



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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DECEMBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia - Commercial red meat production during December 2024 totaled 800,000 pounds. This was down 21 percent from December 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 1,195,000 pounds live weight, down 23 percent from December 2023. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,000 head, down 500 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 117 pounds from the previous year, at 1,148 pounds.

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

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 125,000 pounds live weight, down 37 percent from December 2023. Hog slaughter totaled 400 head, down 300 head from the previous year. The average live weight was down 12 pounds from the previous year, at 282 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 4.54 billion pounds in December, down slightly from the 4.55 billion pounds produced in December 2023.

Beef production, at 2.20 billion pounds, was slightly above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.54 million head, down 2 percent from December 2023. The average live weight was up 30 pounds from the previous year, at 1,431 pounds.

Veal production totaled 3.1 million pounds, 20 percent below December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 16,100 head, down 28 percent from December 2023. The average live weight was up 36 pounds from last year, at 329 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.33 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 10.7 million head, down 1 percent from December 2023. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 291 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 12.0 million pounds, was up 12 percent from December 2023. Sheep slaughter totaled 201,500 head, 9 percent above last year. The average live weight was 117 pounds, up 2 pounds from December a year ago.

January to December 2024 commercial red meat production was 55.0 billion pounds, up 1 percent from 2023. Accumulated beef production was up slightly from last year, veal was down 16 percent, pork was up 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 2 percent.

December 2023 contained 21 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

December 2024 contained 22 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

Note: Percent changes are based on unrounded data.