



Poultry Slaughter

ISSN: 1949-1581

Released June 24, 2024, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Ready-to-Cook Weight Down 2 Percent from Last Year

May 2023 contained 23 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

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

Poultry certified wholesome during May 2024 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 4.50 billion pounds, down 2 percent from the amount certified in May 2023. The April 2024 revised certified total at 4.43 billion pounds, was up 10 percent from April 2023. The April revision represented an increase of 1.59 million pounds from last month's preliminary pounds certified.

The preliminary total live weight of all federally inspected poultry during May 2024 was 5.92 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 6.05 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 5.28 billion pounds, down 1 percent from May 2023. Mature chickens, at 69.8 million pounds, were down 7 percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 554 million pounds, down 9 percent from a year ago. Ducks totaled 14.6 million pounds, down 15 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during May 2024 averaged 6.51 pounds per bird, down slightly from May 2023. The average live weight of mature chickens was 6.98 pounds per bird, up slightly from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during May 2024 averaged 32.8 pounds per bird, up 3 percent from May 2023.

Ante-mortem condemnations during May 2024 totaled 12.1 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.21 percent of the live weight inspected, as compared with 0.20 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 27.3 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	May 2023	April 2024	May 2024	May 2024 as % of		January to May		2024 as percent of 2023
				May 2023	April 2024	2023	2024	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Slaughtered								
Chickens								
Young	820,608	793,190	811,348	99	102	3,895,914	3,927,663	101
Mature	10,781	9,809	10,006	93	102	49,155	47,656	97
Light	3,155	2,842	2,935	93	103	14,516	13,688	94
Heavy	7,626	6,967	7,071	93	101	34,639	33,968	98
Total	831,389	802,999	821,354	99	102	3,945,069	3,975,319	101
Turkeys								
Young	18,944	16,867	16,716	88	99	86,706	81,526	94
Old	189	126	163	86	129	839	727	87
Total	19,133	16,993	16,879	88	99	87,545	82,253	94
Ducks	2,384	2,265	2,045	86	90	11,380	10,984	97
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Total live weight								
Chickens								
Young	5,350,196	5,174,381	5,282,694	99	102	25,343,127	25,586,792	101
Mature	75,070	67,685	69,805	93	103	341,478	331,890	97
Light	11,165	9,745	10,252	92	105	50,603	47,356	94
Heavy	63,905	57,940	59,553	93	103	290,875	284,534	98
Total	5,425,266	5,242,066	5,352,499	99	102	25,684,605	25,918,682	101
Turkeys								
Young	605,788	561,485	549,117	91	98	2,808,004	2,693,862	96
Old	5,528	3,929	4,830	87	123	25,168	22,267	88
Total	611,316	565,414	553,947	91	98	2,833,172	2,716,129	96
Ducks	17,174	16,245	14,589	85	90	81,520	78,669	97
Other ¹	180	169	181	101	107	845	838	99
Total	6,053,936	5,823,894	5,921,216	98	102	28,600,142	28,714,318	100
	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)
Average live weight								
Chickens								
Young	6.52	6.52	6.51	100	100	6.51	6.51	100
Mature	6.96	6.90	6.98	100	101	6.95	6.96	100
Light	3.54	3.43	3.49	99	102	3.49	3.46	99
Heavy	8.38	8.32	8.42	100	101	8.40	8.38	100
Total	6.53	6.53	6.52	100	100	6.51	6.52	100
Turkeys								
Young	31.98	33.29	32.85	103	99	32.39	33.04	102
Old	29.25	31.18	29.63	101	95	30.00	30.63	102
Total	31.95	33.27	32.82	103	99	32.36	33.02	102
Ducks	7.20	7.17	7.13	99	99	7.16	7.16	100

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

Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified by Type – United States

[Ready-to-cook weights]

Commodity	May 2023	April 2024	May 2024	May 2024 as % of		January to May		2024 as percent of 2023
				May 2023	April 2024	2023	2024	
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Chilled								
Chickens								
Young	3,769,970	3,661,040	3,745,723	99	102	17,866,369	18,067,433	101
Mature	52,722	47,177	48,843	93	104	238,932	231,287	97
Light	5,915	5,204	5,501	93	106	26,634	25,130	94
Heavy	46,807	41,973	43,342	93	103	212,298	206,157	97
Total	3,822,692	3,708,217	3,794,566	99	102	18,105,301	18,298,720	101
Turkeys								
Young	304,870	286,108	275,103	90	96	1,411,794	1,359,677	96
Old	3,324	2,881	3,421	103	119	15,614	16,130	103
Total	308,194	288,989	278,524	90	96	1,427,408	1,375,807	96
Ducks	3,850	3,743	3,246	84	87	19,179	19,463	101
Other ¹	108	102	105	97	103	527	511	97
Total	4,134,844	4,001,051	4,076,441	99	102	19,552,415	19,694,501	101
Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	273,407	256,614	253,775	93	99	1,272,201	1,279,739	101
Mature	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	-	(X)
Light	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	-	(X)
Heavy	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	-	(X)
Total	273,407	256,614	253,775	93	99	1,272,201	1,279,739	101
Turkeys								
Young	178,756	161,591	162,369	91	100	834,079	783,755	94
Old	946	75	246	26	328	3,774	805	21
Total	179,702	161,666	162,615	90	101	837,853	784,560	94
Ducks	8,586	8,159	7,319	85	90	39,864	38,092	96
Other ¹	20	16	19	95	119	69	75	109
Total	461,715	426,455	423,728	92	99	2,149,987	2,102,466	98
Chilled and frozen								
Chickens								
Young	4,043,377	3,917,654	3,999,498	99	102	19,138,570	19,347,172	101
Mature	52,722	47,177	48,843	93	104	238,932	231,287	97
Light	5,915	5,204	5,501	93	106	26,634	25,130	94
Heavy	46,807	41,973	43,342	93	103	212,298	206,157	97
Total	4,096,099	3,964,831	4,048,341	99	102	19,377,502	19,578,459	101
Turkeys								
Young	483,626	447,699	437,472	90	98	2,245,873	2,143,432	95
Old	4,270	2,956	3,667	86	124	19,388	16,935	87
Total	487,896	450,655	441,139	90	98	2,265,261	2,160,367	95
Ducks	12,436	11,902	10,565	85	89	59,043	57,555	97
Other ¹	128	118	124	97	105	596	586	98
Total	4,596,559	4,427,506	4,500,169	98	102	21,702,402	21,796,967	100

- Represents zero.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Includes geese, guineas, and squab.

Ante-Mortem Condemnations by Type – United States

[Federally inspected only]

Commodity	May 2023	April 2024	May 2024	May 2024 as % of		January to May		2024 as percent of 2023
				May 2023	April 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	9,841	9,306	9,453	96	102	49,397	49,161	100
Mature	813	726	812	100	112	4,157	3,987	96
Light	63	41	54	86	132	466	241	52
Heavy	750	685	758	101	111	3,691	3,746	101
Total	10,654	10,032	10,265	96	102	53,554	53,148	99
Turkeys								
Young	1,639	1,692	1,769	108	105	8,023	8,696	108
Old	36	39	28	78	72	164	207	126
Total	1,675	1,731	1,797	107	104	8,187	8,903	109
Ducks	80	101	85	106	84	384	461	120
Total ¹	12,409	11,864	12,147	98	102	62,125	62,512	101
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of live weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.18	0.18	0.18	100	100	0.19	0.19	100
Mature	1.08	1.07	1.16	107	108	1.22	1.20	98
Light	0.56	0.42	0.53	95	126	0.92	0.51	55
Heavy	1.17	1.18	1.27	109	108	1.27	1.32	104
Total	0.20	0.19	0.19	95	100	0.21	0.21	100
Turkeys								
Young	0.27	0.30	0.32	119	107	0.29	0.32	110
Old	0.65	0.99	0.58	89	59	0.65	0.93	143
Total	0.27	0.31	0.32	119	103	0.29	0.33	114
Ducks	0.47	0.62	0.58	123	94	0.47	0.59	126
Total ¹	0.20	0.20	0.21	105	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	May 2023	April 2024	May 2024	May 2024 as % of		January to May		2024 as percent of 2023
				May 2023	April 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	19,278	17,950	18,507	96	103	96,436	92,273	96
Mature	2,079	1,937	1,918	92	99	9,214	8,795	95
Light	488	406	419	86	103	2,149	2,043	95
Heavy	1,591	1,531	1,499	94	98	7,065	6,752	96
Total	21,357	19,887	20,425	96	103	105,650	101,068	96
Turkeys								
Young	5,671	6,553	6,496	115	99	26,096	32,005	123
Old	193	147	192	99	131	954	761	80
Total	5,864	6,700	6,688	114	100	27,050	32,766	121
Ducks	222	185	208	94	112	1,101	995	90
Other ¹	3	3	3	100	100	12	15	125
Total	27,446	26,775	27,324	100	102	133,813	134,844	101
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.47	0.46	0.46	98	100	0.50	0.47	94
Mature	3.79	3.94	3.78	100	96	3.71	3.66	99
Light	7.62	7.24	7.08	93	98	7.47	7.52	101
Heavy	3.29	3.52	3.34	102	95	3.22	3.17	98
Total	0.52	0.50	0.50	96	100	0.54	0.51	94
Turkeys								
Young	1.16	1.44	1.46	126	101	1.15	1.47	128
Old	4.32	4.74	4.98	115	105	4.69	4.30	92
Total	1.19	1.46	1.49	125	102	1.18	1.49	126
Ducks	1.75	1.53	1.93	110	126	1.83	1.70	93
Other ¹	2.29	2.48	2.36	103	95	1.97	2.50	127
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: April and May 2024

Commodity	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	April	May	April	May	April	May
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	-	-	356	263	103,253	91,772
Mature	-	-	12	7	56,272	58,670
Light	-	-	11	5	46,774	48,507
Heavy	-	-	1	2	9,498	10,163
Total	-	-	368	270	159,525	150,442
Turkeys						
Young	-	-	2	1	4,062	4,360
Old	-	-	1	-	1,134	1,188
Total	-	-	3	1	5,196	5,548
Commodity	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	April	May	April	May	April	May
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	200,947	141,757	549	556	1,939	1,660
Mature	13,836	12,029	108	112	20,219	18,880
Light	5,039	5,028	7	7	15,690	15,252
Heavy	8,797	7,001	101	105	4,529	3,628
Total	214,783	153,786	657	668	22,158	20,540
Turkeys						
Young	1,396	1,318	33	12	52	63
Old	427	557	11	18	204	164
Total	1,823	1,875	44	30	256	227
Commodity	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	April	May	April	May	April	May
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	3,758	3,474	1,272	1,181	39,479	45,585
Mature	2,145	2,821	148	111	22,620	19,210
Light	1,464	2,433	120	102	21,992	18,679
Heavy	681	388	28	9	628	531
Total	5,903	6,295	1,420	1,292	62,099	64,795
Turkeys						
Young	56	75	295	530	389	518
Old	14	13	4	3	98	131
Total	70	88	299	533	487	649
Commodity	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	April	May	April	May	April	May
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	4,098	3,716	97,985	96,845	1,842,392	1,827,917
Mature	111	84	33,654	35,136	27,456	30,403
Light	57	53	24,596	26,424	-	-
Heavy	54	31	9,058	8,712	27,456	30,403
Total	4,209	3,800	131,639	131,981	1,869,848	1,858,320
Turkeys						
Young	164	58	1,952	2,949	85,241	82,974
Old	10	27	76	128	35	208
Total	174	85	2,028	3,077	85,276	83,182

- 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: April and May 2024

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

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	April	May	April	May	April	May
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
Alabama	100,497	100,763	546,258	544,530	5.44	5.40
Arkansas	87,054	87,805	634,757	632,813	7.29	7.21
Delaware	31,359	32,921	242,478	257,047	7.73	7.81
Georgia	107,490	110,347	642,113	659,267	5.97	5.97
Illinois	66	62	418	391	6.37	6.33
Indiana	3,731	4,012	20,233	21,358	5.42	5.32
Iowa	1,822	2,026	10,489	11,774	5.76	5.81
Kentucky	25,131	25,115	169,972	168,478	6.76	6.71
Louisiana	15,267	14,984	102,876	100,403	6.74	6.70
Maryland	12,066	12,854	75,460	80,434	6.25	6.26
Mississippi	59,820	61,873	397,284	412,790	6.64	6.67
Missouri	27,334	27,468	147,577	147,070	5.40	5.35
Nebraska	10,682	10,610	71,396	70,328	6.68	6.63
New Jersey	214	223	1,102	1,238	5.14	5.54
New York	2,709	2,943	13,174	15,045	4.86	5.11
North Carolina	78,070	79,391	659,361	667,094	8.45	8.40
Ohio	10,891	11,000	50,008	49,525	4.59	4.50
Oklahoma	8,567	8,253	68,212	63,143	7.96	7.65
Pennsylvania	14,090	13,825	81,290	79,933	5.77	5.78
South Carolina	25,380	26,570	183,610	192,796	7.23	7.26
Tennessee	32,703	34,966	197,645	213,909	6.04	6.12
Texas	60,494	62,971	411,707	426,719	6.81	6.78
Virginia	25,450	26,963	161,809	173,520	6.36	6.44
United States	793,190	811,348	5,174,381	5,282,694	6.52	6.51

Young Chickens Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations – States and United States: April and May 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	
	April	May	April	May	April	May
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
Alabama	421,266	418,461	1,660	1,685	0.39	0.40
Arkansas	476,178	475,902	1,900	1,940	0.40	0.41
Delaware	188,074	199,763	1,143	1,234	0.60	0.61
Georgia	486,639	500,852	2,680	2,790	0.55	0.55
Illinois	312	291	-	-	(X)	(X)
Indiana	14,475	15,293	70	74	0.48	0.48
Iowa	7,631	8,425	382	557	4.77	6.21
Kentucky	128,449	126,758	492	558	0.38	0.44
Louisiana	76,541	75,668	333	266	0.43	0.35
Maryland	56,056	59,867	622	605	1.10	1.00
Mississippi	299,216	310,118	985	900	0.33	0.29
Missouri	107,643	107,243	317	296	0.29	0.28
Nebraska	54,232	53,428	184	215	0.34	0.40
New Jersey	807	906	9	11	1.15	1.22
New York	8,180	9,366	138	143	1.66	1.50
North Carolina	507,866	513,329	1,273	1,194	0.25	0.23
Ohio	37,347	36,983	239	246	0.63	0.66
Oklahoma	51,169	47,474	195	238	0.38	0.50
Pennsylvania	57,853	55,863	724	827	1.24	1.46
South Carolina	138,460	145,434	862	1,033	0.62	0.71
Tennessee	146,627	158,278	291	362	0.20	0.23
Texas	316,482	328,500	874	990	0.28	0.30
Virginia	122,995	132,605	359	383	0.29	0.29
United States	3,917,654	3,999,498	17,950	18,507	0.46	0.46

- 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: April and May 2024

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

State	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	April	May	April	May	April	May
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	3	8	10,178	8,140
Arkansas	-	-	-	-	169	121
Delaware	-	-	-	3	9,184	6,645
Georgia	-	-	-	-	12,495	13,375
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	2	2
Texas	-	-	-	-	17,883	14,294
Virginia	-	-	-	1	1,921	2,716
United States	-	-	356	263	103,253	91,772

State	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	April	May	April	May	April	May
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	4,539	3,376	-	3	153	111
Arkansas	116	172	7	28	-	-
Delaware	9,329	6,300	7	-	30	63
Georgia	43,313	28,269	5	11	314	223
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	5	4	-	-	-	-
Texas	19,591	19,858	1	82	275	228
Virginia	432	283	-	1	13	21
United States	200,947	141,757	549	556	1,939	1,660

State	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	April	May	April	May	April	May
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	364	312	147	152	1,967	1,872
Arkansas	7	14	-	-	35	142
Delaware	427	240	14	16	1,432	2,080
Georgia	659	751	382	409	4,211	3,813
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	-	-
Texas	92	124	5	5	367	491
Virginia	12	50	1	5	187	259
United States	3,758	3,474	1,272	1,181	39,479	45,585

State	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	April	May	April	May	April	May
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	427	607	7,727	5,881	161,203	154,158
Arkansas	1	1	124	113	178,975	175,047
Delaware	659	292	2,596	1,726	19,750	23,784
Georgia	633	425	18,331	14,539	227,404	263,183
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	154,698	140,738
North Carolina	-	-	1	-	107,525	94,756
Texas	508	730	1,783	1,745	63,149	71,421
Virginia	145	15	6,520	6,886	147,572	138,479
United States	4,098	3,716	97,985	96,845	1,842,392	1,827,917

- 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: April and May 2024

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

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	April	May	April	May	April	May
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
California	287	292	11,521	11,762	40.16	40.27
Illinois	(Z)	-	(Z)	-	33.00	-
Indiana	1,916	1,919	84,093	83,827	43.89	43.69
Iowa	1,242	1,264	59,956	59,451	48.25	47.03
Michigan	508	174	22,386	7,561	44.07	43.34
North Carolina	1,707	1,875	64,177	68,514	37.60	36.54
Ohio	568	617	26,861	28,499	47.29	46.16
Pennsylvania	525	541	16,630	17,091	31.66	31.62
South Carolina	600	533	25,496	22,302	42.47	41.83
South Dakota	264	294	11,767	13,306	44.56	45.19
Vermont	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States	16,867	16,716	561,485	549,117	33.29	32.85

- Represents zero.

(Z) Less than half of the unit shown.

Young Turkeys Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations – States and United States: April and May 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	
	April	May	April	May	April	May
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
California	9,217	9,410	34	46	0.37	0.48
Illinois	(Z)	-	-	-	(X)	(X)
Indiana	67,551	67,206	1,075	1,013	1.57	1.49
Iowa	47,141	46,619	736	766	1.54	1.62
Michigan	17,349	5,859	252	77	1.43	1.29
North Carolina	50,630	54,178	284	272	0.56	0.50
Ohio	21,464	22,747	410	456	1.87	1.97
Pennsylvania	13,069	13,262	294	303	2.20	2.24
South Carolina	18,744	16,231	708	721	3.64	4.25
South Dakota	9,387	10,733	131	140	1.38	1.28
Vermont	-	-	-	-	(X)	(X)
United States	447,699	437,472	6,553	6,496	1.44	1.46

- 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.

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

Travis Averill, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 692-0069
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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

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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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