



Poultry Slaughter

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Ready-to-Cook Weight Up 8 Percent from Last Year

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

July 2024 contained 23 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

Poultry certified wholesome during July 2024 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 4.56 billion pounds, up 8 percent from the amount certified in July 2023. The June 2024 revised certified total at 4.19 billion pounds, was down 7 percent from June 2023. The June revision represented an increase of 8.85 million pounds from last month's preliminary pounds certified.

The preliminary total live weight of all federally inspected poultry during July 2024 was 6.00 billion pounds, up 8 percent from 5.55 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 5.38 billion pounds, up 9 percent from July 2023. Mature chickens, at 69.6 million pounds, were down 4 percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 545 million pounds, down slightly from a year ago. Ducks totaled 13.5 million pounds, down 16 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during July 2024 averaged 6.51 pounds per bird, up 1 percent from July 2023. The average live weight of mature chickens was 7.19 pounds per bird, down 1 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during July 2024 averaged 32.0 pounds per bird, up 1 percent from July 2023.

Ante-mortem condemnations during July 2024 totaled 13.7 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.23 percent of the live weight inspected, as compared with 0.24 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 26.7 million pounds, were 0.58 percent of quantities inspected, as compared with 0.57 percent a year earlier.

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

[Federally inspected only]

Commodity	July 2023	June 2024	July 2024	July 2024 as % of		January to July		2024 as percent of 2023
				July 2023	June 2024	2023	2024	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Slaughtered								
Chickens								
Young	760,412	753,245	825,207	109	110	5,457,388	5,508,265	101
Mature	9,976	9,718	9,678	97	100	70,429	67,282	96
Light	2,599	2,796	2,659	102	95	20,243	19,143	95
Heavy	7,377	6,922	7,019	95	101	50,186	48,139	96
Total	770,388	762,963	834,885	108	109	5,527,817	5,575,547	101
Turkeys								
Young	17,039	15,568	16,883	99	108	122,835	114,149	93
Old	129	114	164	127	144	1,178	1,005	85
Total	17,168	15,682	17,047	99	109	124,013	115,154	93
Ducks	2,320	1,814	1,932	83	107	16,188	14,730	91
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Total live weight								
Chickens								
Young	4,916,403	4,934,082	5,375,481	109	109	35,492,293	35,912,296	101
Mature	72,235	68,616	69,622	96	101	489,649	472,091	96
Light	9,104	9,736	9,378	103	96	71,060	66,470	94
Heavy	63,131	58,880	60,244	95	102	418,589	405,621	97
Total	4,988,638	5,002,698	5,445,103	109	109	35,981,942	36,384,387	101
Turkeys								
Young	541,729	511,037	540,502	100	106	3,963,339	3,752,690	95
Old	3,828	3,604	4,930	129	137	35,318	30,801	87
Total	545,557	514,641	545,432	100	106	3,998,657	3,783,491	95
Ducks	16,046	12,454	13,517	84	109	115,100	104,640	91
Other ¹	364	165	396	109	240	1,509	1,399	93
Total	5,550,605	5,529,958	6,004,448	108	109	40,097,208	40,273,917	100
	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)
Average live weight								
Chickens								
Young	6.47	6.55	6.51	101	99	6.50	6.52	100
Mature	7.24	7.06	7.19	99	102	6.95	7.02	101
Light	3.50	3.48	3.53	101	101	3.51	3.47	99
Heavy	8.56	8.51	8.58	100	101	8.34	8.43	101
Total	6.48	6.56	6.52	101	99	6.51	6.53	100
Turkeys								
Young	31.79	32.83	32.01	101	98	32.27	32.88	102
Old	29.67	31.61	30.06	101	95	29.98	30.65	102
Total	31.78	32.82	32.00	101	98	32.24	32.86	102
Ducks	6.92	6.87	7.00	101	102	7.11	7.10	100

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

Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified by Type – United States

[Ready-to-cook weights]

Commodity	July 2023	June 2024	July 2024	July 2024 as % of		January to July		2024 as percent of 2023
				July 2023	June 2024	2023	2024	
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Chilled								
Chickens								
Young	3,471,457	3,481,919	3,814,513	110	110	25,035,835	25,375,386	101
Mature	50,851	47,674	48,307	95	101	342,723	328,765	96
Light	4,846	5,074	4,914	101	97	37,470	35,118	94
Heavy	46,005	42,600	43,393	94	102	305,253	293,647	96
Total	3,522,308	3,529,593	3,862,820	110	109	25,378,558	25,704,151	101
Turkeys								
Young	276,344	255,234	268,438	97	105	1,997,637	1,888,710	95
Old	2,599	2,634	3,702	142	141	22,688	22,466	99
Total	278,943	257,868	272,140	98	106	2,020,325	1,911,176	95
Ducks	4,091	2,996	3,203	78	107	27,263	25,662	94
Other ¹	169	99	129	76	130	894	739	83
Total	3,805,511	3,790,556	4,138,292	109	109	27,427,040	27,641,728	101
Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	246,156	242,958	255,804	104	105	1,776,934	1,778,517	100
Mature	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	-	(X)
Light	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	-	(X)
Heavy	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	-	(X)
Total	246,156	242,958	255,804	104	105	1,776,934	1,778,517	100
Turkeys								
Young	154,769	150,945	161,330	104	107	1,168,200	1,096,350	94
Old	315	118	68	22	58	4,497	991	22
Total	155,084	151,063	161,398	104	107	1,172,697	1,097,341	94
Ducks	7,626	6,118	6,618	87	108	56,250	50,828	90
Other ¹	85	16	137	161	856	169	228	135
Total	408,951	400,155	423,957	104	106	3,006,050	2,926,914	97
Chilled and frozen								
Chickens								
Young	3,717,613	3,724,877	4,070,317	109	109	26,812,769	27,153,903	101
Mature	50,851	47,674	48,307	95	101	342,723	328,765	96
Light	4,846	5,074	4,914	101	97	37,470	35,118	94
Heavy	46,005	42,600	43,393	94	102	305,253	293,647	96
Total	3,768,464	3,772,551	4,118,624	109	109	27,155,492	27,482,668	101
Turkeys								
Young	431,113	406,179	429,768	100	106	3,165,837	2,985,060	94
Old	2,914	2,752	3,770	129	137	27,185	23,457	86
Total	434,027	408,931	433,538	100	106	3,193,022	3,008,517	94
Ducks	11,717	9,114	9,821	84	108	83,513	76,490	92
Other ¹	254	115	266	105	231	1,063	967	91
Total	4,214,462	4,190,711	4,562,249	108	109	30,433,090	30,568,642	100

- Represents zero.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Includes geese, guineas, and squab.

Ante-Mortem Condemnations by Type – United States

[Federally inspected only]

Commodity	July 2023	June 2024	July 2024	July 2024 as % of		January to July		2024 as percent of 2023
				July 2023	June 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	10,492	9,381	10,643	101	113	69,904	69,218	99
Mature	904	835	873	97	105	5,921	5,701	96
Light	87	66	64	74	97	655	371	57
Heavy	817	769	809	99	105	5,266	5,330	101
Total	11,396	10,216	11,516	101	113	75,825	74,919	99
Turkeys								
Young	1,874	1,854	1,991	106	107	11,713	12,550	107
Old	41	33	58	141	176	248	298	120
Total	1,915	1,887	2,049	107	109	11,961	12,848	107
Ducks	119	88	117	98	133	605	666	110
Total ¹	13,431	12,191	13,683	102	112	88,392	88,434	100
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of live weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.21	0.19	0.20	95	105	0.20	0.19	95
Mature	1.25	1.22	1.25	100	102	1.21	1.21	100
Light	0.96	0.68	0.68	71	100	0.92	0.56	61
Heavy	1.29	1.31	1.34	104	102	1.26	1.31	104
Total	0.23	0.20	0.21	91	105	0.21	0.21	100
Turkeys								
Young	0.35	0.36	0.37	106	103	0.30	0.33	110
Old	1.07	0.92	1.18	110	128	0.70	0.97	139
Total	0.35	0.37	0.38	109	103	0.30	0.34	113
Ducks	0.74	0.71	0.87	118	123	0.53	0.64	121
Total ¹	0.24	0.22	0.23	96	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	July 2023	June 2024	July 2024	July 2024 as % of		January to July		2024 as percent of 2023
				July 2023	June 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	16,795	17,459	17,993	107	103	131,891	127,786	97
Mature	1,749	1,644	1,915	109	116	12,975	12,370	95
Light	331	308	395	119	128	2,953	2,746	93
Heavy	1,418	1,336	1,520	107	114	10,022	9,624	96
Total	18,544	19,103	19,908	107	104	144,866	140,156	97
Turkeys								
Young	5,300	5,851	6,413	121	110	37,188	44,313	119
Old	147	133	164	112	123	1,336	1,058	79
Total	5,447	5,984	6,577	121	110	38,524	45,371	118
Ducks	192	162	177	92	109	1,582	1,334	84
Other ¹	4	3	4	100	133	19	22	116
Total	24,187	25,252	26,666	110	106	184,991	186,883	101
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.45	0.47	0.44	98	94	0.49	0.47	96
Mature	3.33	3.33	3.81	114	114	3.65	3.63	99
Light	6.39	5.72	7.44	116	130	7.31	7.25	99
Heavy	2.99	3.04	3.38	113	111	3.18	3.17	100
Total	0.49	0.50	0.48	98	96	0.53	0.51	96
Turkeys								
Young	1.21	1.42	1.47	121	104	1.16	1.46	126
Old	4.80	4.61	4.17	87	90	4.68	4.32	92
Total	1.24	1.44	1.49	120	103	1.19	1.49	125
Ducks	1.61	1.75	1.77	110	101	1.86	1.71	92
Other ¹	1.55	2.54	1.48	95	58	1.76	2.22	126
Total	0.57	0.60	0.58	102	97	0.60	0.61	102

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: June and July 2024

Commodity	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	June	July	June	July	June	July
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	-	-	160	213	70,547	68,190
Mature	-	-	2	8	54,715	52,549
Light	-	-	2	8	47,176	44,608
Heavy	-	-	-	-	7,539	7,941
Total	-	-	162	221	125,262	120,739
Turkeys						
Young	-	-	1	8	4,059	3,624
Old	-	-	-	-	712	1,066
Total	-	-	1	8	4,771	4,690
Commodity	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	June	July	June	July	June	July
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	93,540	55,093	348	865	1,466	1,444
Mature	13,870	13,942	116	87	17,227	14,751
Light	5,223	4,239	25	16	13,179	10,562
Heavy	8,647	9,703	91	71	4,048	4,189
Total	107,410	69,035	464	952	18,693	16,195
Turkeys						
Young	1,906	1,327	14	44	18	53
Old	407	486	2	14	78	240
Total	2,313	1,813	16	58	96	293
Commodity	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	June	July	June	July	June	July
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	2,996	2,873	1,175	1,093	41,068	41,820
Mature	2,090	3,029	84	122	22,855	19,652
Light	1,550	2,377	56	101	22,183	19,072
Heavy	540	652	28	21	672	580
Total	5,086	5,902	1,259	1,215	63,923	61,472
Turkeys						
Young	97	77	192	218	576	618
Old	11	12	14	32	102	81
Total	108	89	206	250	678	699
Commodity	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	June	July	June	July	June	July
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	4,792	5,830	93,724	97,374	1,633,900	1,736,702
Mature	117	107	38,407	39,480	32,062	24,186
Light	89	95	29,388	29,835	-	-
Heavy	28	12	9,019	9,645	32,062	24,186
Total	4,909	5,937	132,131	136,854	1,665,962	1,760,888
Turkeys						
Young	57	77	3,185	5,114	76,798	89,424
Old	3	23	235	182	282	248
Total	60	100	3,420	5,296	77,080	89,672

- 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: June and July 2024

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

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	June	July	June	July	June	July
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
Alabama	94,574	103,976	524,252	576,761	5.54	5.55
Arkansas	80,818	88,500	587,311	639,065	7.27	7.22
Delaware	31,052	32,173	236,026	246,463	7.60	7.66
Georgia	103,179	114,143	627,864	685,134	6.09	6.00
Illinois	79	73	508	467	6.40	6.41
Indiana	3,597	4,406	18,741	23,072	5.21	5.24
Iowa	1,873	2,112	10,302	11,653	5.50	5.52
Kentucky	23,835	25,175	158,871	166,645	6.67	6.62
Louisiana	14,384	15,995	96,274	106,369	6.69	6.65
Maryland	11,298	12,610	70,688	79,896	6.26	6.34
Mississippi	54,807	62,975	366,038	415,644	6.68	6.60
Missouri	25,873	27,241	140,054	147,451	5.41	5.41
Nebraska	10,103	10,462	68,041	70,655	6.73	6.75
New Jersey	217	244	1,202	1,325	5.53	5.43
New York	2,643	3,032	13,686	15,577	5.18	5.14
North Carolina	74,505	81,247	627,239	672,686	8.42	8.28
Ohio	10,382	11,261	46,846	50,818	4.51	4.51
Oklahoma	7,523	8,978	55,612	64,140	7.39	7.14
Pennsylvania	13,181	14,706	76,360	87,168	5.79	5.93
South Carolina	24,804	26,283	182,342	196,404	7.35	7.47
Tennessee	32,155	34,770	196,080	210,396	6.10	6.05
Texas	56,799	63,496	387,332	434,392	6.82	6.84
Virginia	24,721	27,186	158,536	170,358	6.41	6.27
United States	753,245	825,207	4,934,082	5,375,481	6.55	6.51

Young Chickens Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations – States and United States: June and July 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	
	June	July	June	July	June	July
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
Alabama	402,572	443,948	1,641	1,874	0.41	0.42
Arkansas	441,950	481,825	1,786	1,876	0.40	0.39
Delaware	182,922	191,022	1,209	1,155	0.66	0.60
Georgia	473,615	520,732	2,774	2,877	0.58	0.55
Illinois	379	349	-	(Z)	(X)	0.01
Indiana	13,435	16,488	39	56	0.29	0.34
Iowa	7,436	8,489	457	405	5.79	4.55
Kentucky	119,937	125,818	558	637	0.46	0.50
Louisiana	71,416	79,622	223	228	0.31	0.29
Maryland	52,483	59,423	405	434	0.76	0.72
Mississippi	269,136	312,580	773	915	0.29	0.29
Missouri	101,884	107,418	306	357	0.30	0.33
Nebraska	51,727	53,527	204	164	0.39	0.31
New Jersey	882	976	8	8	0.88	0.78
New York	8,423	9,646	110	131	1.29	1.34
North Carolina	482,885	516,002	1,200	1,423	0.25	0.27
Ohio	35,113	38,286	235	247	0.66	0.64
Oklahoma	41,726	48,136	249	318	0.59	0.66
Pennsylvania	53,988	61,698	756	1,066	1.38	1.70
South Carolina	137,170	147,952	879	949	0.64	0.64
Tennessee	145,362	155,336	307	344	0.21	0.22
Texas	298,243	334,862	799	807	0.27	0.24
Virginia	120,687	129,926	319	352	0.26	0.27
United States	3,724,877	4,070,317	17,459	17,993	0.47	0.44

- Represents zero.

(X) Not applicable.

(Z) Less than half of the unit shown.

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: June and July 2024

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

State	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	June	July	June	July	June	July
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	16	8	8,482	7,525
Arkansas	-	-	-	5	113	76
Delaware	-	-	1	-	4,702	4,143
Georgia	-	-	-	8	9,705	10,985
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	4	1
Texas	-	-	-	-	6,636	40
Virginia	-	-	-	2	2,776	4,503
United States	-	-	160	213	70,547	68,190
State	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	June	July	June	July	June	July
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	3,841	2,778	7	5	100	116
Arkansas	150	191	6	6	-	-
Delaware	2,908	1,256	18	1	37	23
Georgia	22,059	20,391	2	4	201	207
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	2	1	-	-	-	-
Texas	15,430	33	1	-	115	1
Virginia	300	489	-	-	16	9
United States	93,540	55,093	348	865	1,466	1,444
State	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	June	July	June	July	June	July
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	347	404	175	158	1,661	1,856
Arkansas	1	5	-	-	70	59
Delaware	409	272	21	8	1,360	1,141
Georgia	236	243	342	356	4,571	4,392
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	2	1	-	-	-	-
Texas	62	-	2	1	256	16
Virginia	27	45	7	4	198	181
United States	2,996	2,873	1,175	1,093	41,068	41,820
State	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	June	July	June	July	June	July
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	472	674	5,588	5,484	145,653	170,694
Arkansas	5	14	75	83	155,653	159,349
Delaware	843	108	2,475	1,344	27,567	46,028
Georgia	606	769	13,005	14,134	236,083	240,106
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	118,957	138,825
North Carolina	1	1	-	-	86,031	95,581
Texas	493	4	788	8	60,318	79,298
Virginia	145	848	5,187	4,791	142,064	132,752
United States	4,792	5,830	93,724	97,374	1,633,900	1,736,702

- 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: June and July 2024

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

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	June	July	June	July	June	July
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
California	391	482	13,182	16,035	33.74	33.28
Illinois	1	1	22	25	29.32	26.38
Indiana	1,692	1,909	74,342	79,868	43.93	41.85
Iowa	1,133	1,124	51,973	51,012	45.87	45.38
Michigan	339	347	14,566	14,717	42.93	42.36
North Carolina	1,616	1,846	63,529	69,383	39.30	37.59
Ohio	570	518	25,217	21,615	44.26	41.72
Pennsylvania	521	667	14,910	18,492	28.64	27.72
South Carolina	536	615	23,278	26,105	43.41	42.46
South Dakota	360	388	16,599	18,496	46.16	47.68
Vermont	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States	15,568	16,883	511,037	540,502	32.83	32.01

- Represents zero.

Young Turkeys Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations – States and United States: June and July 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	
	June	July	June	July	June	July
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
California	10,528	12,810	70	58	0.66	0.45
Illinois	17	19	-	-	(X)	(X)
Indiana	59,572	64,016	973	1,082	1.61	1.66
Iowa	40,793	39,853	687	724	1.66	1.78
Michigan	11,278	11,384	134	153	1.18	1.33
North Carolina	50,226	54,503	275	299	0.54	0.55
Ohio	20,148	17,270	417	344	2.03	1.95
Pennsylvania	11,540	14,420	136	300	1.16	2.04
South Carolina	16,675	19,077	545	695	3.17	3.51
South Dakota	13,263	14,863	178	237	1.32	1.57
Vermont	-	-	-	-	(X)	(X)
United States	406,179	429,768	5,851	6,413	1.42	1.47

- 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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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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- 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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