



Livestock Slaughter

ISSN: 0499-0544

Released January 21, 2016, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Record High Pork Production for December

December 2014 contained 23 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

December 2015 contained 23 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.27 billion pounds in December, up 3 percent from the 4.14 billion pounds produced in December 2014.

Beef production, at 2.05 billion pounds, was 2 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.45 million head, up slightly from December 2014. The average live weight was up 25 pounds from the previous year, at 1,388 pounds.

Veal production totaled 7.8 million pounds, 2 percent above December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 45,200 head, up 5 percent from December 2014. The average live weight was down 8 pounds from last year, at 295 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.21 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 10.36 million head, up 5 percent from December 2014. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year, at 285 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 13.2 million pounds, was down 1 percent from December 2014. Sheep slaughter totaled 199,600 head, slightly above last year. The average live weight was 132 pounds, down 2 pounds from December a year ago.

January to December 2015 commercial red meat production was 48.4 billion pounds, up 2 percent from 2014. Accumulated beef production was down 2 percent from last year, veal was down 12 percent, pork was up 7 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

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Commercial Red Meat Production – United States

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

Type	December 2014	November 2015	December 2015	December 2015 as % of		January to December		
				December 2014	November 2015	2014	2015	2015 as % of 2014
	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Beef	2,000.2	1,934.1	2,045.5	102	106	24,250.5	23,689.5	98
Veal	7.7	7.1	7.8	102	110	93.9	82.5	88
Pork	2,114.3	2,080.2	2,207.1	104	106	22,843.3	24,499.3	107
Lamb and mutton	13.4	11.8	13.2	99	112	155.6	150.2	97
Total red meat	4,135.5	4,033.1	4,273.6	103	106	47,343.3	48,421.4	102

Federally Inspected Red Meat Production – United States

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

Type	December 2014	November 2015	December 2015	December 2015 as % of		January to December		
				December 2014	November 2015	2014	2015	2015 as % of 2014
	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Beef	1,973.4	1,911.1	2,020.1	102	106	23,933.6	23,394.6	98
Veal	7.5	6.9	7.7	102	110	92.2	81.0	88
Pork	2,103.1	2,068.9	2,194.5	104	106	22,709.8	24,355.3	107
Lamb and mutton	12.6	10.9	12.3	98	113	145.0	138.9	96
Total red meat	4,096.6	3,997.8	4,234.6	103	106	46,880.6	47,969.9	102

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

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

Species	December 2014	November 2015	December 2015	December 2015 as % of 2014	January to December		
					2014	2015	2015 as % of 2014
				(percent)			(percent)
Cattle							
Number of head							
Federally inspected 1,000	2,397.9	2,258.2	2,412.6	101	29,684.1	28,295.1	95
Other 1,000	41.4	34.9	38.5	93	485.6	443.8	91
Commercial 1,000	2,439.3	2,293.2	2,451.1	100	30,169.7	28,739.0	95
Live weight per head							
Federally inspected .. pounds	1,367	1,396	1,391	102	1,333	1,364	102
Other pounds	1,145	1,157	1,168	102	1,147	1,162	101
Commercial pounds	1,363	1,393	1,388	102	1,330	1,361	102
Calves							
Number of head							
Federally inspected 1,000	42.2	38.2	44.5	105	557.6	445.5	80
Other 1,000	0.8	0.6	0.7	86	8.2	7.0	84
Commercial 1,000	43.0	38.8	45.2	105	565.8	452.4	80
Live weight per head							
Federally inspected .. pounds	302	309	294	97	281	309	110
Other pounds	383	376	387	101	378	384	101
Commercial pounds	303	310	295	97	283	310	110
Hogs							
Number of head							
Federally inspected 1,000	9,787.9	9,700.0	10,291.7	105	106,122.5	114,615.5	108
Other 1,000	62.4	62.2	68.7	110	753.2	798.8	106
Commercial 1,000	9,850.3	9,762.2	10,360.4	105	106,875.7	115,414.3	108
Live weight per head							
Federally inspected .. pounds	287	286	285	100	285	283	99
Other pounds	245	252	251	102	243	247	102
Commercial pounds	286	285	285	100	285	283	99
Sheep and lambs							
Number of head							
Federally inspected 1,000	182.8	162.6	182.3	100	2,104.4	1,997.7	95
Other 1,000	16.7	18.5	17.3	104	205.1	218.9	107
Commercial 1,000	199.5	181.1	199.6	100	2,309.5	2,216.6	96
Live weight per head							
Federally inspected .. pounds	137	134	135	98	137	139	101
Other pounds	99	99	108	109	107	107	100
Commercial pounds	134	130	132	99	135	136	101
Goats							
Number of head							
Federally inspected 1,000	47.4	36.2	41.7	88	486.5	441.3	91
Other 1,000	14.0	11.0	12.0	86	147.5	144.5	98
Commercial 1,000	61.4	47.2	53.8	88	634.0	585.8	92
Live weight per head							
Federally inspected .. pounds	62	62	61	99	63	62	98
Other pounds	82	73	88	108	75	81	107
Commercial pounds	66	64	67	101	66	67	101
Bison							
Number of head							
Federally inspected 1,000	4.4	4.5	4.1	93	51.7	51.9	101
Other 1,000	0.7	0.7	0.7	95	8.6	8.7	101
Commercial 1,000	5.1	5.2	4.8	93	60.3	60.6	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	December 2014	November 2015	December 2015	December 2015 as % of 2014
	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Alabama	0.7	0.9	0.7	96
Alaska	0.1	0.1	0.1	100
Arizona	38.3	42.5	42.6	111
Arkansas	0.4	0.3	0.4	90
California	117.5	110.9	122.1	104
Colorado	178.2	171.1	183.6	103
Delaware-Maryland	2.7	3.0	3.3	120
Florida	7.7	7.4	8.5	110
Georgia	10.9	10.6	10.5	96
Hawaii	0.8	0.6	0.7	87
Idaho	3.8	4.3	4.8	127
Illinois	272.1	275.1	295.9	109
Indiana	155.7	164.0	165.3	106
Iowa	605.9	577.6	606.3	100
Kansas	414.7	391.0	422.4	102
Kentucky	47.4	49.5	53.4	113
Louisiana	0.4	0.5	0.5	125
Michigan	40.3	36.5	40.9	102
Minnesota	220.1	211.4	223.9	102
Mississippi	0.5	0.5	0.5	101
Missouri	167.8	160.5	171.5	102
Montana	1.3	1.8	1.8	137
Nebraska	623.3	653.4	675.3	108
Nevada	0.1	0.1	0.1	108
New England ¹	1.9	2.1	2.2	119
New Jersey	3.9	3.6	4.1	105
New Mexico	0.3	0.3	0.3	102
New York	3.1	3.1	3.4	110
North Carolina	230.7	218.9	225.6	98
North Dakota	0.7	0.4	0.6	95
Ohio	24.8	21.6	24.5	98
Oklahoma	101.1	88.0	100.2	99
Oregon	6.4	6.2	6.3	99
Pennsylvania	119.3	115.4	128.4	108
South Carolina	21.8	17.9	19.4	89
South Dakota	99.1	98.2	106.7	108
Tennessee	26.0	24.9	24.2	93
Texas	331.0	324.1	343.2	104
Utah	39.2	36.6	41.2	105
Virginia	47.9	40.4	44.0	92
Washington	71.0	72.6	75.7	107
West Virginia	0.7	0.7	0.7	102
Wisconsin	95.5	84.3	87.4	92
Wyoming	0.4	0.4	0.5	110
United States	4,135.5	4,033.1	4,273.6	103

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

Commercial Cattle Slaughter – States and United States: December 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	0.4	0.3	413	316	1,004	1,050
Alaska	0.1	(Y)	66	(X)	974	(X)
Arizona	47.1	49.9	63,827	70,731	1,359	1,421
Arkansas	0.5	0.4	467	425	979	1,042
California	106.7	105.0	139,198	142,486	1,316	1,368
Colorado	194.3	197.1	273,221	282,027	1,407	1,432
Delaware-Maryland	2.8	3.4	3,744	4,681	1,320	1,377
Florida	(D)	13.4	(D)	16,799	(D)	1,262
Georgia	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Hawaii	0.9	0.8	1,020	857	1,104	1,136
Idaho	2.8	3.5	3,121	4,038	1,172	1,224
Illinois	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Indiana	3.0	3.0	3,181	3,323	1,058	1,106
Iowa	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Kansas	467.2	470.3	642,382	654,992	1,375	1,393
Kentucky	1.3	1.5	1,337	1,512	997	1,044
Louisiana	0.5	0.4	389	375	842	929
Michigan	44.7	44.2	61,681	61,948	1,387	1,412
Minnesota	53.4	40.8	78,311	58,271	1,473	1,436
Mississippi	0.1	0.2	127	123	858	806
Missouri	4.9	3.4	5,350	3,825	1,098	1,141
Montana	1.7	2.3	1,936	2,683	1,134	1,149
Nebraska	546.4	589.1	786,569	862,133	1,441	1,465
Nevada	0.1	0.1	112	117	1,038	1,041
New England ¹	2.0	2.2	2,074	2,458	1,051	1,125
New Jersey	2.7	2.6	2,892	2,891	1,093	1,109
New Mexico	0.3	0.4	343	390	1,066	1,072
New York	2.9	3.0	3,335	3,505	1,165	1,198
North Carolina	5.1	4.7	6,176	5,658	1,220	1,211
North Dakota	0.8	0.7	976	884	1,258	1,237
Ohio	8.5	7.0	9,893	8,225	1,177	1,187
Oklahoma	1.9	2.2	1,919	2,284	1,007	1,022
Oregon	5.5	5.1	6,678	6,435	1,228	1,272
Pennsylvania	85.6	85.2	104,249	105,484	1,221	1,242
South Carolina	14.6	14.0	17,086	16,410	1,182	1,177
South Dakota	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Tennessee	4.9	4.0	4,440	3,560	930	918
Texas	413.2	421.4	537,506	556,234	1,305	1,323
Utah	47.7	46.9	63,441	65,916	1,330	1,411
Virginia	1.0	1.0	1,090	1,067	1,050	1,106
Washington	85.5	87.8	116,236	123,812	1,363	1,414
West Virginia	0.9	0.9	911	949	966	1,008
Wisconsin	107.6	102.0	147,563	141,700	1,379	1,397
Wyoming	0.6	0.6	614	665	1,041	1,039
United States	2,439.3	2,451.1	3,318,040	3,394,037	1,363	1,388

(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 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	7.2	10.4	776	1,009	109	98
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	0.1	38	45	547	502
Hawaii	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Idaho	0.1	(D)	26	(D)	444	(D)
Illinois	0.7	0.1	282	26	431	403
Indiana	0.5	0.4	124	119	276	268
Iowa	(D)	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)
Kansas	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Kentucky	0.1	(Y)	29	(X)	487	(X)
Louisiana	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Michigan	0.1	0.1	35	43	297	298
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	0.5	0.3	65	50	138	192
New Jersey	5.3	5.8	2,295	2,520	430	434
New Mexico	(D)	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)
New York	5.2	3.7	651	532	128	146
North Carolina	0.1	0.1	24	23	420	448
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	7.7	7.9	3,290	3,436	429	437
South Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
South Dakota	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Tennessee	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Texas	0.2	0.6	95	312	478	501
Utah	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Virginia	(Y)	0.1	(X)	24	(X)	453
Washington	(D)	0.8	(D)	57	(D)	72
West Virginia	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin	6.5	5.4	3,069	2,625	472	488
Wyoming	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
United States	43.0	45.2	12,946	13,248	303	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: December 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	1.9	2.0	727	769	392	389
Alaska	0.1	0.1	21	34	271	257
Arizona	0.2	0.1	39	33	256	260
Arkansas	0.9	0.7	224	181	260	275
California	215.8	228.6	53,930	57,333	250	251
Colorado	1.2	1.4	288	340	240	239
Delaware-Maryland	1.8	1.8	462	462	256	253
Florida	5.8	3.9	806	591	140	153
Georgia	6.7	6.6	1,576	1,558	236	236
Hawaii	1.3	1.1	319	277	237	243
Idaho	10.9	13.4	2,845	3,515	262	262
Illinois	949.2	1,051.3	273,300	304,162	288	289
Indiana	721.6	763.3	202,201	215,262	280	282
Iowa	2,632.5	2,773.8	755,708	793,453	287	286
Kansas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Kentucky	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Louisiana	1.3	1.7	237	386	180	233
Michigan	16.2	16.6	6,338	6,726	391	406
Minnesota	863.7	952.7	238,833	260,444	277	273
Mississippi	4.1	3.9	563	579	138	147
Missouri	750.4	772.4	218,441	225,457	291	292
Montana	1.2	1.6	264	370	221	229
Nebraska	657.8	693.9	186,148	194,892	283	281
Nevada	0.1	0.1	19	21	255	259
New England ¹	2.8	3.3	653	874	230	269
New Jersey	11.9	11.8	1,010	1,035	85	88
New Mexico	0.2	0.2	47	51	296	250
New York	3.4	4.6	734	1,104	216	243
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
North Dakota	0.4	0.5	123	150	295	301
Ohio	88.4	88.8	24,801	25,280	281	285
Oklahoma	470.0	473.6	131,318	130,917	279	276
Oregon	13.7	13.8	3,613	3,613	263	262
Pennsylvania	280.9	309.6	75,764	86,368	270	279
South Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
South Dakota	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Tennessee	78.0	72.2	35,532	33,431	456	463
Texas	25.7	28.9	6,387	7,161	248	248
Utah	4.3	5.8	637	857	149	147
Virginia	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Washington	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
West Virginia	0.6	0.5	155	166	279	303
Wisconsin	53.9	37.2	24,396	16,169	453	436
Wyoming	0.2	0.3	49	69	256	275
United States	9,850.3	10,360.4	2,818,905	2,951,033	286	285

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

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

Commercial Sheep and Lamb Slaughter – States and United States: December 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	118	122
Arkansas	0.1	0.1	6	8	85	84
California	23.6	24.2	3,225	3,376	137	139
Colorado	81.0	80.9	12,561	12,604	155	156
Delaware-Maryland	3.8	3.6	359	341	95	95
Florida	0.6	0.8	37	52	57	65
Georgia	0.6	1.0	43	61	70	60
Hawaii	0.1	0.2	9	25	137	142
Idaho	0.2	0.2	23	33	138	136
Illinois	13.9	(D)	2,025	(D)	146	(D)
Indiana	4.5	4.2	517	475	114	112
Iowa	0.2	0.3	40	51	178	188
Kansas	0.5	0.5	47	43	92	89
Kentucky	1.4	1.7	173	190	121	115
Louisiana	0.3	0.4	18	32	59	79
Michigan	18.7	18.1	2,603	2,457	139	136
Minnesota	0.5	0.5	51	58	109	107
Mississippi	0.3	0.3	24	18	69	60
Missouri	0.8	0.9	69	85	84	91
Montana	0.4	0.5	52	52	128	98
Nebraska	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Nevada	0.1	0.1	8	16	129	135
New England ¹	3.3	3.2	303	300	93	93
New Jersey	10.0	12.1	793	947	79	78
New Mexico	0.9	0.8	129	119	146	145
New York	6.3	6.9	638	693	101	101
North Carolina	1.3	1.3	91	92	70	72
North Dakota	0.1	0.1	9	8	138	117
Ohio	1.2	1.5	116	168	100	110
Oklahoma	0.2	0.2	26	23	113	107
Oregon	3.2	3.0	447	418	141	138
Pennsylvania	5.9	5.8	591	574	101	99
South Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
South Dakota	0.2	0.2	34	38	157	158
Tennessee	1.0	1.0	74	70	73	73
Texas	8.3	7.8	760	796	92	103
Utah	(D)	2.1	(D)	289	(D)	140
Virginia	0.5	0.5	46	43	91	87
Washington	1.0	1.2	136	159	135	132
West Virginia	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin	0.6	1.3	80	177	123	138
Wyoming	0.1	0.1	11	17	163	141
United States	199.5	199.6	26,675	26,402	134	132

(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 2014	November 2015	December 2015	January to December		December 2014	November 2015	December 2015	January to December	
				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	1,213.2	1,185.6	1,285.6	15,378.2	15,331.5	50.6	52.5	53.3	51.8	54.2
Heifers	675.2	604.4	633.1	8,377.8	7,350.8	28.2	26.8	26.2	28.2	26.0
All cows	467.2	430.9	459.4	5,380.3	5,150.5	19.5	19.1	19.0	18.1	18.2
Dairy cows	256.8	230.3	254.8	2,815.6	2,914.1	10.7	10.2	10.6	9.5	10.3
Other cows	210.4	200.6	204.6	2,564.7	2,236.4	8.8	8.9	8.5	8.6	7.9
Bulls	42.3	37.3	34.5	547.8	462.4	1.8	1.7	1.4	1.8	1.6
Total	2,397.9	2,258.2	2,412.6	29,684.1	28,295.1	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Calves and vealers	42.2	38.2	44.5	557.6	445.5	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Hogs										
Barrows and gilts	9,501.4	9,463.2	10,021.0	102,997.7	111,487.9	97.1	97.6	97.4	97.1	97.3
Sows	258.3	219.9	248.2	2,787.5	2,851.5	2.6	2.3	2.4	2.6	2.5
Boars	28.1	16.9	22.5	337.3	276.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2
Total	9,787.9	9,700.0	10,291.7	106,122.5	114,615.5	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sheep										
Mature sheep	10.5	8.4	10.1	136.3	113.3	5.7	5.2	5.6	6.5	5.7
Lambs and yearlings	172.3	154.1	172.2	1,968.0	1,884.4	94.3	94.8	94.4	93.5	94.3
Total	182.8	162.6	182.3	2,104.4	1,997.7	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 2014	November 2015	December 2015	January to December	
				2014	2015
	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
Cattle	825	848	839	808	829
Steers ¹	897	923	908	872	892
Heifers ¹	824	850	841	800	818
All cows ¹	631	634	639	627	644
Bulls ¹	898	893	888	898	915
Calves and vealers	179	183	173	166	183
Hogs	215	213	213	214	213
Barrows and gilts ²	213	211	211	212	210
Sows ²	303	310	310	305	309
Boars ²	201	230	220	204	207
Sheep	69	67	67	69	70
Mature sheep ³	65	66	66	66	67
Lambs and yearlings ³	69	67	68	69	70

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 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	1.8	0.9	0.5	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	0.2
2	5.5	1.8	1.1	2.1	1.9	0.2	0.5	9.5
3	88.1	24.8	4.9	55.5	44.6	10.8	3.0	8.2
4	53.9	2.3	1.3	45.1	14.9	30.2	5.2	0.2
5	261.5	124.5	27.7	101.4	65.9	35.6	7.9	13.0
6	420.3	234.1	101.0	78.9	29.1	49.8	6.2	0.6
7	1,072.0	632.5	376.6	55.7	1.6	54.1	7.2	(D)
8	258.8	152.5	85.1	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
9	155.3	62.6	10.3	80.2	71.2	9.0	2.2	10.2
10	95.4	49.6	24.7	20.5	16.6	3.9	0.7	2.6
United States	2,412.6	1,285.6	633.1	459.4	254.8	204.6	34.5	44.5
	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	2.9	2.8	(Y)	(Y)	3.0	0.1	2.9	
2	16.2	16.0	0.1	0.1	18.5	2.0	16.5	
3	511.1	509.7	1.3	0.1	10.4	0.7	9.8	
4	(D)	(D)	(D)	5.6	6.0	1.1	4.9	
5	2,880.8	2,770.0	107.2	3.7	30.4	3.1	27.3	
6	498.0	498.0	0.1	(Y)	3.4	0.4	3.0	
7	4,258.1	4,185.4	59.6	13.0	0.9	(Y)	0.8	
8	(D)	(D)	(D)	(Y)	82.7	1.6	81.1	
9	225.9	225.8	0.1	(Y)	23.5	0.8	22.7	
10	27.4	27.4	(Y)	(Y)	3.5	0.3	3.1	
United States	10,291.7	10,021.0	248.2	22.5	182.3	10.1	172.2	

(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 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	19.6	8.4	5.1	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	3.0
2	64.6	20.1	11.5	26.4	23.2	3.1	6.7	96.6
3	984.2	279.0	58.1	604.4	488.9	115.6	42.8	88.9
4	630.9	34.9	15.9	512.2	173.7	338.5	67.8	1.8
5	3,034.3	1,468.1	318.7	1,149.3	755.5	393.8	98.2	139.2
6	5,046.6	2,748.7	1,338.2	873.8	361.8	512.0	85.9	3.4
7	12,658.1	7,598.0	4,306.2	658.7	38.7	620.0	95.2	(D)
8	3,025.9	1,913.1	896.2	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
9	1,733.9	672.5	131.8	898.9	792.1	106.8	30.6	94.4
10	1,097.1	588.6	269.1	225.6	173.8	51.8	13.7	17.8
United States	28,295.1	15,331.5	7,350.8	5,150.5	2,914.1	2,236.4	462.4	445.5
	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	26.6	25.9	0.5	0.2	33.7	1.5	32.2	
2	146.8	145.0	1.3	0.5	180.5	16.4	164.2	
3	5,412.8	5,401.1	11.0	0.7	114.2	11.2	103.0	
4	(D)	(D)	(D)	26.1	67.1	13.0	54.1	
5	32,214.2	30,831.1	1,336.1	47.0	355.5	32.2	323.3	
6	5,889.1	5,886.4	2.0	0.7	38.1	5.3	32.9	
7	48,062.2	47,193.5	668.4	200.3	9.6	0.3	9.3	
8	(D)	(D)	(D)	0.3	885.7	22.1	863.6	
9	2,286.7	2,286.2	0.4	0.1	275.5	8.1	267.4	
10	307.8	307.4	0.4	0.1	37.7	3.1	34.6	
United States	114,615.5	111,487.9	2,851.5	276.1	1,997.7	113.3	1,884.4	

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

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 2014	November 2015	December 2015	January to December	
				2014	2015
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle	98.3	98.5	98.4	98.4	98.5
Calves	98.2	98.5	98.6	98.5	98.5
Hogs	99.4	99.4	99.3	99.3	99.3
Sheep	91.6	89.8	91.3	91.1	90.1

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
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter	(202) 720-3240
Doug Bounds – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106
David Colwell – Sheep and Goats	(202) 720-8784
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products	(202) 690-3236
Michael Klamm – Cattle, Cattle on Feed	(202) 720-3040
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows	(202) 720-3278

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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