



Livestock Slaughter

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Record Red Meat and Pork Production for December

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

December 2016 contained 22 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.40 billion pounds in December, up 3 percent from the 4.27 billion pounds produced in December 2015.

Beef production, at 2.17 billion pounds, was 6 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.61 million head, up 7 percent from December 2015. The average live weight was down 7 pounds from the previous year, at 1,381 pounds.

Veal production totaled 6.8 million pounds, 13 percent below December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 48,800 head, up 8 percent from December 2015. The average live weight was down 55 pounds from last year, at 240 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.21 billion pounds, up slightly from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 10.5 million head, up 1 percent from December 2015. The average live weight was down 2 pounds from the previous year, at 283 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 13.1 million pounds, was down 1 percent from December 2015. Sheep slaughter totaled 197,100 head, 2 percent below last year. The average live weight was 133 pounds, up 1 pound from December a year ago.

January to December 2016 commercial red meat production was 50.4 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 2015. Accumulated beef production was up 6 percent from last year, veal was down 9 percent, pork was up 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down slightly.

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Commercial Red Meat Production – United States

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

Type	December 2015	November 2016	December 2016	December 2016 as % of		January to December		
				December 2015	November 2016	2015	2016	2016 as % of 2015
	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Beef	2,046.3	2,239.3	2,173.3	106	97	23,697.7	25,211.8	106
Veal	7.8	6.7	6.8	87	101	82.5	75.4	91
Pork	2,207.2	2,240.3	2,209.0	100	99	24,501.3	24,938.6	102
Lamb and mutton	13.2	12.1	13.1	99	108	150.6	149.9	100
Total red meat	4,274.5	4,498.5	4,402.2	103	98	48,432.1	50,375.7	104

Federally Inspected Red Meat Production – United States

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

Type	December 2015	November 2016	December 2016	December 2016 as % of		January to December		
				December 2015	November 2016	2015	2016	2016 as % of 2015
	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Beef	2,020.5	2,215.5	2,146.8	106	97	23,395.1	24,908.1	106
Veal	7.7	6.5	6.6	87	102	81.0	73.9	91
Pork	2,194.5	2,228.2	2,196.4	100	99	24,355.3	24,788.8	102
Lamb and mutton	12.3	11.3	12.1	99	107	139.0	138.0	99
Total red meat	4,234.9	4,461.5	4,362.0	103	98	47,970.4	49,908.8	104

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

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

Species	December 2015	November 2016	December 2016	December 2016 as % of 2015	January to December		
					2015	2016	2016 as % of 2015
				(percent)			(percent)
Cattle							
Number of head							
Federally inspected 1,000	2,413.5	2,632.2	2,572.2	107	28,296.4	30,114.4	106
Other 1,000	38.8	36.0	39.6	102	455.2	450.8	99
Commercial 1,000	2,452.4	2,668.2	2,611.8	107	28,751.6	30,565.2	106
Live weight per head							
Federally inspected .. pounds	1,391	1,387	1,384	100	1,364	1,365	100
Other pounds	1,175	1,156	1,173	100	1,162	1,171	101
Commercial pounds	1,388	1,384	1,381	100	1,360	1,363	100
Calves							
Number of head							
Federally inspected 1,000	44.5	46.6	48.1	108	445.5	479.9	108
Other 1,000	0.6	0.7	0.7	113	7.1	7.6	107
Commercial 1,000	45.1	47.3	48.8	108	452.6	487.6	108
Live weight per head							
Federally inspected .. pounds	294	241	238	81	309	264	85
Other pounds	372	373	384	103	374	377	101
Commercial pounds	295	243	240	81	310	265	86
Hogs							
Number of head							
Federally inspected 1,000	10,291.7	10,538.5	10,398.0	101	114,615.5	117,387.9	102
Other 1,000	69.7	66.3	68.3	98	809.7	815.0	101
Commercial 1,000	10,361.4	10,604.8	10,466.3	101	115,425.2	118,202.9	102
Live weight per head							
Federally inspected .. pounds	285	283	283	99	283	282	99
Other pounds	251	250	253	101	248	252	102
Commercial pounds	285	283	283	99	283	282	100
Sheep and lambs							
Number of head							
Federally inspected 1,000	182.3	169.6	178.9	98	1,998.4	2,009.6	101
Other 1,000	18.1	15.4	18.3	101	225.1	224.1	100
Commercial 1,000	200.4	184.9	197.1	98	2,223.5	2,233.7	100
Live weight per head							
Federally inspected .. pounds	135	133	135	100	139	137	99
Other pounds	107	108	107	100	106	110	103
Commercial pounds	132	131	133	100	136	134	99
Goats							
Number of head							
Federally inspected 1,000	41.7	38.8	44.9	108	441.3	448.8	102
Other 1,000	13.2	10.0	13.6	103	149.4	128.9	86
Commercial 1,000	55.0	48.8	58.5	106	590.7	577.7	98
Live weight per head							
Federally inspected .. pounds	61	61	61	100	62	62	100
Other pounds	87	83	85	97	81	84	104
Commercial pounds	68	66	67	99	67	67	100
Bison							
Number of head							
Federally inspected 1,000	4.1	4.5	3.9	96	51.9	52.6	101
Other 1,000	0.7	0.6	0.5	74	8.8	7.8	89
Commercial 1,000	4.8	5.1	4.4	93	60.8	60.4	99

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 2015	November 2016	December 2016	December 2016 as % of 2015
	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Alabama	0.7	1.0	1.0	135
Alaska	0.1	0.4	0.2	430
Arizona	42.6	42.3	43.7	102
Arkansas	0.4	0.2	0.3	90
California	122.7	124.0	126.2	103
Colorado	183.6	203.3	189.7	103
Delaware-Maryland	3.3	3.2	2.9	88
Florida	8.5	2.5	2.4	28
Georgia	10.5	13.0	13.0	124
Hawaii	0.7	0.7	0.8	108
Idaho	4.8	5.1	5.2	108
Illinois	296.0	298.6	298.0	101
Indiana	165.3	157.8	159.6	97
Iowa	606.3	630.3	620.8	102
Kansas	422.4	479.2	468.7	111
Kentucky	53.4	51.4	51.0	96
Louisiana	0.5	0.5	0.4	81
Michigan	40.9	42.4	39.3	96
Minnesota	223.9	226.1	224.1	100
Mississippi	0.5	0.6	0.5	107
Missouri	171.5	172.0	175.3	102
Montana	1.1	1.9	1.9	180
Nebraska	676.1	717.1	680.4	101
Nevada	0.1	0.1	0.1	91
New England ¹	2.2	2.4	2.2	100
New Jersey	4.1	2.8	3.2	76
New Mexico	0.3	0.2	0.3	90
New York	3.4	3.7	3.7	107
North Carolina	225.6	244.9	232.5	103
North Dakota	0.6	0.4	0.6	96
Ohio	24.5	21.7	21.8	89
Oklahoma	100.2	104.4	101.2	101
Oregon	6.3	4.3	5.0	79
Pennsylvania	128.2	130.4	130.6	102
South Carolina	19.4	9.5	9.7	50
South Dakota	106.7	118.7	114.7	108
Tennessee	24.2	26.3	22.0	91
Texas	343.2	380.5	376.5	110
Utah	41.2	42.8	39.4	96
Virginia	44.0	49.7	51.7	117
Washington	75.7	81.1	77.0	102
West Virginia	0.7	0.7	0.8	114
Wisconsin	87.7	99.7	103.2	118
Wyoming	0.5	0.4	0.5	97
United States	4,274.5	4,498.5	4,402.2	103

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

Commercial Cattle Slaughter – States and United States: December 2015 and 2016

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

State	Number slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	2015 (1,000 head)	2016 (1,000 head)	2015 (1,000 pounds)	2016 (1,000 pounds)	2015 (pounds)	2016 (pounds)
Alabama	0.3	0.4	323	394	1,044	1,073
Alaska	(Y)	0.3	(X)	396	(X)	1,586
Arizona	49.9	51.7	70,731	72,268	1,421	1,401
Arkansas	0.4	0.3	427	358	1,042	1,045
California	106.0	109.6	143,269	147,985	1,362	1,361
Colorado	197.1	204.9	282,027	292,975	1,432	1,431
Delaware-Maryland	3.4	3.0	4,681	4,055	1,377	1,352
Florida	13.4	3.6	16,799	4,144	1,262	1,152
Georgia	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Hawaii	0.8	0.8	857	949	1,136	1,201
Idaho	3.5	4.0	4,038	4,761	1,224	1,266
Illinois	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Indiana	3.0	2.6	3,323	2,835	1,106	1,106
Iowa	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Kansas	470.3	524.7	654,992	727,572	1,393	1,387
Kentucky	1.5	1.7	1,519	1,705	1,048	1,004
Louisiana	0.4	0.5	375	386	929	809
Michigan	44.2	42.3	61,948	59,338	1,412	1,412
Minnesota	40.9	(D)	58,336	(D)	1,435	(D)
Mississippi	0.2	0.2	123	193	806	896
Missouri	3.4	3.8	3,825	4,366	1,141	1,160
Montana	1.3	2.4	1,487	2,766	1,123	1,156
Nebraska	590.1	606.7	863,433	879,947	1,464	1,452
Nevada	0.1	0.1	117	108	1,041	1,056
New England ¹	2.2	2.2	2,458	2,489	1,125	1,125
New Jersey	2.6	2.9	2,891	3,133	1,109	1,091
New Mexico	0.4	0.3	390	333	1,072	1,016
New York	3.0	3.1	3,505	3,705	1,198	1,203
North Carolina	4.7	5.5	5,658	6,717	1,211	1,231
North Dakota	0.7	0.6	885	842	1,237	1,345
Ohio	7.0	4.5	8,225	5,175	1,187	1,158
Oklahoma	2.2	2.3	2,284	2,344	1,022	1,003
Oregon	5.1	(D)	6,423	(D)	1,272	(D)
Pennsylvania	84.9	89.8	105,246	109,509	1,243	1,222
South Carolina	14.0	14.3	16,410	17,456	1,177	1,229
South Dakota	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Tennessee	4.0	6.1	3,560	5,570	918	937
Texas	421.4	458.7	556,234	611,176	1,323	1,336
Utah	46.9	46.1	65,906	63,644	1,411	1,383
Virginia	1.0	1.3	1,067	1,337	1,106	1,065
Washington	87.8	90.7	123,812	126,857	1,414	1,403
West Virginia	0.9	1.1	965	1,062	1,024	960
Wisconsin	102.4	115.0	142,176	159,874	1,397	1,398
Wyoming	0.6	0.6	665	664	1,039	1,071
United States	2,452.4	2,611.8	3,395,393	3,599,744	1,388	1,381

(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 2015 and 2016

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

State	Number slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	2015 (1,000 head)	2016 (1,000 head)	2015 (1,000 pounds)	2016 (1,000 pounds)	2015 (pounds)	2016 (pounds)
Alabama	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Alaska	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)	(D)
Arizona	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Arkansas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
California	10.3	11.1	970	994	95	90
Colorado	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Delaware-Maryland	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Florida	(Y)	0.1	(X)	22	(X)	380
Georgia	0.1	0.1	45	46	502	472
Hawaii	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Idaho	(D)	1.7	(D)	135	(D)	81
Illinois	0.1	0.1	26	18	403	350
Indiana	0.4	0.4	119	116	268	293
Iowa	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Kansas	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Kentucky	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)	(D)
Louisiana	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Michigan	0.1	0.1	43	31	298	300
Minnesota	(D)	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)
Mississippi	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Missouri	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Montana	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Nebraska	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)	(D)
Nevada	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
New England ¹	0.3	0.3	50	71	192	257
New Jersey	5.8	2.1	2,520	796	434	377
New Mexico	(D)	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)
New York	3.7	5.4	532	624	146	116
North Carolina	0.1	0.1	23	44	448	435
North Dakota	(D)	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)
Ohio	(D)	12.1	(D)	2,395	(D)	200
Oklahoma	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Oregon	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Pennsylvania	7.9	8.4	3,436	3,606	436	430
South Carolina	(D)	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)
South Dakota	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Tennessee	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Texas	0.6	0.2	312	73	501	440
Utah	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Virginia	0.1	0.1	25	26	455	393
Washington	0.8	(D)	57	(D)	72	(D)
West Virginia	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin	5.4	5.2	2,628	2,400	487	461
Wyoming	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
United States	45.1	48.8	13,216	11,640	295	240

(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 2015 and 2016

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

State	Number slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	2015 (1,000 head)	2016 (1,000 head)	2015 (1,000 pounds)	2016 (1,000 pounds)	2015 (pounds)	2016 (pounds)
Alabama	2.0	2.7	774	1,087	391	404
Alaska	0.1	0.2	34	42	257	263
Arizona	0.1	(D)	33	(D)	260	(D)
Arkansas	0.7	0.7	181	180	275	254
California	229.7	233.0	57,507	58,853	251	253
Colorado	1.4	1.7	340	407	239	242
Delaware-Maryland	1.8	1.8	462	474	253	260
Florida	3.9	4.2	591	572	153	138
Georgia	6.6	6.0	1,558	1,433	236	241
Hawaii	1.1	1.1	277	273	243	247
Idaho	13.4	13.3	3,516	3,528	262	265
Illinois	1,051.4	1,087.7	304,173	308,482	289	284
Indiana	763.3	759.3	215,262	209,315	282	276
Iowa	2,773.8	2,829.0	793,451	797,360	286	282
Kansas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Kentucky	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Louisiana	1.7	1.5	386	236	233	160
Michigan	16.6	17.5	6,726	6,851	406	392
Minnesota	952.5	954.6	260,400	258,024	273	270
Mississippi	3.9	(D)	579	(D)	147	(D)
Missouri	772.4	792.8	225,457	230,260	292	291
Montana	1.2	1.7	261	388	220	232
Nebraska	694.1	675.0	194,962	187,221	281	277
Nevada	0.1	0.1	21	23	259	263
New England ¹	3.3	3.1	874	849	269	274
New Jersey	11.8	10.4	1,035	948	88	91
New Mexico	0.2	0.2	51	51	250	285
New York	4.6	4.9	1,104	1,253	243	254
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
North Dakota	0.5	0.5	150	144	301	298
Ohio	88.8	84.3	25,280	23,609	285	281
Oklahoma	473.6	484.8	130,917	131,858	276	272
Oregon	13.8	13.1	3,610	3,471	262	265
Pennsylvania	309.7	313.8	86,393	85,070	279	271
South Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
South Dakota	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Tennessee	72.2	62.6	33,431	29,030	463	464
Texas	28.9	31.3	7,161	8,078	248	258
Utah	5.8	4.2	857	786	147	188
Virginia	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Washington	(D)	1.0	(D)	259	(D)	272
West Virginia	0.5	0.7	166	204	303	300
Wisconsin	37.4	57.2	16,228	25,085	435	439
Wyoming	0.3	0.3	69	68	275	261
United States	10,361.4	10,466.3	2,951,221	2,955,970	285	283

(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 2015 and 2016

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

State	Number slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	2015 (1,000 head)	2016 (1,000 head)	2015 (1,000 pounds)	2016 (1,000 pounds)	2015 (pounds)	2016 (pounds)
Alabama	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Alaska	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Arizona	0.3	(D)	39	(D)	122	(D)
Arkansas	0.1	(Y)	8	(X)	84	(X)
California	25.1	24.5	3,455	3,491	138	143
Colorado	80.9	75.1	12,604	11,796	156	157
Delaware-Maryland	3.6	3.2	341	297	95	93
Florida	0.8	1.1	52	69	65	63
Georgia	1.0	1.5	61	109	60	74
Hawaii	0.2	0.3	25	38	142	145
Idaho	0.2	0.2	32	25	136	120
Illinois	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Indiana	4.2	3.6	475	411	112	114
Iowa	0.3	0.4	40	54	154	155
Kansas	0.5	0.5	43	42	89	86
Kentucky	1.7	1.4	190	169	115	124
Louisiana	0.4	0.5	32	32	79	68
Michigan	18.1	17.0	2,457	2,298	136	135
Minnesota	0.5	0.4	56	46	111	111
Mississippi	0.3	0.2	18	11	60	60
Missouri	0.9	0.9	85	80	91	88
Montana	0.5	0.5	53	50	116	98
Nebraska	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Nevada	0.1	0.1	16	7	135	101
New England ¹	3.2	3.5	300	324	93	92
New Jersey	12.1	12.6	947	978	78	77
New Mexico	0.8	0.5	119	78	145	150
New York	6.9	6.5	693	638	101	98
North Carolina	1.3	1.6	92	112	72	71
North Dakota	0.1	(Y)	8	(X)	117	(X)
Ohio	1.5	3.4	168	430	110	125
Oklahoma	0.2	0.2	23	24	107	118
Oregon	3.0	2.6	418	351	138	136
Pennsylvania	5.8	6.4	574	672	99	105
South Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
South Dakota	0.2	0.3	38	47	158	161
Tennessee	1.0	0.9	70	66	73	71
Texas	7.8	8.3	796	868	103	104
Utah	2.1	2.0	289	284	140	146
Virginia	0.5	0.6	43	50	87	86
Washington	1.2	1.2	159	156	132	132
West Virginia	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin	1.3	1.1	172	143	134	130
Wyoming	0.1	0.1	17	9	141	132
United States	200.4	197.1	26,466	26,128	132	133

(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 2015	November 2016	December 2016	January to December		December 2015	November 2016	December 2016	January to December	
				2015	2016				2015	2016
	(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	1,285.5	1,392.3	1,357.8	15,331.4	16,494.5	53.3	52.9	52.8	54.2	54.8
Heifers	633.7	710.6	692.3	7,351.3	7,698.0	26.3	27.0	26.9	26.0	25.6
All cows	459.8	487.5	483.5	5,151.3	5,428.2	19.1	18.5	18.8	18.2	18.0
Dairy cows	255.4	243.2	253.0	2,915.0	2,885.7	10.6	9.2	9.8	10.3	9.6
Other cows	204.5	244.3	230.5	2,236.3	2,542.5	8.5	9.3	9.0	7.9	8.4
Bulls	34.5	41.8	38.6	462.4	493.8	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.6
Total	2,413.5	2,632.2	2,572.2	28,296.4	30,114.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Calves and vealers	44.5	46.6	48.1	445.5	479.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Hogs										
Barrows and gilts	10,021.0	10,260.5	10,126.1	111,487.9	114,184.0	97.4	97.4	97.4	97.3	97.3
Sows	248.2	248.3	242.9	2,851.5	2,884.6	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.5	2.5
Boars	22.5	29.7	28.9	276.1	319.4	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3
Total	10,291.7	10,538.5	10,398.0	114,615.5	117,387.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sheep										
Mature sheep	10.1	9.1	8.9	113.3	108.1	5.6	5.4	5.0	5.7	5.4
Lambs and yearlings	172.2	160.5	169.9	1,885.1	1,901.5	94.4	94.6	95.0	94.3	94.6
Total	182.3	169.6	178.9	1,998.4	2,009.6	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 2015	November 2016	December 2016	January to December	
				2015	2016
	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
Cattle	839	843	836	829	829
Steers ¹	908	916	905	892	891
Heifers ¹	841	846	838	818	822
All cows ¹	638	627	638	644	643
Bulls ¹	888	876	876	915	901
Calves and vealers	173	141	139	183	155
Hogs	213	212	211	213	211
Barrows and gilts ²	211	209	209	210	209
Sows ²	310	311	308	309	310
Boars ²	220	207	200	207	206
Sheep	67	67	68	70	69
Mature sheep ³	66	66	67	67	67
Lambs and yearlings ³	68	67	68	70	69

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 2016

[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	1.9	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	
2	5.9	1.9	1.1	2.3	2.2	0.2	0.6	7.6	
3	92.9	28.1	3.5	57.9	46.0	11.9	3.5	8.7	
4	54.2	3.3	1.1	43.9	11.9	32.1	5.8	0.3	
5	273.3	128.8	29.3	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	17.6	
6	457.4	255.1	106.9	88.2	27.1	61.1	7.2	0.1	
7	1,156.8	668.3	420.5	59.2	6.1	53.1	8.8	(D)	
8	270.9	155.5	92.1	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	
9	161.7	64.5	13.5	81.2	70.0	11.2	2.5	11.0	
10	97.3	51.6	23.7	21.2	16.0	5.3	0.8	2.7	
United States	2,572.2	1,357.8	692.3	483.5	253.0	230.5	38.6	48.1	
	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	2.7	2.7	(Y)	(Y)	3.4	0.1	3.2		
2	15.1	15.0	0.1	(Y)	18.6	1.9	16.7		
3	548.8	547.4	1.4	0.1	10.9	1.0	9.9		
4	(D)	(D)	71.2	7.4	6.5	1.0	5.5		
5	2,932.2	2,811.9	115.9	4.4	32.6	2.4	30.2		
6	511.4	511.2	0.2	(Y)	3.1	0.3	2.8		
7	4,307.3	4,236.9	53.3	17.1	1.2	(Y)	1.2		
8	(D)	(D)	0.7	0.1	76.7	1.5	75.2		
9	229.1	229.1	(Y)	(Y)	22.9	0.5	22.4		
10	26.9	26.9	(Y)	(Y)	3.0	0.2	2.8		
United States	10,398.0	10,126.1	242.9	28.9	178.9	8.9	169.9		

(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 – Regions and United States: January to December 2016

[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	20.8	9.2	5.3	3.6	2.0	1.7	2.6	4.2
2	67.6	20.0	10.9	28.6	26.3	2.2	8.2	71.3
3	1,035.4	330.2	41.2	622.7	502.6	120.1	41.3	96.6
4	627.7	36.9	13.4	510.5	162.4	348.1	67.0	2.5
5	3,099.4	1,497.7	302.1	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	158.6
6	5,392.8	3,050.7	1,275.6	978.1	351.8	626.3	88.4	2.3
7	13,591.7	8,203.4	4,626.6	652.1	32.8	619.4	109.6	(D)
8	3,294.0	1,984.7	994.1	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
9	1,814.6	739.8	140.4	900.7	776.4	124.4	33.6	113.6
10	1,170.6	622.0	288.4	246.8	183.9	62.9	13.4	30.6
United States	30,114.4	16,494.5	7,698.0	5,428.2	2,885.7	2,542.5	493.8	479.9
	Hogs				Sheep			
	Total	Barrows and gilts	Sows	Boars	Total	Mature sheep	Lambs and yearlings	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
1	32.0	31.2	0.7	0.2	34.1	1.3	32.8	
2	156.4	154.7	1.2	0.4	195.2	18.3	176.9	
3	5,810.1	5,797.3	12.2	0.6	122.5	13.5	109.0	
4	(D)	(D)	812.7	68.1	77.4	12.5	64.9	
5	32,971.7	31,580.2	1,339.3	52.2	344.6	27.3	317.4	
6	5,770.1	5,769.1	0.8	0.2	38.9	5.0	34.0	
7	49,523.4	48,618.7	707.8	196.9	9.2	0.4	8.8	
8	(D)	(D)	8.9	0.5	849.8	19.8	829.9	
9	2,406.9	2,406.2	0.6	0.2	297.6	7.1	290.5	
10	323.0	322.4	0.4	0.2	40.3	2.8	37.5	
United States	117,387.9	114,184.0	2,884.6	319.4	2,009.6	108.1	1,901.5	

(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 2015	November 2016	December 2016	January to December	
				2015	2016
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle	98.4	98.7	98.5	98.4	98.5
Calves	98.7	98.5	98.6	98.4	98.4
Hogs	99.3	99.4	99.3	99.3	99.3
Sheep	91.0	91.7	90.7	89.9	90.0

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 about 1,900 Non-Federally Inspected (State-inspected or custom-exempt) slaughter plants. Slaughter from State-inspected Talmedge-Aiken plants is included in FI totals (see Terms and Definitions, page 15). To prevent duplication in reporting between FI and NFI plants and assure all FI plants are included, certificates prepared by FSIS identifying operating status are constantly monitored.

Revision Policy: Number of head slaughtered, live weights, and dressed weights are subject to revision the following month after the monthly release. Annual totals are published in the slaughter summary each April which includes any revisions made to current and previous year's published data. Revisions are generally the result of late reports received from slaughter plants and are usually less than one-half of one percent. No revisions will be made to the previous year's data after the publication of the annual summary in April.

Procedures and Reliability: The livestock slaughter data is obtained electronically on a daily basis and summarized approximately two weeks after the week of slaughter. A computer program compares each plant's data with the historical data for that plant. Data are checked for unusual values for head kill, patterns of kill, average weights, and dressing percent, based on each plant's past operating profile. In addition, the computer program provides a listing of missing reports for follow-up contact with FSIS. Average live and dressed weights and dressing percentages by State are compared with the previous weeks as an additional check. Fluctuations are frequently the result of plants permanently or temporarily closing and a shift in the species reported.

The FSIS District Veterinary Medical Specialists (DVMS) are contacted by e-mail or telephone for missing or potentially erroneous slaughter data. This assures that plants slaughtering a large number of head or several species are accounted for each week. Any corrections FSIS makes to the slaughter data are included in the summary.

Computer imputation may be necessary for incomplete reports. The imputation of live and dressed weights is based on the current week reported data of plants of similar size and location. Imputation for live and dressed weight data for cattle and hogs is less than 10 percent and 7 percent, respectively. The imputation for calves and sheep is more frequent and variable. If no data is received electronically or by other means, for plants slaughtering fewer than 50 total head weekly of only one species, data are imputed. The imputation of head for any plant is based on the historical data for that particular plant. The imputation of head slaughtered is rare but when necessary, the imputed head kill for missing plants usually is less than 1 percent of the United States head kill totals.

FI data are summarized weekly and accumulated to a monthly total for this release. These weekly totals are published by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) in **Livestock, Meat, Wool Market News**, Weekly Summary, and statistics are also available on the NASS website. NFI data are summarized monthly only.

Livestock slaughter estimates are based on a census of operating plants and therefore, have no sampling error. However, they may be subject to non-sampling errors such as omissions, duplications and mistakes in reporting, recording and processing the data. These errors are minimized through rigid quality controls in the computer edit program and summarization process, and a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

No data are published when an individual plant's data could be divulged. If not published, as indicated with a (D), these data are still included in United States and region totals. A review of the data is made annually to determine the publishable data.

Terms and Definitions Used for Livestock Slaughter Estimates

Average Live Weight: The weight of the whole animal, before slaughter. Excludes post-mortem condemnations.

Commercial Production: Includes slaughter and meat production in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms. Based on packers' dressed weights.

Custom-Exempt Plants: Plants that do not sell meat but operate on a custom basis only are custom-exempt. The animals and meat are not inspected, but the facilities must meet health standards. These are considered NFI plants and head kill is included in NFI totals.

Dressed Weight: The weight of a chilled animal carcass. Beef with kidney knob in; veal with hide off; lamb and mutton with pluck out; pork with leaf fat and kidneys out, jowls on and head off.

Dressing Percent: Usually expressed as a percentage yield of chilled carcass in relation to the weight of the live animal on hoof. For example, a live hog that weighed 200 pounds on hoof and yielded a carcass weighing 140 pounds would have a dressing percentage of 70.

Federally Inspected (FI) Plants: Plants that transport meat interstate must employ federal inspectors to assure compliance with USDA standards. Any state whose commercial plants operate entirely under federal inspection may still have custom-exempt establishments for which NFI estimates are made.

Food and Meat Inspection: Includes examination, checking, or testing of a carcass and/or meat against established government standards and involves checking the facility for cleanliness, health of animals, or parts of animals and quality of the meat produced.

Non-Federally Inspected (NFI) Plants: Plants which sell and transport only intrastate. State inspectors assure compliance with individual state standards for these NFI plants. Mobile slaughtering units are excluded and are considered farm slaughter.

Number of Head: Includes post-mortem condemnations.

Plant, Slaughter: An establishment where animals are killed and butchered.

Red Meat: Red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter excluding condemnation and is comprised of beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. The FI red meat production is equal to the total carcass weight after slaughter. The NFI meat production formula is $(\text{NFI head kill}) \times (\text{live weight}) \times (\text{FI dressing percentage}) = \text{NFI red meat production}$.

Slaughter: Killing and butchering of animals primarily for food.

Slaughter, Farm: Animals slaughtered on farms primarily for home consumption. Excludes custom slaughter for farmers at commercial establishments, but includes mobile slaughtering on farms. These estimates appear only in the annual slaughter release.

Talmedge-Aiken (TA) Plants: Slaughter plants in which USDA is responsible for inspection. However, federal inspection is carried out by State employees. These plants are considered to be federally inspected.

Total Live Weight: The total weight of live animals, before slaughter. Excludes post-mortem condemnations.

Wholesome Meat Act: Legislation that specifies that all meat produced for sale in the United States must be inspected. Meat that is transported interstate must be inspected in compliance with Federal (USDA) Standards.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov.

Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 720-3570
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section	(202) 690-2424
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter	(202) 720-3240
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
Seth Riggins – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106

Access to NASS Reports

For your convenience, you may access NASS reports and products the following ways:

- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>
- Both national and state specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit <http://www.nass.usda.gov> and in the “Follow NASS” box under “Receive reports by Email,” click on “National” or “State” to select the reports you would like to receive.

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@nass.usda.gov.

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