



Poultry Slaughter

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Special Note:

Beginning on May 30, 2025, NASS will no longer generate publications tailored specifically to individual states or regions. There is no impact on state-level data as it will continue to be available in the national releases and through NASS's public online database, [Quick Stats](#). All NASS reports are available to the public at nass.usda.gov.

Ready-to-Cook Weight Down 1 Percent from Last Year

April 2024 contained 22 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

April 2025 contained 22 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

Poultry certified wholesome during April 2025 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 4.38 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the amount certified in April 2024. The March 2025 revised certified total at 4.22 billion pounds, was up 3 percent from March 2024. The March revision represented an increase of 1.79 million pounds from last month's preliminary pounds certified.

The preliminary total live weight of all federally inspected poultry during April 2025 was 5.76 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 5.82 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 5.22 billion pounds, up 1 percent from April 2024. Mature chickens, at 58.7 million pounds, were down 13 percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 465 million pounds, down 18 percent from a year ago. Ducks totaled 14.1 million pounds, down 13 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during April 2025 averaged 6.55 pounds per bird, up slightly from April 2024. The average live weight of mature chickens was 6.71 pounds per bird, down 3 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during April 2025 averaged 30.4 pounds per bird, down 9 percent from April 2024.

Ante-mortem condemnations during April 2025 totaled 12.4 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 26.3 million pounds, were 0.60 percent of quantities inspected, as compared with 0.60 percent a year earlier.

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

[Federally inspected only]

Commodity	April 2024	March 2025	April 2025	April 2025 as % of		January to April		2025 as percent of 2024
				April 2024	March 2025	2024	2025	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Slaughtered								
Chickens								
Young	793,190	767,093	796,220	100	104	3,116,210	3,117,123	100
Mature	9,809	8,163	8,742	89	107	37,650	34,317	91
Light	2,842	2,718	2,974	105	109	10,753	11,018	102
Heavy	6,967	5,445	5,768	83	106	26,897	23,299	87
Total	802,999	775,256	804,962	100	104	3,153,860	3,151,440	100
Turkeys								
Young	16,867	14,499	15,159	90	105	64,810	58,185	90
Old	126	198	150	119	76	564	625	111
Total	16,993	14,697	15,309	90	104	65,374	58,810	90
Ducks	2,265	1,970	1,973	87	100	8,939	8,001	90
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Total live weight								
Chickens								
Young	5,174,381	5,022,462	5,218,240	101	104	20,304,828	20,519,220	101
Mature	67,685	54,952	58,664	87	107	262,085	233,341	89
Light	9,745	9,228	10,309	106	112	37,104	37,983	102
Heavy	57,940	45,724	48,355	83	106	224,981	195,358	87
Total	5,242,066	5,077,414	5,276,904	101	104	20,566,913	20,752,561	101
Turkeys								
Young	561,485	473,272	460,446	82	97	2,144,745	1,889,052	88
Old	3,929	5,584	4,352	111	78	17,437	18,714	107
Total	565,414	478,856	464,798	82	97	2,162,182	1,907,766	88
Ducks	16,245	13,870	14,097	87	102	64,080	56,436	88
Other ¹	169	165	187	111	113	657	677	103
Total	5,823,894	5,570,305	5,755,986	99	103	22,793,832	22,717,440	100
	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)
Average live weight								
Chickens								
Young	6.52	6.55	6.55	100	100	6.52	6.58	101
Mature	6.90	6.73	6.71	97	100	6.96	6.80	98
Light	3.43	3.40	3.47	101	102	3.45	3.45	100
Heavy	8.32	8.40	8.38	101	100	8.36	8.38	100
Total	6.53	6.55	6.56	100	100	6.52	6.59	101
Turkeys								
Young	33.29	32.64	30.37	91	93	33.09	32.47	98
Old	31.18	28.20	29.01	93	103	30.92	29.94	97
Total	33.27	32.58	30.36	91	93	33.07	32.44	98
Ducks	7.17	7.04	7.14	100	101	7.17	7.05	98

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

Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified by Type – United States

[Ready-to-cook weights]

Commodity	April 2024	March 2025	April 2025	April 2025 as % of		January to April		2025 as percent of 2024
				April 2024	March 2025	2024	2025	
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Chilled								
Chickens								
Young	3,661,040	3,549,477	3,696,673	101	104	14,322,469	14,506,451	101
Mature	47,177	37,316	40,178	85	108	182,444	158,962	87
Light	5,204	4,934	5,439	105	110	19,629	20,075	102
Heavy	41,973	32,382	34,739	83	107	162,815	138,887	85
Total	3,708,217	3,586,793	3,736,851	101	104	14,504,913	14,665,413	101
Turkeys								
Young	286,108	233,779	218,489	76	93	1,084,574	941,282	87
Old	2,881	3,410	3,261	113	96	12,709	12,344	97
Total	288,989	237,189	221,750	77	93	1,097,283	953,626	87
Ducks	3,743	3,034	3,000	80	99	16,217	12,341	76
Other ¹	102	102	107	105	105	406	405	100
Total	4,001,051	3,827,118	3,961,708	99	104	15,618,819	15,631,785	100
Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	256,614	247,578	257,593	100	104	1,025,792	1,012,635	99
Mature	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	-	(X)
Light	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	-	(X)
Heavy	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	-	(X)
Total	256,614	247,578	257,593	100	104	1,025,792	1,012,635	99
Turkeys								
Young	161,591	142,005	149,081	92	105	621,386	560,840	90
Old	75	842	55	73	7	559	1,934	346
Total	161,666	142,847	149,136	92	104	621,945	562,774	90
Ducks	8,159	7,156	7,350	90	103	30,773	28,994	94
Other ¹	16	13	16	100	123	56	55	98
Total	426,455	397,594	414,095	97	104	1,678,566	1,604,458	96
Chilled and frozen								
Chickens								
Young	3,917,654	3,797,055	3,954,266	101	104	15,348,261	15,519,086	101
Mature	47,177	37,316	40,178	85	108	182,444	158,962	87
Light	5,204	4,934	5,439	105	110	19,629	20,075	102
Heavy	41,973	32,382	34,739	83	107	162,815	138,887	85
Total	3,964,831	3,834,371	3,994,444	101	104	15,530,705	15,678,048	101
Turkeys								
Young	447,699	375,784	367,570	82	98	1,705,960	1,502,122	88
Old	2,956	4,252	3,316	112	78	13,268	14,278	108
Total	450,655	380,036	370,886	82	98	1,719,228	1,516,400	88
Ducks	11,902	10,190	10,350	87	102	46,990	41,335	88
Other ¹	118	115	123	104	107	462	460	100
Total	4,427,506	4,224,712	4,375,803	99	104	17,297,385	17,236,243	100

- Represents zero.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Includes geese, guineas, and squab.

Ante-Mortem Condemnations by Type – United States

[Federally inspected only]

Commodity	April 2024	March 2025	April 2025	April 2025 as % of		January to April		2025 as percent of 2024
				April 2024	March 2025	2024	2025	
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Live weight								
Chickens								
Young	9,306	9,916	9,889	106	100	39,708	41,619	105
Mature	726	666	855	118	128	3,175	3,115	98
Light	41	48	70	171	146	187	246	132
Heavy	685	618	785	115	127	2,988	2,869	96
Total	10,032	10,582	10,744	107	102	42,883	44,734	104
Turkeys								
Young	1,692	1,546	1,527	90	99	6,927	6,779	98
Old	39	33	32	82	97	179	130	73
Total	1,731	1,579	1,559	90	99	7,106	6,909	97
Ducks	101	80	70	69	88	376	331	88
Total ¹	11,864	12,241	12,374	104	101	50,365	51,975	103
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of live weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.18	0.20	0.19	106	95	0.20	0.20	100
Mature	1.07	1.21	1.46	136	121	1.21	1.33	110
Light	0.42	0.52	0.68	162	131	0.50	0.65	130
Heavy	1.18	1.35	1.62	137	120	1.33	1.47	111
Total	0.19	0.21	0.20	105	95	0.21	0.22	105
Turkeys								
Young	0.30	0.33	0.33	110	100	0.32	0.36	113
Old	0.99	0.59	0.74	75	125	1.03	0.69	67
Total	0.31	0.33	0.34	110	103	0.33	0.36	109
Ducks	0.62	0.58	0.50	81	86	0.59	0.59	100
Total ¹	0.20	0.22	0.21	105	95	0.22	0.23	105

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	April 2024	March 2025	April 2025	April 2025 as % of		January to April		2025 as percent of 2024
				April 2024	March 2025	2024	2025	
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Carcass and parts								
Chickens								
Young	17,950	18,314	18,919	105	103	73,766	74,507	101
Mature	1,937	1,213	1,329	69	110	6,877	5,327	77
Light	406	350	443	109	127	1,624	1,536	95
Heavy	1,531	863	886	58	103	5,253	3,791	72
Total	19,887	19,527	20,248	102	104	80,643	79,834	99
Turkeys								
Young	6,553	5,496	5,726	87	104	25,509	23,146	91
Old	147	191	158	107	83	569	642	113
Total	6,700	5,687	5,884	88	103	26,078	23,788	91
Ducks	185	152	162	88	107	787	680	86
Other ¹	3	3	7	233	233	12	17	142
Total	26,775	25,369	26,301	98	104	107,520	104,319	97
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.46	0.48	0.48	104	100	0.48	0.48	100
Mature	3.94	3.15	3.20	81	102	3.63	3.24	89
Light	7.24	6.62	7.53	104	114	7.64	7.11	93
Heavy	3.52	2.60	2.49	71	96	3.13	2.66	85
Total	0.50	0.51	0.50	100	98	0.52	0.51	98
Turkeys								
Young	1.44	1.44	1.53	106	106	1.47	1.52	103
Old	4.74	4.30	4.55	96	106	4.11	4.30	105
Total	1.46	1.47	1.56	107	106	1.49	1.54	103
Ducks	1.53	1.47	1.54	101	105	1.65	1.62	98
Other ¹	2.48	2.54	5.38	217	212	2.53	3.56	141
Total	0.60	0.60	0.60	100	100	0.62	0.60	97

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: March and April 2025

Commodity	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	March	April	March	April	March	April
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	-	-	89	278	51,526	53,393
Mature	-	-	1	22	52,068	76,844
Light	-	-	1	2	44,997	69,142
Heavy	-	-	-	20	7,071	7,702
Total	-	-	90	300	103,594	130,237
Turkeys						
Young	-	-	11	5	5,630	4,580
Old	-	-	-	-	1,179	890
Total	-	-	11	5	6,809	5,470
Commodity	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	March	April	March	April	March	April
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	151,748	108,518	500	470	1,322	1,112
Mature	14,200	13,954	102	172	14,483	33,182
Light	6,250	5,502	25	11	9,429	28,044
Heavy	7,950	8,452	77	161	5,054	5,138
Total	165,948	122,472	602	642	15,805	34,294
Turkeys						
Young	1,183	1,621	5	34	43	65
Old	384	616	19	28	252	383
Total	1,567	2,237	24	62	295	448
Commodity	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	March	April	March	April	March	April
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	2,162	2,087	878	589	27,993	25,179
Mature	3,082	3,885	148	50	17,837	13,806
Light	2,491	3,144	125	46	17,449	13,176
Heavy	591	741	23	4	388	630
Total	5,244	5,972	1,026	639	45,830	38,985
Turkeys						
Young	67	70	170	184	512	523
Old	12	4	1	1	40	41
Total	79	74	171	185	552	564
Commodity	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	March	April	March	April	March	April
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	2,537	1,962	114,893	108,937	2,049,575	2,894,143
Mature	156	1,828	43,414	44,392	29,706	33,117
Light	143	116	33,879	34,748	-	-
Heavy	13	1,712	9,535	9,644	29,706	33,117
Total	2,693	3,790	158,307	153,329	2,079,281	2,927,260
Turkeys						
Young	64	48	3,699	3,646	69,600	93,423
Old	-	1	70	57	277	255
Total	64	49	3,769	3,703	69,877	93,678

- 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: March and April 2025

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

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	March	April	March	April	March	April
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
Alabama	96,227	101,314	529,196	554,887	5.50	5.48
Arkansas	84,094	88,019	614,917	641,214	7.31	7.28
Delaware	30,850	32,275	235,198	246,622	7.62	7.64
Georgia	105,076	106,719	637,163	651,503	6.06	6.10
Illinois	43	48	266	310	6.26	6.39
Iowa	822	792	4,343	3,953	5.28	4.99
Kentucky	24,568	25,393	163,044	167,970	6.64	6.61
Louisiana	14,734	15,779	99,858	105,729	6.78	6.70
Maryland	12,075	12,085	79,141	79,013	6.55	6.54
Mississippi	59,565	63,226	398,028	425,000	6.68	6.72
Missouri	27,091	26,819	148,020	147,580	5.46	5.50
New Jersey	226	219	1,230	1,155	5.45	5.27
New York	3,137	2,971	15,897	14,905	5.07	5.02
North Carolina	76,323	77,088	641,535	643,120	8.41	8.34
Ohio	9,675	10,511	43,181	48,040	4.46	4.57
Oklahoma	7,576	8,529	60,826	69,514	8.03	8.15
Pennsylvania	14,117	14,487	80,931	84,381	5.73	5.82
South Carolina	23,328	23,743	167,790	167,870	7.19	7.07
Tennessee	32,591	34,335	195,746	207,672	6.01	6.05
Texas	58,362	60,987	406,127	425,869	6.96	6.98
Vermont	44	46	290	297	6.54	6.52
Virginia	22,809	23,723	141,342	148,110	6.20	6.24
United States	767,093	796,220	5,022,462	5,218,240	6.55	6.55

Young Chickens Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations – States and United States: March and April 2025

[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	
	March	April	March	April	March	April
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
Alabama	406,758	426,030	1,640	1,678	0.40	0.39
Arkansas	463,531	488,542	2,318	2,712	0.50	0.55
Delaware	183,675	192,315	1,079	1,158	0.58	0.60
Georgia	483,532	494,892	2,420	2,212	0.50	0.44
Illinois	197	232	(Z)	(Z)	0.01	(X)
Iowa	3,149	2,882	80	64	2.47	2.17
Kentucky	122,915	127,035	746	868	0.60	0.68
Louisiana	73,157	77,127	674	729	0.91	0.94
Maryland	59,072	59,170	620	544	1.04	0.91
Mississippi	295,635	319,294	1,195	1,087	0.40	0.34
Missouri	107,952	107,302	318	309	0.29	0.29
New Jersey	912	865	14	8	1.52	0.91
New York	10,013	9,397	186	93	1.83	0.98
North Carolina	494,214	495,950	1,321	1,344	0.27	0.27
Ohio	32,425	36,161	218	210	0.67	0.58
Oklahoma	45,626	52,270	222	223	0.48	0.43
Pennsylvania	57,149	59,439	1,173	1,089	2.01	1.80
South Carolina	125,952	126,149	993	982	0.78	0.77
Tennessee	144,803	153,990	537	592	0.37	0.38
Texas	311,333	327,085	733	1,043	0.23	0.32
Vermont	218	223	-	-	(X)	(X)
Virginia	106,542	111,183	232	284	0.22	0.26
United States	3,797,055	3,954,266	18,314	18,919	0.48	0.48

- 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: March and April 2025

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

State	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	March	April	March	April	March	April
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arkansas	-	-	-	-	29	534
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	-	-	1	-	13,246	12,538
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	1	-
Texas	-	-	-	-	93	72
Virginia	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States	-	-	89	278	51,526	53,393

State	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	March	April	March	April	March	April
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arkansas	16	208	-	8	-	-
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	38,939	27,678	7	23	331	249
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	1	-	-	-	-
Texas	30	20	-	-	5	3
Virginia	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States	151,748	108,518	500	470	1,322	1,112

State	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	March	April	March	April	March	April
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arkansas	-	9	1	-	19	59
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	146	162	116	53	2,322	2,512
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	1	-	-	-
Texas	4	9	1	2	22	39
Virginia	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States	2,162	2,087	878	589	27,993	25,179

State	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	March	April	March	April	March	April
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	219,813	233,289
Arkansas	2	4	39	270	227,061	299,560
Delaware	-	-	-	-	60,682	40,447
Georgia	455	385	16,409	16,628	241,103	216,321
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	199,808	173,512
North Carolina	-	-	1	3	112,489	118,418
Texas	3	1	1,373	1,994	58,107	56,088
Virginia	-	-	-	-	175,744	1,000,825
United States	2,537	1,962	114,893	108,937	2,049,575	2,894,143

- 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: March and April 2025

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

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	March	April	March	April	March	April
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
California	408	397	6,827	7,178	16.72	18.09
Illinois	1	-	18	-	32.73	-
Indiana	1,671	1,716	69,394	69,566	41.53	40.54
Iowa	941	1,038	42,548	23,403	45.20	22.54
Michigan	341	355	14,600	15,536	42.81	43.77
Minnesota	2,669	3,124	83,571	90,232	31.31	28.88
North Carolina	1,752	1,875	74,596	71,491	42.58	38.13
Ohio	433	345	15,409	13,266	35.61	38.44
Pennsylvania	532	543	16,010	16,844	30.08	31.03
South Carolina	532	527	22,086	21,287	41.55	40.36
Vermont	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wisconsin	(Z)	(Z)	(Z)	(Z)	15.00	7.50
United States	14,499	15,159	473,272	460,446	32.64	30.37

- Represents zero.

(Z) Less than half of the unit shown.

Young Turkeys Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations – States and United States: March and April 2025

[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	
	March	April	March	April	March	April
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
California	5,458	5,742	34	30	0.61	0.53
Illinois	14	-	-	-	(X)	(X)
Indiana	55,451	55,940	800	782	1.42	1.38
Iowa	33,445	18,290	498	675	1.47	3.56
Michigan	11,315	12,040	166	156	1.45	1.28
Minnesota	67,010	72,536	876	1,006	1.29	1.37
North Carolina	58,040	56,606	322	330	0.55	0.58
Ohio	12,186	10,587	260	254	2.09	2.35
Pennsylvania	12,460	13,242	367	343	2.86	2.53
South Carolina	16,564	15,956	530	470	3.10	2.86
Vermont	-	-	-	-	(X)	(X)
Wisconsin	(Z)	(Z)	-	-	(X)	(X)
United States	375,784	367,570	5,496	5,726	1.44	1.53

- 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 361 plants slaughtered poultry in the United States under Federal Inspection in 2024. 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
Fatema Haque – Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised, Poultry Slaughter	(202) 720-3244
Derron Martin – Catfish, Trout, Mink, Census of Aquaculture, Egg Products	(202) 690-3237
Suzanne Richards – Cost of Pollination, Honey, Honey Bee Colonies, Sheep and Goats	(202) 720-4448
Shulonda Shaw – Cold Storage, Capacity of Refrigerated Warehouses	(202) 720-3240
Autumn Stone – Layers, Eggs	(202) 690-3676
Takiyah Walker – Chicken Hatchery, 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.

If you have specific questions you would like an expert to respond to, please visit our “Ask A Specialist” website at www.nass.usda.gov/Contact_Us/Ask_a_Specialist.

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