.7	22.3	86
Oklahoma	98.6	103.2	98.8	100
Oregon	5.6	6.4	5.7	102
Pennsylvania	112.3	112.5	105.7	94
South Carolina	21.3	21.3	19.5	92
South Dakota	96.5	102.5	99.3	103
Tennessee	21.9	23.6	17.7	81
Texas	404.4	408.3	380.5	94
Utah	37.7	41.5	38.2	102
Virginia	45.0	48.2	46.1	102
Washington	70.8	77.5	68.5	97
West Virginia	1.0	0.7	0.7	75
Wisconsin	119.1	115.1	110.4	93
Wyoming	0.6	0.4	0.4	76
United States	4,215.1	4,307.8	3,996.5	95

(X) Not applicable.

(Y) Less than level of precision shown.

¹ New England includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Commercial Cattle Slaughter – States and United States: December 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	0.4	0.3	371	305	861	907
Alaska	(Y)	0.1	(X)	57	(X)	993
Arizona	52.0	40.9	67,219	52,748	1,296	1,294
Arkansas	0.7	0.5	713	538	981	998
California	144.7	140.1	184,085	178,324	1,284	1,280
Colorado	202.3	186.1	273,427	253,645	1,353	1,364
Delaware-Maryland	3.3	2.5	4,184	3,312	1,281	1,320
Florida	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Georgia	21.9	20.9	21,475	20,799	985	997
Hawaii	0.9	0.9	1,039	999	1,095	1,091
Idaho	2.5	2.5	2,575	2,601	1,101	1,114
Illinois	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Indiana	3.6	3.5	3,793	3,696	1,064	1,061
Iowa	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Kansas	497.8	471.6	648,503	629,870	1,303	1,336
Kentucky	1.5	1.4	1,479	1,339	979	988
Louisiana	0.4	0.3	331	239	770	758
Michigan	55.2	48.2	74,492	67,731	1,356	1,412
Minnesota	81.7	78.8	113,787	110,226	1,399	1,405
Mississippi	0.1	0.1	40	64	608	760
Missouri	4.7	4.6	5,424	5,064	1,152	1,105
Montana	2.3	2.2	2,700	2,595	1,160	1,166
Nebraska	555.7	520.5	753,132	721,497	1,356	1,388
Nevada	0.1	0.1	95	79	1,009	970
New England ¹	1.8	1.8	1,727	1,838	991	1,024
New Jersey	3.1	3.0	3,489	3,463	1,126	1,151
New Mexico	0.6	0.4	729	374	1,281	950
New York	3.2	2.3	3,637	2,651	1,143	1,152
North Carolina	17.8	11.3	20,315	13,392	1,146	1,191
North Dakota	3.0	0.8	4,042	1,051	1,334	1,246
Ohio	11.3	7.1	13,125	8,366	1,169	1,183
Oklahoma	2.1	2.0	2,069	1,974	983	1,000
Oregon	4.9	5.1	5,800	6,008	1,213	1,208
Pennsylvania	84.7	76.1	100,380	91,185	1,189	1,202
South Carolina	12.6	13.0	13,956	14,930	1,120	1,162
South Dakota	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Tennessee	4.6	3.4	3,853	2,998	853	903
Texas	535.7	484.2	661,091	614,556	1,237	1,272
Utah	45.3	44.7	61,013	61,450	1,351	1,377
Virginia	1.1	1.1	1,207	1,187	1,055	1,044
Washington	86.4	84.6	115,692	112,759	1,345	1,337
West Virginia	1.4	1.1	1,392	993	982	908
Wisconsin	151.8	138.6	197,040	182,442	1,304	1,323
Wyoming	0.7	0.6	855	645	1,142	1,076
United States	2,753.4	2,543.5	3,561,930	3,358,667	1,297	1,323

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

(X) Not applicable.

(Y) Less than level of precision shown.

¹ New England includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Commercial Calf Slaughter – States and United States: December 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	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Alaska	(D)	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)
Arizona	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Arkansas	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
California	16.4	14.6	1,707	1,565	105	107
Colorado	(D)	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)
Delaware-Maryland	0.3	0.3	70	71	262	249
Florida	(D)	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)
Georgia	0.1	0.1	46	62	596	617
Hawaii	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Idaho	(D)	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)
Illinois	1.1	1.1	491	486	442	446
Indiana	(D)	0.5	(D)	151	(D)	326
Iowa	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Kansas	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Kentucky	0.1	(Y)	41	(X)	572	(X)
Louisiana	0.4	0.2	214	130	534	523
Michigan	1.4	0.8	580	331	422	410
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)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Nevada	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
New England ¹	0.6	0.6	94	98	147	170
New Jersey	6.7	5.8	2,817	2,435	418	417
New Mexico	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
New York	11.4	10.1	1,097	1,208	102	120
North Carolina	0.1	0.1	40	44	503	495
North Dakota	(D)	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)
Ohio	12.0	10.4	1,979	1,891	166	181
Oklahoma	0.1	(Y)	26	(X)	441	(X)
Oregon	(D)	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)
Pennsylvania	9.5	10.1	4,058	4,328	426	428
South Carolina	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
South Dakota	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Tennessee	0.1	0.1	38	37	468	504
Texas	1.7	1.0	600	440	360	431
Utah	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Virginia	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Washington	1.3	2.9	94	203	76	71
West Virginia	(D)	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)
Wisconsin	8.9	6.4	4,055	2,991	454	472
Wyoming	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
United States	73.0	65.4	18,277	16,570	253	254

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

(X) Not applicable.

(Y) Less than level of precision shown.

¹ New England includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Commercial Hog Slaughter – States and United States: December 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	6.0	1.5	2,520	604	419	417
Alaska	(D)	0.1	(D)	16	(D)	240
Arizona	0.1	0.1	28	32	226	253
Arkansas	12.5	12.2	5,677	5,563	453	457
California	226.8	207.5	54,674	50,200	241	242
Colorado	0.8	1.4	185	309	237	216
Delaware-Maryland	1.5	1.6	367	383	249	247
Florida	4.0	5.3	621	806	156	151
Georgia	7.4	7.6	1,844	1,800	251	238
Hawaii	1.5	1.4	344	324	233	234
Idaho	11.0	11.9	2,793	3,034	255	256
Illinois	946.7	892.5	266,417	250,302	282	281
Indiana	745.7	704.2	203,101	189,648	272	269
Iowa	2,675.1	2,492.8	748,569	689,544	280	277
Kansas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Kentucky	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Louisiana	1.4	1.5	205	225	146	154
Michigan	11.8	11.2	4,666	4,435	395	395
Minnesota	941.3	894.2	256,013	239,671	272	268
Mississippi	9.5	10.6	2,559	3,165	269	299
Missouri	711.7	676.0	203,751	190,293	286	282
Montana	1.4	1.4	323	329	227	235
Nebraska	711.9	656.3	197,105	178,878	277	273
Nevada	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
New England ¹	2.4	2.4	550	582	233	246
New Jersey	11.5	11.5	1,044	952	91	83
New Mexico	0.1	0.1	19	36	260	280
New York	2.8	3.0	496	595	179	196
North Carolina	952.0	958.4	257,456	265,856	271	277
North Dakota	0.5	0.5	149	136	275	281
Ohio	90.1	82.6	24,270	22,711	270	275
Oklahoma	460.6	465.7	128,708	128,431	279	276
Oregon	13.0	12.7	3,288	3,241	254	255
Pennsylvania	261.0	255.6	67,496	67,160	259	263
South Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
South Dakota	427.6	435.3	116,138	117,657	272	270
Tennessee	66.2	53.6	29,546	24,030	447	449
Texas	38.3	36.5	10,945	11,343	286	311
Utah	5.3	5.9	700	903	132	153
Virginia	218.3	220.1	58,553	59,950	268	273
Washington	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
West Virginia	0.6	0.6	174	172	277	273
Wisconsin	44.9	38.6	20,324	17,521	454	454
Wyoming	0.2	0.2	63	43	273	264
United States	9,941.8	9,465.2	2,762,141	2,612,654	278	276

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

(X) Not applicable.

(Y) Less than level of precision shown.

¹ New England includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Commercial Sheep and Lamb Slaughter – States and United States: December 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	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Alaska	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Arizona	0.2	0.2	31	25	125	115
Arkansas	0.1	(Y)	6	(X)	91	(X)
California	23.4	24.6	3,314	3,360	141	137
Colorado	85.7	80.7	13,734	12,731	160	158
Delaware-Maryland	3.4	3.5	328	329	98	93
Florida	0.1	0.1	6	9	71	76
Georgia	0.2	0.8	18	54	75	72
Hawaii	0.1	0.1	10	9	132	102
Idaho	0.2	0.2	24	23	135	117
Illinois	11.3	13.8	1,553	1,930	137	139
Indiana	3.9	3.3	435	358	111	109
Iowa	0.1	0.2	20	29	147	142
Kansas	0.3	0.3	28	25	104	95
Kentucky	0.9	1.1	121	129	128	120
Louisiana	0.3	0.2	16	14	61	58
Michigan	13.1	16.6	1,700	2,162	130	130
Minnesota	0.4	0.4	54	53	131	119
Mississippi	(D)	0.3	(D)	25	(D)	85
Missouri	0.3	0.5	42	58	121	124
Montana	0.4	0.5	39	45	87	96
Nebraska	0.1	0.1	15	11	129	124
Nevada	(Y)	0.1	(X)	6	(X)	112
New England ¹	2.9	3.0	244	258	85	86
New Jersey	9.7	9.9	825	818	85	82
New Mexico	0.8	0.8	117	112	145	146
New York	3.6	4.8	299	432	82	89
North Carolina	1.2	1.1	80	86	68	76
North Dakota	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Ohio	1.1	1.1	112	115	106	104
Oklahoma	0.1	0.2	15	20	107	127
Oregon	2.1	2.7	291	351	139	131
Pennsylvania	4.3	5.6	424	550	99	99
South Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
South Dakota	0.2	0.3	23	29	115	115
Tennessee	0.6	0.8	44	61	74	76
Texas	3.1	5.6	192	595	62	106
Utah	2.5	2.3	331	306	135	134
Virginia	0.5	0.4	42	37	92	95
Washington	1.0	1.6	178	232	179	142
West Virginia	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin	0.7	0.9	91	124	132	130
Wyoming	0.1	0.1	16	13	176	137
United States	180.1	189.7	24,950	25,661	139	135

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

(X) Not applicable.

(Y) Less than level of precision shown.

¹ 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 2011	November 2012	December 2012	January to December		December 2011	November 2012	December 2012	January to December	
				2011	2012				2011	2012
	(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)
Cattle										
Steers	1,314	1,308	1,204	16,539	16,160	48.6	47.7	48.2	49.3	49.8
Heifers	746	785	697	9,726	9,269	27.6	28.7	27.9	29.0	28.6
All cows	601	599	556	6,712	6,446	22.2	21.9	22.2	20.0	19.9
Dairy cows	262	269	259	2,914	3,101	9.7	9.8	10.3	8.7	9.6
Other cows	340	330	297	3,798	3,344	12.5	12.0	11.9	11.3	10.3
Bulls	45	48	44	579	551	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7
Total	2,706	2,740	2,500	33,555	32,425	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Calves and vealers	72	69	64	839	760	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Hogs										
Barrows and gilts	9,579	9,743	9,133	106,600	108,912	97.1	97.1	97.2	96.9	97.0
Sows	260	257	234	3,027	3,009	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.8	2.7
Boars	29	31	27	329	344	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Total	9,868	10,030	9,393	109,956	112,265	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sheep										
Mature sheep	10	11	9	141	143	6.2	6.6	5.3	7.0	7.1
Lambs and yearlings	157	155	164	1,859	1,869	93.8	93.4	94.7	93.0	92.9
Total	167	165	173	2,000	2,012	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 2011	November 2012	December 2012	January to December	
				2011	2012
	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
Cattle	777	797	799	773	790
Steers ¹	850	875	876	841	859
Heifers ¹	785	809	812	773	792
All cows ¹	600	602	608	596	608
Bulls ¹	857	863	872	868	877
Calves and vealers	148	142	149	154	152
Hogs	208	206	207	206	206
Barrows and gilts ²	206	203	204	203	203
Sows ²	302	302	305	305	306
Boars ²	208	203	207	210	208
Sheep	71	70	69	70	74
Mature sheep ³	63	62	63	66	64
Lambs and yearlings ³	71	71	69	71	74

¹ Included in cattle average dressed weight.

² Included in hog average dressed weight.

³ Included in sheep average dressed weight.

Federally Inspected Slaughter – Regions and United States: December 2012

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

Standard federal regions ¹	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	1.6	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.6
2	5.2	1.8	0.7	2.3	2.0	0.4	0.4	15.9
3	78.0	18.5	5.4	52.0	41.8	10.2	2.1	10.4
4	62.9	2.2	0.9	50.5	13.2	37.3	9.3	0.2
5	325.1	127.9	30.2	157.7	85.2	72.5	9.3	19.0
6	482.6	244.5	127.7	99.7	23.2	76.4	10.8	1.0
7	1,026.9	558.0	399.6	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(Y)
8	245.5	137.3	87.3	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(Y)
9	181.2	71.6	16.9	89.8	70.2	19.6	2.9	14.4
10	91.2	41.7	27.6	20.6	15.8	4.9	1.3	2.9
United States	2,500.1	1,204.1	696.7	555.7	258.8	296.9	43.7	64.5
	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	1.9	1.9	(Y)	(Y)	2.8	0.1	2.7	
2	14.4	14.2	0.1	(Y)	13.9	1.6	12.4	
3	476.1	475.0	(D)	(D)	10.0	1.0	9.0	
4	1,291.1	1,220.3	(D)	(D)	3.9	0.9	3.1	
5	2,596.6	2,491.2	100.0	5.4	31.5	3.0	28.5	
6	508.3	488.2	19.9	0.1	2.1	0.7	1.4	
7	3,834.9	3,772.3	45.5	17.2	0.6	(Y)	0.6	
8	441.4	441.0	0.3	(Y)	82.5	1.6	81.0	
9	203.0	202.9	(Y)	(Y)	23.1	0.2	22.9	
10	25.7	25.7	(Y)	(Y)	2.7	(Y)	2.7	
United States	9,393.3	9,132.7	234.0	26.5	173.3	9.2	164.1	

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

(Y) Less than level of precision shown.

¹ 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 2012

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

Standard federal regions ¹	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	17.5	8.0	4.2	2.7	1.7	1.0	2.7	7.9
2	66.3	21.5	8.0	31.3	27.4	3.9	5.5	173.1
3	1,005.6	344.4	35.5	599.2	479.0	120.2	26.5	120.4
4	830.6	29.3	13.2	670.4	176.7	493.7	117.7	3.2
5	3,870.5	1,664.2	396.6	1,695.5	953.0	742.4	114.3	241.8
6	6,497.6	3,231.2	1,933.2	1,212.5	339.8	872.7	120.6	9.0
7	13,446.8	7,433.0	5,206.2	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	0.6
8	3,227.0	1,858.6	1,133.1	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(Y)
9	2,286.9	962.6	212.6	1,069.9	845.6	224.3	41.8	172.6
10	1,176.7	606.9	326.4	228.9	179.2	49.7	14.6	31.2
United States	32,425.4	16,159.5	9,269.0	6,445.6	3,101.5	3,344.2	551.3	759.7
	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	21.5	20.9	0.4	0.3	30.8	1.7	29.1	
2	143.3	141.2	1.4	0.8	147.6	19.8	127.8	
3	5,389.0	5,376.2	(D)	(D)	107.8	11.5	96.3	
4	15,583.8	14,667.8	(D)	(D)	47.7	11.6	36.1	
5	31,334.4	29,973.4	1,295.9	65.2	344.0	32.7	311.3	
6	5,908.1	5,705.2	201.2	1.8	29.6	16.4	13.3	
7	46,386.7	45,532.0	622.8	232.0	7.6	0.2	7.4	
8	4,764.3	4,762.7	1.5	0.1	983.8	42.4	941.4	
9	2,410.5	2,409.6	0.7	0.1	283.9	5.5	278.4	
10	323.6	323.2	0.4	0.1	29.2	1.3	27.9	
United States	112,265.3	108,912.2	3,008.8	344.3	2,012.1	143.1	1,869.1	

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

(Y) Less than level of precision shown.

¹ 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 2011	November 2012	December 2012	January to December	
				2011	2012
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle	98.3	98.4	98.3	98.4	98.4
Calves	98.5	98.4	98.6	98.4	98.4
Hogs	99.3	99.3	99.2	99.2	99.2
Sheep	92.9	91.0	91.4	92.4	92.2

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

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	(202) 720-3106
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products	(202) 690-3236
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows	(202) 720-3278
Alissa Cowell-Mytar – Sheep and Goats.....	(202) 720-4751

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.

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