



# Cattle on Feed

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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 11.9 million head on January 1, 2024. The inventory was 2 percent above January 1, 2023. The inventory included 7.20 million steers and steer calves, up 2 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 60 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.74 million head, up 2 percent from 2023.

**Placements** in feedlots during December totaled 1.70 million head, 4 percent below 2022. Net placements were 1.64 million head. During December, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 440,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 410,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 380,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 279,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 110,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 85,000 head.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during December totaled 1.73 million head, 1 percent below 2022.

**Other disappearance** totaled 60,000 head during December, 11 percent above 2022.

**Cattle on Feed Inventory, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: January 1, 2023 and 2024**

[December preceding year]

Item	2023	2024	Percent of previous year	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	
On feed December 1 .....	11,693	12,011	103	
Placed on feed during December .....	1,784	1,704	96	
Fed cattle marketed during December .....	1,741	1,725	99	
Other disappearance during December .....	54	60	111	
On feed January 1 .....	11,682	11,930	102	

**Cattle on Feed Inventory, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: December 1, 2022 and 2023**

Item	2022	2023	Percent of previous year	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	
On feed November 1 .....	11,736	11,943	102	
Placed on feed during November .....	1,905	1,873	98	
Fed cattle marketed during November .....	1,891	1,751	93	
Other disappearance during November .....	57	54	95	
On feed December 1 .....	11,693	12,011	103	

**Cattle on Feed by Class on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: January 1, 2023 and 2024**

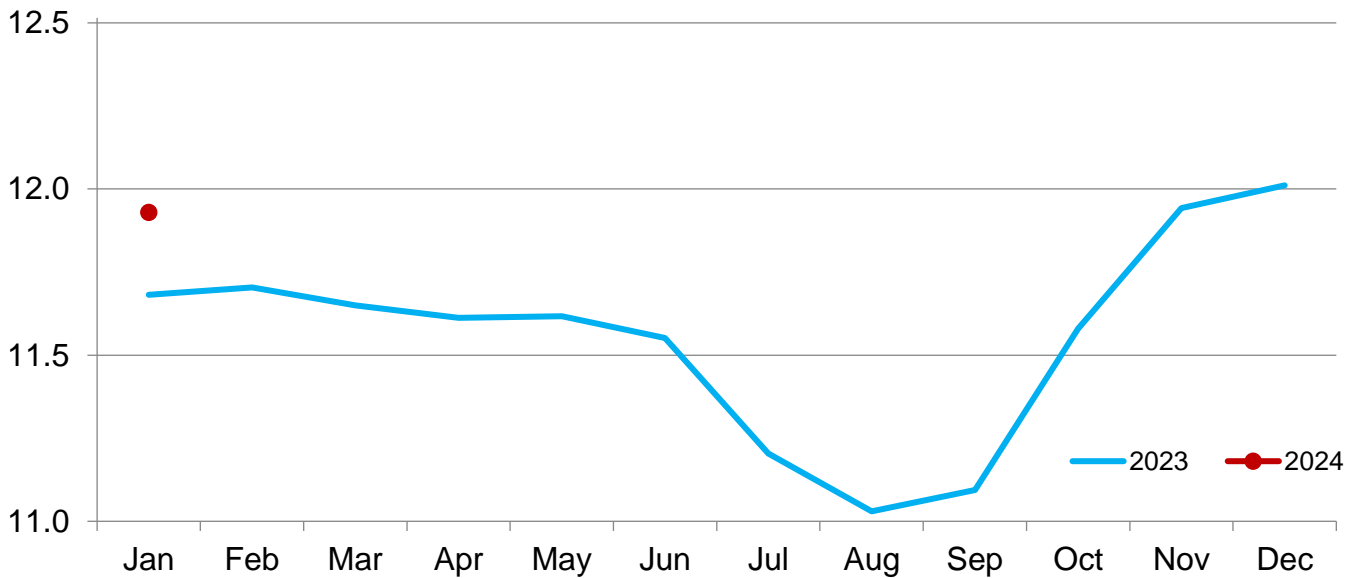
Item	2023	2024	Percent of	
			previous year	inventory
			(percent)	(percent)
Class on feed January 1 .....	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)		
Steers and steer calves .....	7,032	7,195	102	60
Heifers and heifer calves .....	4,650	4,735	102	40

**Cattle on Feed Inventory on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2023 and 2024**

State	January 1, 2023	December 1, 2023	January 1, 2024		
			Inventory	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	267	266	265	99	100
California .....	515	510	520	101	102
Colorado .....	1,040	1,030	1,020	98	99
Idaho .....	320	325	335	105	103
Iowa .....	620	640	630	102	98
Kansas .....	2,390	2,500	2,480	104	99
Minnesota .....	95	100	105	111	105
Nebraska .....	2,600	2,580	2,560	98	99
Oklahoma .....	275	325	335	122	103
South Dakota .....	210	230	230	110	100
Texas .....	2,770	2,910	2,860	103	98
Washington .....	265	270	270	102	100
Other States .....	315	325	320	102	98
United States .....	11,682	12,011	11,930	102	99

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

Million head

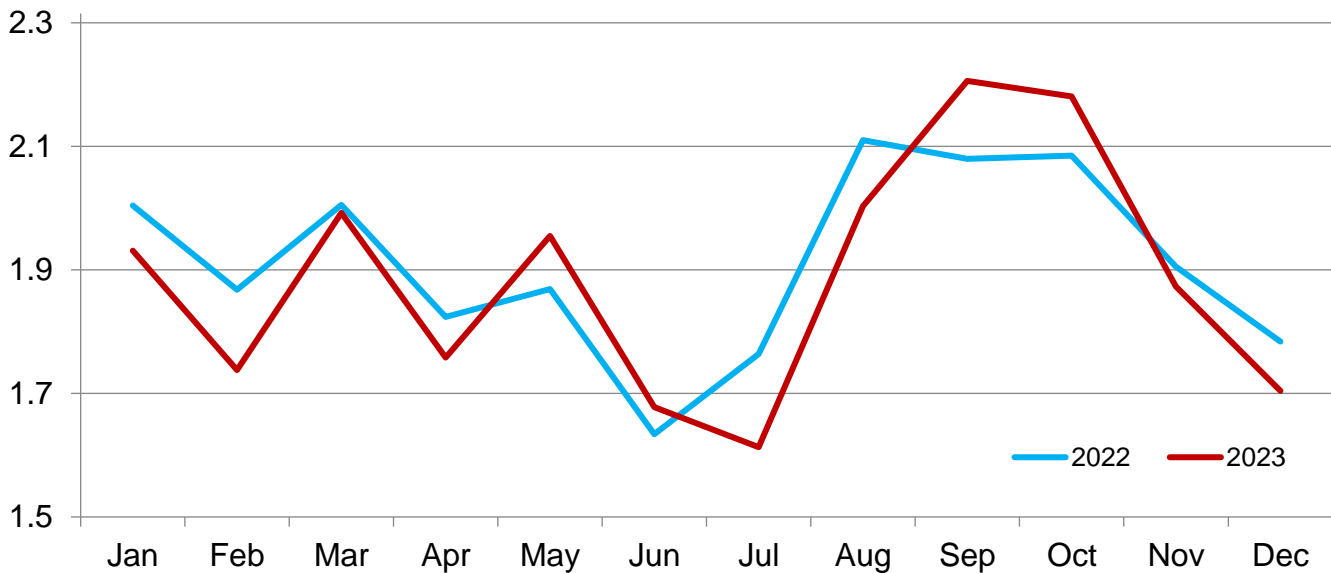


**Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2022 and 2023**

State	During December 2022 (1,000 head)	During November 2023 (1,000 head)	During December 2023		
			Placements (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	24	29	20	83	69
California .....	69	65	78	113	120
Colorado .....	145	155	135	93	87
Idaho .....	46	55	50	109	91
Iowa .....	84	88	83	99	94
Kansas .....	435	385	395	91	103
Minnesota .....	13	15	16	123	107
Nebraska .....	470	490	435	93	89
Oklahoma .....	35	49	43	123	88
South Dakota .....	34	59	37	109	63
Texas .....	350	390	330	94	85
Washington .....	37	41	38	103	93
Other States .....	42	52	44	105	85
United States .....	1,784	1,873	1,704	96	91

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

Million head



**Cattle Placed on Feed by Weight Group on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots and Month – States and United States: 2022 and 2023**

State	During December 2022							
	Under 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800-899 lbs	900+ lbs <sup>1</sup>	900-999 lbs	1,000+ lbs	Total
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Colorado .....	35	35	30	25	20	(D)	(D)	145
Kansas .....	60	105	140	85	45	(D)	(D)	435
Nebraska .....	50	115	115	100	90	(D)	(D)	470
Texas .....	160	85	60	35	10	(D)	(D)	350
Other States ...	145	85	70	54	30	(D)	(D)	384
United States ..	450	425	415	299	(X)	105	90	1,784

State	During November 2023							
	Under 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800-899 lbs	900+ lbs <sup>1</sup>	900-999 lbs	1,000+ lbs	Total
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Colorado .....	50	35	30	20	20	(D)	(D)	155
Kansas .....	55	90	115	80	45	(D)	(D)	385
Nebraska .....	95	115	90	90	100	(D)	(D)	490
Texas .....	160	100	75	40	15	(D)	(D)	390
Other States ...	175	105	70	58	45	(D)	(D)	453
United States ..	535	445	380	288	(X)	140	85	1,873

State	During December 2023							
	Under 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800-899 lbs	900+ lbs <sup>1</sup>	900-999 lbs	1,000+ lbs	Total
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Colorado .....	30	35	30	20	20	(D)	(D)	135
Kansas .....	60	90	120	80	45	(D)	(D)	395
Nebraska .....	50	105	100	90	90	(D)	(D)	435
Texas .....	150	85	55	30	10	(D)	(D)	330
Other States ...	150	95	75	59	30	(D)	(D)	409
United States ..	440	410	380	279	(X)	110	85	1,704

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

(X) Not applicable.

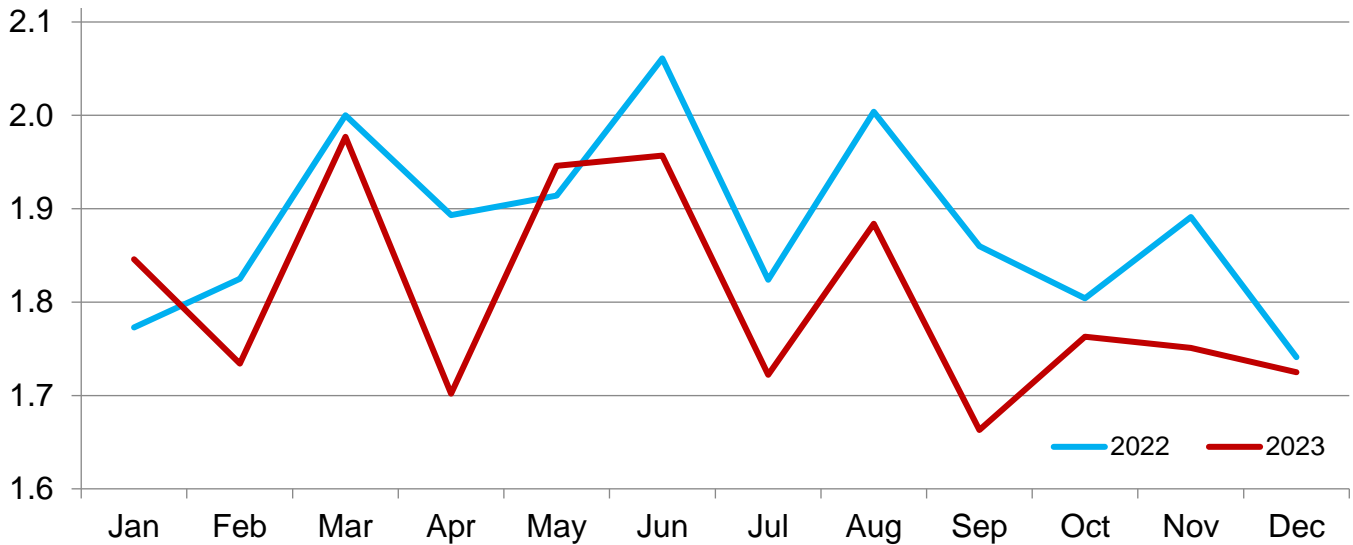
<sup>1</sup> The 900 pounds and greater weight group is the sum of 900-999 pounds and 1,000 pounds and greater weight groups.

**Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2022 and 2023**

State	During December 2022	During November 2023	During December 2023		
			Marketings	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	24	20	20	83	100
California .....	53	55	62	117	113
Colorado .....	140	150	140	100	93
Idaho .....	40	43	39	98	91
Iowa .....	92	97	92	100	95
Kansas .....	365	395	405	111	103
Minnesota .....	12	14	10	83	71
Nebraska .....	470	440	440	94	100
Oklahoma .....	39	38	32	82	84
South Dakota .....	40	48	35	88	73
Texas .....	380	365	365	96	100
Washington .....	41	40	37	90	93
Other States .....	45	46	48	107	104
United States .....	1,741	1,751	1,725	99	99

## 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: 2022 and 2023

State	During December 2022 (1,000 head)	During November 2023 (1,000 head)	During December 2023		
			Other disappearance (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	1	1	1	100	100
California .....	6	5	6	100	120
Colorado .....	5	5	5	100	100
Idaho .....	1	2	1	100	50
Iowa .....	2	1	1	50	100
Kansas .....	10	10	10	100	100
Minnesota .....	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska .....	10	10	15	150	150
Oklahoma .....	1	1	1	100	100
South Dakota .....	4	1	2	50	200
Texas .....	10	15	15	150	100
Washington .....	1	1	1	100	100
Other States .....	2	1	1	50	100
United States .....	54	54	60	111	111

**Cattle on Feed by Class on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Quarter – States and United States:  
2023 and 2024**

State	Steers and steer calves			Heifers and heifer calves		
	Jan 1, 2023	Oct 1, 2023	Jan 1, 2024	Jan 1, 2023	Oct 1, 2023	Jan 1, 2024
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)
Arizona .....	257	240	250	10	10	15
California .....	435	405	415	80	100	105
Colorado .....	580	530	540	460	460	480
Idaho .....	165	165	180	155	130	155
Iowa .....	465	470	475	155	170	155
Kansas .....	1,270	1,350	1,380	1,120	1,150	1,100
Minnesota .....	80	80	85	15	15	20
Nebraska .....	1,600	1,490	1,590	1,000	930	970
Oklahoma .....	150	155	195	125	135	140
South Dakota .....	125	105	135	85	80	95
Texas .....	1,560	1,630	1,610	1,210	1,220	1,250
Washington .....	150	135	145	115	120	125
Other States .....	195	190	195	120	115	125
United States .....	7,032	6,945	7,195	4,650	4,635	4,735

## 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 0.3 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 11.9 million head by more than 0.3 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.5 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 22,000 head, ranging from 0 to 65,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 0 times and has been below the latest estimate 16 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)
On feed .....	0.3	0.5	22	0	65	16	0
Placements .....	0.6	0.9	7	0	23	10	7
Marketings .....	0.1	0.2	1	0	5	3	5

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

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Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter .....	(202) 690-8632
Ryan Cowen – Cattle, Cattle on Feed .....	(202) 720-3040
Kim DaPra – Milk Production and Milk Cows .....	(512) 501-3266
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products .....	(202) 690-3347
Anthony Fischer – Hogs and Pigs .....	(202) 720-3106
Suzanne Richards – Sheep and Goats .....	(202) 720-4448

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