



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture
West Virginia Field Office
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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AUGUST RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia - Commercial red meat production during August 2024 totaled 900,000 pounds. This was down 9 percent from August 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 1,222,000 pounds live weight, down 10 percent from August 2023. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,000 head, down 200 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 57 pounds from the previous year, at 1,215 pounds.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 232,000 pounds live weight, down 25 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 900 head, down 300 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 4 pounds from the previous year, at 271 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 4.59 billion pounds in August, down 2 percent from the 4.68 billion pounds produced in August 2023.

Beef production, at 2.29 billion pounds, was 3 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.70 million head, down 7 percent from August 2023. The average live weight was up 37 pounds from the previous year, at 1,388 pounds.

Veal production totaled 3.1 million pounds, 26 percent below August a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 17,000 head, down 36 percent from August 2023. The average live weight was up 40 pounds from last year, at 313 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.29 billion pounds, down slightly from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 10.9 million head, down 2 percent from August 2023. The average live weight was up 4 pounds from the previous year, at 282 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 10.5 million pounds, was down 1 percent from August 2023. Sheep slaughter totaled 176,400 head, 4 percent below last year. The average live weight was 117 pounds, up 4 pounds from August a year ago.

January to August 2024 commercial red meat production was 36.4 billion pounds, up 1 percent from 2023. Accumulated beef production was down 1 percent from last year, veal was down 14 percent, pork was up 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 2 percent.

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

August 2024 contained 22 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 5 Saturdays.

Note: Percent changes are based on unrounded data.