

August Total Red Meat Production Below Previous Year

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.10 billion pounds in August, down 5 percent from the 4.33 billion pounds produced in August 2007.

Beef production, at 2.27 billion pounds, was 7 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.91 million head, down 7 percent from August 2007. The average live weight was up 5 pounds from the previous year, at 1,284 pounds.

Veal production totaled 11.2 million pounds, 9 percent above August a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 79,200 head, up 21 percent from August 2007. The average live weight was down 23 pounds from last year, at 245 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.80 billion pounds, down 2 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.27 million head, down 1 percent from August 2007. The average live weight was down 2 pounds from the previous year, at 261 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 13.3 million pounds, was down 10 percent from August 2007. Sheep slaughter totaled 200,700 head, 12 percent below last year. The average live weight was 132 pounds, up 3 pounds from August a year ago.

January to August 2008 commercial red meat production was 33.4 billion pounds, up 5 percent from 2007. Accumulated beef production was up 2 percent from last year, veal was down 4 percent, pork was up 9 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

August 2007 contained 23 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays. August 2008 contained 21 weekdays (including no holidays) and 5 Saturdays.

Commercial Red Meat Production, United States 1/

Type	August 2007	July 2008	August 2008	Jan - Aug. 2/ 2007 2008		Change from last year
				2007	2008	
Million pounds						Percent
Beef	2,451	2,373	2,269	17,593	17,910	+2
Veal	10	12	11	96	92	-4
Pork	1,850	1,853	1,804	14,034	15,274	+9
Lamb & mutton	15	14	13	122	116	-4
Total red meat 3/	4,326	4,252	4,098	31,844	33,392	+5

1/Based on packers' dressed weights and excludes farm slaughter.

2/Accumulated totals and percentages based on unrounded data. 3/Totals may not equal sum of the parts due to rounding. Source: USDA, NASS, WI FO

Commercial Slaughter 1/, August 2008

Species	Wisconsin	Change from last year	U. S.	Change from last year
				1,000 hd
Cattle, all	142.8	-4	2,910.9	-7
Calves	2/	-	79.2	+21
Hogs, all	57.6	9	9,267.6	-1
Sheep and lambs	1.5	-6	200.7	-12

1/Excludes farm slaughter. 2/Data not published to avoid disclosing individual operations. Source: USDA, NASS, WI FO