



# Cattle on Feed

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## United States Cattle on Feed Up 1 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 11.6 million head on October 1, 2023. The inventory was 1 percent above October 1, 2022. This is the second highest October 1 inventory since the series began in 1996. The inventory included 6.95 million steers and steer calves, up slightly from the previous year. This group accounted for 60 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.64 million head, up 1 percent from 2022.

**Placements** in feedlots during September totaled 2.21 million head, 6 percent above 2022. Net placements were 2.15 million head. During September, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 460,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 355,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 485,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 521,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 290,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 95,000 head.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during September totaled 1.66 million head, 11 percent below 2022.

**Other disappearance** totaled 57,000 head during September, 8 percent above 2022.

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

Item	2022	2023	Percent of	
			previous year	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	
On feed September 1 .....	11,342	11,094		98
Placed on feed during September .....	2,080	2,206		106
Fed cattle marketed during September .....	1,860	1,663		89
Other disappearance during September .....	53	57		108
On feed October 1 .....	11,509	11,580		101

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

Item	2022	2023	Percent of	
			previous year	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	
On feed August 1 .....	11,289	11,030		98
Placed on feed during August .....	2,110	2,003		95
Fed cattle marketed during August .....	2,004	1,884		94
Other disappearance during August .....	53	55		104
On feed September 1 .....	11,342	11,094		98

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

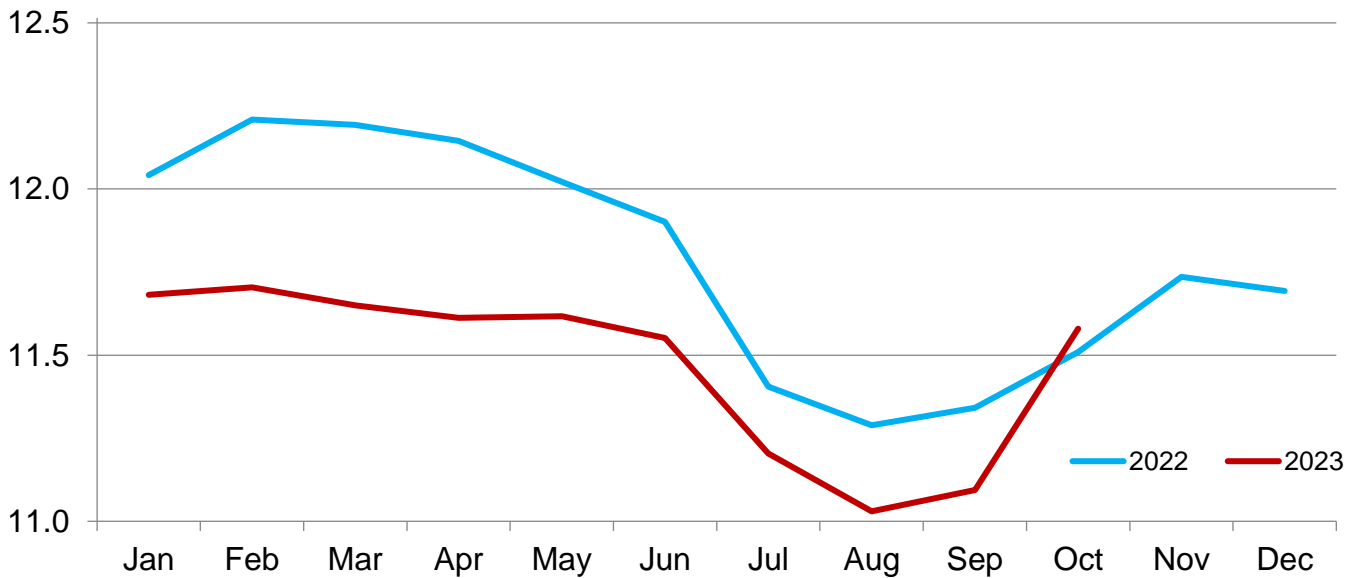
Item	2022	2023	Percent of	
			previous year	inventory
			(percent)	(percent)
Class on feed October 1 .....	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Steers and steer calves .....	6,934	6,945	100	60
Heifers and heifer calves .....	4,575	4,635	101	40

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

State	October 1, 2022	September 1, 2023	October 1, 2023		
			Inventory	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	274	244	250	91	102
California .....	510	515	505	99	98
Colorado .....	1,070	950	990	93	104
Idaho .....	290	285	295	102	104
Iowa .....	620	620	640	103	103
Kansas .....	2,360	2,410	2,500	106	104
Minnesota .....	85	95	95	112	100
Nebraska .....	2,470	2,270	2,420	98	107
Oklahoma .....	285	265	290	102	109
South Dakota .....	185	170	185	100	109
Texas .....	2,820	2,740	2,850	101	104
Washington .....	245	245	255	104	104
Other States .....	295	285	305	103	107
United States .....	11,509	11,094	11,580	101	104

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

Million head

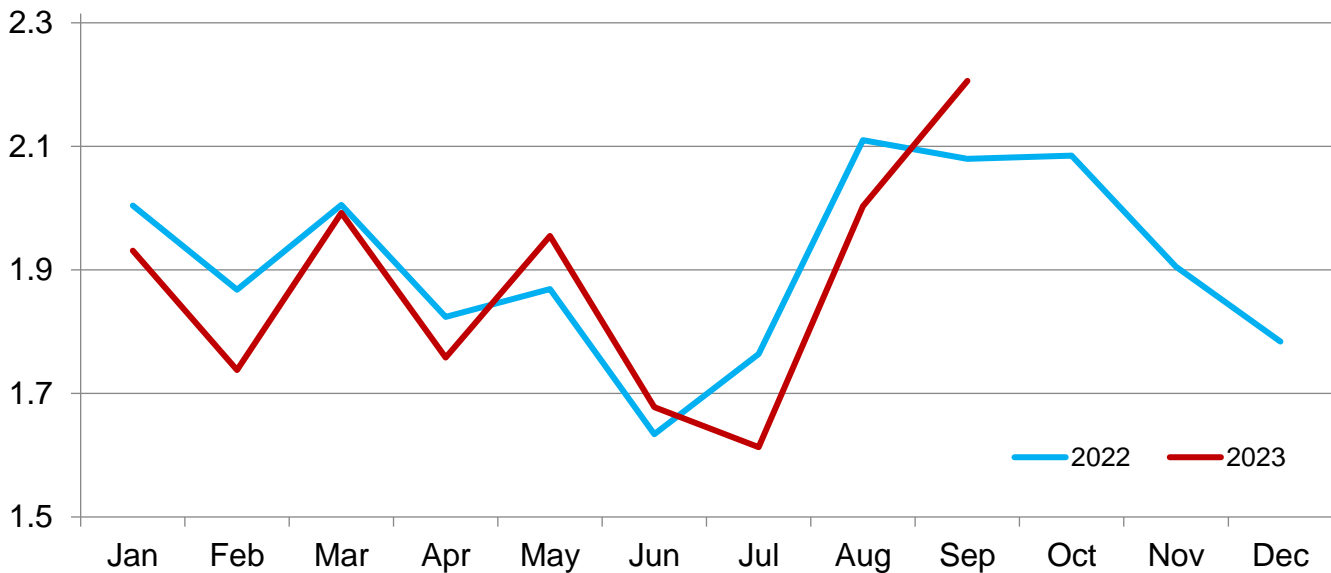


**Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2022 and 2023**

State	During September 2022 (1,000 head)	During August 2023 (1,000 head)	During September 2023		
			Placements (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	19	21	24	126	114
California .....	45	48	43	96	90
Colorado .....	210	125	195	93	156
Idaho .....	61	48	56	92	117
Iowa .....	85	75	88	104	117
Kansas .....	445	550	505	113	92
Minnesota .....	14	13	14	100	108
Nebraska .....	590	510	610	103	120
Oklahoma .....	52	43	56	108	130
South Dakota .....	45	35	49	109	140
Texas .....	410	440	465	113	106
Washington .....	43	45	43	100	96
Other States .....	61	50	58	95	116
United States .....	2,080	2,003	2,206	106	110

**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 September 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 .....	30	25	45	60	50	(D)	(D)	210
Kansas .....	65	95	130	100	55	(D)	(D)	445
Nebraska .....	65	60	105	170	190	(D)	(D)	590
Texas .....	165	105	85	45	10	(D)	(D)	410
Other States ...	120	45	75	105	80	(D)	(D)	425
United States ..	445	330	440	480	(X)	290	95	2,080
State	During August 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 .....	25	20	25	30	25	(D)	(D)	125
Kansas .....	65	100	175	145	65	(D)	(D)	550
Nebraska .....	45	45	100	160	160	(D)	(D)	510
Texas .....	190	100	85	55	10	(D)	(D)	440
Other States ...	95	40	70	98	75	(D)	(D)	378
United States ..	420	305	455	488	(X)	245	90	2,003
State	During September 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	25	40	60	40	(D)	(D)	195
Kansas .....	65	100	160	120	60	(D)	(D)	505
Nebraska .....	65	60	110	180	195	(D)	(D)	610
Texas .....	180	125	95	55	10	(D)	(D)	465
Other States ...	120	45	80	106	80	(D)	(D)	431
United States ..	460	355	485	521	(X)	290	95	2,206

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

(X) Not applicable.

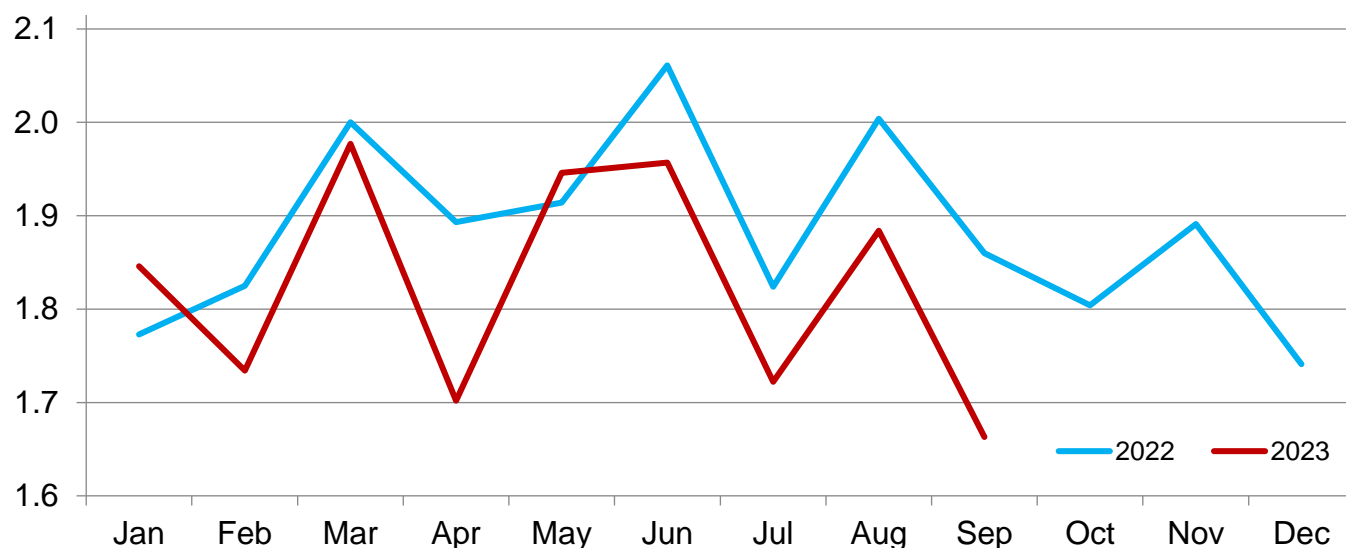
<sup>1</sup> The 900 pounds and greater weight group is the sum of 900-999 pounds and 1,000 pounds and greater weight groups.

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

State	During September 2022	During August 2023	During September 2023		
			Marketings	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
			(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	21	21	17	81	81
California .....	48	51	46	96	90
Colorado .....	165	150	150	91	100
Idaho .....	44	42	44	100	105
Iowa .....	73	74	67	92	91
Kansas .....	455	480	405	89	84
Minnesota .....	18	12	13	72	108
Nebraska .....	480	510	450	94	88
Oklahoma .....	45	32	29	64	91
South Dakota .....	34	34	33	97	97
Texas .....	400	405	340	85	84
Washington .....	37	34	32	86	94
Other States .....	40	39	37	93	95
United States .....	1,860	1,884	1,663	89	88

## 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 September 2022 (1,000 head)	During August 2023 (1,000 head)	During September 2023		
			Other disappearance (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	1	1	1	100	100
California .....	7	7	7	100	100
Colorado .....	5	5	5	100	100
Idaho .....	2	1	2	100	200
Iowa .....	2	1	1	50	100
Kansas .....	10	10	10	100	100
Minnesota .....	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska .....	10	10	10	100	100
Oklahoma .....	2	1	2	100	200
South Dakota .....	1	1	1	100	100
Texas .....	10	15	15	150	100
Washington .....	1	1	1	100	100
Other States .....	1	1	1	100	100
United States .....	53	55	57	108	104

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

State	Steers and steer calves			Heifers and heifer calves		
	Oct 1, 2022	Jul 1, 2023	Oct 1, 2023	Oct 1, 2022	Jul 1, 2023	Oct 1, 2023
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)
Arizona .....	264	239	240	10	10	10
California .....	435	450	405	75	90	100
Colorado .....	590	550	530	480	440	460
Idaho .....	155	160	165	135	135	130
Iowa .....	475	480	470	145	150	170
Kansas .....	1,270	1,270	1,350	1,090	1,130	1,150
Minnesota .....	70	85	80	15	15	15
Nebraska .....	1,490	1,450	1,490	980	880	930
Oklahoma .....	155	135	155	130	115	135
South Dakota .....	105	110	105	80	70	80
Texas .....	1,610	1,500	1,630	1,210	1,220	1,220
Washington .....	130	125	135	115	115	120
Other States .....	185	180	190	110	100	115
United States .....	6,934	6,734	6,945	4,575	4,470	4,635

## 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 11.6 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 21,000 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 14 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	21	0	65	14	0
Placements .....	0.5	0.9	6	0	23	9	8
Marketings .....	0.1	0.2	1	0	5	3	6

## 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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