



Poultry Slaughter

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Ready-to-Cook Weight Up 4 Percent from Last Year

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

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

Poultry certified wholesome during October 2024 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 4.92 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the amount certified in October 2023. The September 2024 revised certified total at 4.37 billion pounds, was up 2 percent from September 2023. The September revision represented an increase of 5 million pounds from last month's preliminary pounds certified.

The preliminary total live weight of all federally inspected poultry during October 2024 was 6.47 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 6.24 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 5.77 billion pounds, up 4 percent from October 2023. Mature chickens, at 66.5 million pounds, were down 8 percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 621 million pounds, down 1 percent from a year ago. Ducks totaled 16.2 million pounds, down 9 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during October 2024 averaged 6.70 pounds per bird, unchanged from October 2023. The average live weight of mature chickens was 7.02 pounds per bird, up 2 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during October 2024 averaged 31.7 pounds per bird, up 4 percent from October 2023.

Ante-mortem condemnations during October 2024 totaled 12.3 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.19 percent of the live weight inspected, as compared with 0.20 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 28.6 million pounds, were 0.58 percent of quantities inspected, as compared with 0.53 percent a year earlier.

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

[Federally inspected only]

Commodity	October 2023	September 2024	October 2024	October 2024 as % of		January to October		2024 as percent of 2023
				October 2023	September 2024	2023	2024	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Slaughtered								
Chickens								
Young	824,609	770,053	861,545	104	112	7,894,621	7,954,498	101
Mature	10,520	9,736	9,478	90	97	102,340	96,228	94
Light	2,862	2,504	2,743	96	110	28,663	26,341	92
Heavy	7,658	7,232	6,735	88	93	73,677	69,887	95
Total	835,129	779,789	871,023	104	112	7,996,961	8,050,726	101
Turkeys								
Young	20,332	15,548	19,390	95	125	180,041	165,891	92
Old	211	246	211	100	86	1,707	1,626	95
Total	20,543	15,794	19,601	95	124	181,748	167,517	92
Ducks	2,499	2,036	2,236	89	110	23,440	20,860	89
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Total live weight								
Chickens								
Young	5,526,154	5,142,367	5,768,719	104	112	51,551,601	52,169,350	101
Mature	72,446	70,400	66,534	92	95	715,347	682,492	95
Light	9,796	8,544	9,664	99	113	100,480	91,413	91
Heavy	62,650	61,856	56,870	91	92	614,867	591,079	96
Total	5,598,600	5,212,767	5,835,253	104	112	52,266,948	52,851,842	101
Turkeys								
Young	621,438	512,949	614,322	99	120	5,732,540	5,422,798	95
Old	6,453	7,653	6,614	102	86	51,416	49,953	97
Total	627,891	520,602	620,936	99	119	5,783,956	5,472,751	95
Ducks	17,737	14,542	16,154	91	111	166,108	148,460	89
Other ¹	386	440	468	121	106	2,642	2,829	107
Total	6,244,614	5,748,351	6,472,811	104	113	58,219,654	58,475,882	100
	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)
Average live weight								
Chickens								
Young	6.70	6.68	6.70	100	100	6.53	6.56	100
Mature	6.89	7.23	7.02	102	97	6.99	7.09	101
Light	3.42	3.41	3.52	103	103	3.51	3.47	99
Heavy	8.18	8.55	8.44	103	99	8.35	8.46	101
Total	6.70	6.68	6.70	100	100	6.54	6.56	100
Turkeys								
Young	30.56	32.99	31.68	104	96	31.84	32.69	103
Old	30.58	31.11	31.35	103	101	30.12	30.72	102
Total	30.56	32.96	31.68	104	96	31.82	32.67	103
Ducks	7.10	7.14	7.22	102	101	7.09	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	October 2023	September 2024	October 2024	October 2024 as % of		January to October		2024 as percent of 2023
				October 2023	September 2024	2023	2024	
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Chilled								
Chickens								
Young	3,885,232	3,629,083	4,077,262	105	112	36,358,547	36,862,279	101
Mature	51,044	49,154	46,181	90	94	501,627	475,840	95
Light	5,165	4,515	5,179	100	115	53,023	48,497	91
Heavy	45,879	44,639	41,002	89	92	448,604	427,343	95
Total	3,936,276	3,678,237	4,123,443	105	112	36,860,174	37,338,119	101
Turkeys								
Young	322,033	257,774	313,432	97	122	2,901,066	2,734,074	94
Old	4,596	5,238	4,344	95	83	34,352	35,682	104
Total	326,629	263,012	317,776	97	121	2,935,418	2,769,756	94
Ducks	5,052	3,975	4,243	84	107	42,316	37,309	88
Other ¹	159	124	180	113	145	1,310	1,176	90
Total	4,268,116	3,945,348	4,445,642	104	113	39,839,218	40,146,360	101
Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	292,042	263,556	292,668	100	111	2,594,770	2,594,685	100
Mature	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	-	(X)
Light	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	-	(X)
Heavy	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	-	(X)
Total	292,042	263,556	292,668	100	111	2,594,770	2,594,685	100
Turkeys								
Young	173,515	149,772	175,519	101	117	1,674,219	1,578,788	94
Old	352	595	633	180	106	5,187	2,310	45
Total	173,867	150,367	176,152	101	117	1,679,406	1,581,098	94
Ducks	7,934	6,736	7,671	97	114	78,657	71,435	91
Other ¹	99	160	123	124	77	497	707	142
Total	473,942	420,819	476,614	101	113	4,353,330	4,247,925	98
Chilled and frozen								
Chickens								
Young	4,177,274	3,892,639	4,369,930	105	112	38,953,317	39,456,964	101
Mature	51,044	49,154	46,181	90	94	501,627	475,840	95
Light	5,165	4,515	5,179	100	115	53,023	48,497	91
Heavy	45,879	44,639	41,002	89	92	448,604	427,343	95
Total	4,228,318	3,941,793	4,416,111	104	112	39,454,944	39,932,804	101
Turkeys								
Young	495,548	407,546	488,951	99	120	4,575,285	4,312,862	94
Old	4,948	5,833	4,977	101	85	39,539	37,992	96
Total	500,496	413,379	493,928	99	119	4,614,824	4,350,854	94
Ducks	12,986	10,711	11,914	92	111	120,973	108,744	90
Other ¹	258	284	303	117	107	1,807	1,883	104
Total	4,742,058	4,366,167	4,922,256	104	113	44,192,548	44,394,285	100

- Represents zero.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Includes geese, guineas, and squab.

Ante-Mortem Condemnations by Type – United States

[Federally inspected only]

Commodity	October 2023	September 2024	October 2024	October 2024 as % of		January to October		2024 as percent of 2023
				October 2023	September 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	9,798	8,842	9,712	99	110	101,126	98,019	97
Mature	691	753	803	116	107	8,173	8,082	99
Light	56	52	43	77	83	858	495	58
Heavy	635	701	760	120	108	7,315	7,587	104
Total	10,489	9,595	10,515	100	110	109,299	106,101	97
Turkeys								
Young	1,684	1,621	1,676	100	103	17,128	17,826	104
Old	43	60	58	135	97	361	452	125
Total	1,727	1,681	1,734	100	103	17,489	18,278	105
Ducks	100	108	86	86	80	935	953	102
Total ¹	12,317	11,385	12,335	100	108	127,727	125,335	98
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of live weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.18	0.17	0.17	94	100	0.20	0.19	95
Mature	0.95	1.07	1.21	127	113	1.14	1.18	104
Light	0.57	0.61	0.44	77	72	0.85	0.54	64
Heavy	1.01	1.13	1.34	133	119	1.19	1.28	108
Total	0.19	0.18	0.18	95	100	0.21	0.20	95
Turkeys								
Young	0.27	0.32	0.27	100	84	0.30	0.33	110
Old	0.67	0.78	0.88	131	113	0.70	0.90	129
Total	0.28	0.32	0.28	100	88	0.30	0.33	110
Ducks	0.56	0.74	0.53	95	72	0.56	0.64	114
Total ¹	0.20	0.20	0.19	95	95	0.22	0.21	95

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	October 2023	September 2024	October 2024	October 2024 as % of		January to October		2024 as percent of 2023
				October 2023	September 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	16,903	17,279	19,180	113	111	182,659	182,115	100
Mature	1,709	1,899	1,873	110	99	18,208	17,968	99
Light	352	376	425	121	113	4,079	3,805	93
Heavy	1,357	1,523	1,448	107	95	14,129	14,163	100
Total	18,612	19,178	21,053	113	110	200,867	200,083	100
Turkeys								
Young	6,361	5,959	7,093	112	119	55,110	64,035	116
Old	190	282	246	129	87	1,829	1,747	96
Total	6,551	6,241	7,339	112	118	56,939	65,782	116
Ducks	198	218	218	110	100	2,181	1,953	90
Other ¹	4	5	5	125	100	32	36	113
Total	25,365	25,642	28,615	113	112	260,019	267,854	103
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.40	0.44	0.44	110	100	0.47	0.46	98
Mature	3.24	3.72	3.90	120	105	3.50	3.64	104
Light	6.38	7.69	7.58	119	99	7.14	7.28	102
Heavy	2.87	3.30	3.41	119	103	3.05	3.21	105
Total	0.44	0.48	0.47	107	98	0.51	0.50	98
Turkeys								
Young	1.27	1.44	1.43	113	99	1.19	1.46	123
Old	3.70	4.61	4.71	127	102	4.42	4.40	100
Total	1.29	1.49	1.46	113	98	1.22	1.49	122
Ducks	1.50	1.99	1.80	120	90	1.77	1.76	99
Other ¹	1.53	1.73	1.62	106	94	1.74	1.88	108
Total	0.53	0.58	0.58	109	100	0.58	0.60	103

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: September and October 2024

Commodity	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	September	October	September	October	September	October
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	-	-	92	249	40,487	48,689
Mature	-	-	16	6	37,311	51,301
Light	-	-	13	5	30,028	43,027
Heavy	-	-	3	1	7,283	8,274
Total	-	-	108	255	77,798	99,990
Turkeys						
Young	-	-	4	3	3,671	5,216
Old	-	-	2	-	1,310	1,517
Total	-	-	6	3	4,981	6,733
Commodity	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	September	October	September	October	September	October
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	37,300	51,506	1,010	1,324	1,256	1,202
Mature	14,496	14,067	79	111	13,118	17,059
Light	5,190	6,419	3	18	9,375	13,180
Heavy	9,306	7,648	76	93	3,743	3,879
Total	51,796	65,573	1,089	1,435	14,374	18,261
Turkeys						
Young	1,863	2,150	59	64	99	103
Old	679	575	32	40	315	323
Total	2,542	2,725	91	104	414	426
Commodity	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	September	October	September	October	September	October
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	2,119	2,492	879	1,178	28,642	31,255
Mature	3,002	2,733	111	109	18,902	20,166
Light	2,300	1,874	101	97	18,239	19,460
Heavy	702	859	10	12	663	706
Total	5,121	5,225	990	1,287	47,544	51,421
Turkeys						
Young	97	77	218	182	604	938
Old	14	20	11	13	131	161
Total	111	97	229	195	735	1,099
Commodity	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	September	October	September	October	September	October
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	3,118	2,772	61,895	66,486	1,681,063	1,883,445
Mature	183	161	38,995	44,780	37,482	35,864
Light	161	160	28,902	34,485	-	-
Heavy	22	1	10,093	10,295	37,482	35,864
Total	3,301	2,933	100,890	111,266	1,718,545	1,919,309
Turkeys						
Young	160	111	4,343	5,903	75,018	94,900
Old	13	34	301	233	407	228
Total	173	145	4,644	6,136	75,425	95,128

- 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: September and October 2024

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

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	September	October	September	October	September	October
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
Alabama	97,492	107,442	554,696	605,865	5.69	5.64
Arkansas	82,869	95,207	612,182	709,111	7.39	7.45
Delaware	30,447	34,601	239,706	272,453	7.87	7.87
Georgia	103,584	117,559	632,747	720,237	6.11	6.13
Illinois	82	77	531	501	6.49	6.51
Indiana	4,109	4,404	22,134	23,957	5.39	5.44
Iowa	1,691	869	9,630	4,847	5.70	5.58
Kentucky	24,630	27,185	168,693	189,448	6.85	6.97
Louisiana	14,785	16,905	103,007	118,618	6.97	7.02
Maryland	12,288	12,980	80,143	86,199	6.52	6.64
Mississippi	59,778	66,446	405,069	450,110	6.78	6.77
Missouri	26,453	29,579	145,227	160,647	5.49	5.43
Nebraska	9,508	11,138	64,900	76,871	6.83	6.90
New Jersey	291	302	1,478	1,649	5.08	5.46
New York	3,047	2,882	15,654	14,561	5.14	5.05
North Carolina	74,852	86,315	643,024	738,697	8.59	8.56
Ohio	9,743	11,763	45,263	53,579	4.65	4.55
Oklahoma	7,842	8,924	62,074	74,026	7.92	8.30
Pennsylvania	14,367	13,989	85,110	81,421	5.92	5.82
South Carolina	23,549	28,894	171,339	219,635	7.28	7.60
Tennessee	32,464	35,864	203,233	223,984	6.26	6.25
Texas	61,052	67,351	431,085	476,373	7.06	7.07
Virginia	23,222	25,481	155,469	162,965	6.70	6.40
United States	770,053	861,545	5,142,367	5,768,719	6.68	6.70

Young Chickens Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations – States and United States: September and October 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	
	September	October	September	October	September	October
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
Alabama	427,105	465,017	1,763	1,899	0.41	0.41
Arkansas	463,696	538,113	1,536	2,072	0.33	0.38
Delaware	186,662	212,272	1,305	1,262	0.69	0.59
Georgia	481,549	547,876	2,765	3,211	0.57	0.58
Illinois	397	375	-	-	(X)	(X)
Indiana	15,861	17,055	53	78	0.33	0.46
Iowa	6,957	3,467	414	238	5.62	6.42
Kentucky	127,154	142,738	704	800	0.55	0.56
Louisiana	76,410	89,157	313	299	0.41	0.33
Maryland	59,974	64,476	376	423	0.62	0.65
Mississippi	300,225	334,433	1,089	1,243	0.36	0.37
Missouri	105,781	117,227	231	253	0.22	0.22
Nebraska	49,342	58,378	75	73	0.15	0.12
New Jersey	1,083	1,202	10	14	0.95	1.18
New York	9,797	9,138	57	57	0.58	0.62
North Carolina	493,961	567,615	1,188	1,472	0.24	0.26
Ohio	34,101	40,171	267	350	0.78	0.86
Oklahoma	46,709	55,616	232	309	0.49	0.55
Pennsylvania	60,128	58,108	1,145	888	1.87	1.51
South Carolina	128,945	165,598	871	1,123	0.67	0.67
Tennessee	149,962	165,309	549	614	0.36	0.37
Texas	331,288	366,494	804	811	0.24	0.22
Virginia	118,442	123,679	343	377	0.29	0.30
United States	3,892,639	4,369,930	17,279	19,180	0.44	0.44

- 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: September and October 2024

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

State	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	September	October	September	October	September	October
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	13	6	8,366	10,324
Arkansas	-	-	-	-	202	257
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	-	-	-	-	7,856	8,046
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	2	2
Texas	-	-	-	8	78	82
Virginia	-	-	-	1	3,342	3,274
United States	-	-	92	249	40,487	48,689
State	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	September	October	September	October	September	October
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	3,826	4,108	1	3	89	89
Arkansas	245	249	16	17	-	-
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	12,934	18,593	26	1	208	187
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	1	-	-	-	-	-
Texas	72	122	1	-	1	2
Virginia	297	421	1	1	14	15
United States	37,300	51,506	1,010	1,324	1,256	1,202
State	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	September	October	September	October	September	October
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	361	286	236	248	1,853	1,739
Arkansas	5	7	-	1	58	45
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	193	130	203	317	5,553	4,715
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	2	2	-	-	-
Texas	3	5	-	3	35	22
Virginia	35	28	6	7	106	196
United States	2,119	2,492	879	1,178	28,642	31,255
State	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	September	October	September	October	September	October
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	1,082	298	6,608	6,304	146,340	148,279
Arkansas	9	11	113	192	154,653	192,059
Delaware	-	-	-	-	47,116	55,446
Georgia	318	223	9,435	11,213	235,025	257,657
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	185,884	208,733
North Carolina	1	-	1	4	81,072	106,848
Texas	1	63	404	1,584	70,087	67,086
Virginia	212	464	4,825	7,073	132,523	129,034
United States	3,118	2,772	61,895	66,486	1,681,063	1,883,445

- 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: September and October 2024

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

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	September	October	September	October	September	October
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
California	432	817	14,230	21,229	32.97	25.97
Illinois	3	5	68	162	25.97	30.08
Indiana	1,748	2,257	73,363	89,607	41.96	39.70
Iowa	1,034	1,166	47,119	53,854	45.57	46.19
Michigan	394	421	17,241	17,962	43.75	42.71
North Carolina	1,823	2,032	68,540	78,383	37.60	38.57
Ohio	544	617	23,135	26,902	42.55	43.60
Pennsylvania	755	979	21,433	24,215	28.39	24.74
South Carolina	556	642	23,538	27,531	42.33	42.87
South Dakota	266	408	12,254	19,302	46.13	47.26
Vermont	5	13	153	422	33.09	31.57
United States	15,548	19,390	512,949	614,322	32.99	31.68

Young Turkeys Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations – States and United States: September and October 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	
	September	October	September	October	September	October
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
California	11,346	17,139	86	80	0.75	0.47
Illinois	50	126	-	-	(X)	(X)
Indiana	58,721	71,051	926	1,126	1.55	1.56
Iowa	37,131	42,288	575	654	1.53	1.52
Michigan	13,362	13,920	182	178	1.34	1.26
North Carolina	53,384	61,540	321	392	0.60	0.63
Ohio	18,502	21,450	352	438	1.87	2.00
Pennsylvania	16,971	19,252	369	481	2.13	2.44
South Carolina	16,994	20,133	686	926	3.88	4.40
South Dakota	9,829	15,485	163	271	1.63	1.72
Vermont	119	332	-	-	(X)	(X)
United States	407,546	488,951	5,959	7,093	1.44	1.43

- 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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