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## United States Cattle on Feed Up 2 Percent

**Cattle and calves on feed** for the slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 12.0 million head on April 1, 2019. The inventory was 2 percent above April 1, 2018. This is the highest April 1 inventory since the series began in 1996. The inventory included 7.45 million steers and steer calves, down 1 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 62 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.51 million head, up 8 percent from 2018.

**Placements** in feedlots during March totaled 2.01 million head, 5 percent above 2018. Net placements were 1.95 million head. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 325,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 300,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 595,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 539,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 185,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 70,000 head.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during March totaled 1.78 million head, 3 percent below 2018.

**Other disappearance** totaled 69,000 head during March, 3 percent above 2018.

**Cattle on Feed Inventory, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: April 1, 2018 and 2019**

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2018	2019	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed March 1 .....	11,715	11,796	101
Placed on feed during March .....	1,921	2,014	105
Fed cattle marketed during March .....	1,840	1,777	97
Other disappearance during March .....	67	69	103
On feed April 1 .....	11,729	11,964	102

**Cattle on Feed Inventory, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: March 1, 2018 and 2019**

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2018	2019	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed February 1 .....	11,630	11,688	100
Placed on feed during February .....	1,817	1,857	102
Fed cattle marketed during February .....	1,675	1,683	100
Other disappearance during February .....	57	66	116
On feed March 1 .....	11,715	11,796	101

**Cattle on Feed by Class on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: April 1, 2018 and 2019**

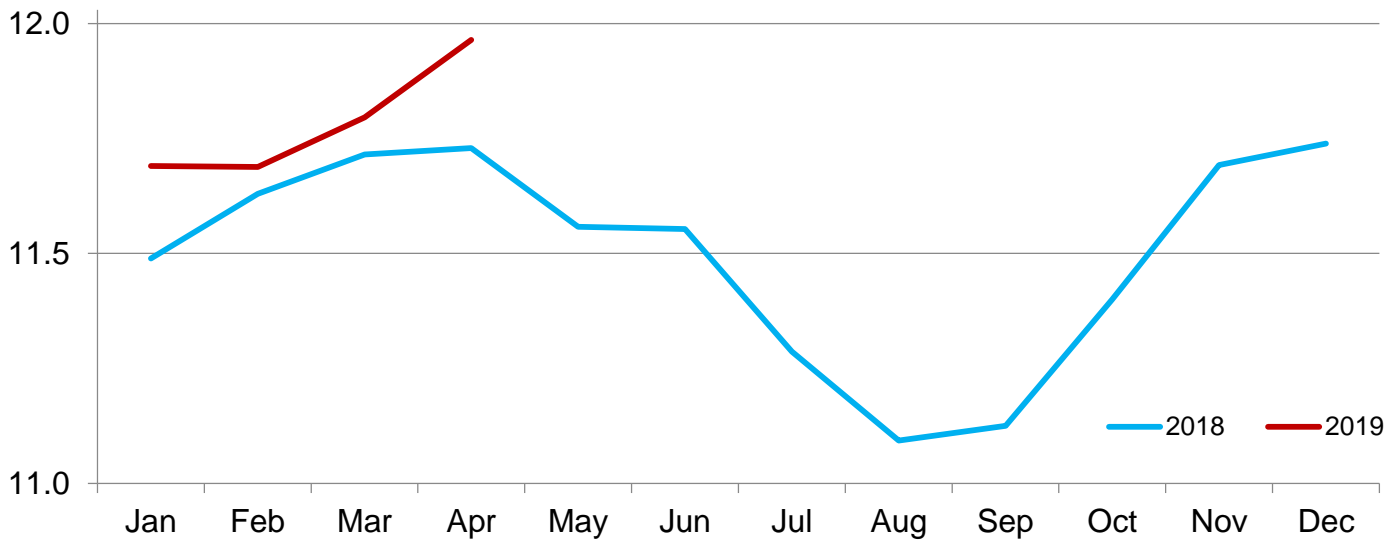
Item	Number		Percent of	
	2018	2019	previous year	inventory
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(percent)	(percent)
Class on feed April 1				
Steers and steer calves .....	7,535	7,450	99	62
Heifers and heifer calves .....	4,194	4,514	108	38

**Cattle on Feed Inventory on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2018 and 2019**

State	April 1, 2018	March 1, 2019	April 1, 2019		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	294	311	314	107	101
California .....	500	525	535	107	102
Colorado .....	950	1,050	1,060	112	101
Idaho .....	250	275	285	114	104
Iowa .....	740	710	710	96	100
Kansas .....	2,340	2,300	2,380	102	103
Minnesota .....	160	150	150	94	100
Nebraska .....	2,690	2,600	2,580	96	99
Oklahoma .....	310	310	315	102	102
South Dakota .....	260	260	250	96	96
Texas .....	2,700	2,770	2,850	106	103
Washington .....	210	225	225	107	100
Other States .....	325	310	310	95	100
United States .....	11,729	11,796	11,964	102	101

**Cattle on Feed Inventory on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States**

Million head

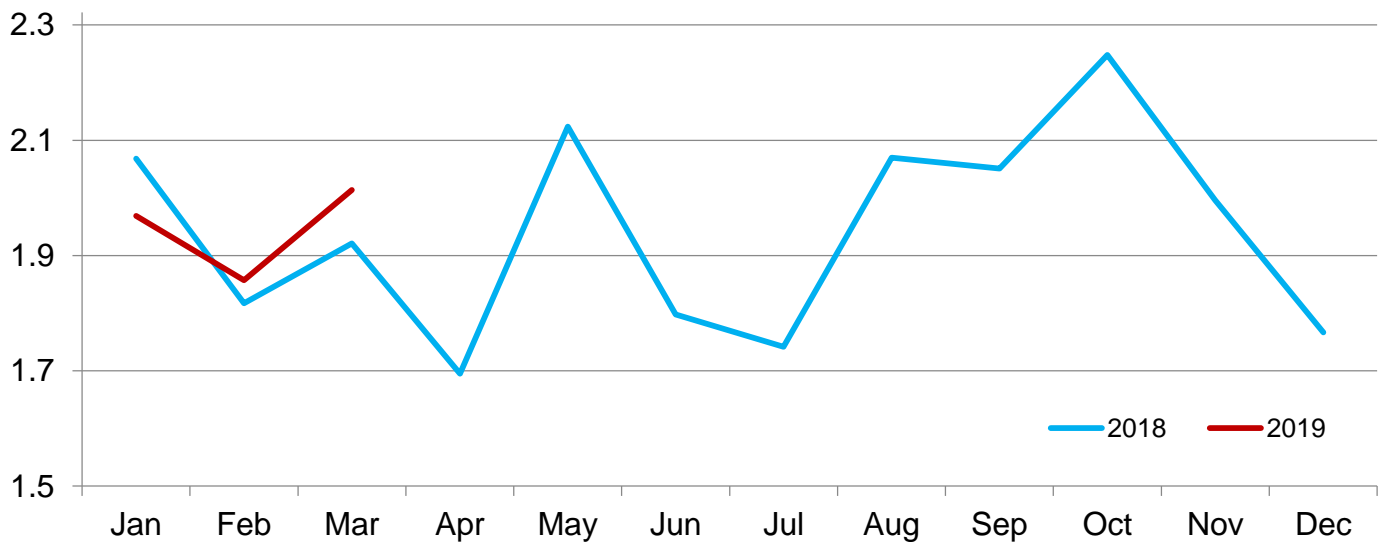


**Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2018 and 2019**

State	During March 2018	During February 2019	During March 2019		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	34	28	31	91	111
California .....	68	55	71	104	129
Colorado .....	165	185	200	121	108
Idaho .....	29	38	44	152	116
Iowa .....	107	133	104	97	78
Kansas .....	405	425	470	116	111
Minnesota .....	17	14	17	100	121
Nebraska .....	480	455	425	89	93
Oklahoma .....	53	44	60	113	136
South Dakota .....	27	42	29	107	69
Texas .....	455	370	480	105	130
Washington .....	29	26	34	117	131
Other States .....	52	42	49	94	117
United States .....	1,921	1,857	2,014	105	108

**Cattle Placed on 1000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States**

Million head



**Cattle Placed on Feed by Weight Group on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots and Month – States and United States: 2018 and 2019**

State	During March 2018							
	Under 600 lbs (1,000 head)	600-699 lbs (1,000 head)	700-799 lbs (1,000 head)	800-899 lbs (1,000 head)	900+ lbs <sup>1</sup> (1,000 head)	900-999 lbs (1,000 head)	1,000+ lbs (1,000 head)	Total (1,000 head)
Colorado .....	25	25	40	50	25	(D)	(D)	165
Kansas .....	40	55	125	125	60	(D)	(D)	405
Nebraska .....	35	75	115	150	105	(D)	(D)	480
Texas .....	115	85	135	95	25	(D)	(D)	455
Other States ...	100	45	115	111	45	(D)	(D)	416
United States ..	315	285	530	531	(X)	185	75	1,921
State	During February 2019							
	Under 600 lbs (1,000 head)	600-699 lbs (1,000 head)	700-799 lbs (1,000 head)	800-899 lbs (1,000 head)	900+ lbs <sup>1</sup> (1,000 head)	900-999 lbs (1,000 head)	1,000+ lbs (1,000 head)	Total (1,000 head)
Colorado .....	30	35	50	45	25	(D)	(D)	185
Kansas .....	45	75	150	115	40	(D)	(D)	425
Nebraska .....	30	80	145	125	75	(D)	(D)	455
Texas .....	130	75	85	60	20	(D)	(D)	370
Other States ...	105	80	100	97	40	(D)	(D)	422
United States ..	340	345	530	442	(X)	135	65	1,857
State	During March 2019							
	Under 600 lbs (1,000 head)	600-699 lbs (1,000 head)	700-799 lbs (1,000 head)	800-899 lbs (1,000 head)	900+ lbs <sup>1</sup> (1,000 head)	900-999 lbs (1,000 head)	1,000+ lbs (1,000 head)	Total (1,000 head)
Colorado .....	30	35	55	55	25	(D)	(D)	200
Kansas .....	45	55	170	140	60	(D)	(D)	470
Nebraska .....	25	55	115	130	100	(D)	(D)	425
Texas .....	115	100	140	100	25	(D)	(D)	480
Other States ...	110	55	115	114	45	(D)	(D)	439
United States ..	325	300	595	539	(X)	185	70	2,014

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

(X) Not applicable.

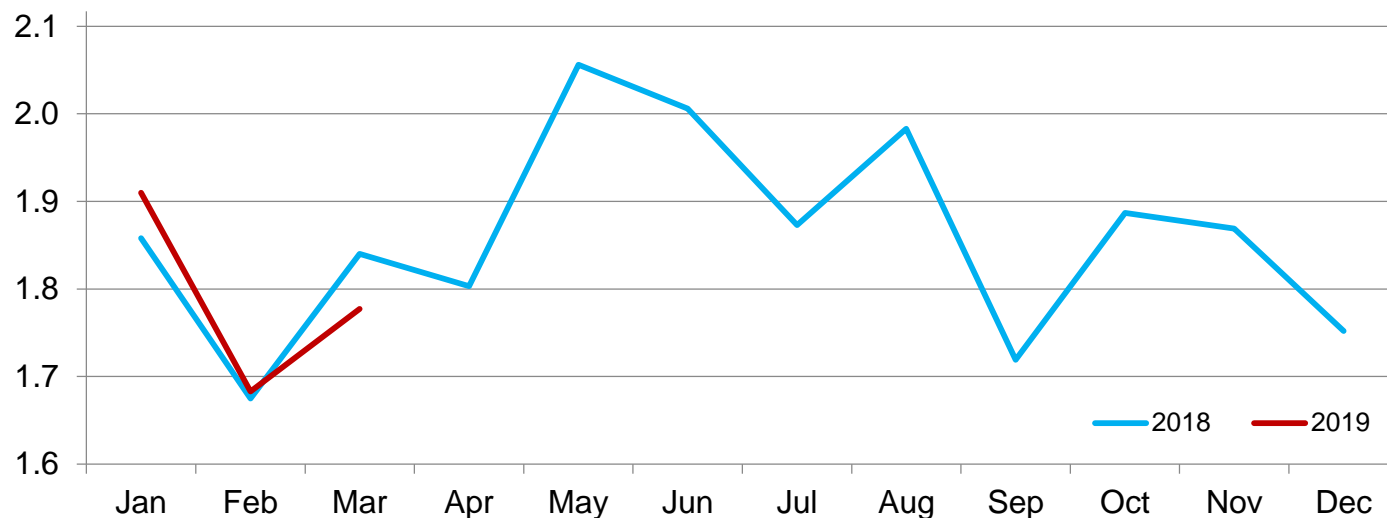
<sup>1</sup> The 900 pounds and greater weight group is the sum of 900-999 pounds and 1,000 pounds and greater weight groups.

**Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2018 and 2019**

State	During March 2018  (1,000 head)	During February 2019  (1,000 head)	During March 2019		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
			(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	24	19	27	113	142
California .....	55	51	57	104	112
Colorado .....	160	170	185	116	109
Idaho .....	32	35	32	100	91
Iowa .....	93	109	100	108	92
Kansas .....	400	365	375	94	103
Minnesota .....	21	18	16	76	89
Nebraska .....	465	415	425	91	102
Oklahoma .....	57	48	53	93	110
South Dakota .....	36	34	37	103	109
Texas .....	420	340	390	93	115
Washington .....	28	30	33	118	110
Other States .....	49	49	47	96	96
United States .....	1,840	1,683	1,777	97	106

## Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States

Million head



### Cattle Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2018 and 2019

State	During March 2018 (1,000 head)	During February 2019 (1,000 head)	During March 2019		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	1	1	1	100	100
California .....	3	4	4	133	100
Colorado .....	5	5	5	100	100
Idaho .....	2	3	2	100	67
Iowa .....	4	4	4	100	100
Kansas .....	15	10	15	100	150
Minnesota .....	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska .....	15	20	20	133	100
Oklahoma .....	1	1	2	200	200
South Dakota .....	1	3	2	200	67
Texas .....	15	10	10	67	100
Washington .....	1	1	1	100	100
Other States .....	3	3	2	67	67
United States .....	67	66	69	103	105

**Cattle on Feed by Class on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Quarter – States and United States: 2018 and 2019**

State	Steers and steer calves			Heifers and heifer calves		
	Apr 1, 2018	Jan 1, 2019	Apr 1, 2019	Apr 1, 2018	Jan 1, 2019	Apr 1, 2019
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)
Arizona .....	284	285	305	10	10	9
California .....	450	465	465	50	70	70
Colorado .....	535	570	580	415	440	480
Idaho .....	170	185	185	80	95	100
Iowa .....	540	510	480	200	180	230
Kansas .....	1,240	1,270	1,320	1,100	1,060	1,060
Minnesota .....	131	130	130	29	25	20
Nebraska .....	1,760	1,570	1,610	930	990	970
Oklahoma .....	165	180	170	145	135	145
South Dakota .....	150	135	145	110	110	105
Texas .....	1,760	1,640	1,730	940	1,090	1,120
Washington .....	140	140	140	70	85	85
Other States .....	210	200	190	115	120	120
United States .....	7,535	7,280	7,450	4,194	4,410	4,514

## Terms and Definitions of Cattle on Feed Estimates

**Cattle on feed** are steers and heifers being fed a ration of grain, silage, hay and/or protein supplement for slaughter market that are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. It excludes cattle being "backgrounded only" for later sale as feeders or later placement in another feedlot.

**Placements** are steers and heifers put into a feedlot, fed a ration which will produce a carcass that will grade select or better, and are intended for the slaughter market.

**Marketings** are steers and heifers shipped out of feedlots to a slaughter market.

**Other disappearance** includes death loss, movement from feedlots to pasture, and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

## Statistical Methodology

**Survey Procedures:** During January and July all known feedlots in the United States with capacity of 1,000 or more head are surveyed to provide data for cattle on feed estimates. During the other months, all known feedlots from 16 States are surveyed. The 16 States account for approximately 98 percent of the cattle on feed in feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head. Individual State estimates are published monthly for 12 of the 16 States. Data collected from the remaining 4 States are used to establish the "Other States" estimates. These 4 States include Illinois, New Mexico, Oregon, and Wyoming. The "Other States" category represents all cattle on feed with a capacity of 1,000 or more head for the rest of the United States.

**Estimating Procedures:** These cattle on feed estimates were prepared by the Agricultural Statistics Board after reviewing recommendations and analysis submitted by Regional Field Offices. Regional and State survey data were reviewed for reasonableness with each other and with estimates from the previous month when establishing the current estimates.

**Revision Policy:** Revisions to previous estimates are made to improve month to month relationships. Estimates for the previous month are subject to revision in all States each month when current estimates are made. In February, all monthly estimates for the previous year, and the number of feedlots and annual marketings from two years ago are reviewed and subject to revisions. The reviews are primarily based on slaughter data, state check-off or brand data, and any other data that may have been received after the original estimate was made. Estimates will also be reviewed after data from the *Census of Agriculture* are available. No revisions will be made after that date and estimates become final.

**Reliability:** Since all 1,000+ capacity cattle on feed operators in every State are not included in the monthly survey, survey estimates are subject to sampling variability. Survey results are also subject to non-sampling errors such as omissions, duplications, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. The effects of these errors cannot be measured directly. They are minimized through rigid quality controls in the data collection process and through a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of estimates in this report, the "**Root Mean Square Error**" is shown for selected items in the table on the following page. The "Root Mean Square Error" is a statistical measure based on past performance and is computed using the differences between first and latest estimates. The "Root Mean Square Error" for cattle on feed inventory estimates over the past 24 months is 0.0 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 12.0 million head by more than 0.0 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.1 percent.

The table on the following page shows a 24 month record of the range of differences between first and latest estimates for selected items. Using estimates of number on feed as an example, changes between the first estimate and the latest estimate during the past 24 months have averaged 1,000 head, ranging from 0 to 15,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 0 times and has been below the latest estimate 3 times. This does not imply that the initial estimate is likely to understate or overstate final inventory.



## Reliability of Monthly Cattle on Feed Estimates

[Based on data for the past 24 months]

Item	Root mean square error	90 percent confidence level	Difference between first and latest estimate				
			Average	Smallest	Largest	Months	
						Below latest	Above latest
	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(number)	(number)
Number on feed .....	0.0	0.1	1	0	15	3	0
Placements .....	0.2	0.3	1	0	15	3	0
Marketings .....	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0

## 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](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov).

Travis Averill, Chief, Livestock Branch .....	(202) 720-3570
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section .....	(202) 690-2424
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter .....	(202) 690-8632
Holly Brenize – Sheep and Goats .....	(202) 720-0585
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products .....	(202) 720-4448
Heidi Gleich – 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: [www.nass.usda.gov](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 [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov) and click on “National” or “State” in upper right corner above “search” box to create an account and select the reports you would like to receive.
- Cornell’s Mann Library has launched a new website housing NASS’s and other agency’s archived reports. The new website, <https://usda.library.cornell.edu>. All email subscriptions containing reports will be sent from the new website, <https://usda.library.cornell.edu>. To continue receiving the reports via e-mail, you will have to go to the new website, create a new account and re-subscribe to the reports. If you need instructions to set up an account or subscribe, they are located at: <https://usda.library.cornell.edu/help>. You should whitelist [notifications@usda-esmis.library.cornell.edu](mailto:notifications@usda-esmis.library.cornell.edu) in your email client to avoid the emails going into spam/junk folders.

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](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov).

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**USDA NASS Data Users' Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 23, 2019**

University of Chicago – Gleacher Center  
450 North Cityfront Plaza Drive  
Chicago, IL 60611  
312-464-8787

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service will hold an open forum for users of U.S. domestic and international agriculture data. NASS is organizing the 2019 Data Users' Meeting in cooperation with five other USDA agencies – Agricultural Marketing Service, Economic Research Service, Farm Service Agency, Foreign Agricultural Service, and World Agricultural Outlook Board – and the Census Bureau's Foreign Trade Division. Agency representatives will provide updates on recent and pending changes in statistical and information programs important to agriculture, answer questions, and welcome comments and input from data users.

For registration details or additional information about the Data Users' Meeting, see the meeting page on the NASS website ([https://www.nass.usda.gov/Education\\_and\\_Outreach/Meeting/index.php](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Education_and_Outreach/Meeting/index.php)). Contact Vernita Murray (NASS) at 202-690-8141 or [vernita.murray@nass.usda.gov](mailto:vernita.murray@nass.usda.gov) or Patricia Snipe (NASS) at 202-720-2248 or [patricia.snipe@nass.usda.gov](mailto:patricia.snipe@nass.usda.gov) for information.

The Data Users' Meeting precedes the Industry Outlook Conference at the same location on Wednesday, April 24, 2019. The outlook meeting brings together analysts from various commodity sectors to discuss developments and trends. For registration details or additional information about the Industry Outlook Conference, see the conference page on the LMIC website (<http://lmic.info/page/meetings>). Or contact Laura Lahr at 303-716-9935 or [laura.lahr@lmic.info](mailto:laura.lahr@lmic.info).