

Wool and Mohair



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1998 Wool Production Down 8 Percent

Shorn wool production in the United States during 1998 was 49.2 million pounds, down 8 percent from 1997. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 6.43 million head, a decrease of 8 percent from 1997. The average price paid for wool sold in 1998 was \$0.60 per pound for a total value of \$29.4 million dollars, down 35 percent from \$44.9 million dollars in 1997.

Mohair production in the four major producing states (Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas) during 1998 was 5.09 million pounds, down 26 percent from 1997. Goats and kids clipped, at 705,000 head, was down 25 percent from 1997. Average weight per clip was 7.2 pounds compared with 7.3 pounds a year earlier. Value of mohair was \$12.6 million dollars, down 18 percent from 1997.

Wool: Production, Price, and Value, United States, 1996-98

Year	Sheep Shorn ¹	Weight per Fleece	Shorn Wool Production	Price per Pound	Value
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>
1996	7,215	7.78	56,159	0.70	39,270
1997	6,960	7.70	53,578	0.84	44,909
1998	6,426	7.66	49,239	0.60	29,406

¹ Includes shearing at commercial feeding yards.

Mohair: Production, Price, and Value, 4-State Total, 1996-98

Year	Goats Clipped	Average Clip per Goat	Production	Price per Pound	Value
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>
1996	1,189	6.7	8,009	1.93	15,428
1997	936	7.3	6,849	2.25	15,411
1998	705	7.2	5,089	2.48	12,623

Mohair: Production, Price, and Value by Selected States and 4-State Total, 1997-98

State	Goats Clipped		Average Clip per Goat		Production		Price per Pound		Value ¹	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>
AZ	38	36	4.2	4.5	160	162	1.70	1.25	272	203
NM	53	44	5.1	5.5	270	242	1.90	1.30	513	315
OK	5	5	7.0	7.0	35	35	2.00	1.75	70	61
TX	840	620	7.6	7.5	6,384	4,650	2.28	2.59	14,556	12,044
4 Sts	936	705	7.3	7.2	6,849	5,089	2.25	2.48	15,411	12,623

¹ Production multiplied by marketing year average price for individual States; 4-State value is summation of State values.

**Wool: Number of Sheep and Lambs Shorn, Weight per Fleece,
and Production by State and United States, 1997-98**

State	Sheep Shorn		Weight per Fleece		Production	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
AL	5.5	4.5	6.2	5.6	34	25
AK	1.2	1.2	7.5	6.7	9	8
AZ	120.0	120.0	6.4	6.5	770	780
CA	470.0	480.0	8.1	7.5	3,800	3,600
CO	600.0	490.0	6.6	6.9	3,936	3,364
CT	4.2	3.6	7.4	7.8	31	28
ID	246.0	222.0	9.2	9.4	2,265	2,093
IL	82.0	73.0	6.7	6.8	546	495
IN	55.0	57.0	6.3	6.5	344	370
IA	260.0	240.0	6.0	6.0	1,550	1,440
KS	98.0	93.0	7.0	7.0	690	650
KY	17.5	20.0	6.7	6.5	117	130
LA	6.8	6.6	5.9	6.1	40	40
ME	9.0	9.4	7.6	7.9	68	74
MD	15.0	16.0	6.9	6.5	104	104
MA	7.0	6.0	7.4	7.5	52	45
MI	62.0	58.0	7.3	7.4	450	430
MN	150.0	160.0	6.5	6.6	970	1,055
MO	71.0	83.0	7.0	7.3	500	605
MT	387.0	367.0	9.4	9.3	3,632	3,423
NE	85.0	91.0	7.6	7.3	644	660
NV	70.0	67.0	8.9	9.1	620	607
NH	5.6	5.6	7.1	6.6	40	37
NJ	9.0	8.5	7.0	7.1	63	60
NM	280.0	265.0	9.1	9.0	2,556	2,379
NY	51.0	45.0	6.7	6.8	343	307
NC	9.2	9.2	6.2	6.1	57	56
ND	98.0	98.0	8.8	9.2	860	900
OH	135.0	126.0	6.5	6.6	873	835
OK	51.0	40.0	6.5	6.0	330	240
OR	290.0	210.0	6.5	6.6	1,880	1,380
PA	64.0	69.0	6.9	6.8	440	470
SD	390.0	355.0	8.5	8.3	3,302	2,950
TN	11.0	11.0	6.1	5.9	67	65
TX	1,500.0	1,300.0	7.3	7.1	10,950	9,230
UT	344.0	337.0	9.3	9.4	3,213	3,157
VT	12.4	15.0	7.1	7.3	88	110
VA	49.9	45.0	6.0	6.4	300	288
WA	41.0	39.0	8.7	8.5	355	330
WV	40.0	35.0	6.0	6.0	240	210
WI	73.0	62.0	7.5	7.5	546	467
WY	650.0	650.0	8.8	8.5	5,690	5,540
Oth Sts ¹	33.6	32.5	6.3	6.2	213	202
US	6,959.9	6,426.1	7.7	7.7	53,578	49,239

¹ AR, DE, FL, GA, HI, MS, RI, and SC.

Wool: Price and Value by State and United States, 1997-98

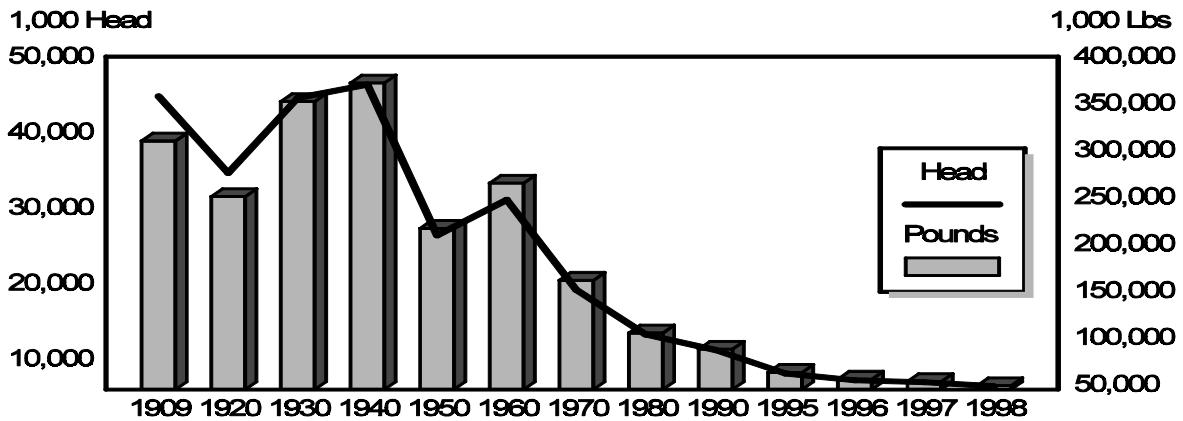
State	Price per Pound		Value ¹	
	1997	1998	1997	1998
	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>
AL	0.48	0.38	16	10
AK	1.00	0.90	9	7
AZ	0.58	0.47	447	367
CA	0.79	0.61	3,002	2,196
CO	0.89	0.53	3,503	1,783
CT	0.55	0.55	17	15
ID	0.74	0.66	1,676	1,381
IL	0.43	0.25	235	124
IN	0.34	0.26	117	96
IA	0.42	0.26	651	374
KS	0.58	0.42	400	273
KY	0.41	0.32	48	42
LA	0.58	0.33	23	13
ME	0.50	0.55	34	41
MD	0.68	0.50	71	52
MA	0.60	0.40	31	18
MI	0.44	0.31	198	133
MN	0.43	0.34	417	359
MO	0.45	0.33	225	200
MT	1.01	0.78	3,668	2,670
NE	0.52	0.41	335	271
NV	0.90	0.58	558	352
NH	0.65	0.70	26	26
NJ	0.55	0.50	35	30
NM	1.07	0.89	2,735	2,117
NY	0.54	0.45	185	138
NC	0.59	0.49	34	27
ND	0.76	0.55	654	495
OH	0.43	0.32	375	267
OK	0.58	0.39	191	94
OR	0.61	0.48	1,147	662
PA	0.53	0.47	233	221
SD	0.90	0.59	2,972	1,741
TN	0.50	0.45	34	29
TX	1.06	0.63	11,607	5,815
UT	0.75	0.62	2,410	1,957
VT	0.65	0.50	57	55
VA	0.58	0.44	174	127
WA	0.65	0.55	231	182
WV	0.61	0.51	146	107
WI	0.53	0.39	289	182
WY	0.98	0.77	5,576	4,266
Oth Sts ²	0.55	0.45	117	91
US	0.84	0.60	44,909	29,406

¹ Production multiplied by marketing year average price. U.S. value is summation of State values.

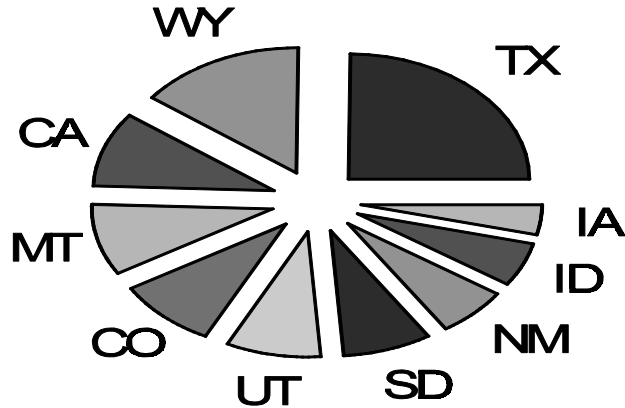
² AR, DE, FL, GA, MS, RI, SC.

Sheep & Lambs Shorn & Wool Production

1909 - 1998
United States



Wool Production Top Ten Producing States 1998



Reliability of Wool and Mohair Production Estimates

Survey Procedures: A random sample of U. S. producers was surveyed to provide data for the number of sheep shorn and production estimates. Survey procedures ensured that all sheep and goat producers, regardless of size, had a chance to be included in the survey. Large producers were sampled more heavily than small operations. Data were collected from about 14,500 operators during the first half of January by mail, telephone, and face-to-face personal interviews.

Estimation Procedures: These sheep shorn, wool and mohair production estimates were prepared by the Agricultural Statistics Board after reviewing recommendations and analysis submitted by each State office. National and State survey data were reviewed for reasonableness with each other and with estimates from past years.

Revision Policy: Revisions to previous estimates are made to improve the current estimate. Previous year estimates are subject to revision when current estimates are made. Inventory estimates will also be reviewed after data from the Department of Agriculture's five-year Census of Agriculture are available. No revisions will be made after that date.

Reliability: Since all operations raising sheep and goats are not included in the sample for the inventory and production estimates, survey data are subject to sampling variability. Survey results for inventory and production estimates 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 the estimates in this report, the "**Root Mean Square Error**" is shown for selected items in the table below. 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 sheep shorn estimates over the past 10 years is 0.6 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 6.4 million head by more than 0.6 percent, or about 38,600 head. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 1.1 percent, or about 70,700 head (the 90 percent confidence level).

Also shown in the table is a 10-year record showing the range between the first estimate and the latest estimate. Using estimates for Sheep and Lambs Shorn as an example, changes between the first inventory estimate and the latest estimate during the past 10 years have averaged 45,000 head, ranging from 2 to 92,000 head. The initial inventory estimate of Sheep and Lambs Shorn has been below the latest estimate 6 times and above 4 times in the last 10 years.

Reliability of U.S. Sheep Shorn and Wool Production Estimates ¹

Item	Root Mean Square Error	90% Confidence Level		Difference Between First and Latest Estimates			Years	
				Average	Smallest	Largest	First Above Latest	First Below Latest
Sheep Shorn	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
	0.6	1.1	70.7	45.0	2.0	92.0	4	6
Wool Prod	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
	0.5	0.9	443.2	288.0	18.0	674.0	5	5

¹ Based on data for the past ten years.

The next "Wool and Mohair" report will be released in March 2000.

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