



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture
West Virginia Field Office
1900 Kanawha Blvd E
Charleston, West Virginia 25305



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 26, 2024

Contact: Alissa Cowell-Mytar
(304) 357-5126

MARCH RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia - Commercial red meat production during March 2024 totaled 900 thousand pounds. This was down 21 percent from March 2023. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 1,229,000 pounds live weight, down 23 percent from March 2023. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,100 head, down 300 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 36 pounds from the previous year, at 1,170 pounds.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published because data were less than level of precision shown or not applicable.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 184,000 pounds live weight, down 23 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 600 head, down 200 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 11 pounds from the previous year, at 306 pounds.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

United States - Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.38 billion pounds in March, down 11 percent from the 4.91 billion pounds produced in March 2023.

Beef production, at 2.11 billion pounds, was 12 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.51 million head, down 15 percent from March 2023. The average live weight was up 26 pounds from the previous year, at 1,392 pounds.

Veal production totaled 3.6 million pounds, 15 percent below March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 18,900 head, down 28 percent from March 2023. The average live weight was up 46 pounds from last year, at 323 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.25 billion pounds, down 10 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 10.5 million head, down 9 percent from March 2023. The average live weight was down 3 pounds from the previous year, at 289 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 12.3 million pounds, was down 5 percent from March 2023. Sheep slaughter totaled 199,300 head, 3 percent below last year. The average live weight was 122 pounds, down 3 pounds from March a year ago.

January to March 2024 commercial red meat production was 13.7 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 2023. Accumulated beef production was down 4 percent from last year, veal was down 11 percent, pork was up slightly from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 1 percent.

March 2023 contained 23 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

March 2024 contained 21 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 5 Saturdays.

Note: Percent changes are based on unrounded data.