



Poultry Slaughter

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

August 2023 contained 23 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

August 2024 contained 22 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 5 Saturdays.

Poultry certified wholesome during August 2024 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 4.52 billion pounds, down 4 percent from the amount certified in August 2023. The July 2024 revised certified total at 4.57 billion pounds, was up 8 percent from July 2023. The July revision represented an increase of 3.99 million pounds from last month's preliminary pounds certified.

The preliminary total live weight of all federally inspected poultry during August 2024 was 5.96 billion pounds, down 4 percent from 6.21 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 5.33 billion pounds, down 3 percent from August 2023. Mature chickens, at 65.0 million pounds, were down 22 percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 547 million pounds, down 11 percent from a year ago. Ducks totaled 13.0 million pounds, down 22 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during August 2024 averaged 6.56 pounds per bird, up 2 percent from August 2023. The average live weight of mature chickens was 7.41 pounds per bird, up 3 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during August 2024 averaged 32.3 pounds per bird, up 5 percent from August 2023.

Ante-mortem condemnations during August 2024 totaled 13.1 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.22 percent of the live weight inspected, as compared with 0.25 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 26.6 million pounds, were 0.59 percent of quantities inspected, as compared with 0.55 percent a year earlier.

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

[Federally inspected only]

Commodity	August 2023	July 2024	August 2024	August 2024 as % of		January to August		2024 as percent of 2023
				August 2023	July 2024	2023	2024	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Slaughtered								
Chickens								
Young	851,257	825,549	812,415	95	98	6,308,645	6,321,022	100
Mature	11,587	10,017	8,761	76	87	82,016	76,382	93
Light	3,010	2,662	1,946	65	73	23,253	21,092	91
Heavy	8,577	7,355	6,815	79	93	58,763	55,290	94
Total	862,844	835,566	821,176	95	98	6,390,661	6,397,404	100
Turkeys								
Young	19,824	16,883	16,804	85	100	142,659	130,953	92
Old	150	164	164	109	100	1,328	1,169	88
Total	19,974	17,047	16,968	85	100	143,987	132,122	92
Ducks	2,422	1,932	1,850	76	96	18,610	16,580	89
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Total live weight								
Chickens								
Young	5,498,229	5,378,326	5,330,783	97	99	40,990,522	41,245,924	101
Mature	83,458	72,553	64,958	78	90	573,107	539,980	94
Light	10,702	9,388	6,717	63	72	81,762	73,197	90
Heavy	72,756	63,165	58,241	80	92	491,345	466,783	95
Total	5,581,687	5,450,879	5,395,741	97	99	41,563,629	41,785,904	101
Turkeys								
Young	609,540	540,501	542,434	89	100	4,572,879	4,295,123	94
Old	4,690	4,930	4,808	103	98	40,008	35,609	89
Total	614,230	545,431	547,242	89	100	4,612,887	4,330,732	94
Ducks	16,699	13,517	13,041	78	96	131,799	117,681	89
Other ¹	393	399	519	132	130	1,902	1,921	101
Total	6,213,009	6,010,226	5,956,543	96	99	46,310,217	46,236,238	100
	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)
Average live weight								
Chickens								
Young	6.46	6.51	6.56	102	101	6.50	6.53	100
Mature	7.20	7.24	7.41	103	102	6.99	7.07	101
Light	3.56	3.53	3.45	97	98	3.52	3.47	99
Heavy	8.48	8.59	8.55	101	100	8.36	8.44	101
Total	6.47	6.52	6.57	102	101	6.50	6.53	100
Turkeys								
Young	30.75	32.01	32.28	105	101	32.05	32.80	102
Old	31.27	30.06	29.32	94	98	30.13	30.46	101
Total	30.75	32.00	32.25	105	101	32.04	32.78	102
Ducks	6.89	7.00	7.05	102	101	7.08	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	August 2023	July 2024	August 2024	August 2024 as % of		January to August		2024 as percent of 2023
				August 2023	July 2024	2023	2024	
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Chilled								
Chickens								
Young	3,888,049	3,816,318	3,768,188	97	99	28,923,884	29,145,379	101
Mature	58,586	50,481	45,377	77	90	401,309	376,316	94
Light	5,658	4,920	3,674	65	75	43,128	38,798	90
Heavy	52,928	45,561	41,703	79	92	358,181	337,518	94
Total	3,946,635	3,866,799	3,813,565	97	99	29,325,193	29,521,695	101
Turkeys								
Young	309,054	268,438	273,846	89	102	2,306,691	2,162,556	94
Old	3,390	3,702	3,571	105	96	26,078	26,037	100
Total	312,444	272,140	277,417	89	102	2,332,769	2,188,593	94
Ducks	4,798	3,203	3,371	70	105	32,061	29,033	91
Other ¹	123	130	132	107	102	1,017	872	86
Total	4,264,000	4,142,272	4,094,485	96	99	31,691,040	31,740,193	100
Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	268,706	255,815	260,582	97	102	2,045,640	2,039,110	100
Mature	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	-	(X)
Light	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	-	(X)
Heavy	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	-	(X)
Total	268,706	255,815	260,582	97	102	2,045,640	2,039,110	100
Turkeys								
Young	177,353	161,330	157,147	89	97	1,345,553	1,253,497	93
Old	188	68	91	48	134	4,685	1,082	23
Total	177,541	161,398	157,238	89	97	1,350,238	1,254,579	93
Ducks	7,419	6,618	6,200	84	94	63,669	57,028	90
Other ¹	132	137	196	148	143	301	424	141
Total	453,798	423,968	424,216	93	100	3,459,848	3,351,141	97
Chilled and frozen								
Chickens								
Young	4,156,755	4,072,133	4,028,770	97	99	30,969,524	31,184,489	101
Mature	58,586	50,481	45,377	77	90	401,309	376,316	94
Light	5,658	4,920	3,674	65	75	43,128	38,798	90
Heavy	52,928	45,561	41,703	79	92	358,181	337,518	94
Total	4,215,341	4,122,614	4,074,147	97	99	31,370,833	31,560,805	101
Turkeys								
Young	486,407	429,768	430,993	89	100	3,652,244	3,416,053	94
Old	3,578	3,770	3,662	102	97	30,763	27,119	88
Total	489,985	433,538	434,655	89	100	3,683,007	3,443,172	93
Ducks	12,217	9,821	9,571	78	97	95,730	86,061	90
Other ¹	255	267	328	129	123	1,318	1,296	98
Total	4,717,798	4,566,240	4,518,701	96	99	35,150,888	35,091,334	100

- Represents zero.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Includes geese, guineas, and squab.

Ante-Mortem Condemnations by Type – United States

[Federally inspected only]

Commodity	August 2023	July 2024	August 2024	August 2024 as % of		January to August		2024 as percent of 2023
				August 2023	July 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	11,979	10,650	10,223	85	96	81,883	79,448	97
Mature	939	893	774	82	87	6,860	6,495	95
Light	100	64	29	29	45	755	400	53
Heavy	839	829	745	89	90	6,105	6,095	100
Total	12,918	11,543	10,997	85	95	88,743	85,943	97
Turkeys								
Young	2,151	1,991	1,997	93	100	13,864	14,547	105
Old	43	58	36	84	62	291	334	115
Total	2,194	2,049	2,033	93	99	14,155	14,881	105
Ducks	121	117	93	77	79	726	759	105
Total ¹	15,234	13,710	13,124	86	96	103,626	101,585	98
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of live weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.22	0.20	0.19	86	95	0.20	0.19	95
Mature	1.13	1.23	1.19	105	97	1.20	1.20	100
Light	0.93	0.68	0.43	46	63	0.92	0.55	60
Heavy	1.15	1.31	1.28	111	98	1.24	1.31	106
Total	0.23	0.21	0.20	87	95	0.21	0.21	100
Turkeys								
Young	0.35	0.37	0.37	106	100	0.30	0.34	113
Old	0.92	1.18	0.75	82	64	0.73	0.94	129
Total	0.36	0.38	0.37	103	97	0.31	0.34	110
Ducks	0.72	0.87	0.71	99	82	0.55	0.64	116
Total ¹	0.25	0.23	0.22	88	96	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	August 2023	July 2024	August 2024	August 2024 as % of		January to August		2024 as percent of 2023
				August 2023	July 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	17,952	17,997	17,840	99	99	149,843	145,630	97
Mature	1,917	1,938	1,743	91	90	14,892	14,136	95
Light	427	395	258	60	65	3,380	3,004	89
Heavy	1,490	1,543	1,485	100	96	11,512	11,132	97
Total	19,869	19,935	19,583	99	98	164,735	159,766	97
Turkeys								
Young	6,065	6,413	6,672	110	104	43,253	50,985	118
Old	156	164	161	103	98	1,492	1,219	82
Total	6,221	6,577	6,833	110	104	44,745	52,204	117
Ducks	207	177	182	88	103	1,789	1,516	85
Other ¹	4	4	4	100	100	23	26	113
Total	26,301	26,693	26,602	101	100	211,292	213,512	101
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.43	0.44	0.44	102	100	0.48	0.46	96
Mature	3.17	3.70	3.70	117	100	3.58	3.62	101
Light	7.02	7.43	6.56	93	88	7.27	7.19	99
Heavy	2.74	3.28	3.44	126	105	3.11	3.19	103
Total	0.47	0.48	0.48	102	100	0.52	0.50	96
Turkeys								
Young	1.23	1.47	1.52	124	103	1.17	1.47	126
Old	4.18	4.17	4.21	101	101	4.63	4.30	93
Total	1.25	1.49	1.55	124	104	1.20	1.49	124
Ducks	1.67	1.77	1.87	112	106	1.83	1.73	95
Other ¹	1.54	1.48	1.20	78	81	1.72	1.97	115
Total	0.55	0.58	0.59	107	102	0.60	0.60	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: July and August 2024

Commodity	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	July	August	July	August	July	August
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	-	-	213	239	68,223	42,398
Mature	-	-	8	1	52,557	33,342
Light	-	-	8	1	44,616	25,718
Heavy	-	-	-	-	7,941	7,624
Total	-	-	221	240	120,780	75,740
Turkeys						
Young	-	-	8	6	3,624	3,657
Old	-	-	-	-	1,066	1,125
Total	-	-	8	6	4,690	4,782
Commodity	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	July	August	July	August	July	August
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	55,101	36,326	865	953	1,444	1,087
Mature	13,942	12,731	87	110	14,751	10,868
Light	4,239	2,457	16	11	10,562	7,656
Heavy	9,703	10,274	71	99	4,189	3,212
Total	69,043	49,057	952	1,063	16,195	11,955
Turkeys						
Young	1,327	1,654	44	61	53	94
Old	486	526	14	26	240	237
Total	1,813	2,180	58	87	293	331
Commodity	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	July	August	July	August	July	August
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	2,873	2,370	1,095	930	41,820	32,065
Mature	3,029	1,328	122	111	19,653	11,501
Light	2,377	702	101	98	19,073	10,866
Heavy	652	626	21	13	580	635
Total	5,902	3,698	1,217	1,041	61,473	43,566
Turkeys						
Young	77	77	218	190	618	632
Old	12	16	32	2	81	97
Total	89	93	250	192	699	729
Commodity	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	July	August	July	August	July	August
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	5,832	2,679	97,374	65,100	1,738,012	1,835,509
Mature	107	200	39,484	30,640	25,210	37,764
Light	95	71	29,839	20,265	-	-
Heavy	12	129	9,645	10,375	25,210	37,764
Total	5,939	2,879	136,858	95,740	1,763,222	1,873,273
Turkeys						
Young	77	79	5,114	3,962	89,424	89,540
Old	23	10	182	93	248	201
Total	100	89	5,296	4,055	89,672	89,741

- 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: July and August 2024

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

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	July	August	July	August	July	August
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
Alabama	103,976	100,542	576,761	555,143	5.55	5.52
Arkansas	88,563	89,404	639,176	652,558	7.22	7.30
Delaware	32,173	33,130	246,463	254,488	7.66	7.68
Georgia	114,152	110,419	685,212	665,526	6.00	6.03
Illinois	73	74	467	478	6.41	6.42
Indiana	4,406	4,346	23,072	23,555	5.24	5.42
Iowa	2,115	2,075	11,667	11,576	5.52	5.58
Kentucky	25,175	25,062	166,645	165,681	6.62	6.61
Louisiana	15,995	14,877	106,369	100,280	6.65	6.74
Maryland	12,610	12,487	79,896	78,262	6.34	6.27
Mississippi	62,890	61,971	415,644	411,387	6.61	6.64
Missouri	27,241	27,381	147,451	148,883	5.41	5.44
Nebraska	10,849	10,459	73,210	70,313	6.75	6.72
New Jersey	251	274	1,362	1,478	5.43	5.39
New York	3,036	2,835	15,594	14,695	5.14	5.18
North Carolina	81,195	82,709	672,686	688,314	8.28	8.32
Ohio	11,261	11,224	50,818	51,532	4.51	4.59
Oklahoma	8,978	8,179	64,140	57,809	7.14	7.07
Pennsylvania	14,707	13,238	87,167	78,550	5.93	5.93
South Carolina	26,283	25,899	196,404	189,535	7.47	7.32
Tennessee	34,770	35,135	210,396	216,631	6.05	6.17
Texas	63,495	62,475	434,392	432,175	6.84	6.92
Virginia	27,186	25,658	170,358	168,163	6.27	6.55
United States	825,549	812,415	5,378,326	5,330,783	6.51	6.56

Young Chickens Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations – States and United States: July and August 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	
	July	August	July	August	July	August
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
Alabama	443,948	425,572	1,874	1,668	0.42	0.39
Arkansas	481,570	490,562	1,876	1,930	0.39	0.39
Delaware	191,022	198,085	1,155	1,258	0.60	0.63
Georgia	520,790	506,737	2,877	2,894	0.55	0.57
Illinois	349	357	(Z)	-	0.01	(X)
Indiana	16,488	16,717	56	61	0.34	0.36
Iowa	8,500	8,498	405	338	4.55	3.82
Kentucky	125,818	124,896	637	665	0.50	0.53
Louisiana	79,622	73,731	228	249	0.29	0.34
Maryland	59,423	58,140	434	387	0.72	0.66
Mississippi	312,580	304,016	915	1,073	0.29	0.35
Missouri	107,418	108,550	357	291	0.33	0.27
Nebraska	55,467	53,804	168	140	0.30	0.26
New Jersey	1,002	1,076	8	12	0.80	1.09
New York	9,660	9,187	131	86	1.34	0.93
North Carolina	516,002	528,829	1,423	1,404	0.27	0.26
Ohio	38,286	38,672	247	234	0.64	0.60
Oklahoma	48,136	43,376	318	215	0.66	0.49
Pennsylvania	61,698	55,401	1,066	995	1.70	1.76
South Carolina	147,952	142,659	949	993	0.64	0.69
Tennessee	155,336	159,753	344	508	0.22	0.32
Texas	334,862	332,475	807	889	0.24	0.27
Virginia	129,926	127,774	352	360	0.27	0.28
United States	4,072,133	4,028,770	17,997	17,840	0.44	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: July and August 2024

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

State	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	July	August	July	August	July	August
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	8	6	7,525	6,581
Arkansas	-	-	5	-	76	72
Delaware	-	-	-	-	4,143	1,989
Georgia	-	-	8	1	10,985	8,667
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	1	-
Texas	-	-	-	-	40	43
Virginia	-	-	2	-	4,503	4,010
United States	-	-	213	239	68,223	42,398
State	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	July	August	July	August	July	August
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	2,778	2,289	5	6	116	79
Arkansas	191	114	6	10	-	-
Delaware	1,256	556	1	-	23	12
Georgia	20,391	14,720	4	18	207	199
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	1	-	-	-	-	-
Texas	33	27	-	1	1	2
Virginia	489	469	-	1	9	11
United States	55,101	36,326	865	953	1,444	1,087
State	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	July	August	July	August	July	August
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	404	333	158	171	1,856	1,664
Arkansas	5	9	-	-	59	43
Delaware	272	113	8	2	1,141	549
Georgia	243	215	356	264	4,392	4,492
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	1	-	-	-	-	-
Texas	-	-	1	-	16	36
Virginia	45	39	4	3	181	196
United States	2,873	2,370	1,095	930	41,820	32,065
State	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	July	August	July	August	July	August
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	674	300	5,484	4,615	170,694	150,958
Arkansas	14	15	83	104	159,349	166,651
Delaware	108	116	1,344	689	46,028	46,422
Georgia	769	554	14,134	10,186	240,217	242,085
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	138,825	179,459
North Carolina	1	1	-	-	95,581	107,107
Texas	4	3	8	21	79,298	74,078
Virginia	848	429	4,791	5,312	132,752	148,910
United States	5,832	2,679	97,374	65,100	1,738,012	1,835,509

- 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: July and August 2024

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

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	July	August	July	August	July	August
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
California	482	444	16,035	14,765	33.28	33.25
Illinois	1	5	25	134	26.38	29.57
Indiana	1,909	1,909	79,868	79,236	41.85	41.51
Iowa	1,124	1,110	51,012	49,835	45.38	44.88
Michigan	347	405	14,717	17,543	42.36	43.28
North Carolina	1,846	1,916	69,383	70,795	37.59	36.95
Ohio	518	583	21,615	23,464	41.72	40.25
Pennsylvania	667	601	18,491	17,198	27.72	28.61
South Carolina	615	591	26,105	24,992	42.46	42.30
South Dakota	388	385	18,496	17,455	47.68	45.39
Vermont	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States	16,883	16,804	540,501	542,434	32.01	32.28

- Represents zero.

Young Turkeys Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations – States and United States: July and August 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	
	July	August	July	August	July	August
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
California	12,810	11,804	58	61	0.45	0.51
Illinois	19	102	-	-	(X)	(X)
Indiana	64,016	63,462	1,082	1,148	1.66	1.78
Iowa	39,853	38,990	724	543	1.78	1.37
Michigan	11,384	13,639	153	166	1.33	1.20
North Carolina	54,503	54,974	299	355	0.55	0.64
Ohio	17,270	18,756	344	417	1.95	2.17
Pennsylvania	14,420	13,502	300	281	2.04	2.04
South Carolina	19,077	18,407	695	773	3.51	4.03
South Dakota	14,863	14,044	237	237	1.57	1.66
Vermont	-	-	-	-	(X)	(X)
United States	429,768	430,993	6,413	6,672	1.47	1.52

- 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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Greg Lemmons, Acting Head, Poultry and Specialty Commodities Section.....	(202) 720-9526
Holly Brenize – Poultry Slaughter.....	(202) 720-0585
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
Shulonda Shaw – Cold Storage, Capacity of Refrigerated Warehouses	(202) 720-3240
Autumn Stone – Layers, Eggs	(202) 690-3676
Takiyah Walker – Broiler Hatchery.....	(202) 720-6147

Access to NASS Reports

For your convenience, you may access NASS reports and products the following ways:

- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site: www.nass.usda.gov.
- 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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USDA Fall Data Users' Meeting

Virtual Meeting
October 15 & 16, 2024
Starting at 12:00 pm ET

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will hold a virtual meeting for users of U.S. domestic and international agriculture data. NASS is organizing the 2024 Fall Data Users' Meeting in cooperation with five other USDA agencies – Agricultural Marketing Service, Economic Research Service, Farm Service Agency, Foreign Agricultural Service, and World Agricultural Outlook Board – and the Census Bureau's Foreign Trade Division. Representatives will provide agency updates, answer questions, and listen to concerns from data users. Registration details will be coming soon.