



Poultry Slaughter

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Ready-to-Cook Weight Down 5 Percent from Last Year

February 2024 contained 21 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

February 2025 contained 20 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

Poultry certified wholesome during February 2025 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 4.01 billion pounds, down 5 percent from the amount certified in February 2024. The January 2025 revised certified total at 4.61 billion pounds, was up 1 percent from January 2024. The January revision represented an increase of 2.26 million pounds from last month's preliminary pounds certified.

The preliminary total live weight of all federally inspected poultry during February 2025 was 5.29 billion pounds, down 5 percent from 5.56 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 4.79 billion pounds, down 3 percent from February 2024. Mature chickens, at 49.1 million pounds, were down 23 percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 441 million pounds, down 17 percent from a year ago. Ducks totaled 12.6 million pounds, down 12 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during February 2025 averaged 6.58 pounds per bird, up 1 percent from February 2024. The average live weight of mature chickens was 6.77 pounds per bird, down 4 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during February 2025 averaged 33.2 pounds per bird, up 2 percent from February 2024.

Ante-mortem condemnations during February 2025 totaled 12.6 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.24 percent of the live weight inspected, as compared with 0.22 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 24.3 million pounds, were 0.60 percent of quantities inspected, as compared with 0.63 percent a year earlier.

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

[Federally inspected only]

Commodity	February 2024	January 2025	February 2025	February 2025 as % of		January to February		2025 as percent of 2024
				February 2024	January 2025	2024	2025	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Slaughtered								
Chickens								
Young	762,805	824,131	727,749	95	88	1,578,132	1,551,880	98
Mature	9,079	10,153	7,259	80	71	18,901	17,412	92
Light	2,447	2,924	2,402	98	82	5,330	5,326	100
Heavy	6,632	7,229	4,857	73	67	13,571	12,086	89
Total	771,884	834,284	735,008	95	88	1,597,033	1,569,292	98
Turkeys								
Young	16,181	15,374	13,153	81	86	32,548	28,527	88
Old	165	156	121	73	78	325	277	85
Total	16,346	15,530	13,274	81	85	32,873	28,804	88
Ducks	2,008	2,254	1,804	90	80	4,578	4,058	89
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Total live weight								
Chickens								
Young	4,951,368	5,479,673	4,786,907	97	87	10,314,109	10,266,580	100
Mature	63,901	70,606	49,119	77	70	132,204	119,725	91
Light	8,384	10,138	8,308	99	82	18,435	18,446	100
Heavy	55,517	60,468	40,811	74	67	113,769	101,279	89
Total	5,015,269	5,550,279	4,836,026	96	87	10,446,313	10,386,305	99
Turkeys								
Young	526,344	517,993	437,341	83	84	1,072,688	955,334	89
Old	5,074	4,930	3,848	76	78	9,868	8,778	89
Total	531,418	522,923	441,189	83	84	1,082,556	964,112	89
Ducks	14,367	15,848	12,621	88	80	32,823	28,469	87
Other ¹	164	175	150	91	86	340	325	96
Total	5,561,218	6,089,225	5,289,986	95	87	11,562,032	11,379,211	98
	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)
Average live weight								
Chickens								
Young	6.49	6.65	6.58	101	99	6.54	6.62	101
Mature	7.04	6.95	6.77	96	97	6.99	6.88	98
Light	3.43	3.47	3.46	101	100	3.46	3.46	100
Heavy	8.37	8.36	8.40	100	100	8.38	8.38	100
Total	6.50	6.65	6.58	101	99	6.54	6.62	101
Turkeys								
Young	32.53	33.69	33.25	102	99	32.96	33.49	102
Old	30.75	31.60	31.80	103	101	30.36	31.69	104
Total	32.51	33.67	33.24	102	99	32.93	33.47	102
Ducks	7.15	7.03	7.00	98	100	7.17	7.02	98

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

Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified by Type – United States

[Ready-to-cook weights]

Commodity	February 2024	January 2025	February 2025	February 2025 as % of		January to February		2025 as percent of 2024
				February 2024	January 2025	2024	2025	
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Chilled								
Chickens								
Young	3,489,570	3,874,911	3,376,588	97	87	7,261,027	7,251,499	100
Mature	45,045	48,026	33,442	74	70	92,413	81,468	88
Light	4,385	5,361	4,341	99	81	9,776	9,702	99
Heavy	40,660	42,665	29,101	72	68	82,637	71,766	87
Total	3,534,615	3,922,937	3,410,030	96	87	7,353,440	7,332,967	100
Turkeys								
Young	268,535	270,312	218,702	81	81	543,798	489,014	90
Old	3,702	2,767	2,906	78	105	7,141	5,673	79
Total	272,237	273,079	221,608	81	81	550,939	494,687	90
Ducks	3,505	3,534	2,773	79	78	8,711	6,307	72
Other ¹	104	105	91	88	87	211	196	93
Total	3,810,461	4,199,655	3,634,502	95	87	7,913,301	7,834,157	99
Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	252,357	265,094	242,370	96	91	532,776	507,464	95
Mature	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	-	(X)
Light	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	-	(X)
Heavy	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	-	(X)
Total	252,357	265,094	242,370	96	91	532,776	507,464	95
Turkeys								
Young	151,487	141,142	128,612	85	91	307,719	269,754	88
Old	188	998	39	21	4	416	1,037	249
Total	151,675	142,140	128,651	85	91	308,135	270,791	88
Ducks	7,008	8,047	6,441	92	80	15,342	14,488	94
Other ¹	13	14	12	92	86	29	26	90
Total	411,053	415,295	377,474	92	91	856,282	792,769	93
Chilled and frozen								
Chickens								
Young	3,741,927	4,140,005	3,618,958	97	87	7,793,803	7,758,963	100
Mature	45,045	48,026	33,442	74	70	92,413	81,468	88
Light	4,385	5,361	4,341	99	81	9,776	9,702	99
Heavy	40,660	42,665	29,101	72	68	82,637	71,766	87
Total	3,786,972	4,188,031	3,652,400	96	87	7,886,216	7,840,431	99
Turkeys								
Young	420,022	411,454	347,314	83	84	851,517	758,768	89
Old	3,890	3,765	2,945	76	78	7,557	6,710	89
Total	423,912	415,219	350,259	83	84	859,074	765,478	89
Ducks	10,513	11,581	9,214	88	80	24,053	20,795	86
Other ¹	117	119	103	88	87	240	222	93
Total	4,221,514	4,614,950	4,011,976	95	87	8,769,583	8,626,926	98

- Represents zero.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Includes geese, guineas, and squab.

Ante-Mortem Condemnations by Type – United States

[Federally inspected only]

Commodity	February 2024	January 2025	February 2025	February 2025 as % of		January to February		2025 as percent of 2024
				February 2024	January 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	9,623	11,653	10,141	105	87	21,492	21,794	101
Mature	812	938	656	81	70	1,722	1,594	93
Light	40	68	60	150	88	105	128	122
Heavy	772	870	596	77	69	1,617	1,466	91
Total	10,435	12,591	10,797	103	86	23,214	23,388	101
Turkeys								
Young	1,690	1,997	1,709	101	86	3,611	3,706	103
Old	50	31	34	68	110	100	65	65
Total	1,740	2,028	1,743	100	86	3,711	3,771	102
Ducks	83	112	69	83	62	191	181	95
Total ¹	12,258	14,731	12,609	103	86	27,116	27,340	101
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of live weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.19	0.21	0.21	111	100	0.21	0.21	100
Mature	1.27	1.33	1.34	106	101	1.30	1.33	102
Light	0.48	0.67	0.72	150	107	0.57	0.69	121
Heavy	1.39	1.44	1.46	105	101	1.42	1.45	102
Total	0.21	0.23	0.22	105	96	0.22	0.23	105
Turkeys								
Young	0.32	0.39	0.39	122	100	0.34	0.39	115
Old	0.99	0.63	0.88	89	140	1.01	0.74	73
Total	0.33	0.39	0.40	121	103	0.34	0.39	115
Ducks	0.58	0.71	0.55	95	77	0.58	0.64	110
Total ¹	0.22	0.24	0.24	109	100	0.23	0.24	104

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	February 2024	January 2025	February 2025	February 2025 as % of		January to February		2025 as percent of 2024
				February 2024	January 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	18,097	19,832	17,397	96	88	37,791	37,229	99
Mature	1,626	1,645	1,140	70	69	3,362	2,785	83
Light	381	355	388	102	109	799	743	93
Heavy	1,245	1,290	752	60	58	2,563	2,042	80
Total	19,723	21,477	18,537	94	86	41,153	40,014	97
Turkeys								
Young	6,566	6,413	5,511	84	86	13,135	11,924	91
Old	139	177	116	83	66	296	293	99
Total	6,705	6,590	5,627	84	85	13,431	12,217	91
Ducks	206	208	158	77	76	431	366	85
Other ¹	3	4	3	100	75	6	7	117
Total	26,637	28,279	24,325	91	86	55,021	52,604	96
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.48	0.48	0.48	100	100	0.48	0.48	100
Mature	3.48	3.31	3.30	95	100	3.51	3.31	94
Light	7.99	6.21	8.20	103	132	7.56	7.11	94
Heavy	2.97	2.93	2.52	85	86	3.01	2.77	92
Total	0.52	0.51	0.50	96	98	0.52	0.51	98
Turkeys								
Young	1.54	1.53	1.56	101	102	1.52	1.55	102
Old	3.45	4.49	3.79	110	84	3.77	4.18	111
Total	1.56	1.56	1.58	101	101	1.54	1.57	102
Ducks	1.92	1.76	1.69	88	96	1.76	1.73	98
Other ¹	2.50	3.25	2.83	113	87	2.44	3.06	125
Total	0.63	0.61	0.60	95	98	0.62	0.61	98

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: January and February 2025

Commodity	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	January	February	January	February	January	February
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	-	-	264	226	58,702	53,443
Mature	-	-	36	16	60,134	47,646
Light	-	-	34	16	54,145	43,017
Heavy	-	-	2	-	5,989	4,629
Total	-	-	300	242	118,836	101,089
Turkeys						
Young	-	-	8	2	4,955	6,176
Old	-	-	-	-	1,058	665
Total	-	-	8	2	6,013	6,841
Commodity	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	January	February	January	February	January	February
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	127,610	129,019	673	561	1,676	1,392
Mature	12,790	11,823	152	124	16,364	14,538
Light	5,105	6,505	51	24	11,812	10,056
Heavy	7,685	5,318	101	100	4,552	4,482
Total	140,400	140,842	825	685	18,040	15,930
Turkeys						
Young	1,784	2,192	21	17	42	51
Old	404	308	29	28	209	117
Total	2,188	2,500	50	45	251	168
Commodity	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	January	February	January	February	January	February
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	2,847	2,141	1,462	885	35,056	27,576
Mature	2,960	1,832	180	178	19,435	12,809
Light	2,176	1,289	153	167	18,665	12,316
Heavy	784	543	27	11	770	493
Total	5,807	3,973	1,642	1,063	54,491	40,385
Turkeys						
Young	36	33	251	338	440	549
Old	17	2	5	-	73	51
Total	53	35	256	338	513	600
Commodity	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	January	February	January	February	January	February
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	1,922	2,608	89,041	73,888	2,159,529	2,078,911
Mature	163	153	41,971	44,528	38,906	29,818
Light	159	108	33,803	34,792	-	-
Heavy	4	45	8,168	9,736	38,906	29,818
Total	2,085	2,761	131,012	118,416	2,198,435	2,108,729
Turkeys						
Young	68	131	3,184	3,633	80,810	71,953
Old	8	1	28	28	345	219
Total	76	132	3,212	3,661	81,155	72,172

- 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: January and February 2025

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

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	January	February	January	February	January	February
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
Alabama	100,826	93,881	566,660	510,526	5.62	5.44
Arkansas	89,934	79,606	668,901	580,512	7.44	7.29
Delaware	33,251	28,636	253,740	218,953	7.63	7.65
Georgia	108,680	101,846	674,917	630,197	6.21	6.19
Illinois	64	43	412	278	6.44	6.50
Iowa	850	935	4,523	4,869	5.32	5.20
Kentucky	26,826	22,560	184,806	152,047	6.89	6.74
Louisiana	15,128	13,748	106,794	92,440	7.06	6.72
Maryland	12,798	11,335	84,885	74,429	6.63	6.57
Mississippi	63,758	58,858	425,807	394,335	6.68	6.70
Missouri	27,872	24,933	151,514	138,359	5.44	5.55
New Jersey	248	210	1,399	1,121	5.64	5.34
New York	3,201	2,840	16,700	14,479	5.22	5.10
North Carolina	84,005	73,894	717,142	632,849	8.54	8.56
Ohio	11,140	9,708	50,277	43,710	4.51	4.50
Oklahoma	8,111	7,766	63,270	62,154	7.80	8.00
Pennsylvania	14,127	9,527	79,228	54,546	5.61	5.73
South Carolina	25,739	20,317	187,266	140,828	7.28	6.93
Tennessee	36,618	30,330	227,518	186,171	6.21	6.14
Texas	64,800	54,705	449,041	378,368	6.93	6.92
Vermont	46	52	307	343	6.64	6.57
Virginia	25,589	20,933	162,747	129,470	6.36	6.18
United States	824,131	727,749	5,479,673	4,786,907	6.65	6.58

Young Chickens Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations – States and United States: January and February 2025

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

State	Total chilled and frozen pounds certified ¹		Post-mortem condemnations			
	January	February	Carcass and parts		Percent ²	
			January	February	January	February
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
Alabama	435,395	392,718	1,841	1,602	0.42	0.41
Arkansas	502,650	438,620	2,278	1,987	0.45	0.45
Delaware	197,896	170,379	1,090	935	0.55	0.55
Georgia	512,836	477,717	2,740	2,460	0.53	0.51
Illinois	296	205	(Z)	(Z)	0.07	0.03
Iowa	3,284	3,442	148	123	4.32	3.46
Kentucky	139,366	114,830	900	781	0.64	0.68
Louisiana	78,451	69,411	430	402	0.54	0.58
Maryland	63,453	55,848	622	541	0.97	0.96
Mississippi	315,205	291,020	1,421	1,250	0.45	0.43
Missouri	110,376	100,317	299	303	0.27	0.30
New Jersey	1,032	833	20	13	1.92	1.52
New York	10,524	8,943	83	100	0.78	1.10
North Carolina	552,304	487,122	1,511	1,378	0.27	0.28
Ohio	37,639	32,750	273	226	0.72	0.69
Oklahoma	47,483	46,700	231	239	0.48	0.51
Pennsylvania	55,860	38,290	1,217	944	2.13	2.41
South Carolina	140,879	104,906	1,041	880	0.73	0.83
Tennessee	167,714	137,576	713	573	0.42	0.41
Texas	343,608	290,334	859	771	0.25	0.26
Vermont	230	258	-	-	(X)	(X)
Virginia	123,196	97,759	259	180	0.21	0.18
United States	4,140,005	3,618,958	19,832	17,397	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: January and February 2025

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

State	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	January	February	January	February	January	February
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	4	-	3,519	-
Arkansas	-	-	-	-	29	36
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	-	-	-	1	11,469	11,613
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	3	1
Texas	-	-	1	-	86	71
Virginia	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States	-	-	264	226	58,702	53,443
State	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	January	February	January	February	January	February
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	2,896	-	4	-	35	-
Arkansas	39	12	-	1	3	-
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	31,589	33,523	14	5	409	350
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	-	-
Texas	11	18	-	1	8	1
Virginia	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States	127,610	129,019	673	561	1,676	1,392
State	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	January	February	January	February	January	February
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	47	-	10	-	405	-
Arkansas	2	-	-	-	8	59
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	141	145	320	211	2,976	1,990
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	-	-
Texas	3	9	18	1	78	50
Virginia	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States	2,847	2,141	1,462	885	35,056	27,576
State	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	January	February	January	February	January	February
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	115	-	1,567	-	210,420	209,868
Arkansas	-	-	10	25	224,100	239,924
Delaware	-	-	-	-	48,021	35,904
Georgia	238	270	16,434	18,217	255,422	246,117
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	218,543	226,049
North Carolina	-	-	3	-	116,432	114,781
Texas	3	24	1,852	1,450	77,257	65,025
Virginia	-	-	-	-	160,285	173,846
United States	1,922	2,608	89,041	73,888	2,159,529	2,078,911

- 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: January and February 2025

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

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	January	February	January	February	January	February
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
California	325	308	7,032	5,464	21.62	17.73
Illinois	(Z)	-	8	-	33.75	-
Indiana	1,697	1,538	75,980	66,924	44.77	43.51
Iowa	1,131	956	53,622	44,017	47.40	46.04
Michigan	401	294	18,032	13,421	44.92	45.60
Minnesota	3,174	2,539	92,704	71,172	29.20	28.03
North Carolina	1,615	1,624	63,861	65,410	39.53	40.27
Ohio	674	521	30,690	22,619	45.55	43.39
Pennsylvania	523	479	16,305	14,888	31.18	31.10
South Carolina	531	502	24,284	21,753	45.71	43.32
Vermont	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wisconsin	(Z)	(Z)	(Z)	(Z)	28.43	25.11
United States	15,374	13,153	517,993	437,341	33.69	33.25

- Represents zero.

(Z) Less than half of the unit shown.

Young Turkeys Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations – States and United States: January and February 2025

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

State	Total chilled and frozen pounds certified ¹		Post-mortem condemnations			
	January	February	Carcass and parts		Percent ²	
			January	February	January	February
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
California	5,624	4,371	36	34	0.64	0.78
Illinois	6	-	-	-	(X)	(X)
Indiana	60,945	53,677	953	910	1.54	1.67
Iowa	42,006	34,459	624	531	1.46	1.52
Michigan	13,975	10,401	178	129	1.26	1.23
Minnesota	74,518	57,129	959	853	1.27	1.47
North Carolina	49,810	50,954	365	318	0.73	0.62
Ohio	24,512	18,074	549	364	2.19	1.97
Pennsylvania	12,700	11,548	459	370	3.49	3.10
South Carolina	17,580	16,306	458	515	2.54	3.06
Vermont	-	-	-	-	(X)	(X)
Wisconsin	(Z)	(Z)	-	-	(X)	(X)
United States	411,454	347,314	6,413	5,511	1.53	1.56

- 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
Vacant, Head, Poultry and Specialty Commodities Section	
Holly Brenize – Poultry Slaughter	(202) 720-0585
Fatema Haque – Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised	(202) 720-3244
Derron Martin – Catfish, Trout, Mink, Census of Aquaculture, 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 – 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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