



Livestock Slaughter

ISSN: 0499-0544

Released January 20, 2022, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Record High Beef Production in December

December 2020 contained 23 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

December 2021 contained 23 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.78 billion pounds in December, down 1 percent from the 4.86 billion pounds produced in December 2020.

Beef production, at 2.36 billion pounds, was 1 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.82 million head, up 1 percent from December 2020. The average live weight was up 3 pounds from the previous year, at 1,392 pounds.

Veal production totaled 5.3 million pounds, 7 percent below December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 38,700 head, down 5 percent from December 2020. The average live weight was down 5 pounds from last year, at 237 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.40 billion pounds, down 4 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 11.1 million head, down 4 percent from December 2020. The average live weight was down 2 pounds from the previous year, at 292 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 11.6 million pounds, was down 4 percent from December 2020. Sheep slaughter totaled 187,100 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 123 pounds, up 1 pound from December a year ago.

January to December 2021 commercial red meat production was 55.8 billion pounds, up slightly from 2020. Accumulated beef production was up 3 percent from last year, veal was down 17 percent, pork was down 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 1 percent.

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Commercial Red Meat Production – United States

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

Type	December 2020	November 2021	December 2021	December 2021 as % of		January to December		
				December 2020	November 2021	2020	2021	2021 as % of 2020
	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Beef	2,327.4	2,379.4	2,361.9	101	99	27,173.0	27,937.4	103
Veal	5.6	4.6	5.3	93	114	64.2	53.2	83
Pork	2,510.4	2,408.8	2,404.0	96	100	28,303.5	27,673.6	98
Lamb and mutton	12.0	12.0	11.6	96	97	138.5	137.5	99
Total red meat	4,855.4	4,804.7	4,782.7	99	100	55,679.3	55,801.7	100

Federally Inspected Red Meat Production – United States

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

Type	December 2020	November 2021	December 2021	December 2021 as % of		January to December		
				December 2020	November 2021	2020	2021	2021 as % of 2020
	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Beef	2,291.8	2,342.8	2,326.6	102	99	26,738.3	27,484.5	103
Veal	5.5	4.5	5.1	93	115	62.4	51.7	83
Pork	2,499.3	2,397.9	2,393.8	96	100	28,153.8	27,540.3	98
Lamb and mutton	10.7	10.9	10.5	98	96	122.9	122.2	99
Total red meat	4,807.3	4,756.1	4,736.1	99	100	55,077.4	55,198.7	100

Livestock Slaughter and Average Live Weight – United States

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

Species	December 2020	November 2021	December 2021	December 2021 as % of 2020	January to December		
					2020	2021	2021 as % of 2020
				(percent)			(percent)
Cattle							
Number of head							
Federally inspected 1,000	2,733.9	2,805.4	2,772.1	101	32,151.5	33,184.3	103
Other 1,000	51.4	52.9	51.4	100	634.2	652.4	103
Commercial 1,000	2,785.3	2,858.3	2,823.5	101	32,785.7	33,836.6	103
Average live weight							
Federally inspected .. pounds	1,392	1,386	1,395	100	1,376	1,374	100
Other pounds	1,211	1,212	1,216	100	1,206	1,216	101
Commercial pounds	1,389	1,382	1,392	100	1,373	1,371	100
Calves							
Number of head							
Federally inspected 1,000	40.0	32.5	38.1	95	446.8	383.9	86
Other 1,000	0.7	0.6	0.6	89	9.6	7.5	78
Commercial 1,000	40.6	33.0	38.7	95	456.4	391.4	86
Average live weight							
Federally inspected .. pounds	239	239	235	98	242	234	96
Other pounds	388	384	379	98	366	372	102
Commercial pounds	242	242	237	98	245	236	96
Hogs							
Number of head							
Federally inspected 1,000	11,419.4	11,080.7	11,005.0	96	130,782.2	128,287.8	98
Other 1,000	58.2	56.0	52.6	90	780.8	688.6	88
Commercial 1,000	11,477.6	11,136.7	11,057.6	96	131,563.0	128,976.3	98
Average live weight							
Federally inspected .. pounds	294	291	292	99	289	288	100
Other pounds	261	268	265	102	263	265	101
Commercial pounds	294	291	292	99	289	288	100
Sheep and lambs							
Number of head							
Federally inspected 1,000	168.5	171.3	165.0	98	1,894.8	1,926.9	102
Other 1,000	29.3	23.8	22.1	75	330.6	320.0	97
Commercial 1,000	197.8	195.1	187.1	95	2,225.4	2,246.9	101
Average live weight							
Federally inspected .. pounds	126	126	127	100	129	126	98
Other pounds	96	93	98	102	97	97	100
Commercial pounds	122	122	123	101	125	122	98
Goats							
Number of head							
Federally inspected 1,000	51.1	45.8	48.9	96	517.9	493.3	95
Other 1,000	9.6	9.1	11.8	124	106.4	104.8	99
Commercial 1,000	60.7	54.9	60.7	100	624.4	598.1	96
Average live weight							
Federally inspected .. pounds	65	64	64	98	65	65	100
Other pounds	86	87	83	97	85	87	102
Commercial pounds	68	68	67	99	68	69	101
Bison							
Number of head							
Federally inspected 1,000	5.4	6.2	5.9	108	62.7	66.2	106
Other 1,000	0.3	0.3	0.3	119	3.6	3.4	94
Commercial 1,000	5.7	6.5	6.2	109	66.3	69.6	105

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 2020	November 2021	December 2021	December 2021 as % of 2020
	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Alabama	1.1	1.1	0.9	84
Alaska	0.1	0.1	0.1	94
Arizona	41.9	41.4	43.2	103
Arkansas	0.5	0.4	0.4	89
California	152.6	143.7	145.0	95
Colorado	183.1	171.2	164.9	90
Delaware-Maryland	3.0	3.0	3.0	99
Florida	4.9	8.4	7.0	143
Georgia	15.0	13.9	14.9	99
Hawaii	1.0	0.9	0.9	92
Idaho	34.2	34.9	34.6	101
Illinois	300.6	281.4	287.3	96
Indiana	167.4	166.3	164.7	98
Iowa	775.9	790.6	776.4	100
Kansas	510.0	537.4	526.9	103
Kentucky	56.1	55.6	57.6	103
Louisiana	0.3	0.4	0.4	118
Michigan	111.8	102.9	102.8	92
Minnesota	264.4	266.7	273.3	103
Mississippi	0.7	0.8	0.8	107
Missouri	171.2	181.1	173.9	102
Montana	1.6	4.8	2.5	154
Nebraska	680.0	686.2	680.5	100
Nevada	0.1	0.1	0.1	119
New England ¹	3.1	3.0	2.9	95
New Jersey	4.0	4.0	4.3	106
New Mexico	0.4	0.4	0.4	112
New York	3.6	3.2	3.5	99
North Carolina	238.7	238.4	234.1	98
North Dakota	0.6	0.8	0.7	113
Ohio	25.3	24.1	24.7	97
Oklahoma	120.0	107.2	108.0	90
Oregon	4.1	4.3	4.0	97
Pennsylvania	132.0	122.9	127.9	97
South Carolina	15.3	16.4	16.0	105
South Dakota	134.3	131.2	135.0	101
Tennessee	27.7	26.1	27.1	98
Texas	383.4	399.7	400.0	104
Utah	49.4	41.5	42.7	87
Virginia	42.9	1.8	1.9	4
Washington	81.2	78.7	79.7	98
West Virginia	1.1	0.9	0.9	81
Wisconsin	110.4	106.1	106.0	96
Wyoming	0.6	0.8	0.8	133
United States	4,855.4	4,804.7	4,782.7	99

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

Commercial Cattle Slaughter – States and United States: December 2020 and 2021

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	2020 (1,000 head)	2021 (1,000 head)	2020 (1,000 pounds)	2021 (1,000 pounds)	2020 (pounds)	2021 (pounds)
Alabama	1.0	0.7	1,059	768	1,042	1,070
Alaska	0.1	0.1	91	91	1,068	998
Arizona	48.0	48.9	67,760	69,611	1,415	1,424
Arkansas	0.6	0.6	643	605	1,034	1,070
California	136.5	137.5	180,927	184,311	1,333	1,348
Colorado	199.2	178.4	284,781	256,396	1,431	1,439
Delaware-Maryland	3.1	3.0	4,343	4,203	1,406	1,395
Florida	(D)	10.8	(D)	13,375	(D)	1,241
Georgia	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Hawaii	1.4	1.2	1,592	1,466	1,134	1,212
Idaho	46.7	48.1	59,278	60,625	1,280	1,272
Illinois	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Indiana	3.8	3.5	4,511	4,286	1,176	1,220
Iowa	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Kansas	562.8	577.1	789,751	816,591	1,404	1,415
Kentucky	3.8	5.1	4,247	5,722	1,114	1,121
Louisiana	0.5	0.5	365	464	790	860
Michigan	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Minnesota	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	0.4	0.5	402	476	969	966
Missouri	7.7	18.7	9,006	21,678	1,183	1,164
Montana	1.8	2.8	2,153	3,654	1,193	1,321
Nebraska	585.8	590.3	865,456	869,249	1,479	1,474
Nevada	0.1	(D)	81	(D)	1,138	(D)
New England ¹	3.3	3.2	3,810	3,794	1,154	1,171
New Jersey	4.3	4.3	4,804	4,912	1,134	1,140
New Mexico	0.5	0.5	529	595	1,092	1,108
New York	3.7	3.7	4,527	4,511	1,246	1,236
North Carolina	7.4	6.9	9,090	8,449	1,232	1,234
North Dakota	0.7	0.8	931	1,040	1,371	1,315
Ohio	5.8	6.1	7,600	8,215	1,308	1,338
Oklahoma	4.1	5.9	4,430	6,628	1,077	1,122
Oregon	1.8	2.1	2,100	2,412	1,150	1,156
Pennsylvania	90.3	92.1	111,393	114,075	1,240	1,245
South Carolina	22.2	23.2	29,391	30,754	1,329	1,333
South Dakota	42.1	43.9	60,975	62,124	1,458	1,425
Tennessee	2.9	4.1	2,970	4,398	1,041	1,085
Texas	467.9	488.1	621,152	655,081	1,331	1,346
Utah	57.2	47.1	79,315	66,461	1,389	1,411
Virginia	1.6	1.7	1,750	1,827	1,102	1,097
Washington	95.2	93.5	133,474	131,220	1,406	1,407
West Virginia	1.7	1.3	1,755	1,365	1,040	1,018
Wisconsin	119.8	118.6	165,899	164,689	1,393	1,396
Wyoming	0.8	1.1	948	1,324	1,142	1,233
United States	2,785.3	2,823.5	3,859,694	3,921,335	1,389	1,392

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

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

Commercial Calf Slaughter – States and United States: December 2020 and 2021

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	2020 (1,000 head)	2021 (1,000 head)	2020 (1,000 pounds)	2021 (1,000 pounds)	2020 (pounds)	2021 (pounds)
Alabama	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Alaska	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Arizona	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)	(D)
Arkansas	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
California	4.3	3.3	597	402	142	127
Colorado	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Delaware-Maryland	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Florida	0.1	0.1	50	52	379	404
Georgia	0.1	0.1	74	67	495	475
Hawaii	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Idaho	1.6	(D)	139	(D)	86	(D)
Illinois	0.1	0.1	23	30	361	328
Indiana	0.6	0.7	230	297	414	404
Iowa	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Kansas	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Kentucky	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Louisiana	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Michigan	0.1	0.1	40	40	400	400
Minnesota	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)	(D)
Mississippi	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)	(D)
Missouri	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Montana	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Nebraska	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Nevada	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
New England ¹	0.3	0.3	69	81	277	310
New Jersey	1.7	1.9	641	687	388	370
New Mexico	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
New York	7.6	6.2	658	593	87	96
North Carolina	0.1	0.1	35	25	314	359
North Dakota	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Ohio	12.3	12.2	1,841	1,670	150	138
Oklahoma	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Oregon	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Pennsylvania	8.6	8.1	3,862	3,528	451	435
South Carolina	(D)	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)
South Dakota	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Tennessee	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)	(D)
Texas	0.2	0.2	96	83	440	432
Utah	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Virginia	0.1	(D)	26	(D)	254	(D)
Washington	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
West Virginia	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin	2.7	2.5	1,321	1,202	485	481
Wyoming	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
United States	40.6	38.7	9,747	9,100	242	237

(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 2020 and 2021

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
Alabama	1.9	1.9	763	805	398	430
Alaska	0.1	0.1	17	17	276	257
Arizona	0.1	0.1	20	33	253	263
Arkansas	0.5	0.4	140	101	293	279
California	244.8	211.1	66,826	53,642	273	254
Colorado	1.3	2.1	356	385	270	182
Delaware-Maryland	1.7	1.9	479	480	280	257
Florida	4.9	5.6	718	666	148	118
Georgia	6.2	5.6	1,601	1,525	260	274
Hawaii	0.3	0.2	80	51	262	262
Idaho	15.9	15.1	4,552	4,020	286	267
Illinois	1,088.2	1,003.7	319,108	294,684	293	294
Indiana	786.6	752.7	220,194	216,571	280	288
Iowa	3,418.9	3,406.4	1,000,006	995,002	293	292
Kansas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Kentucky	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Louisiana	0.8	0.8	129	118	161	152
Michigan	311.3	288.1	92,548	86,310	297	300
Minnesota	1,096.5	1,131.0	307,822	318,618	281	282
Mississippi	4.0	4.4	639	639	158	145
Missouri	734.1	727.3	221,692	216,299	302	298
Montana	1.5	1.1	440	319	292	286
Nebraska	687.2	666.2	198,025	194,579	288	292
Nevada	(Y)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(X)	(D)
New England ¹	3.3	2.8	887	738	266	268
New Jersey	7.5	10.4	779	918	104	89
New Mexico	0.2	0.2	48	43	244	253
New York	2.7	2.4	679	567	250	234
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
North Dakota	0.3	0.3	88	80	318	313
Ohio	94.1	88.0	26,607	25,317	283	288
Oklahoma	505.6	470.8	153,209	138,776	303	295
Oregon	12.0	11.6	3,403	3,084	284	267
Pennsylvania	296.7	277.2	85,663	79,154	289	286
South Carolina	4.3	4.3	880	879	207	206
South Dakota	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Tennessee	90.2	83.9	39,255	37,302	436	445
Texas	28.5	28.1	6,951	6,571	245	234
Utah	3.4	(D)	610	(D)	181	(D)
Virginia	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Washington	2.1	1.7	538	458	254	265
West Virginia	0.6	0.4	191	124	316	330
Wisconsin	73.6	63.9	31,391	26,683	428	418
Wyoming	0.2	0.3	62	83	288	277
United States	11,477.6	11,057.6	3,370,513	3,227,607	294	292

(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: December 2020 and 2021

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	2020 (1,000 head)	2021 (1,000 head)	2020 (1,000 pounds)	2021 (1,000 pounds)	2020 (pounds)	2021 (pounds)
Alabama	1.4	(D)	94	(D)	68	(D)
Alaska	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Arizona	0.1	0.1	15	10	115	119
Arkansas	(Y)	(Y)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
California	28.0	23.9	3,982	3,303	142	139
Colorado	48.9	42.3	7,631	6,666	156	158
Delaware-Maryland	1.3	2.4	144	238	114	100
Florida	2.3	3.0	134	148	60	50
Georgia	1.6	1.8	123	126	77	69
Hawaii	0.1	0.2	13	23	111	133
Idaho	0.1	0.2	15	22	145	146
Illinois	5.1	5.3	385	391	75	74
Indiana	7.0	6.9	779	757	111	110
Iowa	0.2	0.2	27	26	152	152
Kansas	0.4	0.4	38	40	104	98
Kentucky	1.5	1.3	161	143	110	108
Louisiana	0.4	0.5	24	25	61	53
Michigan	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Minnesota	0.5	0.4	50	37	93	87
Mississippi	0.4	0.5	27	30	62	64
Missouri	0.8	0.6	72	48	88	85
Montana	0.4	0.4	54	55	127	132
Nebraska	0.1	0.1	7	6	122	116
Nevada	0.1	(D)	7	(D)	149	(D)
New England ¹	4.7	4.3	433	367	93	85
New Jersey	17.2	17.6	1,363	1,432	79	81
New Mexico	0.5	0.6	69	82	142	140
New York	6.0	6.5	584	647	97	100
North Carolina	3.3	1.9	223	135	68	70
North Dakota	(Y)	0.1	(X)	10	(X)	152
Ohio	4.8	5.3	762	837	159	158
Oklahoma	1.1	(D)	104	(D)	94	(D)
Oregon	5.0	4.1	682	539	138	133
Pennsylvania	10.1	9.3	1,029	984	102	106
South Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
South Dakota	0.3	0.2	39	37	147	159
Tennessee	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	17.8	20.8	1,488	2,513	84	121
Utah	1.8	1.8	235	233	133	132
Virginia	1.6	1.5	112	103	69	70
Washington	1.6	1.2	217	164	139	136
West Virginia	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Wisconsin	5.2	4.3	762	632	148	148
Wyoming	0.1	0.1	15	6	135	116
United States	197.8	187.1	24,058	23,027	122	123

(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 2020	November 2021	December 2021	January to December		December 2020	November 2021	December 2021	January to December	
				2020	2021				2020	2021
	(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	1,323.0	1,325.4	1,310.6	15,856.3	16,145.2	48.4	47.2	47.3	49.3	48.7
Heifers	808.2	862.9	824.7	9,445.4	9,826.6	29.6	30.8	29.7	29.4	29.6
All cows	561.7	572.6	593.8	6,331.4	6,668.7	20.5	20.4	21.4	19.7	20.1
Dairy cows	273.5	245.3	267.8	3,063.5	3,106.4	10.0	8.7	9.7	9.5	9.4
Other cows	288.2	327.2	326.0	3,267.9	3,562.3	10.5	11.7	11.8	10.2	10.7
Bulls	40.9	44.5	43.0	518.4	543.8	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
Total	2,733.9	2,805.4	2,772.1	32,151.5	33,184.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Calves and vealers	40.0	32.5	38.1	446.8	383.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Hogs										
Barrows and gilts	11,109.3	10,801.0	10,720.6	127,149.6	124,861.1	97.3	97.5	97.4	97.2	97.3
Sows	283.7	250.5	258.2	3,321.1	3,114.2	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.5	2.4
Boars	26.4	29.2	26.2	311.6	312.5	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Total	11,419.4	11,080.7	11,005.0	130,782.2	128,287.8	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sheep										
Mature sheep	10.7	11.5	9.7	113.0	140.8	6.3	6.7	5.9	6.0	7.3
Lambs and yearlings	157.8	159.8	155.3	1,781.8	1,786.1	93.7	93.3	94.1	94.0	92.7
Total	168.5	171.3	165.0	1,894.8	1,926.9	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	December 2020	November 2021	December 2021	January to December	
				2020	2021
	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
Cattle	840	837	841	834	830
Steers ¹	920	923	927	908	906
Heifers ¹	847	846	852	835	833
All cows ¹	639	621	635	641	637
Bulls ¹	859	855	860	879	885
Calves and vealers	139	139	136	141	136
Hogs	219	216	218	215	215
Barrows and gilts ²	217	215	216	213	213
Sows ²	297	296	295	303	300
Boars ²	195	189	196	193	196
Sheep	63	64	64	65	63
Mature sheep ³	64	64	61	65	65
Lambs and yearlings ³	63	64	64	65	63

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 2021

[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	2.9	1.2	(D)	0.4	0.2	0.2	(D)	0.2	
2	7.9	2.8	1.8	2.8	2.6	0.2	0.4	8.1	
3	95.2	34.1	3.2	53.8	46.5	7.4	4.1	8.4	
4	75.8	4.2	1.9	60.5	15.6	45.0	9.1	0.3	
5	286.4	126.0	(D)	114.2	64.4	49.8	(D)	15.4	
6	488.6	218.6	145.6	114.5	29.9	84.6	9.9	0.1	
7	1,217.2	663.7	474.6	71.8	8.8	63.0	7.2	(Y)	
8	268.3	136.0	101.8	29.3	4.4	24.9	1.2	(D)	
9	187.1	80.9	20.7	84.3	66.7	17.5	1.2	3.1	
10	142.6	43.1	34.8	62.1	28.7	33.4	2.5	(D)	
United States	2,772.1	1,310.6	824.7	593.8	267.8	326.0	43.0	38.1	
	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	2.5	2.4	(Y)	(Y)	4.1	0.1	4.0		
2	12.7	12.7	(Y)	(Y)	23.4	2.5	20.9		
3	279.9	278.4	(D)	(D)	14.0	1.6	12.4		
4	(D)	(D)	82.3	(D)	10.6	0.9	9.7		
5	3,307.4	3,193.3	107.3	6.8	29.6	2.1	27.5		
6	494.6	494.4	(D)	(D)	12.1	0.3	11.7		
7	4,813.8	4,733.4	66.2	14.3	0.8	(Y)	0.8		
8	(D)	(D)	(D)	(Y)	43.8	1.1	42.7		
9	206.6	206.6	(Y)	(Y)	22.1	0.8	21.3		
10	28.0	28.0	(Y)	(Y)	4.4	0.2	4.2		
United States	11,005.0	10,720.6	258.2	26.2	165.0	9.7	155.3		

(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 2021

[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	34.4	15.1	(D)	5.4	2.8	2.7	(D)	2.7
2	89.9	28.4	19.4	37.2	35.3	1.9	4.8	78.4
3	1,073.9	418.8	40.7	567.0	486.1	80.9	47.4	87.8
4	876.0	62.3	21.5	688.3	174.7	513.6	103.9	3.5
5	3,396.8	1,533.5	(D)	1,323.4	748.2	575.1	(D)	132.6
6	5,895.0	2,700.3	1,850.3	1,235.4	362.5	872.9	109.0	0.5
7	14,507.6	8,108.4	5,550.1	757.0	118.2	638.8	92.2	0.4
8	3,430.1	1,825.3	1,195.8	387.9	82.8	305.1	21.0	(D)
9	2,197.2	925.2	282.3	967.1	747.7	219.5	22.5	44.7
10	1,683.5	527.9	417.9	700.1	348.2	351.8	37.6	(D)
United States	33,184.3	16,145.2	9,826.6	6,668.7	3,106.4	3,562.3	543.8	383.9
	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	29.4	28.8	0.4	0.2	48.1	3.6	44.5	
2	119.0	118.7	0.2	0.1	248.4	28.0	220.4	
3	4,500.2	4,487.9	(D)	(D)	154.7	18.8	135.9	
4	(D)	(D)	892.1	(D)	128.1	12.7	115.4	
5	38,095.9	36,618.3	1,406.9	70.7	351.4	38.2	313.2	
6	5,853.4	5,850.3	(D)	(D)	98.3	5.2	93.1	
7	55,738.0	54,777.1	793.6	167.3	11.3	0.2	11.1	
8	(D)	(D)	(D)	0.2	533.3	19.2	514.1	
9	2,536.5	2,536.1	0.4	0.1	290.6	11.0	279.6	
10	328.0	327.5	0.4	0.1	62.7	4.0	58.7	
United States	128,287.8	124,861.1	3,114.2	312.5	1,926.9	140.8	1,786.1	

(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 2020	November 2021	December 2021	January to December	
				2020	2021
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle	98.2	98.2	98.2	98.1	98.1
Calves	98.3	98.3	98.4	97.9	98.1
Hogs	99.5	99.5	99.5	99.4	99.5
Sheep	85.2	87.8	88.2	85.1	85.8

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.

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 850 livestock slaughter plants in the United States operating under Federal Inspection and nearly 1,950 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 14). 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.

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@usda.gov.

Travis Averill, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 692-0069
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section	(202) 690-2424
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter	(202) 690-8632
Ryan Cowen – Cattle, Cattle on Feed	(202) 720-3040
Anthony Fischer – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106
Logan Hartley-Sanguinett – Sheep and Goats	(202) 690-3236
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows	(202) 720-3278
Suzanne Richards – Dairy Products	(202) 720-4448

Access to NASS Reports

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- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site: www.nass.usda.gov
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- 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 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@usda.gov.

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