



Poultry Slaughter

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

November 2024 contained 21 weekdays (including 2 holidays) and 5 Saturdays.

November 2025 contained 20 weekdays (including 2 holidays) and 5 Saturdays.

Poultry certified wholesome during November 2025 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 4.06 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the amount certified in November 2024. The October 2025 revised certified total at 4.95 billion pounds, was up 3 percent from October 2024. The October revision represented an decrease of 19.1 million pounds from last month's preliminary pounds certified.

The preliminary total live weight of all federally inspected poultry during November 2025 was 5.33 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 5.40 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 4.79 billion pounds, down 1 percent from November 2024. Mature chickens, at 48.7 million pounds, were down 11 percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 471 million pounds, down 5 percent from a year ago. Ducks totaled 12.4 million pounds, down 13 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during November 2025 averaged 6.66 pounds per bird, up slightly from November 2024. The average live weight of mature chickens was 6.69 pounds per bird, down 3 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during November 2025 averaged 30.5 pounds per bird, up 1 percent from November 2024.

Ante-mortem condemnations during November 2025 totaled 12.3 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.23 percent of the live weight inspected, as compared with 0.19 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 22.7 million pounds, were 0.56 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	November 2024	October 2025	November 2025	November 2025 as % of		January to November		2025 as percent of 2024
				November 2024	October 2025	2024	2025	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Slaughtered								
Chickens								
Young	728,228	869,447	719,648	99	83	8,683,098	8,759,676	101
Mature	7,899	9,495	7,270	92	77	105,125	97,006	92
Light	2,483	2,886	2,629	106	91	28,848	30,083	104
Heavy	5,416	6,609	4,641	86	70	76,277	66,923	88
Total	736,127	878,942	726,918	99	83	8,788,223	8,856,682	101
Turkeys								
Young	16,282	19,273	15,336	94	80	182,173	174,629	96
Old	85	185	104	122	56	1,711	1,700	99
Total	16,367	19,458	15,440	94	79	183,884	176,329	96
Ducks	1,981	2,155	1,800	91	84	22,841	22,409	98
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Total live weight								
Chickens								
Young	4,830,382	5,822,282	4,792,808	99	82	57,003,428	58,047,161	102
Mature	54,756	66,819	48,671	89	73	745,952	673,728	90
Light	8,364	9,956	9,149	109	92	99,777	104,129	104
Heavy	46,392	56,863	39,522	85	70	646,175	569,599	88
Total	4,885,138	5,889,101	4,841,479	99	82	57,749,380	58,720,889	102
Turkeys								
Young	492,995	596,617	467,952	95	78	5,915,795	5,553,201	94
Old	2,746	5,658	3,263	119	58	52,699	51,888	98
Total	495,741	602,275	471,215	95	78	5,968,494	5,605,089	94
Ducks	14,282	15,133	12,430	87	82	162,742	157,010	96
Other ¹	229	467	181	79	39	3,058	2,773	91
Total	5,395,390	6,506,976	5,325,305	99	82	63,883,674	64,485,761	101
	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)
Average live weight								
Chickens								
Young	6.63	6.70	6.66	100	99	6.56	6.63	101
Mature	6.93	7.04	6.69	97	95	7.10	6.95	98
Light	3.37	3.45	3.48	103	101	3.46	3.46	100
Heavy	8.57	8.60	8.52	99	99	8.47	8.51	100
Total	6.64	6.70	6.66	100	99	6.57	6.63	101
Turkeys								
Young	30.28	30.96	30.51	101	99	32.47	31.80	98
Old	32.31	30.58	31.38	97	103	30.80	30.52	99
Total	30.29	30.95	30.52	101	99	32.46	31.79	98
Ducks	7.21	7.02	6.91	96	98	7.12	7.01	98

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

Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified by Type – United States

[Ready-to-cook weights]

Commodity	November 2024	October 2025	November 2025	November 2025 as % of		January to November		2025 as percent of 2024
				November 2024	October 2025	2024	2025	
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Chilled								
Chickens								
Young	3,415,337	4,095,201	3,257,623	95	80	40,280,560	40,849,933	101
Mature	38,130	46,536	32,776	86	70	520,374	466,403	90
Light	4,513	5,281	4,847	107	92	53,010	55,324	104
Heavy	33,617	41,255	27,929	83	68	467,364	411,079	88
Total	3,453,467	4,141,737	3,290,399	95	79	40,800,934	41,316,336	101
Turkeys								
Young	246,921	298,782	251,842	102	84	2,980,997	2,771,915	93
Old	1,850	4,181	2,396	130	57	37,532	36,815	98
Total	248,771	302,963	254,238	102	84	3,018,529	2,808,730	93
Ducks	3,207	3,353	2,809	88	84	40,516	35,212	87
Other ¹	144	205	112	78	55	1,320	1,334	101
Total	3,705,589	4,448,258	3,547,558	96	80	43,861,299	44,161,612	101
Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	236,265	312,669	381,539	161	122	2,830,783	3,078,731	109
Mature	-	-	492	(X)	(X)	-	745	(X)
Light	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	5	(X)
Heavy	-	-	492	(X)	(X)	-	740	(X)
Total	236,265	312,669	382,031	162	122	2,830,783	3,079,476	109
Turkeys								
Young	145,086	177,678	121,576	84	68	1,723,874	1,647,221	96
Old	246	100	84	34	84	2,556	2,585	101
Total	145,332	177,778	121,660	84	68	1,726,430	1,649,806	96
Ducks	7,276	7,695	6,411	88	83	78,711	80,198	102
Other ¹	16	99	-	(X)	(X)	723	461	64
Total	388,889	498,241	510,102	131	102	4,636,647	4,809,941	104
Chilled and frozen								
Chickens								
Young	3,651,602	4,407,870	3,639,162	100	83	43,111,343	43,928,664	102
Mature	38,130	46,536	33,268	87	71	520,374	467,148	90
Light	4,513	5,281	4,847	107	92	53,010	55,329	104
Heavy	33,617	41,255	28,421	85	69	467,364	411,819	88
Total	3,689,732	4,454,406	3,672,430	100	82	43,631,717	44,395,812	102
Turkeys								
Young	392,007	476,460	373,418	95	78	4,704,871	4,419,136	94
Old	2,096	4,281	2,480	118	58	40,088	39,400	98
Total	394,103	480,741	375,898	95	78	4,744,959	4,458,536	94
Ducks	10,483	11,048	9,220	88	83	119,227	115,410	97
Other ¹	160	304	112	70	37	2,043	1,795	88
Total	4,094,478	4,946,499	4,057,660	99	82	48,497,946	48,971,553	101

- Represents zero.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Includes geese, guineas, and squab.

Ante-Mortem Condemnations by Type – United States

[Federally inspected only]

Commodity	November 2024	October 2025	November 2025	November 2025 as % of		January to November		2025 as percent of 2024
				November 2024	October 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	8,488	10,875	10,350	122	95	106,511	114,828	108
Mature	502	788	615	123	78	8,618	8,733	101
Light	35	81	59	169	73	530	736	139
Heavy	467	707	556	119	79	8,088	7,997	99
Total	8,990	11,663	10,965	122	94	115,129	123,561	107
Turkeys								
Young	1,418	1,622	1,271	90	78	19,244	18,902	98
Old	26	29	10	38	34	478	363	76
Total	1,444	1,651	1,281	89	78	19,722	19,265	98
Ducks	81	117	77	95	66	1,034	1,101	106
Total ¹	10,515	13,432	12,323	117	92	135,888	143,934	106
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of live weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.18	0.19	0.22	122	116	0.19	0.20	105
Mature	0.92	1.18	1.26	137	107	1.16	1.30	112
Light	0.42	0.81	0.64	152	79	0.53	0.71	134
Heavy	1.01	1.24	1.41	140	114	1.25	1.40	112
Total	0.18	0.20	0.23	128	115	0.20	0.21	105
Turkeys								
Young	0.29	0.27	0.27	93	100	0.33	0.34	103
Old	0.95	0.51	0.31	33	61	0.91	0.70	77
Total	0.29	0.27	0.27	93	100	0.33	0.34	103
Ducks	0.57	0.77	0.62	109	81	0.64	0.70	109
Total ¹	0.19	0.21	0.23	121	110	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	November 2024	October 2025	November 2025	November 2025 as % of		January to November		2025 as percent of 2024
				November 2024	October 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	16,602	18,277	15,979	96	87	198,732	197,997	100
Mature	1,563	1,346	1,073	69	80	19,571	14,803	76
Light	433	416	392	91	94	4,238	4,308	102
Heavy	1,130	930	681	60	73	15,333	10,495	68
Total	18,165	19,623	17,052	94	87	218,303	212,800	97
Turkeys								
Young	6,052	6,663	5,345	88	80	70,087	66,372	95
Old	94	278	119	127	43	1,841	2,088	113
Total	6,146	6,941	5,464	89	79	71,928	68,460	95
Ducks	159	247	150	94	61	2,112	2,442	116
Other ¹	3	4	3	100	75	39	50	128
Total	24,473	26,815	22,669	93	85	292,382	283,752	97
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.45	0.41	0.44	98	107	0.46	0.45	98
Mature	3.94	2.81	3.12	79	111	3.62	3.07	85
Light	8.75	7.30	7.48	85	102	7.40	7.22	98
Heavy	3.25	2.20	2.34	72	106	3.18	2.49	78
Total	0.49	0.44	0.46	94	105	0.50	0.48	96
Turkeys								
Young	1.52	1.38	1.41	93	102	1.47	1.48	101
Old	4.29	6.10	4.58	107	75	4.39	5.03	115
Total	1.54	1.42	1.43	93	101	1.49	1.51	101
Ducks	1.49	2.19	1.60	107	73	1.74	2.07	119
Other ¹	1.84	1.30	2.61	142	201	1.87	2.71	145
Total	0.59	0.54	0.56	95	104	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: October and November 2025

Commodity	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	October	November	October	November	October	November
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	-	-	404	246	35,997	35,857
Mature	-	-	6	7	66,539	63,078
Light	-	-	6	7	58,580	56,376
Heavy	-	-	-	-	7,959	6,702
Total	-	-	410	253	102,536	98,935
Turkeys						
Young	-	-	-	13	5,083	4,663
Old	-	-	-	-	1,185	407
Total	-	-	-	13	6,268	5,070
Commodity	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	October	November	October	November	October	November
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	28,956	49,039	806	837	1,149	565
Mature	2,613	4,070	16	10	17,657	15,024
Light	2,613	4,068	16	10	17,603	15,010
Heavy	-	2	-	-	54	14
Total	31,569	53,109	822	847	18,806	15,589
Turkeys						
Young	4,629	1,866	154	90	44	36
Old	1,204	449	21	6	317	356
Total	5,833	2,315	175	96	361	392
Commodity	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	October	November	October	November	October	November
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	2,217	1,913	554	461	44,767	33,736
Mature	3,912	4,821	107	92	17,144	10,583
Light	3,907	4,817	102	90	17,140	10,580
Heavy	5	4	5	2	4	3
Total	6,129	6,734	661	553	61,911	44,319
Turkeys						
Young	288	126	199	330	1,131	860
Old	10	23	8	7	469	131
Total	298	149	207	337	1,600	991
Commodity	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	October	November	October	November	October	November
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	2,163	1,606	67,335	107,872	2,112,570	1,946,951
Mature	184	615	32,010	49,522	53,083	35,861
Light	177	609	31,989	49,518	-	-
Heavy	7	6	21	4	53,083	35,861
Total	2,347	2,221	99,345	157,394	2,165,653	1,982,812
Turkeys						
Young	119	52	5,819	4,125	82,564	78,869
Old	4	10	80	16	291	124
Total	123	62	5,899	4,141	82,855	78,993

- 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: October and November 2025

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

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	October	November	October	November	October	November
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
Alabama	105,119	90,481	585,197	505,284	5.57	5.58
Arkansas	95,684	77,551	718,416	586,237	7.51	7.56
Delaware	35,459	28,215	277,898	217,831	7.84	7.72
Georgia	115,615	96,638	716,123	594,941	6.19	6.16
Illinois	71	40	462	256	6.53	6.43
Iowa	596	783	3,179	4,480	5.34	5.72
Kentucky	26,468	21,834	183,152	152,499	6.92	6.98
Louisiana	16,618	14,273	114,443	96,779	6.89	6.78
Maryland	12,823	10,753	81,375	66,477	6.35	6.18
Mississippi	67,422	55,722	457,896	371,162	6.79	6.66
Missouri	29,752	25,148	166,933	137,778	5.61	5.48
New Jersey	267	208	1,405	1,133	5.27	5.45
New York	3,130	3,008	16,226	15,518	5.18	5.16
North Carolina	87,709	71,603	726,036	604,404	8.28	8.44
Ohio	12,019	9,777	55,814	45,449	4.64	4.65
Oklahoma	9,006	7,905	72,868	65,519	8.09	8.29
Pennsylvania	15,781	13,185	91,699	75,639	5.81	5.74
South Carolina	26,343	22,878	201,326	166,823	7.64	7.29
Tennessee	35,145	28,531	218,336	175,681	6.21	6.16
Texas	66,673	56,461	472,087	408,208	7.08	7.23
Vermont	58	46	387	304	6.70	6.65
Virginia	25,847	20,797	165,992	129,827	6.42	6.24
United States	869,447	719,648	5,822,282	4,792,808	6.70	6.66

Young Chickens Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations – States and United States: October and November 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	
	October	November	October	November	October	November
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
Alabama	448,247	388,478	1,346	1,238	0.30	0.32
Arkansas	548,668	450,183	2,175	1,781	0.39	0.39
Delaware	222,853	174,603	991	800	0.44	0.46
Georgia	544,412	450,211	2,110	1,934	0.39	0.43
Illinois	345	191	-	-	(X)	(X)
Iowa	2,299	3,262	65	82	2.77	2.47
Kentucky	138,148	115,947	984	865	0.71	0.74
Louisiana	83,485	70,392	782	763	0.93	1.07
Maryland	60,662	49,645	628	647	1.03	1.29
Mississippi	337,124	278,563	1,035	780	0.31	0.28
Missouri	121,516	100,640	227	298	0.19	0.30
New Jersey	1,040	838	20	13	1.84	1.56
New York	10,166	10,643	73	93	0.72	0.87
North Carolina	559,703	465,747	1,323	1,100	0.24	0.24
Ohio	41,863	34,155	193	126	0.46	0.37
Oklahoma	54,836	49,298	296	230	0.54	0.46
Pennsylvania	64,213	52,670	959	1,034	1.47	1.93
South Carolina	151,386	125,791	937	844	0.62	0.67
Tennessee	161,605	129,795	428	397	0.26	0.31
Texas	364,892	313,518	760	617	0.21	0.20
Vermont	291	229	-	-	(X)	(X)
Virginia	124,409	97,413	294	190	0.24	0.19
United States	4,407,870	3,639,162	18,277	15,979	0.41	0.44

- 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: October and November 2025

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

State	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	October	November	October	November	October	November
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arkansas	-	-	-	-	212	345
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	-	-	-	-	1,686	2,354
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	7	-
Texas	-	-	-	-	272	186
Virginia	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States	-	-	404	246	35,997	35,857
State	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	October	November	October	November	October	November
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arkansas	187	191	20	41	-	-
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	645	1,011	2	-	85	144
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	-	-
Texas	17	10	-	-	5	3
Virginia	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States	28,956	49,039	806	837	1,149	565
State	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	October	November	October	November	October	November
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arkansas	8	8	-	-	104	124
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	50	57	11	15	288	430
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	-	-
Texas	14	29	18	26	31	14
Virginia	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States	2,217	1,913	554	461	44,767	33,736
State	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	October	November	October	November	October	November
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	173,966	173,589
Arkansas	-	2	194	130	159,689	142,599
Delaware	-	-	-	-	89,160	82,829
Georgia	10	120	2,889	3,764	260,670	189,466
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	168,598	124,330
North Carolina	6	-	1	-	103,164	179,270
Texas	5	6	25	79	58,812	47,629
Virginia	-	-	-	-	191,562	195,768
United States	2,163	1,606	67,335	107,872	2,112,570	1,946,951

- 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: October and November 2025

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

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	October	November	October	November	October	November
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
California	472	83	9,415	1,485	19.93	17.91
Illinois	4	21	97	593	24.49	28.03
Indiana	1,921	1,533	78,646	62,218	40.94	40.59
Iowa	1,274	1,003	58,037	46,081	45.55	45.95
Michigan	385	334	16,406	13,759	42.67	41.23
Minnesota	4,073	3,438	115,943	91,010	28.47	26.47
North Carolina	2,173	1,726	83,648	65,724	38.49	38.08
Ohio	652	626	29,044	26,305	44.51	41.99
Pennsylvania	1,087	863	27,809	22,121	25.58	25.63
South Carolina	573	436	24,406	19,617	42.57	44.99
Vermont	13	48	408	1,406	30.99	29.21
Wisconsin	2	4	68	123	28.78	28.47
United States	19,273	15,336	596,617	467,952	30.96	30.51

Young Turkeys Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations – States and United States: October and November 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	
	October	November	October	November	October	November
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
California	7,747	1,231	42	4	0.53	0.36
Illinois	73	454	-	-	(X)	(X)
Indiana	63,845	50,572	841	632	1.30	1.23
Iowa	45,569	36,295	598	530	1.29	1.44
Michigan	12,414	10,665	169	149	1.35	1.37
Minnesota	93,134	73,049	1,214	852	1.29	1.15
North Carolina	66,100	51,477	365	279	0.55	0.54
Ohio	23,175	20,705	414	311	1.76	1.48
Pennsylvania	22,146	17,578	507	447	2.24	2.48
South Carolina	17,916	14,657	600	616	3.24	4.03
Vermont	324	1,112	-	-	(X)	(X)
Wisconsin	54	98	-	-	(X)	(X)
United States	476,460	373,418	6,663	5,345	1.38	1.41

- 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

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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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