



Poultry Slaughter

ISSN: 1949-1581

Released March 27, 2026, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

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

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

February 2026 contained 20 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

Poultry certified wholesome during February 2026 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 4.25 billion pounds, up 5 percent from the amount certified in February 2025. The January 2026 revised certified total at 4.50 billion pounds, was down 3 percent from January 2025. The January revision represented an increase of 9.5 million pounds from last month's preliminary pounds certified.

The preliminary total live weight of all federally inspected poultry during February 2026 was 5.59 billion pounds, up 5 percent from 5.31 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 5.03 billion pounds, up 5 percent from February 2025. Mature chickens, at 52.9 million pounds, were up 8 percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 496 million pounds, up 12 percent from a year ago. Ducks totaled 12.4 million pounds, down 2 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during February 2026 averaged 6.68 pounds per bird, up 2 percent from February 2025. The average live weight of mature chickens was 6.83 pounds per bird, up 1 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during February 2026 averaged 33.6 pounds per bird, up 1 percent from February 2025.

Ante-mortem condemnations during February 2026 totaled 12.1 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.22 percent of the live weight inspected, as compared with 0.24 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 26.1 million pounds, were 0.61 percent of quantities inspected, as compared with 0.60 percent a year earlier.

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

[Federally inspected only]

Commodity	February 2025	January 2026	February 2026	February 2026 as % of		January to February		2026 as percent of 2025
				February 2025	January 2026	2025	2026	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Slaughtered								
Chickens								
Young	731,102	801,189	753,471	103	94	1,555,465	1,554,660	100
Mature	7,259	9,704	7,744	107	80	17,418	17,448	100
Light	2,402	2,745	2,487	104	91	5,326	5,232	98
Heavy	4,857	6,959	5,257	108	76	12,092	12,216	101
Total	738,361	810,893	761,215	103	94	1,572,883	1,572,108	100
Turkeys								
Young	13,153	14,900	14,604	111	98	28,527	29,504	103
Old	121	136	179	148	132	277	315	114
Total	13,274	15,036	14,783	111	98	28,804	29,819	104
Ducks	1,804	1,917	1,724	96	90	4,058	3,641	90
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Total live weight								
Chickens								
Young	4,806,476	5,336,298	5,029,456	105	94	10,287,466	10,365,754	101
Mature	49,119	68,610	52,887	108	77	119,725	121,497	101
Light	8,308	9,759	8,769	106	90	18,446	18,528	100
Heavy	40,811	58,851	44,118	108	75	101,279	102,969	102
Total	4,855,595	5,404,908	5,082,343	105	94	10,407,191	10,487,251	101
Turkeys								
Young	437,341	496,630	490,319	112	99	955,334	986,949	103
Old	3,848	4,489	5,595	145	125	8,778	10,084	115
Total	441,189	501,119	495,914	112	99	964,112	997,033	103
Ducks	12,621	13,783	12,350	98	90	28,469	26,133	92
Other ¹	150	158	173	115	109	325	331	102
Total	5,309,555	5,919,968	5,590,780	105	94	11,400,097	11,510,748	101
	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)
Average live weight								
Chickens								
Young	6.57	6.66	6.68	102	100	6.61	6.67	101
Mature	6.77	7.07	6.83	101	97	6.87	6.96	101
Light	3.46	3.56	3.53	102	99	3.46	3.54	102
Heavy	8.40	8.46	8.39	100	99	8.38	8.43	101
Total	6.58	6.67	6.68	102	100	6.62	6.67	101
Turkeys								
Young	33.25	33.33	33.57	101	101	33.49	33.45	100
Old	31.80	33.01	31.26	98	95	31.69	32.01	101
Total	33.24	33.33	33.55	101	101	33.47	33.44	100
Ducks	7.00	7.19	7.16	102	100	7.02	7.18	102

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

Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified by Type – United States

[Ready-to-cook weights]

Commodity	February 2025	January 2026	February 2026	February 2026 as % of		January to February		2026 as percent of 2025
				February 2025	January 2026	2025	2026	
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Chilled								
Chickens								
Young	3,390,806	3,783,703	3,552,186	105	94	7,266,658	7,335,889	101
Mature	33,442	48,290	37,058	111	77	81,468	85,348	105
Light	4,341	5,040	4,514	104	90	9,702	9,554	98
Heavy	29,101	43,250	32,544	112	75	71,766	75,794	106
Total	3,424,248	3,831,993	3,589,244	105	94	7,348,126	7,421,237	101
Turkeys								
Young	218,702	245,514	235,279	108	96	489,014	480,793	98
Old	2,906	3,223	3,996	138	124	5,673	7,219	127
Total	221,608	248,737	239,275	108	96	494,687	488,012	99
Ducks	2,773	3,319	2,984	108	90	6,307	6,303	100
Other ¹	91	106	110	121	104	196	216	110
Total	3,648,720	4,084,155	3,831,613	105	94	7,849,316	7,915,768	101
Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	242,370	258,140	254,488	105	99	507,464	512,628	101
Mature	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	-	(X)
Light	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	-	(X)
Heavy	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	-	(X)
Total	242,370	258,140	254,488	105	99	507,464	512,628	101
Turkeys								
Young	128,612	149,746	154,757	120	103	269,754	304,503	113
Old	39	124	247	633	199	1,037	371	36
Total	128,651	149,870	155,004	120	103	270,791	304,874	113
Ducks	6,441	6,878	6,110	95	89	14,488	12,988	90
Other ¹	12	-	-	(X)	(X)	26	-	(X)
Total	377,474	414,888	415,602	110	100	792,769	830,490	105
Chilled and frozen								
Chickens								
Young	3,633,176	4,041,843	3,806,674	105	94	7,774,122	7,848,517	101
Mature	33,442	48,290	37,058	111	77	81,468	85,348	105
Light	4,341	5,040	4,514	104	90	9,702	9,554	98
Heavy	29,101	43,250	32,544	112	75	71,766	75,794	106
Total	3,666,618	4,090,133	3,843,732	105	94	7,855,590	7,933,865	101
Turkeys								
Young	347,314	395,260	390,036	112	99	758,768	785,296	103
Old	2,945	3,347	4,243	144	127	6,710	7,590	113
Total	350,259	398,607	394,279	113	99	765,478	792,886	104
Ducks	9,214	10,197	9,094	99	89	20,795	19,291	93
Other ¹	103	106	110	107	104	222	216	97
Total	4,026,194	4,499,043	4,247,215	105	94	8,642,085	8,746,258	101

- Represents zero.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Includes geese, guineas, and squab.

Ante-Mortem Condemnations by Type – United States

[Federally inspected only]

Commodity	February 2025	January 2026	February 2026	February 2026 as % of		January to February		2026 as percent of 2025
				February 2025	January 2026	2025	2026	
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Live weight								
Chickens								
Young	10,177	11,098	9,639	95	87	21,834	20,737	95
Mature	656	866	658	100	76	1,594	1,524	96
Light	60	75	71	118	95	128	146	114
Heavy	596	791	587	98	74	1,466	1,378	94
Total	10,833	11,964	10,297	95	86	23,428	22,261	95
Turkeys								
Young	1,709	1,847	1,679	98	91	3,706	3,526	95
Old	34	37	33	97	89	65	70	108
Total	1,743	1,884	1,712	98	91	3,771	3,596	95
Ducks	69	100	75	109	75	181	175	97
Total ¹	12,645	13,948	12,084	96	87	27,380	26,032	95
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of live weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.21	0.21	0.19	90	90	0.21	0.20	95
Mature	1.34	1.26	1.24	93	98	1.33	1.25	94
Light	0.72	0.77	0.81	113	105	0.69	0.79	114
Heavy	1.46	1.34	1.33	91	99	1.45	1.34	92
Total	0.22	0.22	0.20	91	91	0.23	0.21	91
Turkeys								
Young	0.39	0.37	0.34	87	92	0.39	0.36	92
Old	0.88	0.82	0.59	67	72	0.74	0.69	93
Total	0.40	0.38	0.35	88	92	0.39	0.36	92
Ducks	0.55	0.73	0.61	111	84	0.64	0.67	105
Total ¹	0.24	0.24	0.22	92	92	0.24	0.23	96

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 2025	January 2026	February 2026	February 2026 as % of		January to February		2026 as percent of 2025
				February 2025	January 2026	2025	2026	
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Carcass and parts								
Chickens								
Young	17,481	18,454	18,450	106	100	37,318	36,904	99
Mature	1,140	1,556	1,267	111	81	2,785	2,823	101
Light	388	466	340	88	73	743	806	108
Heavy	752	1,090	927	123	85	2,042	2,017	99
Total	18,621	20,010	19,717	106	99	40,103	39,727	99
Turkeys								
Young	5,511	5,855	6,028	109	103	11,924	11,883	100
Old	116	200	225	194	113	293	425	145
Total	5,627	6,055	6,253	111	103	12,217	12,308	101
Ducks	158	140	134	85	96	366	274	75
Other ¹	3	2	2	67	100	7	4	57
Total	24,409	26,207	26,106	107	100	52,693	52,313	99
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.48	0.45	0.48	100	107	0.48	0.47	98
Mature	3.30	3.12	3.31	100	106	3.31	3.20	97
Light	8.20	8.46	7.00	85	83	7.11	7.78	109
Heavy	2.52	2.46	2.77	110	113	2.77	2.59	94
Total	0.51	0.49	0.51	100	104	0.51	0.50	98
Turkeys								
Young	1.56	1.46	1.52	97	104	1.55	1.49	96
Old	3.79	5.64	5.04	133	89	4.18	5.30	127
Total	1.58	1.50	1.56	99	104	1.57	1.53	97
Ducks	1.69	1.35	1.45	86	107	1.73	1.40	81
Other ¹	2.83	1.85	1.79	63	97	3.06	1.82	59
Total	0.60	0.58	0.61	102	105	0.61	0.59	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: January and February 2026

Commodity	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	January	February	January	February	January	February
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	-	-	168	157	31,812	29,340
Mature	-	-	3	15	76,255	57,326
Light	-	-	3	15	69,403	49,140
Heavy	-	-	-	-	6,852	8,186
Total	-	-	171	172	108,067	86,666
Turkeys						
Young	-	-	2	-	3,089	2,720
Old	-	-	-	-	1,311	2,067
Total	-	-	2	-	4,400	4,787
Commodity	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	January	February	January	February	January	February
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	51,292	54,246	695	506	276	431
Mature	3,129	1,946	4	8	19,656	11,217
Light	3,121	1,946	4	7	19,619	11,177
Heavy	8	-	-	1	37	40
Total	54,421	56,192	699	514	19,932	11,648
Turkeys						
Young	1,554	1,135	15	3	25	13
Old	1,033	1,203	51	51	474	642
Total	2,587	2,338	66	54	499	655
Commodity	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	January	February	January	February	January	February
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	1,858	1,922	1,046	639	19,557	20,106
Mature	3,781	2,383	137	102	18,801	12,759
Light	3,778	2,378	135	98	18,799	12,748
Heavy	3	5	2	4	2	11
Total	5,639	4,305	1,183	741	38,358	32,865
Turkeys						
Young	57	52	224	219	349	378
Old	25	39	10	8	330	163
Total	82	91	234	227	679	541
Commodity	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	January	February	January	February	January	February
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	971	886	54,166	49,263	2,255,201	2,218,649
Mature	221	196	35,239	27,189	63,056	40,838
Light	217	195	35,229	27,169	-	-
Heavy	4	1	10	20	63,056	40,838
Total	1,192	1,082	89,405	76,452	2,318,257	2,259,487
Turkeys						
Young	26	9	2,509	3,177	70,437	87,028
Old	23	21	75	130	113	301
Total	49	30	2,584	3,307	70,550	87,329

- 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 2026

[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	99,105	92,556	543,476	513,277	5.48	5.55
Arkansas	84,950	83,933	630,915	622,568	7.43	7.42
Delaware	34,239	28,446	260,712	226,667	7.61	7.97
Georgia	108,231	104,111	681,161	654,921	6.29	6.29
Illinois	59	53	376	343	6.41	6.46
Kentucky	24,495	24,387	165,154	162,081	6.74	6.65
Louisiana	13,877	14,900	91,979	99,488	6.63	6.68
Maryland	12,074	10,703	76,215	71,692	6.31	6.70
Mississippi	62,117	57,547	434,615	403,483	7.00	7.01
Missouri	27,566	24,792	153,911	136,464	5.58	5.50
New Jersey	214	158	1,130	810	5.29	5.14
New York	3,183	3,168	16,603	16,076	5.22	5.07
North Carolina	78,701	73,160	661,444	613,268	8.40	8.38
Ohio	11,840	10,670	57,096	52,479	4.82	4.92
Oklahoma	8,432	8,522	67,056	67,302	7.95	7.90
Pennsylvania	16,239	15,592	91,905	87,120	5.66	5.59
South Carolina	23,719	23,694	180,715	179,368	7.62	7.57
Tennessee	32,724	31,274	205,990	191,475	6.29	6.12
Texas	59,077	56,348	410,723	390,880	6.95	6.94
Vermont	40	43	263	289	6.64	6.68
Virginia	28,146	24,595	180,456	157,779	6.41	6.42
United States	801,189	753,471	5,336,298	5,029,456	6.66	6.68

Young Chickens Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations – States and United States: January and February 2026

[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	417,583	393,831	1,350	1,493	0.32	0.38
Arkansas	480,067	473,935	1,705	1,554	0.35	0.33
Delaware	208,480	181,434	1,237	1,129	0.59	0.62
Georgia	516,850	492,737	2,510	2,492	0.48	0.50
Illinois	280	255	-	-	(X)	(X)
Kentucky	124,589	123,218	679	627	0.54	0.51
Louisiana	67,067	72,658	615	667	0.91	0.91
Maryland	57,171	53,731	615	668	1.06	1.23
Mississippi	316,762	294,871	848	759	0.27	0.26
Missouri	112,110	99,824	291	264	0.26	0.26
New Jersey	833	598	17	12	2.00	1.99
New York	10,464	10,198	76	83	0.72	0.81
North Carolina	513,019	476,384	1,121	1,606	0.22	0.34
Ohio	42,521	39,255	227	162	0.53	0.41
Oklahoma	50,486	50,636	301	298	0.59	0.59
Pennsylvania	65,258	61,258	1,226	1,213	1.84	1.94
South Carolina	135,714	135,026	896	982	0.66	0.72
Tennessee	152,105	141,187	417	373	0.27	0.26
Texas	315,346	300,935	695	722	0.22	0.24
Vermont	198	218	-	-	(X)	(X)
Virginia	137,887	119,878	268	253	0.19	0.21
United States	4,041,843	3,806,674	18,454	18,450	0.45	0.48

- 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: January and February 2026

[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	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arkansas	-	-	-	-	46	27
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	-	-	-	-	3,238	2,692
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	-	2
Texas	-	-	11	21	271	494
Virginia	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States	-	-	168	157	31,812	29,340
State	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	January	February	January	February	January	February
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arkansas	40	50	5	2	-	-
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	5,002	4,153	2	2	84	95
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	-	-
Texas	10	23	3	4	8	3
Virginia	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States	51,292	54,246	695	506	276	431
State	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	January	February	January	February	January	February
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arkansas	4	-	-	-	11	4
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	69	72	33	23	365	368
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	-	-
Texas	21	24	14	12	23	26
Virginia	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States	1,858	1,922	1,046	639	19,557	20,106
State	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	January	February	January	February	January	February
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	201,788	229,584
Arkansas	-	1	8	5	147,023	130,322
Delaware	-	-	-	-	132,713	131,053
Georgia	42	-	6,016	4,057	227,234	254,218
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	137,029	118,321
North Carolina	-	-	1	-	90,186	96,742
Texas	3	11	259	335	56,644	58,364
Virginia	-	-	-	-	275,888	267,707
United States	971	886	54,166	49,263	2,255,201	2,218,649

- 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 2026

[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	(Z)	16	(Z)	317	33.36	20.02
Illinois	1	(Z)	18	8	27.43	24.92
Indiana	1,657	1,929	75,554	77,200	45.60	40.02
Iowa	1,128	1,063	54,012	49,559	47.87	46.60
Michigan	334	298	15,320	13,043	45.82	43.74
Minnesota	2,897	2,845	90,258	87,058	31.15	30.61
North Carolina	2,273	1,729	76,191	72,057	33.52	41.67
Ohio	539	548	25,645	26,455	47.60	48.28
Pennsylvania	552	547	17,532	17,716	31.79	32.39
South Carolina	560	564	23,042	25,342	41.13	44.90
Vermont	(Z)	-	2	(X)	33.32	(X)
Wisconsin	(Z)	(Z)	1	(Z)	17.56	33.67
United States	14,900	14,604	496,630	490,319	33.33	33.57

- Represents zero.

(X) Not applicable.

(Z) Less than half of the unit shown.

Young Turkeys Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations – States and United States: January and February 2026

[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	
	January	February	January	February	January	February
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
California	(Z)	253	-	-	(X)	0.16
Illinois	13	5	-	-	(X)	(X)
Indiana	61,392	62,724	837	815	1.35	1.28
Iowa	42,427	38,881	595	545	1.38	1.38
Michigan	11,873	10,108	213	136	1.76	1.32
Minnesota	72,207	69,555	888	1,134	1.21	1.60
North Carolina	59,811	56,213	336	347	0.56	0.61
Ohio	20,500	21,158	403	377	1.93	1.75
Pennsylvania	13,727	13,879	465	446	3.27	3.11
South Carolina	17,076	18,901	542	735	3.08	3.75
Vermont	1	(X)	-	-	(X)	(X)
Wisconsin	1	(Z)	-	-	(X)	(X)
United States	395,260	390,036	5,855	6,028	1.46	1.52

- 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 359 plants slaughtered poultry in the United States under Federal Inspection in 2025. Young chickens were slaughtered in 40 States, young turkeys in 29 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

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.
- The national 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” in upper right corner above “search” box to create an account and select the reports you would like to receive.
- 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.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Spring 2026

USDA Data Users' Meeting

April 22, 2026

1 p.m. CST

Join in-person or virtually

www.nass.usda.gov/go/data_users



USDA Spring Data Users' Meeting

Join Us Online or in Kansas City

April 22, 2026

Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City

1 Memorial Drive

Kansas City, MO 64198

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will hold an open forum for users of U.S. domestic and international agriculture data. NASS is organizing the 2026 Spring Data Users' Meeting in cooperation with five other USDA agencies – Agricultural Marketing Service, Economic Research Service, Farm Service Agency, Foreign Agricultural Service, and World Agricultural Outlook Board – and the Census Bureau's Foreign Trade Division. Agency representatives will provide updates on recent and pending changes in statistical and information programs important to agriculture, answer questions, and welcome comments and input from data users.

For registration details or additional information about the Data Users' Meeting, see the meeting page on the NASS website (https://www.nass.usda.gov/go/data_users).