



Poultry Slaughter

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

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

October 2025 contained 23 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

Poultry certified wholesome during October 2025 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 4.97 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the amount certified in October 2024.

The preliminary total live weight of all federally inspected poultry during October 2025 was 6.53 billion pounds, up 1 percent from 6.48 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 5.84 billion pounds, up 1 percent from October 2024. Mature chickens, at 66.8 million pounds, were down 11 percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 602 million pounds, down 3 percent from a year ago. Ducks totaled 15.1 million pounds, down 6 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during October 2025 averaged 6.72 pounds per bird, up slightly from October 2024. The average live weight of mature chickens was 7.04 pounds per bird, down 2 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during October 2025 averaged 31.0 pounds per bird, down 2 percent from October 2024.

Ante-mortem condemnations during October 2025 totaled 13.4 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.21 percent of the live weight inspected, as compared with 0.19 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 26.8 million pounds, were 0.54 percent of quantities inspected, as compared with 0.58 percent a year earlier.

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

[Federally inspected only]

Commodity	October 2024	September 2025	October 2025	October 2025 as % of		January to October		2025 as percent of 2024
				October 2024	September 2025	2024	2025	
Slaughtered Chickens	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Young	861,715	834,089	870,077	101	104	7,954,870	8,040,658	101
Mature	10,476	10,241	9,495	91	93	97,226	89,736	92
Light	2,767	2,977	2,886	104	97	26,365	27,454	104
Heavy	7,709	7,264	6,609	86	91	70,861	62,282	88
Total	872,191	844,330	879,572	101	104	8,052,096	8,130,394	101
Turkeys								
Young	19,390	17,100	19,273	99	113	165,891	159,293	96
Old	211	172	185	88	108	1,626	1,596	98
Total	19,601	17,272	19,458	99	113	167,517	160,889	96
Ducks	2,236	2,119	2,155	96	102	20,860	20,609	99
Total live weight	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Chickens								
Young	5,770,035	5,609,783	5,844,687	101	104	52,173,046	53,276,758	102
Mature	75,238	73,033	66,819	89	91	691,196	625,057	90
Light	9,664	10,241	9,956	103	97	91,413	94,980	104
Heavy	65,574	62,792	56,863	87	91	599,783	530,077	88
Total	5,845,273	5,682,816	5,911,506	101	104	52,864,242	53,901,815	102
Turkeys								
Young	614,324	551,465	596,828	97	108	5,422,800	5,085,460	94
Old	6,614	5,314	5,658	86	106	49,953	48,625	97
Total	620,938	556,779	602,486	97	108	5,472,753	5,134,085	94
Ducks	16,154	14,937	15,128	94	101	148,460	144,575	97
Other¹	468	432	467	100	108	2,829	2,592	92
Total	6,482,833	6,254,964	6,529,587	101	104	58,488,284	59,183,067	101
Average live weight	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)
Chickens								
Young	6.70	6.73	6.72	100	100	6.56	6.63	101
Mature	7.18	7.13	7.04	98	99	7.11	6.97	98
Light	3.49	3.44	3.45	99	100	3.47	3.46	100
Heavy	8.51	8.64	8.60	101	100	8.46	8.51	101
Total	6.70	6.73	6.72	100	100	6.57	6.63	101
Turkeys								
Young	31.68	32.25	30.97	98	96	32.69	31.93	98
Old	31.35	30.90	30.58	98	99	30.72	30.47	99
Total	31.68	32.24	30.96	98	96	32.67	31.91	98
Ducks	7.22	7.05	7.02	97	100	7.12	7.02	99

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

Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified by Type – United States

[Ready-to-cook weights]

Commodity	October 2024	September 2025	October 2025	October 2025 as % of		January to October		2025 as percent of 2024
				October 2024	September 2025	2024	2025	
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Chilled								
Chickens								
Young	4,078,218	3,955,779	4,114,042	101	104	36,865,223	37,611,151	102
Mature	52,585	51,818	46,536	88	90	482,244	433,627	90
Light	5,179	5,438	5,281	102	97	48,497	50,477	104
Heavy	47,406	46,380	41,255	87	89	433,747	383,150	88
Total	4,130,803	4,007,597	4,160,578	101	104	37,347,467	38,044,778	102
Turkeys								
Young	313,434	269,267	302,130	96	112	2,734,076	2,523,421	92
Old	4,344	3,914	4,181	96	107	35,682	34,419	96
Total	317,778	273,181	306,311	96	112	2,769,758	2,557,840	92
Ducks	4,243	3,090	3,350	79	108	37,309	32,400	87
Other ¹	180	124	205	114	165	1,176	1,222	104
Total	4,453,004	4,283,992	4,470,444	100	104	40,155,710	40,636,240	101
Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	292,673	295,841	312,786	107	106	2,594,518	2,697,309	104
Mature	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	253	(X)
Light	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	5	(X)
Heavy	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	248	(X)
Total	292,673	295,841	312,786	107	106	2,594,518	2,697,562	104
Turkeys								
Young	175,519	169,486	174,496	99	103	1,578,788	1,522,463	96
Old	633	80	100	16	125	2,310	2,501	108
Total	176,152	169,566	174,596	99	103	1,581,098	1,524,964	96
Ducks	7,671	7,773	7,695	100	99	71,435	73,787	103
Other ¹	123	140	99	80	71	707	461	65
Total	476,619	473,320	495,176	104	105	4,247,758	4,296,774	101
Chilled and frozen								
Chickens								
Young	4,370,891	4,251,620	4,426,828	101	104	39,459,741	40,308,460	102
Mature	52,585	51,818	46,536	88	90	482,244	433,880	90
Light	5,179	5,438	5,281	102	97	48,497	50,482	104
Heavy	47,406	46,380	41,255	87	89	433,747	383,398	88
Total	4,423,476	4,303,438	4,473,364	101	104	39,941,985	40,742,340	102
Turkeys								
Young	488,953	438,753	476,626	97	109	4,312,864	4,045,884	94
Old	4,977	3,994	4,281	86	107	37,992	36,920	97
Total	493,930	442,747	480,907	97	109	4,350,856	4,082,804	94
Ducks	11,914	10,863	11,045	93	102	108,744	106,187	98
Other ¹	303	264	304	100	115	1,883	1,683	89
Total	4,929,623	4,757,312	4,965,620	101	104	44,403,468	44,933,014	101

- Represents zero.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Includes geese, guineas, and squab.

Ante-Mortem Condemnations by Type – United States

[Federally inspected only]

Commodity	October 2024	September 2025	October 2025	October 2025 as % of		January to October		2025 as percent of 2024
				October 2024	September 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	9,714	10,160	10,876	112	107	98,023	104,479	107
Mature	837	727	788	94	108	8,116	8,118	100
Light	43	87	81	188	93	495	677	137
Heavy	794	640	707	89	110	7,621	7,441	98
Total	10,551	10,887	11,664	111	107	106,139	112,597	106
Turkeys								
Young	1,676	1,668	1,622	97	97	17,826	17,631	99
Old	58	32	29	50	91	452	353	78
Total	1,734	1,700	1,651	95	97	18,278	17,984	98
Ducks	86	106	117	136	110	953	1,024	107
Total ¹	12,371	12,694	13,433	109	106	125,373	131,612	105
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of live weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.17	0.18	0.19	112	106	0.19	0.20	105
Mature	1.11	1.00	1.18	106	118	1.17	1.30	111
Light	0.44	0.85	0.81	184	95	0.54	0.71	131
Heavy	1.21	1.02	1.24	102	122	1.27	1.40	110
Total	0.18	0.19	0.20	111	105	0.20	0.21	105
Turkeys								
Young	0.27	0.30	0.27	100	90	0.33	0.35	106
Old	0.88	0.60	0.51	58	85	0.90	0.73	81
Total	0.28	0.31	0.27	96	87	0.33	0.35	106
Ducks	0.53	0.71	0.77	145	108	0.64	0.71	111
Total ¹	0.19	0.20	0.21	111	105	0.21	0.22	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	October 2024	September 2025	October 2025	October 2025 as % of		January to October		2025 as percent of 2024
				October 2024	September 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	19,192	19,327	18,277	95	95	182,130	182,018	100
Mature	1,913	1,464	1,346	70	92	18,008	13,730	76
Light	425	442	416	98	94	3,805	3,916	103
Heavy	1,488	1,022	930	63	91	14,203	9,814	69
Total	21,105	20,791	19,623	93	94	200,138	195,748	98
Turkeys								
Young	7,093	6,413	6,663	94	104	64,035	61,027	95
Old	246	249	278	113	112	1,747	1,969	113
Total	7,339	6,662	6,941	95	104	65,782	62,996	96
Ducks	218	291	247	113	85	1,953	2,292	117
Other ¹	5	4	4	80	100	36	47	131
Total	28,667	27,748	26,815	94	97	267,909	261,083	97
Percent of weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.44	0.45	0.41	93	91	0.46	0.45	98
Mature	3.51	2.75	2.81	80	102	3.60	3.07	85
Light	7.58	7.52	7.30	96	97	7.28	7.20	99
Heavy	3.04	2.16	2.20	72	102	3.17	2.50	79
Total	0.47	0.48	0.44	94	92	0.50	0.48	96
Turkeys								
Young	1.43	1.44	1.38	97	96	1.46	1.49	102
Old	4.71	5.87	6.10	130	104	4.40	5.06	115
Total	1.46	1.48	1.42	97	96	1.49	1.52	102
Ducks	1.80	2.61	2.19	122	84	1.76	2.11	120
Other ¹	1.62	1.49	1.30	80	87	1.88	2.72	145
Total	0.58	0.58	0.54	93	93	0.60	0.58	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: September and October 2025

Commodity	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	September	October	September	October	September	October
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	-	-	357	404	35,501	35,997
Mature	-	-	15	6	79,529	66,539
Light	-	-	15	6	68,682	58,580
Heavy	-	-	-	-	10,847	7,959
Total	-	-	372	410	115,030	102,536
Turkeys						
Young	-	-	3	-	4,127	5,083
Old	-	-	-	-	1,406	1,185
Total	-	-	3	-	5,533	6,268
Commodity	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	September	October	September	October	September	October
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	21,381	28,956	691	806	889	1,149
Mature	4,240	2,613	6	16	11,535	17,657
Light	4,239	2,613	6	16	11,491	17,603
Heavy	1	-	-	-	44	54
Total	25,621	31,569	697	822	12,424	18,806
Turkeys						
Young	2,736	4,629	34	154	95	44
Old	1,219	1,204	34	21	417	317
Total	3,955	5,833	68	175	512	361
Commodity	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	September	October	September	October	September	October
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	1,980	2,217	515	554	43,447	44,767
Mature	4,331	3,912	132	107	16,858	17,144
Light	4,330	3,907	128	102	16,855	17,140
Heavy	1	5	4	5	3	4
Total	6,311	6,129	647	661	60,305	61,911
Turkeys						
Young	162	288	466	199	1,006	1,131
Old	10	10	5	8	294	469
Total	172	298	471	207	1,300	1,600
Commodity	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	September	October	September	October	September	October
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	2,441	2,163	70,935	67,335	2,122,527	2,112,570
Mature	140	184	37,734	32,010	53,663	53,083
Light	137	177	37,713	31,989	-	-
Heavy	3	7	21	21	53,663	53,083
Total	2,581	2,347	108,669	99,345	2,176,190	2,165,653
Turkeys						
Young	53	119	4,715	5,819	93,096	82,564
Old	6	4	91	80	377	291
Total	59	123	4,806	5,899	93,473	82,855

- Represents zero.

¹ Includes any portion of the carcass affected by an inflammatory process, plant rejected carcasses, missing viscera, or ascites fluid preventing proper inspection of the carcass.

² Birds condemned with no cause given by federal inspectors and establishment sorters.

Young Chickens Slaughtered, Total Live Weight, and Average Live Weight – States and United States: September and October 2025

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

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	September	October	September	October	September	October
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
Alabama	105,353	105,119	594,182	585,326	5.64	5.57
Arkansas	91,885	95,684	686,599	718,634	7.47	7.51
Delaware	32,224	35,459	253,093	281,240	7.85	7.93
Georgia	114,297	115,615	724,255	719,221	6.34	6.22
Illinois	63	71	411	462	6.50	6.53
Iowa	763	596	3,941	3,179	5.16	5.34
Kentucky	25,727	26,468	177,616	183,152	6.90	6.92
Louisiana	16,647	16,618	114,736	114,443	6.89	6.89
Maryland	12,972	12,823	84,307	81,375	6.50	6.35
Mississippi	65,126	67,422	438,236	456,848	6.73	6.78
Missouri	28,903	29,752	162,631	166,933	5.63	5.61
New Jersey	270	267	1,444	1,405	5.35	5.27
New York	3,398	3,130	17,638	17,858	5.19	5.70
North Carolina	81,632	87,709	700,659	736,865	8.58	8.40
Ohio	11,566	12,019	54,776	55,814	4.74	4.64
Oklahoma	8,918	9,006	72,564	72,868	8.14	8.09
Pennsylvania	17,102	15,781	101,625	91,699	5.94	5.81
South Carolina	24,860	26,343	186,353	200,835	7.50	7.62
Tennessee	34,623	35,145	217,737	218,336	6.29	6.21
Texas	62,717	66,673	440,313	472,499	7.02	7.09
Vermont	53	58	358	387	6.70	6.70
Virginia	25,013	26,477	162,378	168,384	6.49	6.36
United States	834,089	870,077	5,609,783	5,844,687	6.73	6.72

**Young Chickens Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations – States and United States:
September and October 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	
	September	October	September	October	September	October
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
Alabama	455,480	448,500	1,488	1,346	0.33	0.30
Arkansas	524,046	548,283	2,156	2,175	0.41	0.40
Delaware	202,772	224,878	838	991	0.41	0.44
Georgia	548,857	548,078	2,468	2,110	0.45	0.38
Illinois	306	345	-	-	(X)	(X)
Iowa	2,855	2,299	73	65	2.49	2.77
Kentucky	134,732	138,148	920	984	0.68	0.71
Louisiana	83,772	83,485	833	782	0.98	0.93
Maryland	63,051	60,662	686	628	1.08	1.03
Mississippi	322,113	336,170	995	1,035	0.31	0.31
Missouri	118,444	121,516	264	227	0.22	0.19
New Jersey	1,086	1,040	17	20	1.53	1.84
New York	11,052	11,344	71	73	0.64	0.64
North Carolina	539,886	568,118	1,213	1,323	0.22	0.23
Ohio	41,065	41,863	190	193	0.46	0.46
Oklahoma	54,475	54,836	307	296	0.56	0.54
Pennsylvania	72,160	64,213	1,250	959	1.70	1.47
South Carolina	140,172	151,038	1,030	937	0.73	0.62
Tennessee	161,146	161,470	504	428	0.31	0.26
Texas	335,310	366,449	714	760	0.21	0.21
Vermont	269	291	-	-	(X)	(X)
Virginia	129,453	126,397	589	294	0.45	0.23
United States	4,251,620	4,426,828	19,327	18,277	0.45	0.41

- Represents zero.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Ready-to-cook weights.

² Pounds condemned as percent of pounds certified plus post-mortem condemnations.

Young Chickens Condemned Post-Mortem by Cause – States and United States: September and October 2025

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

State	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	September	October	September	October	September	October
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arkansas	-	-	-	-	121	212
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	-	-	-	-	4,858	1,686
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	1	7
Texas	-	-	-	-	230	272
Virginia	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States	-	-	357	404	35,501	35,997
State	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	September	October	September	October	September	October
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arkansas	118	187	7	20	-	-
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	1,319	645	1	2	186	85
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	-	-
Texas	17	17	1	-	3	5
Virginia	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States	21,381	28,956	691	806	889	1,149
State	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	September	October	September	October	September	October
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arkansas	4	8	-	-	102	104
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	61	50	12	11	304	288
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	3	-
Texas	18	14	18	18	53	31
Virginia	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States	1,980	2,217	515	554	43,447	44,767
State	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	September	October	September	October	September	October
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	175,545	173,966
Arkansas	2	-	113	194	159,390	159,689
Delaware	-	-	-	-	80,131	89,160
Georgia	119	10	3,223	2,889	199,367	260,670
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	162,989	168,598
North Carolina	4	6	-	1	97,560	103,164
Texas	4	5	206	25	56,605	58,812
Virginia	-	-	-	-	180,115	191,562
United States	2,441	2,163	70,935	67,335	2,122,527	2,112,570

- Represents zero.

¹ Includes any portion of the carcass affected by an inflammatory process, plant rejected carcasses, missing viscera, or ascites fluid preventing proper inspection of the carcass.

² Birds condemned with no cause given by federal inspectors and establishment sorters.

Young Turkeys Slaughtered, Total Live Weight, and Average Live Weight – States and United States: September and October 2025

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

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	September	October	September	October	September	October
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
California	172	472	3,567	9,415	20.74	19.93
Illinois	3	4	102	97	31.50	24.49
Indiana	1,879	1,921	76,707	78,646	40.83	40.94
Iowa	1,162	1,274	53,468	58,037	46.02	45.55
Michigan	461	385	20,090	16,406	43.54	42.67
Minnesota	3,707	4,073	107,803	115,943	29.08	28.47
North Carolina	1,873	2,173	73,941	83,648	39.47	38.49
Ohio	663	652	30,589	29,044	46.12	44.51
Pennsylvania	802	1,087	22,531	27,809	28.11	25.58
South Carolina	565	573	24,803	24,406	43.92	42.57
Vermont	1	13	29	408	26.48	30.99
Wisconsin	1	2	44	68	36.08	28.78
United States	17,100	19,273	551,465	596,828	32.25	30.97

Young Turkeys Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations – States and United States: September and October 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	
	September	October	September	October	September	October
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
California	2,817	7,747	24	42	0.86	0.53
Illinois	77	73	-	-	(X)	(X)
Indiana	61,533	63,845	850	841	1.36	1.30
Iowa	41,888	45,569	677	598	1.59	1.29
Michigan	15,570	12,414	217	169	1.37	1.35
Minnesota	86,261	93,134	1,084	1,214	1.24	1.29
North Carolina	58,189	66,100	318	365	0.54	0.55
Ohio	24,449	23,175	437	414	1.75	1.76
Pennsylvania	17,859	22,146	479	507	2.61	2.24
South Carolina	18,172	17,916	597	600	3.18	3.24
Vermont	23	324	-	-	(X)	(X)
Wisconsin	34	54	-	-	(X)	(X)
United States	438,753	476,626	6,413	6,663	1.44	1.38

- 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 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
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter	(202) 690-8632
Tiffany Byrne – Dairy Products.....	(651) 440-7789
Ryan Cowen – Cattle, Cattle on Feed.....	(202) 720-3040
Kim DaPra – Milk Production.....	(202) 720-3278
Fatema Haque – Poultry Slaughter, Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised	(202) 720-3244
Derron Martin – Catfish, Census of Aquaculture, Egg Products, Mink, Trout	(202) 690-3237
Ralph Mondesir – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106
Suzanne Richards – Cost of Pollination, Honey, Honey Bee Colonies, Sheep and Goats	(202) 720-4448
Shulonda Shaw – Capacity of Refrigerated Warehouses, Cold Storage.....	(202) 720-3240
Autumn Stone – Layers, Eggs	(202) 690-3676
Takiyah Walker – Broiler Hatchery, Chicken 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.
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- Economics, Statistics, and Market Information (ESMIS) – National Agricultural Library (NAL) website houses NASS’s and other agency archived reports at <https://esmis.nal.usda.gov>. All email subscriptions containing reports will be sent from <https://esmis.nal.usda.gov>. To receive the reports via e-mail, you will have to go to the website, create a new account and subscribe to the reports. You should whitelist notifications@esmis.nal.usda.gov 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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