



Poultry Slaughter

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

December 2024 contained 22 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

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

Poultry certified wholesome during December 2025 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 4.52 billion pounds, up 5 percent from the amount certified in December 2024. The November 2025 revised certified total at 4.05 billion pounds, was down 1 percent from November 2024. The November revision represented an decrease of 12 million pounds from last month's preliminary pounds certified.

The preliminary total live weight of all federally inspected poultry during December 2025 was 5.95 billion pounds, up 5 percent from 5.68 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 5.40 billion pounds, up 5 percent from December 2024. Mature chickens, at 57.9 million pounds, were down 6 percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 485 million pounds, up 2 percent from a year ago. Ducks totaled 13.9 million pounds, down 2 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during December 2025 averaged 6.60 pounds per bird, unchanged from December 2024. The average live weight of mature chickens was 6.89 pounds per bird, down 3 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during December 2025 averaged 33.1 pounds per bird, down 1 percent from December 2024.

Ante-mortem condemnations during December 2025 totaled 13.0 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.22 percent of the live weight inspected, as compared with 0.21 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 26.0 million pounds, were 0.57 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	December 2024	November 2025	December 2025	December 2025 as % of		January to December		2025 as percent of 2024
				December 2024	November 2025	2024	2025	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Slaughtered								
Chickens								
Young	777,360	720,230	818,424	105	114	9,460,458	9,578,682	101
Mature	8,660	7,456	8,415	97	113	113,785	105,607	93
Light	2,430	2,629	2,794	115	106	31,278	32,877	105
Heavy	6,230	4,827	5,621	90	116	82,507	72,730	88
Total	786,020	727,686	826,839	105	114	9,574,243	9,684,289	101
Turkeys								
Young	13,976	15,336	14,457	103	94	196,149	189,086	96
Old	134	104	187	140	180	1,845	1,887	102
Total	14,110	15,440	14,644	104	95	197,994	190,973	96
Ducks	1,961	1,800	2,019	103	112	24,802	24,428	98
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Total live weight								
Chickens								
Young	5,133,653	4,780,863	5,397,684	105	113	62,137,081	63,432,900	102
Mature	61,620	50,348	57,938	94	115	807,572	733,343	91
Light	8,418	9,145	9,852	117	108	108,195	113,977	105
Heavy	53,202	41,203	48,086	90	117	699,377	619,366	89
Total	5,195,273	4,831,211	5,455,622	105	113	62,944,653	64,166,243	102
Turkeys								
Young	469,676	467,952	479,063	102	102	6,385,471	6,032,264	94
Old	4,015	3,263	5,504	137	169	56,714	57,392	101
Total	473,691	471,215	484,567	102	103	6,442,185	6,089,656	95
Ducks	14,154	12,550	13,894	98	111	176,896	171,024	97
Other ¹	194	176	150	77	85	3,252	2,918	90
Total	5,683,312	5,315,152	5,954,233	105	112	69,566,986	70,429,841	101
	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)
Average live weight								
Chickens								
Young	6.60	6.64	6.60	100	99	6.57	6.62	101
Mature	7.12	6.75	6.89	97	102	7.10	6.94	98
Light	3.46	3.48	3.53	102	101	3.46	3.47	100
Heavy	8.54	8.54	8.55	100	100	8.48	8.52	100
Total	6.61	6.64	6.60	100	99	6.57	6.63	101
Turkeys								
Young	33.61	30.51	33.14	99	109	32.55	31.90	98
Old	29.96	31.38	29.43	98	94	30.74	30.41	99
Total	33.57	30.52	33.09	99	108	32.54	31.89	98
Ducks	7.22	6.97	6.88	95	99	7.13	7.00	98

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

Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified by Type – United States

[Ready-to-cook weights]

Commodity	December 2024	November 2025	December 2025	December 2025 as % of		January to December		2025 as percent of 2024
				December 2024	November 2025	2024	2025	
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Chilled								
Chickens								
Young	3,638,893	3,272,487	3,806,748	105	116	43,919,453	44,671,545	102
Mature	42,045	34,094	40,361	96	118	562,419	508,082	90
Light	4,452	4,842	5,282	119	109	57,462	60,601	105
Heavy	37,593	29,252	35,079	93	120	504,957	447,481	89
Total	3,680,938	3,306,581	3,847,109	105	116	44,481,872	45,179,627	102
Turkeys								
Young	238,360	251,842	236,918	99	94	3,219,357	3,008,833	93
Old	2,170	2,396	3,875	179	162	39,702	40,690	102
Total	240,530	254,238	240,793	100	95	3,259,059	3,049,523	94
Ducks	3,275	2,869	3,361	103	117	43,791	38,633	88
Other ¹	119	108	106	89	98	1,439	1,436	100
Total	3,924,862	3,563,796	4,091,369	104	115	47,786,161	48,269,219	101
Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	243,469	353,276	277,178	114	78	3,074,252	3,327,646	108
Mature	-	492	30	(X)	6	-	775	(X)
Light	-	-	30	(X)	(X)	-	35	(X)
Heavy	-	492	-	(X)	(X)	-	740	(X)
Total	243,469	353,768	277,208	114	78	3,074,252	3,328,421	108
Turkeys								
Young	134,820	121,576	144,467	107	119	1,858,694	1,791,688	96
Old	920	84	282	31	336	3,476	2,867	82
Total	135,740	121,660	144,749	107	119	1,862,170	1,794,555	96
Ducks	7,075	6,411	6,912	98	108	85,786	87,110	102
Other ¹	16	-	-	(X)	(X)	739	461	62
Total	386,300	481,839	428,869	111	89	5,022,947	5,210,547	104
Chilled and frozen								
Chickens								
Young	3,882,362	3,625,763	4,083,926	105	113	46,993,705	47,999,191	102
Mature	42,045	34,586	40,391	96	117	562,419	508,857	90
Light	4,452	4,842	5,312	119	110	57,462	60,636	106
Heavy	37,593	29,744	35,079	93	118	504,957	448,221	89
Total	3,924,407	3,660,349	4,124,317	105	113	47,556,124	48,508,048	102
Turkeys								
Young	373,180	373,418	381,385	102	102	5,078,051	4,800,521	95
Old	3,090	2,480	4,157	135	168	43,178	43,557	101
Total	376,270	375,898	385,542	102	103	5,121,229	4,844,078	95
Ducks	10,350	9,280	10,273	99	111	129,577	125,743	97
Other ¹	135	108	106	79	98	2,178	1,897	87
Total	4,311,162	4,045,635	4,520,238	105	112	52,809,108	53,479,766	101

- Represents zero.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Includes geese, guineas, and squab.

Ante-Mortem Condemnations by Type – United States

[Federally inspected only]

Commodity	December 2024	November 2025	December 2025	December 2025 as % of		January to December		2025 as percent of 2024
				December 2024	November 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	9,682	10,360	10,472	108	101	116,193	125,310	108
Mature	700	637	743	106	117	9,318	9,498	102
Light	59	59	72	122	122	589	808	137
Heavy	641	578	671	105	116	8,729	8,690	100
Total	10,382	10,997	11,215	108	102	125,511	134,808	107
Turkeys								
Young	1,573	1,271	1,611	102	127	20,817	20,513	99
Old	26	30	32	123	107	504	415	82
Total	1,599	1,301	1,643	103	126	21,321	20,928	98
Ducks	85	77	100	118	130	1,119	1,201	107
Total ¹	12,066	12,375	12,958	107	105	147,954	156,944	106
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of live weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.19	0.22	0.19	100	86	0.19	0.20	105
Mature	1.14	1.27	1.28	112	101	1.15	1.30	113
Light	0.70	0.65	0.73	104	112	0.54	0.71	131
Heavy	1.20	1.40	1.40	117	100	1.25	1.40	112
Total	0.20	0.23	0.21	105	91	0.20	0.21	105
Turkeys								
Young	0.33	0.27	0.34	103	126	0.33	0.34	103
Old	0.65	0.92	0.58	89	63	0.89	0.72	81
Total	0.34	0.28	0.34	100	121	0.33	0.34	103
Ducks	0.60	0.61	0.72	120	118	0.63	0.70	111
Total ¹	0.21	0.23	0.22	105	96	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	December 2024	November 2025	December 2025	December 2025 as % of		January to December		2025 as percent of 2024
				December 2024	November 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	18,386	16,128	18,332	100	114	217,118	216,478	100
Mature	1,549	1,108	1,327	86	120	21,120	16,165	77
Light	369	395	423	115	107	4,607	4,734	103
Heavy	1,180	713	904	77	127	16,513	11,431	69
Total	19,935	17,236	19,659	99	114	238,238	232,643	98
Turkeys								
Young	5,361	5,345	5,981	112	112	75,448	72,353	96
Old	131	119	163	124	137	1,972	2,251	114
Total	5,492	5,464	6,144	112	112	77,420	74,604	96
Ducks	152	150	177	116	118	2,264	2,619	116
Other ¹	4	3	3	75	100	43	53	123
Total	25,583	22,853	25,983	102	114	317,965	309,919	97
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.47	0.44	0.45	96	102	0.46	0.45	98
Mature	3.55	3.10	3.18	90	103	3.62	3.08	85
Light	7.65	7.54	7.38	96	98	7.42	7.24	98
Heavy	3.04	2.34	2.51	83	107	3.17	2.49	79
Total	0.51	0.47	0.47	92	100	0.50	0.48	96
Turkeys								
Young	1.42	1.41	1.54	108	109	1.46	1.48	101
Old	4.07	4.58	3.77	93	82	4.37	4.91	112
Total	1.44	1.43	1.57	109	110	1.49	1.52	102
Ducks	1.45	1.59	1.69	117	106	1.72	2.04	119
Other ¹	2.88	2.70	2.75	95	102	1.94	2.72	140
Total	0.59	0.56	0.57	97	102	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: November and December 2025

Commodity	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	November	December	November	December	November	December
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	-	-	202	173	35,841	37,172
Mature	-	-	7	11	63,078	70,640
Light	-	-	7	11	56,376	65,146
Heavy	-	-	-	-	6,702	5,494
Total	-	-	209	184	98,919	107,812
Turkeys						
Young	-	-	13	1	5,158	3,810
Old	-	-	-	-	407	1,053
Total	-	-	13	1	5,565	4,863
Commodity	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	November	December	November	December	November	December
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	49,037	54,957	803	854	565	361
Mature	4,070	2,634	10	7	15,024	13,862
Light	4,068	2,633	10	7	15,010	13,849
Heavy	2	1	-	-	14	13
Total	53,107	57,591	813	861	15,589	14,223
Turkeys						
Young	1,866	1,057	90	45	36	16
Old	627	1,045	6	18	356	386
Total	2,493	2,102	96	63	392	402
Commodity	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	November	December	November	December	November	December
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	1,913	1,915	451	754	33,698	23,672
Mature	4,821	4,745	92	105	15,567	18,295
Light	4,817	4,732	90	103	15,564	18,284
Heavy	4	13	2	2	3	11
Total	6,734	6,660	543	859	49,265	41,967
Turkeys						
Young	126	104	330	185	860	487
Old	23	25	7	11	131	151
Total	149	129	337	196	991	638
Commodity	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	November	December	November	December	November	December
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	1,606	1,287	73,400	58,949	1,951,355	2,132,213
Mature	156	85	49,522	31,459	35,861	49,236
Light	150	85	49,518	31,448	-	-
Heavy	6	-	4	11	35,861	49,236
Total	1,762	1,372	122,922	90,408	1,987,216	2,181,449
Turkeys						
Young	52	11	4,119	2,715	78,869	77,860
Old	10	16	16	108	124	147
Total	62	27	4,135	2,823	78,993	78,007

- 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: November and December 2025

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

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	November	December	November	December	November	December
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
Alabama	90,481	100,961	505,284	561,367	5.58	5.56
Arkansas	77,551	87,420	580,340	643,124	7.48	7.36
Delaware	28,215	32,908	217,831	255,440	7.72	7.76
Georgia	96,638	113,513	594,941	706,270	6.16	6.22
Illinois	40	57	256	357	6.43	6.32
Iowa	783	772	4,480	4,197	5.72	5.44
Kentucky	21,834	24,537	152,499	168,471	6.98	6.87
Louisiana	14,273	16,222	96,779	112,746	6.78	6.95
Maryland	10,753	12,404	66,477	76,950	6.18	6.20
Mississippi	55,722	61,783	371,162	410,607	6.66	6.65
Missouri	25,148	28,162	137,778	157,118	5.48	5.58
New Jersey	208	264	1,133	1,365	5.45	5.18
New York	3,008	3,406	15,518	17,393	5.16	5.11
North Carolina	71,629	80,916	604,573	674,248	8.44	8.33
Ohio	9,777	11,362	45,449	53,848	4.65	4.74
Oklahoma	7,905	8,873	65,519	71,171	8.29	8.02
Pennsylvania	13,185	16,917	75,639	93,146	5.74	5.51
South Carolina	22,881	23,640	168,625	170,317	7.37	7.20
Tennessee	28,720	33,422	176,656	205,565	6.15	6.15
Texas	56,461	64,282	397,968	440,381	7.05	6.85
Vermont	46	56	304	369	6.65	6.61
Virginia	20,797	27,178	129,827	170,669	6.24	6.28
United States	720,230	818,424	4,780,863	5,397,684	6.64	6.60

Young Chickens Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations – States and United States: November and December 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	
	November	December	November	December	November	December
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
Alabama	388,478	431,934	1,238	1,401	0.32	0.32
Arkansas	442,187	490,461	1,781	1,625	0.40	0.33
Delaware	174,603	204,352	800	1,175	0.46	0.57
Georgia	450,211	535,971	1,934	2,584	0.43	0.48
Illinois	191	266	-	-	(X)	(X)
Iowa	3,262	3,029	82	89	2.47	2.85
Kentucky	115,947	127,382	865	717	0.74	0.56
Louisiana	70,392	81,823	763	889	1.07	1.07
Maryland	49,645	57,413	647	640	1.29	1.10
Mississippi	278,563	301,967	780	737	0.28	0.24
Missouri	100,640	113,407	298	234	0.30	0.21
New Jersey	838	1,003	17	24	2.04	2.30
New York	10,643	10,936	93	106	0.87	0.96
North Carolina	465,866	518,297	1,097	1,268	0.23	0.24
Ohio	34,155	40,421	126	179	0.37	0.44
Oklahoma	49,298	53,616	230	244	0.46	0.45
Pennsylvania	52,670	65,662	1,035	1,260	1.93	1.88
South Carolina	127,106	127,952	886	942	0.69	0.73
Tennessee	130,474	151,740	404	565	0.31	0.37
Texas	305,146	335,553	634	723	0.21	0.22
Vermont	229	278	-	-	(X)	(X)
Virginia	97,413	130,222	190	241	0.19	0.18
United States	3,625,763	4,083,926	16,128	18,332	0.44	0.45

- 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: November and December 2025

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

State	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	November	December	November	December	November	December
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arkansas	-	-	-	-	345	384
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	-	-	-	-	2,354	2,016
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	-	-
Texas	-	-	-	-	186	230
Virginia	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States	-	-	202	173	35,841	37,172
State	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	November	December	November	December	November	December
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arkansas	191	178	7	7	-	-
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	1,011	2,026	-	-	144	122
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	1	-	-	-	-
Texas	10	29	-	-	3	10
Virginia	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States	49,037	54,957	803	854	565	361
State	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	November	December	November	December	November	December
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arkansas	8	2	-	-	86	75
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	57	65	15	17	430	396
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	-	-
Texas	29	58	16	11	14	42
Virginia	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States	1,913	1,915	451	754	33,698	23,672
State	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	November	December	November	December	November	December
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	173,589	199,446
Arkansas	2	1	130	83	142,599	139,214
Delaware	-	-	-	-	82,829	117,422
Georgia	120	147	3,764	6,455	189,466	243,167
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	124,330	113,517
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	179,270	154,433
Texas	6	2	79	1,166	47,629	59,945
Virginia	-	-	-	-	195,768	188,122
United States	1,606	1,287	73,400	58,949	1,951,355	2,132,213

- 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: November and December 2025

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

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	November	December	November	December	November	December
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
California	83	30	1,485	766	17.91	25.33
Illinois	21	1	593	42	28.03	28.75
Indiana	1,533	1,729	62,218	73,091	40.59	42.28
Iowa	1,003	916	46,081	41,614	45.95	45.44
Michigan	334	295	13,759	12,470	41.23	42.32
Minnesota	3,438	3,026	91,010	92,013	26.47	30.41
North Carolina	1,726	1,768	65,724	71,982	38.08	40.72
Ohio	626	516	26,305	23,243	41.99	45.05
Pennsylvania	863	648	22,121	19,092	25.63	29.44
South Carolina	436	511	19,617	23,632	44.99	46.26
Vermont	48	10	1,406	326	29.21	33.12
Wisconsin	4	(Z)	123	1	28.47	24.94
United States	15,336	14,457	467,952	479,063	30.51	33.14

(Z) Less than half of the unit shown.

Young Turkeys Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations – States and United States: November and December 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	
	November	December	November	December	November	December
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
California	1,231	609	4	4	0.36	0.63
Illinois	454	31	-	-	(X)	(X)
Indiana	50,572	59,328	632	961	1.23	1.59
Iowa	36,295	32,666	530	485	1.44	1.46
Michigan	10,665	9,664	149	144	1.37	1.46
Minnesota	73,049	73,530	852	818	1.15	1.10
North Carolina	51,477	56,366	279	327	0.54	0.58
Ohio	20,705	18,402	311	285	1.48	1.52
Pennsylvania	17,578	15,021	447	637	2.48	4.07
South Carolina	14,657	17,742	616	560	4.03	3.06
Vermont	1,112	257	-	-	(X)	(X)
Wisconsin	98	1	(Y)	-	(X)	(X)
United States	373,418	381,385	5,345	5,981	1.41	1.54

- Represents zero.

(X) Not applicable.

(Y) Less than level of precision 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
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, 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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