



Poultry Slaughter

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Ready-to-Cook Weight Down 7 Percent from Last Year

June 2023 contained 22 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

June 2024 contained 20 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

Poultry certified wholesome during June 2024 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 4.18 billion pounds, down 7 percent from the amount certified in June 2023. The May 2024 revised certified total at 4.52 billion pounds, was down 2 percent from May 2023. The May revision represented an increase of 18.7 million pounds from last month's preliminary pounds certified.

The preliminary total live weight of all federally inspected poultry during June 2024 was 5.52 billion pounds, down 7 percent from 5.95 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 4.92 billion pounds, down 6 percent from June 2023. Mature chickens, at 67.7 million pounds, were down 11 percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 514 million pounds, down 17 percent from a year ago. Ducks totaled 12.5 million pounds, down 29 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during June 2024 averaged 6.55 pounds per bird, up slightly from June 2023. The average live weight of mature chickens was 7.05 pounds per bird, up 5 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during June 2024 averaged 32.8 pounds per bird, up 2 percent from June 2023.

Ante-mortem condemnations during June 2024 totaled 12.2 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.22 percent of the live weight inspected, unchanged from a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 25.1 million pounds, were 0.60 percent of quantities inspected, as compared with 0.59 percent a year earlier.

Poultry Slaughtered, Total Live Weight, and Average Live Weight by Type – United States

[Federally inspected only]

Commodity	June 2023	May 2024	June 2024	June 2024 as % of		January to June		2024 as percent of 2023
				June 2023	May 2024	2023	2024	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Slaughtered								
Chickens								
Young	801,062	813,498	751,838	94	92	4,696,976	4,681,651	100
Mature	11,298	10,236	9,609	85	94	60,453	57,495	95
Light	3,128	2,935	2,796	89	95	17,644	16,484	93
Heavy	8,170	7,301	6,813	83	93	42,809	41,011	96
Total	812,360	823,734	761,447	94	92	4,757,429	4,739,146	100
Turkeys								
Young	19,090	16,888	15,555	81	92	105,796	97,253	92
Old	210	163	114	54	70	1,049	841	80
Total	19,300	17,051	15,669	81	92	106,845	98,094	92
Ducks	2,488	2,045	1,814	73	89	13,868	12,798	92
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Total live weight								
Chickens								
Young	5,232,763	5,298,635	4,923,366	94	93	30,575,890	30,526,099	100
Mature	75,936	71,768	67,711	89	94	417,414	401,564	96
Light	11,353	10,252	9,736	86	95	61,956	57,092	92
Heavy	64,583	61,516	57,975	90	94	355,458	344,472	97
Total	5,308,699	5,370,403	4,991,077	94	93	30,993,304	30,927,663	100
Turkeys								
Young	613,606	556,406	510,853	83	92	3,421,610	3,212,004	94
Old	6,322	4,830	3,604	57	75	31,490	25,871	82
Total	619,928	561,236	514,457	83	92	3,453,100	3,237,875	94
Ducks	17,534	14,589	12,454	71	85	99,054	91,123	92
Other ¹	300	181	165	55	91	1,145	1,003	88
Total	5,946,461	5,946,409	5,518,153	93	93	34,546,603	34,257,664	99
	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)
Average live weight								
Chickens								
Young	6.53	6.51	6.55	100	101	6.51	6.52	100
Mature	6.72	7.01	7.05	105	101	6.90	6.98	101
Light	3.63	3.49	3.48	96	100	3.51	3.46	99
Heavy	7.90	8.43	8.51	108	101	8.30	8.40	101
Total	6.53	6.52	6.55	100	100	6.51	6.53	100
Turkeys								
Young	32.14	32.95	32.84	102	100	32.34	33.03	102
Old	30.10	29.63	31.61	105	107	30.02	30.76	102
Total	32.12	32.92	32.83	102	100	32.32	33.01	102
Ducks	7.05	7.13	6.87	97	96	7.14	7.12	100

¹ Includes geese, guineas, ostriches, emus, rheas, and squab.

Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified by Type – United States

[Ready-to-cook weights]

Commodity	June 2023	May 2024	June 2024	June 2024 as % of		January to June		2024 as percent of 2023
				June 2023	May 2024	2023	2024	
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Chilled								
Chickens								
Young	3,698,009	3,757,244	3,473,907	94	92	21,564,378	21,552,861	100
Mature	52,940	50,340	46,996	89	93	291,872	279,780	96
Light	5,990	5,501	5,073	85	92	32,624	30,203	93
Heavy	46,950	44,839	41,923	89	93	259,248	249,577	96
Total	3,750,949	3,807,584	3,520,903	94	92	21,856,250	21,832,641	100
Turkeys								
Young	309,499	280,464	255,234	82	91	1,721,293	1,620,272	94
Old	4,475	3,421	2,634	59	77	20,089	18,764	93
Total	313,974	283,885	257,868	82	91	1,741,382	1,639,036	94
Ducks	3,993	3,246	2,996	75	92	23,172	22,459	97
Other ¹	198	105	99	50	94	725	610	84
Total	4,069,114	4,094,820	3,781,866	93	92	23,621,529	23,494,746	99
Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	258,577	253,791	242,945	94	96	1,530,778	1,522,700	99
Mature	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	-	(X)
Light	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	-	(X)
Heavy	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	-	(X)
Total	258,577	253,791	242,945	94	96	1,530,778	1,522,700	99
Turkeys								
Young	179,352	162,689	150,795	84	93	1,013,431	934,870	92
Old	408	246	118	29	48	4,182	923	22
Total	179,760	162,935	150,913	84	93	1,017,613	935,793	92
Ducks	8,760	7,319	6,118	70	84	48,624	44,210	91
Other ¹	15	19	16	107	84	84	91	108
Total	447,112	424,064	399,992	89	94	2,597,099	2,502,794	96
Chilled and frozen								
Chickens								
Young	3,956,586	4,011,035	3,716,852	94	93	23,095,156	23,075,561	100
Mature	52,940	50,340	46,996	89	93	291,872	279,780	96
Light	5,990	5,501	5,073	85	92	32,624	30,203	93
Heavy	46,950	44,839	41,923	89	93	259,248	249,577	96
Total	4,009,526	4,061,375	3,763,848	94	93	23,387,028	23,355,341	100
Turkeys								
Young	488,851	443,153	406,029	83	92	2,734,724	2,555,142	93
Old	4,883	3,667	2,752	56	75	24,271	19,687	81
Total	493,734	446,820	408,781	83	91	2,758,995	2,574,829	93
Ducks	12,753	10,565	9,114	71	86	71,796	66,669	93
Other ¹	213	124	115	54	93	809	701	87
Total	4,516,226	4,518,884	4,181,858	93	93	26,218,628	25,997,540	99

- Represents zero.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Includes geese, guineas, and squab.

Ante-Mortem Condemnations by Type – United States

[Federally inspected only]

Commodity	June 2023	May 2024	June 2024	June 2024 as % of		January to June		2024 as percent of 2023
				June 2023	May 2024	2023	2024	
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Live weight								
Chickens								
Young	10,015	9,486	9,363	93	99	59,412	58,557	99
Mature	860	818	830	97	101	5,017	4,823	96
Light	102	54	66	65	122	568	307	54
Heavy	758	764	764	101	100	4,449	4,516	102
Total	10,875	10,304	10,193	94	99	64,429	63,380	98
Turkeys								
Young	1,816	1,778	1,854	102	104	9,839	10,559	107
Old	43	28	33	77	118	207	240	116
Total	1,859	1,806	1,887	102	104	10,046	10,799	107
Ducks	102	85	88	86	104	486	549	113
Total ¹	12,836	12,195	12,168	95	100	74,961	74,728	100
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of live weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.19	0.18	0.19	100	106	0.19	0.19	100
Mature	1.13	1.14	1.23	109	108	1.20	1.20	100
Light	0.90	0.53	0.68	76	128	0.92	0.54	59
Heavy	1.17	1.24	1.32	113	106	1.25	1.31	105
Total	0.20	0.19	0.20	100	105	0.21	0.20	95
Turkeys								
Young	0.30	0.32	0.36	120	113	0.29	0.33	114
Old	0.68	0.58	0.92	135	159	0.66	0.93	141
Total	0.30	0.32	0.37	123	116	0.29	0.33	114
Ducks	0.58	0.58	0.71	122	122	0.49	0.60	122
Total ¹	0.22	0.21	0.22	100	105	0.22	0.22	100

¹ Includes geese, guineas, and squab.

² Pounds condemned as a percent of live weight pounds inspected.

Post-Mortem Condemnations by Type – United States

[Federally condemned and establishment sorted and removed]

Commodity	June 2023	May 2024	June 2024	June 2024 as % of		January to June		2024 as percent of 2023
				June 2023	May 2024	2023	2024	
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Carcass and parts								
Chickens								
Young	18,660	18,568	17,422	93	94	115,096	109,756	95
Mature	2,012	1,934	1,503	75	78	11,226	10,314	92
Light	473	419	177	37	42	2,622	2,220	85
Heavy	1,539	1,515	1,326	86	88	8,604	8,094	94
Total	20,672	20,502	18,925	92	92	126,322	120,070	95
Turkeys								
Young	5,792	6,540	5,849	101	89	31,888	37,898	119
Old	235	192	133	57	69	1,189	894	75
Total	6,027	6,732	5,982	99	89	33,077	38,792	117
Ducks	289	208	162	56	78	1,390	1,157	83
Other ¹	3	3	3	100	100	15	18	120
Total	26,991	27,445	25,072	93	91	160,804	160,037	100
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.47	0.46	0.47	100	102	0.50	0.47	94
Mature	3.66	3.70	3.10	85	84	3.70	3.56	96
Light	7.32	7.08	3.37	46	48	7.44	6.85	92
Heavy	3.17	3.27	3.07	97	94	3.21	3.14	98
Total	0.51	0.50	0.50	98	100	0.54	0.51	94
Turkeys								
Young	1.17	1.45	1.42	121	98	1.15	1.46	127
Old	4.59	4.98	4.61	100	93	4.67	4.34	93
Total	1.21	1.48	1.44	119	97	1.18	1.48	125
Ducks	2.22	1.93	1.75	79	91	1.90	1.71	90
Other ¹	1.39	2.36	2.54	183	108	1.82	2.50	137
Total	0.59	0.60	0.60	102	100	0.61	0.61	100

¹ Includes geese, guineas, and squab.

² Pounds condemned as a percent of pounds certified plus post-mortem condemnations.

Condemned Post-Mortem by Cause and Type – United States: May and June 2024

Commodity	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	May	June	May	June	May	June
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	-	-	263	160	92,803	70,546
Mature	-	-	7	2	58,670	54,715
Light	-	-	5	2	48,507	47,176
Heavy	-	-	2	-	10,163	7,539
Total	-	-	270	162	151,473	125,261
Turkeys						
Young	-	-	1	1	4,360	4,059
Old	-	-	-	-	1,188	712
Total	-	-	1	1	5,548	4,771
Commodity	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	May	June	May	June	May	June
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	142,741	93,540	560	348	1,698	1,463
Mature	12,029	13,870	112	116	18,880	17,225
Light	5,028	5,223	7	25	15,252	13,177
Heavy	7,001	8,647	105	91	3,628	4,048
Total	154,770	107,410	672	464	20,578	18,688
Turkeys						
Young	1,318	1,906	12	14	63	18
Old	557	407	18	2	164	78
Total	1,875	2,313	30	16	227	96
Commodity	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	May	June	May	June	May	June
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	3,510	2,991	1,183	1,175	45,686	41,067
Mature	2,821	2,085	111	84	19,210	22,855
Light	2,433	1,545	102	56	18,679	22,183
Heavy	388	540	9	28	531	672
Total	6,331	5,076	1,294	1,259	64,896	63,922
Turkeys						
Young	75	97	530	192	518	576
Old	13	11	3	14	131	102
Total	88	108	533	206	649	678
Commodity	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	May	June	May	June	May	June
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	3,770	4,792	97,134	93,689	1,829,240	1,632,057
Mature	84	117	35,136	38,402	30,643	31,801
Light	53	89	26,424	29,383	-	-
Heavy	31	28	8,712	9,019	30,643	31,801
Total	3,854	4,909	132,270	132,091	1,859,883	1,663,858
Turkeys						
Young	58	57	2,949	3,185	82,976	76,798
Old	27	3	128	235	208	282
Total	85	60	3,077	3,420	83,184	77,080

- Represents zero.

¹ Includes any portion of the carcass affected by an inflammatory process, plant rejected carcasses, missing viscera, or ascites fluid preventing proper inspection of the carcass.

² Birds condemned with no cause given by federal inspectors and establishment sorters.

Young Chickens Slaughtered, Total Live Weight, and Average Live Weight – States and United States: May and June 2024

[Published States do not add to United States total to avoid disclosure]

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	May	June	May	June	May	June
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
Alabama	100,764	94,574	544,530	524,252	5.40	5.54
Arkansas	87,805	80,818	632,813	587,311	7.21	7.27
Delaware	32,921	31,052	257,047	236,026	7.81	7.60
Georgia	110,354	101,737	659,322	617,645	5.97	6.07
Illinois	62	79	391	508	6.33	6.40
Indiana	4,012	3,597	21,358	18,741	5.32	5.21
Iowa	2,133	1,871	12,420	10,285	5.82	5.50
Kentucky	25,115	23,835	168,478	158,871	6.71	6.67
Louisiana	14,984	14,384	100,403	96,274	6.70	6.69
Maryland	12,854	11,298	80,434	70,688	6.26	6.26
Mississippi	61,873	54,844	412,790	366,037	6.67	6.67
Missouri	27,413	25,873	146,813	140,054	5.36	5.41
Nebraska	10,829	10,103	71,460	68,041	6.60	6.73
New Jersey	223	217	1,238	1,202	5.54	5.53
New York	3,152	2,590	16,135	13,448	5.12	5.19
North Carolina	80,184	74,501	674,492	627,020	8.41	8.42
Ohio	10,970	10,382	49,525	46,846	4.51	4.51
Oklahoma	8,253	7,523	63,143	55,612	7.65	7.39
Pennsylvania	13,826	13,181	79,933	76,361	5.78	5.79
South Carolina	26,570	24,804	192,796	182,342	7.26	7.35
Tennessee	34,936	32,155	213,909	196,080	6.12	6.10
Texas	63,027	56,856	427,132	387,332	6.78	6.81
Virginia	26,963	24,721	173,520	158,536	6.44	6.41
United States	813,498	751,838	5,298,635	4,923,366	6.51	6.55

Young Chickens Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations – States and United States: May and June 2024

[Published States do not add to United States total to avoid disclosure]

State	Total chilled and frozen pounds certified ¹		Post-mortem condemnations			
			Carcass and parts		Percent ²	
	May	June	May	June	May	June
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
Alabama	418,461	402,572	1,685	1,641	0.40	0.41
Arkansas	475,902	441,950	1,940	1,786	0.41	0.40
Delaware	199,763	182,922	1,234	1,209	0.61	0.66
Georgia	500,892	465,946	2,791	2,740	0.55	0.58
Illinois	291	379	-	-	(X)	(X)
Indiana	15,293	13,435	74	39	0.48	0.29
Iowa	8,909	7,423	563	457	5.95	5.80
Kentucky	126,758	119,937	558	558	0.44	0.46
Louisiana	75,668	71,416	266	223	0.35	0.31
Maryland	59,867	52,483	605	405	1.00	0.76
Mississippi	310,118	269,135	900	773	0.29	0.29
Missouri	107,059	101,884	296	306	0.28	0.30
Nebraska	54,278	51,727	217	204	0.40	0.39
New Jersey	906	882	11	8	1.22	0.88
New York	9,963	8,282	144	107	1.42	1.27
North Carolina	518,622	482,701	1,220	1,200	0.23	0.25
Ohio	36,983	35,113	246	235	0.66	0.66
Oklahoma	47,474	41,726	238	249	0.50	0.59
Pennsylvania	55,863	53,988	827	756	1.46	1.38
South Carolina	145,434	137,170	1,033	879	0.71	0.64
Tennessee	158,278	145,362	362	307	0.23	0.21
Texas	328,851	298,243	990	799	0.30	0.27
Virginia	132,605	120,687	383	319	0.29	0.26
United States	4,011,035	3,716,852	18,568	17,422	0.46	0.47

- Represents zero.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Ready-to-cook weights.

² Pounds condemned as percent of pounds certified plus post-mortem condemnations.

Young Chickens Condemned Post-Mortem by Cause – States and United States: May and June 2024

[Published States do not add to United States total to avoid disclosure]

State	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	May	June	May	June	May	June
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	8	16	8,140	8,482
Arkansas	-	-	-	-	121	113
Delaware	-	-	3	1	6,645	4,702
Georgia	-	-	-	-	13,375	9,705
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	2	4
Texas	-	-	-	-	14,294	6,636
Virginia	-	-	1	-	2,716	2,776
United States	-	-	263	160	92,803	70,546
State	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	May	June	May	June	May	June
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	3,376	3,841	3	7	111	100
Arkansas	172	150	28	6	-	-
Delaware	6,300	2,908	-	18	63	37
Georgia	28,269	22,059	11	2	223	201
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	4	2	-	-	-	-
Texas	19,858	15,430	82	1	228	115
Virginia	283	300	1	-	21	16
United States	142,741	93,540	560	348	1,698	1,463
State	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	May	June	May	June	May	June
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	312	347	152	175	1,872	1,661
Arkansas	14	1	-	-	142	70
Delaware	240	409	16	21	2,080	1,360
Georgia	751	236	409	342	3,813	4,571
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	2	-	-	-	-
Texas	124	62	5	2	491	256
Virginia	50	27	5	7	259	198
United States	3,510	2,991	1,183	1,175	45,686	41,067
State	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	May	June	May	June	May	June
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	607	472	5,881	5,588	154,158	145,653
Arkansas	1	5	113	75	175,047	155,653
Delaware	292	843	1,726	2,475	23,784	27,567
Georgia	425	606	14,539	13,005	263,196	234,703
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	140,738	118,957
North Carolina	-	1	-	-	94,904	86,031
Texas	730	493	1,745	788	71,423	60,318
Virginia	15	145	6,886	5,187	138,479	142,064
United States	3,770	4,792	97,134	93,689	1,829,240	1,632,057

- Represents zero.

¹ Includes any portion of the carcass affected by an inflammatory process, plant rejected carcasses, missing viscera, or ascites fluid preventing proper inspection of the carcass.

² Birds condemned with no cause given by federal inspectors and establishment sorters.

Young Turkeys Slaughtered, Total Live Weight, and Average Live Weight – States and United States: May and June 2024

[Published States do not add to United States total to avoid disclosure]

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	May	June	May	June	May	June
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
California	292	391	11,762	13,182	40.27	33.74
Illinois	-	1	-	22	-	29.32
Indiana	1,919	1,692	83,827	74,342	43.69	43.93
Iowa	1,264	1,133	59,451	51,973	47.03	45.87
Michigan	329	339	14,478	14,566	43.99	42.93
North Carolina	1,875	1,616	68,514	63,529	36.54	39.30
Ohio	617	570	28,499	25,217	46.16	44.26
Pennsylvania	541	521	17,091	14,910	31.62	28.64
South Carolina	533	536	22,302	23,278	41.83	43.41
South Dakota	294	360	13,306	16,599	45.19	46.16
Vermont	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States	16,888	15,555	556,406	510,853	32.95	32.84

- Represents zero.

Young Turkeys Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations – States and United States: May and June 2024

[Published States do not add to United States total to avoid disclosure]

State	Total chilled and frozen pounds certified ¹		Post-mortem condemnations			
			Carcass and parts		Percent ²	
	May	June	May	June	May	June
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
California	9,410	10,528	46	70	0.48	0.66
Illinois	-	17	-	-	(X)	(X)
Indiana	67,206	59,572	1,013	973	1.49	1.61
Iowa	46,619	40,793	766	687	1.62	1.66
Michigan	11,220	11,278	121	134	1.07	1.18
North Carolina	54,178	50,226	272	275	0.50	0.54
Ohio	22,747	20,148	456	417	1.97	2.03
Pennsylvania	13,262	11,540	303	136	2.24	1.16
South Carolina	16,231	16,675	721	545	4.25	3.17
South Dakota	10,733	13,263	140	178	1.28	1.32
Vermont	-	-	-	-	(X)	(X)
United States	443,153	406,029	6,540	5,849	1.45	1.42

- Represents zero.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Ready-to-cook weights.

² Pounds condemned as percent of pounds certified plus post-mortem condemnations.

Terms and Definitions Used for Poultry Slaughter Estimates

Ante-Mortem Condemnations: Birds federally condemned prior to entry into the slaughter plant which includes Dead-On-Arrival (DOA) and condemned for other causes.

Average Live Weight: The weight of the whole bird, before slaughter. Excludes post-mortem condemnations.

Certified Ready-to-Cook: The weight of poultry certified wholesome by inspection after post-mortem condemnation pounds are removed. Ready-to-cook represents poultry meat ready for the marketing channel.

Dressing Percent: Usually expressed as a percentage yield of frozen and chilled carcass in relation to the weight of the live bird.

Ducks: Includes all ducks regardless of age and weight.

Federally Inspected (FI) Plants: Plants that transport meat interstate must employ federal inspectors to assure compliance with USDA standards.

Mature Chickens: Fowl from breeder and market egg flocks and stags and cocks.

Number of Head: Includes post-mortem condemnations.

Old Turkeys: Fully matured birds held for egg production, usually over 15 months of age.

Plant, Slaughter: An establishment where birds are killed and butchered.

Post-Mortem Condemnations: Carcasses or parts of birds condemned includes federally inspected and establishment sorted because of disease or mishandling and removed from the slaughter line and destroyed.

Slaughter: Killing and butchering of birds primarily for food.

Total Live Weight: The total weight of live birds, before slaughter. Excludes post-mortem condemnations.

Young Chickens: Commercially grown broilers-fryers and other young immature birds such as roasters and capons.

Young Turkeys: Young birds grown to a matured market age, and other turkeys such as fryers/roasters and young breeders.

Statistical Methodology

Data Sources: Data for poultry slaughter estimates are collected by inspectors of the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), USDA for all Federally Inspected plants. Over 99 percent of the total United States slaughter for any species is under Federal Inspection. The number of head slaughtered daily, by species and class, as well as condemnations and total live and dressed weights are obtained by shift for each plant. Approximately 352 plants slaughtered poultry in the United States under Federal Inspection in 2023. Young chickens were slaughtered in 38 States, young turkeys in 30 States.

Revision Policy: Data for the previous month and year-to-date totals are subject to revision the following month after the initial monthly estimates are published. Final data are published in the annual summary released in February and include any revisions made to current and previous year's published data. Revisions are generally the result of late reports or corrections received by FSIS from plants and are usually less than one-half of one percent. No revisions will be made to the previous year's data after publication of the annual summary in February.

Procedures and Reliability: Plant inspectors submit data electronically for each shift a plant operates. An edit provides checks for the detection of errors such as invalid plant information, duplication, and erroneous data. Data are accumulated to monthly totals for this release.

Data for major slaughter plants with missing reports are adjusted prior to publication to assure that all plants slaughtering a significant portion of a specific class are included. Estimates for missing shifts are made only after verifying that the plant was in operation. Adjustments are based on a shift determined to be similar to the one missing. Late reports replace imputed data as they become available. While there is a varying degree of incompleteness from month to month, it has only a minimal impact on the published totals.

Poultry slaughter estimates are based on a census of operating plants and, therefore, have no sampling error. However, they may be subject to errors such as omissions, duplications, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. These errors are minimized through strict quality controls in the edit and summarization process, and a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

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

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Liana Cuffman – Catfish and Trout, Mink, Census of Aquaculture	(202) 720-8784
Fatema Haque – Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised	(202) 720-3244
Derron Martin – Chicken Hatchery, Egg Products.....	(202) 690-3237
Seth Riggins – Honey, Honey Bee Colonies	(202) 690-4870
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Autumn Stone – Layers, Eggs	(202) 690-3676
Takiyah Walker – Broiler Hatchery.....	(202) 720-6147

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- Both national and state specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit www.nass.usda.gov and click on “National” or “State” in upper right corner above “search” box to create an account and select the reports you would like to receive.
- Cornell’s Mann Library has launched a new website housing NASS’s and other agency’s archived reports. The new website, <https://usda.library.cornell.edu>. All email subscriptions containing reports will be sent from the new website, <https://usda.library.cornell.edu>. To continue receiving the reports via e-mail, you will have to go to the new website, create a new account and re-subscribe to the reports. If you need instructions to set up an account or subscribe, they are located at: <https://usda.library.cornell.edu/help>. You should whitelist notifications@usda-esmis.library.cornell.edu in your email client to avoid the emails going into spam/junk folders.

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@usda.gov.

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