



Livestock Slaughter

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Red Meat Production Up 7 Percent From Last Year

March 2014 contained 21 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 5 Saturdays.

March 2015 contained 22 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.06 billion pounds in March, up 7 percent from the 3.81 billion pounds produced in March 2014.

Beef production, at 1.93 billion pounds, was slightly below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.38 million head, down 3 percent from March 2014. The average live weight was up 30 pounds from the previous year, at 1,348 pounds.

Veal production totaled 6.9 million pounds, 21 percent below March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 39,700 head, down 26 percent from March 2014. The average live weight was up 18 pounds from last year, at 295 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.11 billion pounds, up 14 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 9.89 million head, up 14 percent from March 2014. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 285 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 14.3 million pounds, was up 8 percent from March 2014. Sheep slaughter totaled 204,600 head, 8 percent above last year. The average live weight was 140 pounds, up 1 pound from March a year ago.

January to March 2015 commercial red meat production was 11.9 billion pounds, up 1 percent from 2014.

Accumulated beef production was down 3 percent from last year, veal was down 24 percent, pork was up 7 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 1 percent.

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Commercial Red Meat Production – United States

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

Type	March 2014	February 2015	March 2015	March 2015 as % of		January to March		
				March 2014	February 2015	2014	2015	2015 as % of 2014
	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Beef	1,938.4	1,768.7	1,931.6	100	109	5,867.6	5,664.1	97
Veal	8.7	6.3	6.9	79	109	26.2	20.0	76
Pork	1,854.4	1,945.2	2,111.5	114	109	5,784.4	6,161.4	107
Lamb and mutton	13.2	11.6	14.3	108	123	37.2	37.5	101
Total red meat	3,814.7	3,731.8	4,064.3	107	109	11,715.4	11,883.0	101

Federally Inspected Red Meat Production – United States

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

Type	March 2014	February 2015	March 2015	March 2015 as % of		January to March		
				March 2014	February 2015	2014	2015	2015 as % of 2014
	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Beef	1,913.3	1,744.6	1,907.2	100	109	5,787.1	5,588.1	97
Veal	8.6	6.2	6.8	79	110	25.8	19.7	76
Pork	1,843.7	1,934.6	2,099.1	114	109	5,751.7	6,127.3	107
Lamb and mutton	12.6	10.8	13.5	107	125	35.2	35.3	100
Total red meat	3,778.1	3,696.2	4,026.6	107	109	11,599.7	11,770.3	101

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

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

Species	March 2014	February 2015	March 2015	March 2015 as % of 2014	January to March		
					2014	2015	2015 as % of 2014
				(percent)			(percent)
Cattle							
Number of head							
Federally inspected 1,000	2,412.5	2,134.5	2,341.5	97	7,250.5	6,852.5	95
Other 1,000	38.6	36.4	36.9	96	123.7	114.8	93
Commercial 1,000	2,451.1	2,170.9	2,378.4	97	7,374.2	6,967.3	94
Live weight per head							
Federally inspected .. pounds	1,321	1,359	1,351	102	1,331	1,357	102
Other pounds	1,145	1,159	1,161	101	1,148	1,163	101
Commercial pounds	1,318	1,355	1,348	102	1,328	1,354	102
Calves							
Number of head							
Federally inspected 1,000	52.9	36.1	39.2	74	166.4	114.6	69
Other 1,000	0.7	0.6	0.5	71	2.1	1.7	80
Commercial 1,000	53.6	36.7	39.7	74	168.5	116.3	69
Live weight per head							
Federally inspected .. pounds	276	292	294	107	264	292	111
Other pounds	387	396	370	96	378	379	100
Commercial pounds	277	293	295	107	265	293	111
Hogs							
Number of head							
Federally inspected 1,000	8,613.8	9,017.7	9,817.6	114	26,948.8	28,533.7	106
Other 1,000	59.9	59.1	68.1	114	182.6	189.1	104
Commercial 1,000	8,673.7	9,076.8	9,885.7	114	27,131.4	28,722.9	106
Live weight per head							
Federally inspected .. pounds	285	285	285	100	284	286	101
Other pounds	245	245	248	101	245	247	101
Commercial pounds	285	285	285	100	284	286	101
Sheep and lambs							
Number of head							
Federally inspected 1,000	176.5	149.9	190.0	108	498.8	492.9	99
Other 1,000	13.3	14.8	14.6	110	39.5	43.1	109
Commercial 1,000	189.8	164.7	204.6	108	538.3	536.0	100
Live weight per head							
Federally inspected .. pounds	142	144	142	100	141	143	102
Other pounds	99	109	112	112	104	108	104
Commercial pounds	139	141	140	100	138	140	102
Goats							
Number of head							
Federally inspected 1,000	36.4	28.3	38.2	105	103.4	101.4	98
Other 1,000	12.2	9.3	10.3	85	35.7	30.9	87
Commercial 1,000	48.6	37.6	48.5	100	139.1	132.4	95
Live weight per head							
Federally inspected .. pounds	64	63	63	98	64	63	98
Other pounds	77	81	82	106	70	81	115
Commercial pounds	67	68	67	99	66	67	102
Bison							
Number of head							
Federally inspected 1,000	4.7	4.0	4.6	100	13.3	13.4	101
Other 1,000	0.9	0.8	1.1	121	2.6	2.7	102
Commercial 1,000	5.6	4.7	5.7	103	15.9	16.1	101

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 2014	February 2015	March 2015	March 2015 as % of 2014
	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Alabama	0.8	0.6	0.8	104
Alaska	(Y)	(Y)	(Y)	(X)
Arizona	30.9	35.3	35.9	116
Arkansas	0.4	0.3	0.4	92
California	142.6	103.9	109.3	77
Colorado	162.2	160.4	175.3	108
Delaware-Maryland	2.6	2.5	2.9	113
Florida	8.5	6.4	7.7	91
Georgia	11.1	9.5	11.0	99
Hawaii	0.8	0.8	0.7	100
Idaho	3.3	3.4	3.7	110
Illinois	242.8	253.6	279.7	115
Indiana	143.9	143.4	150.9	105
Iowa	524.0	569.2	608.6	116
Kansas	396.9	370.6	412.2	104
Kentucky	41.5	43.3	49.5	119
Louisiana	0.5	0.4	0.5	115
Michigan	41.1	34.1	37.2	91
Minnesota	206.0	207.6	223.0	108
Mississippi	0.7	0.4	0.6	75
Missouri	158.1	152.6	169.1	107
Montana	1.3	0.8	0.8	67
Nebraska	562.1	548.2	601.8	107
Nevada	0.1	0.1	0.1	161
New England ¹	1.4	1.2	1.5	108
New Jersey	3.7	3.4	4.0	107
New Mexico	0.3	0.3	0.3	120
New York	2.7	2.5	2.6	98
North Carolina	193.7	205.1	227.2	117
North Dakota	0.7	0.7	0.8	114
Ohio	21.4	20.1	23.2	108
Oklahoma	91.3	96.4	97.8	107
Oregon	6.3	5.8	6.5	103
Pennsylvania	101.4	101.0	112.2	111
South Carolina	20.5	17.1	21.3	104
South Dakota	87.6	90.2	104.7	120
Tennessee	15.2	17.8	21.3	140
Texas	336.9	304.2	319.6	95
Utah	38.4	35.2	37.8	98
Virginia	39.2	38.5	45.8	117
Washington	68.3	62.8	66.3	97
West Virginia	0.5	0.4	0.5	115
Wisconsin	102.9	81.1	88.7	86
Wyoming	0.4	0.4	0.4	104
United States	3,814.7	3,731.8	4,064.3	107

(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: March 2014 and 2015

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

State	Number slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
Alabama	0.6	0.5	611	577	1,033	1,084
Alaska	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Arizona	40.3	44.9	53,122	60,496	1,323	1,350
Arkansas	0.5	0.4	479	378	934	1,020
California	142.3	100.7	185,065	132,340	1,308	1,327
Colorado	185.2	194.7	248,121	266,732	1,340	1,371
Delaware-Maryland	2.8	3.0	3,551	4,058	1,273	1,342
Florida	(D)	11.7	(D)	14,676	(D)	1,266
Georgia	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Hawaii	0.9	0.8	984	955	1,121	1,144
Idaho	2.1	2.5	2,340	2,898	1,175	1,231
Illinois	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Indiana	2.9	2.7	3,105	2,884	1,058	1,069
Iowa	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Kansas	475.5	478.8	613,449	637,397	1,291	1,332
Kentucky	1.3	1.3	1,283	1,334	995	1,057
Louisiana	0.4	0.5	392	442	881	911
Michigan	46.3	41.0	63,184	56,698	1,370	1,392
Minnesota	59.9	48.9	86,844	74,116	1,458	1,523
Mississippi	0.1	0.3	75	252	742	838
Missouri	5.1	4.6	5,657	5,311	1,102	1,148
Montana	1.8	1.0	1,982	1,115	1,113	1,159
Nebraska	516.9	524.0	719,272	746,349	1,393	1,426
Nevada	0.1	0.1	80	106	1,051	987
New England ¹	1.4	1.5	1,506	1,711	1,089	1,139
New Jersey	2.9	2.8	3,132	3,010	1,094	1,096
New Mexico	0.3	0.3	295	323	1,038	1,096
New York	2.5	2.4	2,917	2,812	1,165	1,183
North Carolina	6.1	5.7	7,427	6,843	1,216	1,210
North Dakota	0.9	1.0	1,063	1,231	1,217	1,265
Ohio	8.2	7.5	9,666	8,780	1,197	1,186
Oklahoma	2.1	2.3	2,239	2,422	1,063	1,051
Oregon	5.3	4.9	6,525	6,109	1,240	1,249
Pennsylvania	76.4	83.0	93,282	101,558	1,225	1,228
South Carolina	14.0	14.7	15,840	17,799	1,145	1,226
South Dakota	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Tennessee	4.3	5.1	3,706	4,713	865	947
Texas	435.1	404.1	547,365	517,296	1,261	1,283
Utah	45.6	44.6	62,775	61,097	1,378	1,372
Virginia	1.0	0.9	971	991	1,021	1,058
Washington	85.3	79.9	112,125	107,955	1,318	1,354
West Virginia	0.6	0.6	591	612	1,023	1,032
Wisconsin	117.9	96.3	162,145	133,004	1,383	1,390
Wyoming	0.5	0.5	545	538	1,135	1,098
United States	2,451.1	2,378.4	3,223,581	3,198,282	1,318	1,348

(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: March 2014 and 2015

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

State	Number slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	2014 (1,000 head)	2015 (1,000 head)	2014 (1,000 pounds)	2015 (1,000 pounds)	2014 (pounds)	2015 (pounds)
Alabama	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Alaska	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Arizona	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Arkansas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
California	12.6	8.7	1,209	858	97	100
Colorado	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)	(D)
Delaware-Maryland	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Florida	(D)	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)
Georgia	0.1	(Y)	49	(X)	563	(X)
Hawaii	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Idaho	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)	(D)
Illinois	1.1	0.7	494	295	432	431
Indiana	0.6	0.3	162	92	286	326
Iowa	(D)	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)
Kansas	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Kentucky	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Louisiana	0.1	(Y)	50	(X)	497	(X)
Michigan	0.1	0.1	34	31	304	301
Minnesota	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Missouri	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Montana	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)	(D)
Nebraska	(D)	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)
Nevada	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
New England ¹	0.4	0.3	57	48	136	174
New Jersey	5.0	5.5	2,100	2,344	423	428
New Mexico	(D)	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)
New York	6.1	4.0	821	539	134	138
North Carolina	0.1	(Y)	34	(X)	458	(X)
North Dakota	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Ohio	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Oklahoma	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Oregon	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Pennsylvania	11.0	7.2	4,410	3,061	401	427
South Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
South Dakota	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Tennessee	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Texas	0.6	0.4	356	215	574	578
Utah	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Virginia	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Washington	(D)	1.2	(D)	88	(D)	74
West Virginia	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin	6.4	5.3	2,961	2,427	461	459
Wyoming	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
United States	53.6	39.7	14,794	11,669	277	295

(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: March 2014 and 2015

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

State	Number slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	2014 (1,000 head)	2015 (1,000 head)	2014 (1,000 pounds)	2015 (1,000 pounds)	2014 (pounds)	2015 (pounds)
Alabama	1.8	1.9	640	729	359	377
Alaska	0.1	0.1	21	24	273	247
Arizona	0.2	0.2	50	49	269	252
Arkansas	0.8	0.8	199	220	248	272
California	188.5	185.6	46,561	46,711	247	252
Colorado	1.2	1.4	292	336	238	244
Delaware-Maryland	1.5	1.7	401	445	263	267
Florida	3.0	4.0	598	646	199	162
Georgia	6.1	6.7	1,487	1,646	245	246
Hawaii	1.0	1.0	258	256	249	254
Idaho	10.8	10.7	2,785	2,833	259	265
Illinois	852.8	996.0	246,033	286,917	289	288
Indiana	669.3	701.5	186,273	196,056	278	280
Iowa	2,283.4	2,646.2	653,019	753,501	286	285
Kansas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Kentucky	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Louisiana	1.1	1.3	246	305	223	226
Michigan	16.5	15.2	6,457	5,935	391	392
Minnesota	786.8	902.2	214,722	245,255	273	272
Mississippi	3.8	3.3	967	531	254	161
Missouri	705.1	758.7	205,016	219,990	291	290
Montana	0.7	0.9	168	242	225	263
Nebraska	563.3	685.8	158,165	191,044	281	279
Nevada	(Y)	0.1	(X)	28	(X)	248
New England ¹	1.9	1.9	511	506	274	260
New Jersey	7.5	8.5	692	816	93	96
New Mexico	0.1	0.2	30	63	277	275
New York	2.5	2.9	568	670	229	232
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
North Dakota	0.3	0.3	98	78	289	308
Ohio	70.9	86.0	20,506	23,864	290	278
Oklahoma	407.7	452.3	117,884	126,430	289	280
Oregon	14.2	15.4	3,685	4,073	259	265
Pennsylvania	222.9	252.9	59,787	67,795	268	268
South Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
South Dakota	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Tennessee	44.7	62.6	20,045	28,259	449	452
Texas	21.7	24.1	5,618	5,837	260	243
Utah	2.3	3.7	519	642	230	175
Virginia	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Washington	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
West Virginia	0.5	0.8	126	220	236	277
Wisconsin	56.4	56.3	24,864	25,393	442	452
Wyoming	0.2	0.3	60	84	259	271
United States	8,673.7	9,885.7	2,469,997	2,811,778	285	285

(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: March 2014 and 2015

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

State	Number slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	2014 (1,000 head)	2015 (1,000 head)	2014 (1,000 pounds)	2015 (1,000 pounds)	2014 (pounds)	2015 (pounds)
Alabama	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Alaska	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Arizona	0.3	0.3	37	39	142	129
Arkansas	0.1	0.1	5	8	92	108
California	25.7	27.3	3,729	3,884	145	142
Colorado	82.6	85.4	13,047	14,064	158	165
Delaware-Maryland	3.6	3.5	347	357	97	102
Florida	0.6	1.3	39	87	66	69
Georgia	1.0	0.6	62	43	60	70
Hawaii	0.1	0.2	8	24	129	141
Idaho	0.1	0.1	13	11	136	144
Illinois	12.7	(D)	1,995	(D)	157	(D)
Indiana	3.8	4.0	434	441	115	111
Iowa	0.1	0.2	22	30	180	147
Kansas	0.4	0.4	42	37	99	91
Kentucky	1.1	1.3	134	156	124	121
Louisiana	0.3	0.5	24	41	77	88
Michigan	16.0	18.0	2,184	2,495	136	139
Minnesota	0.3	0.3	43	41	124	119
Mississippi	0.4	0.3	26	24	74	70
Missouri	0.6	0.7	72	73	123	98
Montana	0.2	0.3	33	39	135	112
Nebraska	(Y)	0.1	(X)	8	(X)	124
Nevada	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
New England ¹	2.8	2.9	291	264	102	91
New Jersey	9.1	12.2	736	937	81	77
New Mexico	0.8	0.8	113	119	148	148
New York	3.4	5.7	343	507	100	89
North Carolina	0.9	1.0	65	69	71	72
North Dakota	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Ohio	0.7	1.2	75	127	104	103
Oklahoma	0.2	0.4	18	42	106	103
Oregon	2.5	3.3	360	483	144	146
Pennsylvania	5.3	6.0	540	597	101	99
South Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
South Dakota	0.2	0.2	31	34	156	157
Tennessee	1.0	0.9	66	62	65	72
Texas	7.9	7.5	737	851	93	113
Utah	(D)	2.1	(D)	291	(D)	137
Virginia	0.2	0.5	24	47	105	95
Washington	0.6	0.7	85	90	136	136
West Virginia	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin	0.8	0.8	109	102	132	130
Wyoming	0.1	0.1	7	16	143	147
United States	189.8	204.6	26,357	28,525	139	140

(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	March 2014	February 2015	March 2015	January to March		March 2014	February 2015	March 2015	January to March	
				2014	2015				2014	2015
	(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	1,199.1	1,055.1	1,178.6	3,596.1	3,442.3	49.7	49.4	50.3	49.6	50.2
Heifers	701.7	627.3	676.0	2,087.9	1,952.7	29.1	29.4	28.9	28.8	28.5
All cows	465.9	422.3	449.4	1,440.6	1,352.6	19.3	19.8	19.2	19.9	19.7
Dairy cows	245.7	242.3	260.7	752.5	778.4	10.2	11.4	11.1	10.4	11.4
Other cows	220.1	180.0	188.6	688.1	574.2	9.1	8.4	8.1	9.5	8.4
Bulls	45.9	29.8	37.5	125.9	105.0	1.9	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.5
Total	2,412.5	2,134.5	2,341.5	7,250.5	6,852.5	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Calves and vealers	52.9	36.1	39.2	166.4	114.6	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Hogs										
Barrows and gilts	8,355.6	8,775.2	9,547.3	26,180.2	27,757.5	97.0	97.3	97.2	97.1	97.3
Sows	228.6	222.0	247.3	685.5	704.4	2.7	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Boars	29.5	20.5	23.0	83.1	71.9	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
Total	8,613.8	9,017.7	9,817.6	26,948.8	28,533.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sheep										
Mature sheep	9.7	7.7	9.5	29.2	26.0	5.5	5.1	5.0	5.8	5.3
Lambs and yearlings	166.8	142.2	180.5	469.7	466.9	94.5	94.9	95.0	94.2	94.7
Total	176.5	149.9	190.0	498.8	492.9	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 2014	February 2015	March 2015	January to March	
				2014	2015
	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
Cattle	795	819	816	800	817
Steers ¹	855	880	873	865	879
Heifers ¹	795	817	818	802	816
All cows ¹	628	662	656	626	653
Bulls ¹	898	918	927	885	919
Calves and vealers	163	173	174	156	173
Hogs	214	215	214	214	215
Barrows and gilts ²	212	212	211	211	213
Sows ²	301	306	308	302	306
Boars ²	205	202	208	204	204
Sheep	71	72	71	71	72
Mature sheep ³	65	66	67	65	67
Lambs and yearlings ³	72	72	71	71	72

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: March 2015

[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	1.3	0.5	0.4	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	0.3
2	5.1	1.5	1.0	2.1	1.8	0.3	0.4	9.4
3	85.1	22.2	6.6	53.3	42.9	10.4	3.1	7.4
4	54.2	3.2	1.4	43.6	15.7	27.9	6.0	0.2
5	260.7	121.8	28.0	102.6	66.2	36.4	8.2	11.4
6	402.6	215.6	106.7	73.2	35.3	37.9	7.2	0.4
7	1,048.7	578.7	402.0	60.8	3.8	56.9	7.2	(D)
8	250.9	136.3	95.4	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
9	146.1	54.3	10.8	78.4	71.1	7.3	2.6	8.5
10	87.0	44.5	23.8	17.6	14.3	3.2	1.0	1.6
United States	2,341.5	1,178.6	676.0	449.4	260.7	188.6	37.5	39.2
	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	1.7	1.6	(Y)	(Y)	2.9	0.1	2.7	
2	11.3	11.1	0.1	(Y)	17.4	1.2	16.2	
3	461.5	460.4	1.1	(Y)	10.7	1.1	9.6	
4	(D)	(D)	(D)	0.6	5.1	1.2	3.9	
5	2,728.0	2,603.0	120.2	4.9	31.9	2.6	29.3	
6	470.8	470.5	0.3	(Y)	4.0	0.6	3.4	
7	4,104.8	4,031.3	56.2	17.3	0.7	(Y)	0.7	
8	(D)	(D)	(D)	(Y)	87.3	1.7	85.7	
9	182.0	182.0	(Y)	(Y)	26.6	0.7	25.9	
10	27.6	27.5	(Y)	(Y)	3.4	0.4	3.0	
United States	9,817.6	9,547.3	247.3	23.0	190.0	9.5	180.5	

(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 March 2015

[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	3.9	1.6	1.1	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	0.8
2	14.9	4.3	2.9	6.4	5.2	1.2	1.3	27.5
3	244.7	62.0	17.9	156.9	126.8	30.1	8.0	21.8
4	151.8	8.8	4.0	122.0	44.4	77.6	17.1	0.4
5	765.9	358.3	86.4	298.5	189.5	109.1	22.7	36.3
6	1,202.5	626.3	330.4	223.7	102.9	120.8	22.2	0.8
7	3,039.1	1,676.9	1,151.9	190.9	12.6	178.3	19.4	(D)
8	725.5	411.5	256.8	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
9	445.8	160.8	32.7	245.4	222.0	23.4	6.8	23.3
10	258.3	131.8	68.6	55.6	46.4	9.1	2.4	3.6
United States	6,852.5	3,442.3	1,952.7	1,352.6	778.4	574.2	105.0	114.6
	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	4.6	4.4	0.1	0.1	6.8	0.3	6.5	
2	32.6	32.2	0.3	0.1	39.4	3.2	36.2	
3	1,320.6	1,317.7	2.8	0.2	26.4	3.6	22.8	
4	(D)	(D)	(D)	8.2	12.0	2.8	9.3	
5	7,941.2	7,590.4	337.3	13.6	88.5	6.6	81.9	
6	1,428.1	1,426.7	0.8	0.5	10.2	1.6	8.6	
7	12,010.4	11,799.9	161.4	49.1	2.1	0.1	2.1	
8	(D)	(D)	(D)	(Y)	228.6	5.3	223.3	
9	530.4	530.3	0.1	(Y)	70.5	1.7	68.7	
10	75.3	75.2	0.1	(Y)	8.3	0.8	7.5	
United States	28,533.7	27,757.5	704.4	71.9	492.9	26.0	466.9	

(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	March 2014	February 2015	March 2015	January to March	
				2014	2015
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle	98.4	98.3	98.4	98.3	98.4
Calves	98.6	98.4	98.7	98.7	98.5
Hogs	99.3	99.3	99.3	99.3	99.3
Sheep	93.0	91.0	92.9	92.7	92.0

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 nearly 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	(202) 720-3240
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
Evan Schulz – Sheep and Goats	(202) 720-6147

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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