



Poultry Slaughter

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Ready-to-Cook Weight Up 10 Percent from Last Year

March 2025 contained 21 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 5 Saturdays.

March 2026 contained 22 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

Poultry certified wholesome during March 2026 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 4.65 billion pounds, up 10 percent from the amount certified in March 2025. The February 2026 revised certified total at 4.24 billion pounds, was up 5 percent from February 2025. The February revision represented an decrease of 11.8 million pounds from last month's preliminary pounds certified.

The preliminary total live weight of all federally inspected poultry during March 2026 was 6.12 billion pounds, up 10 percent from 5.57 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 5.49 billion pounds, up 9 percent from March 2025. Mature chickens, at 69.6 million pounds, were up 27 percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 543 million pounds, up 13 percent from a year ago. Ducks totaled 14.6 million pounds, up 5 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during March 2026 averaged 6.61 pounds per bird, up 1 percent from March 2025. The average live weight of mature chickens was 7.28 pounds per bird, up 8 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during March 2026 averaged 34.4 pounds per bird, up 6 percent from March 2025.

Ante-mortem condemnations during March 2026 totaled 12.7 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.21 percent of the live weight inspected, as compared with 0.22 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 26.5 million pounds, were 0.57 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	March 2025	February 2026	March 2026	March 2026 as % of		January to March		2026 as percent of 2025
				March 2025	February 2026	2025	2026	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Slaughtered								
Chickens								
Young	767,093	754,189	830,562	108	110	2,322,558	2,385,940	103
Mature	8,163	7,745	9,564	117	123	25,581	27,013	106
Light	2,718	2,488	2,438	90	98	8,044	7,671	95
Heavy	5,445	5,257	7,126	131	136	17,537	19,342	110
Total	775,256	761,934	840,126	108	110	2,348,139	2,412,953	103
Turkeys								
Young	14,499	14,374	15,619	108	109	43,026	44,893	104
Old	198	179	156	79	87	475	471	99
Total	14,697	14,553	15,775	107	108	43,501	45,364	104
Ducks	1,970	1,808	2,066	105	114	6,028	5,791	96
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Total live weight								
Chickens								
Young	5,022,462	5,013,105	5,488,078	109	109	15,309,928	15,837,481	103
Mature	54,952	52,729	69,596	127	132	174,677	190,935	109
Light	9,228	8,611	8,602	93	100	27,674	26,972	97
Heavy	45,724	44,118	60,994	133	138	147,003	163,963	112
Total	5,077,414	5,065,834	5,557,674	109	110	15,484,605	16,028,416	104
Turkeys								
Young	473,272	490,327	537,989	114	110	1,428,606	1,524,946	107
Old	5,584	5,595	4,824	86	86	14,362	14,908	104
Total	478,856	495,922	542,813	113	109	1,442,968	1,539,854	107
Ducks	13,870	12,937	14,558	105	113	42,339	41,278	97
Other ¹	165	173	162	98	94	490	493	101
Total	5,570,305	5,574,866	6,115,207	110	110	16,970,402	17,610,041	104
	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)
Average live weight								
Chickens								
Young	6.55	6.65	6.61	101	99	6.59	6.64	101
Mature	6.73	6.81	7.28	108	107	6.83	7.07	104
Light	3.40	3.46	3.53	104	102	3.44	3.52	102
Heavy	8.40	8.39	8.56	102	102	8.38	8.48	101
Total	6.55	6.65	6.62	101	100	6.59	6.64	101
Turkeys								
Young	32.64	34.11	34.44	106	101	33.20	33.97	102
Old	28.20	31.26	30.92	110	99	30.24	31.65	105
Total	32.58	34.08	34.41	106	101	33.17	33.94	102
Ducks	7.04	7.16	7.05	100	98	7.02	7.13	102

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

Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified by Type – United States

[Ready-to-cook weights]

Commodity	March 2025	February 2026	March 2026	March 2026 as % of		January to March		2026 as percent of 2025
				March 2025	February 2026	2025	2026	
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Chilled								
Chickens								
Young	3,549,477	3,542,326	3,897,769	110	110	10,816,135	11,223,798	104
Mature	37,316	36,934	50,209	135	136	118,784	135,433	114
Light	4,934	4,390	4,522	92	103	14,636	13,952	95
Heavy	32,382	32,544	45,687	141	140	104,148	121,481	117
Total	3,586,793	3,579,260	3,947,978	110	110	10,934,919	11,359,231	104
Turkeys								
Young	233,779	235,321	270,460	116	115	722,793	751,295	104
Old	3,410	3,996	3,201	94	80	9,083	10,420	115
Total	237,189	239,317	273,661	115	114	731,876	761,715	104
Ducks	3,034	2,996	3,130	103	104	9,341	9,445	101
Other ¹	102	110	117	115	106	298	333	112
Total	3,827,118	3,821,683	4,224,886	110	111	11,676,434	12,130,724	104
Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	247,578	252,208	261,900	106	104	755,042	772,248	102
Mature	-	-	93	(X)	(X)	-	93	(X)
Light	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	-	(X)
Heavy	-	-	93	(X)	(X)	-	93	(X)
Total	247,578	252,208	261,993	106	104	755,042	772,341	102
Turkeys								
Young	142,005	154,721	157,523	111	102	411,759	461,990	112
Old	842	247	448	53	181	1,879	819	44
Total	142,847	154,968	157,971	111	102	413,638	462,809	112
Ducks	7,156	6,554	7,550	106	115	21,644	20,982	97
Other ¹	13	-	-	(X)	(X)	39	-	(X)
Total	397,594	413,730	427,514	108	103	1,190,363	1,256,132	106
Chilled and frozen								
Chickens								
Young	3,797,055	3,794,534	4,159,669	110	110	11,571,177	11,996,046	104
Mature	37,316	36,934	50,302	135	136	118,784	135,526	114
Light	4,934	4,390	4,522	92	103	14,636	13,952	95
Heavy	32,382	32,544	45,780	141	141	104,148	121,574	117
Total	3,834,371	3,831,468	4,209,971	110	110	11,689,961	12,131,572	104
Turkeys								
Young	375,784	390,042	427,983	114	110	1,134,552	1,213,285	107
Old	4,252	4,243	3,649	86	86	10,962	11,239	103
Total	380,036	394,285	431,632	114	109	1,145,514	1,224,524	107
Ducks	10,190	9,550	10,680	105	112	30,985	30,427	98
Other ¹	115	110	117	102	106	337	333	99
Total	4,224,712	4,235,413	4,652,400	110	110	12,866,797	13,386,856	104

- Represents zero.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Includes geese, guineas, and squab.

Ante-Mortem Condemnations by Type – United States

[Federally inspected only]

Commodity	March 2025	February 2026	March 2026	March 2026 as % of		January to March		2026 as percent of 2025
				March 2025	February 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	9,916	9,644	10,012	101	104	31,750	30,754	97
Mature	666	658	703	106	107	2,260	2,227	99
Light	48	71	78	163	110	176	224	127
Heavy	618	587	625	101	106	2,084	2,003	96
Total	10,582	10,302	10,715	101	104	34,010	32,981	97
Turkeys								
Young	1,546	1,679	1,885	122	112	5,252	5,411	103
Old	33	33	37	112	112	98	107	109
Total	1,579	1,712	1,922	122	112	5,350	5,518	103
Ducks	80	80	81	101	101	261	261	100
Total ¹	12,241	12,094	12,718	104	105	39,621	38,760	98
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of live weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.20	0.19	0.18	90	95	0.21	0.19	90
Mature	1.21	1.25	1.01	83	81	1.29	1.17	91
Light	0.52	0.82	0.91	175	111	0.64	0.83	130
Heavy	1.35	1.33	1.02	76	77	1.42	1.22	86
Total	0.21	0.20	0.19	90	95	0.22	0.21	95
Turkeys								
Young	0.33	0.34	0.35	106	103	0.37	0.35	95
Old	0.59	0.59	0.77	131	131	0.68	0.72	106
Total	0.33	0.35	0.35	106	100	0.37	0.36	97
Ducks	0.58	0.62	0.56	97	90	0.62	0.63	102
Total ¹	0.22	0.22	0.21	95	95	0.23	0.22	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	March 2025	February 2026	March 2026	March 2026 as % of		January to March		2026 as percent of 2025
				March 2025	February 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	18,314	18,462	18,480	101	100	55,632	55,396	100
Mature	1,213	1,267	1,324	109	104	3,998	4,147	104
Light	350	340	301	86	89	1,093	1,107	101
Heavy	863	927	1,023	119	110	2,905	3,040	105
Total	19,527	19,729	19,804	101	100	59,630	59,543	100
Turkeys								
Young	5,496	6,028	6,330	115	105	17,420	18,213	105
Old	191	225	228	119	101	484	653	135
Total	5,687	6,253	6,558	115	105	17,904	18,866	105
Ducks	152	138	153	101	111	518	431	83
Other ¹	3	2	2	67	100	10	6	60
Total	25,369	26,122	26,517	105	102	78,062	78,846	101
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.48	0.48	0.44	92	92	0.48	0.46	96
Mature	3.15	3.32	2.56	81	77	3.26	2.97	91
Light	6.62	7.19	6.24	94	87	6.95	7.35	106
Heavy	2.60	2.77	2.19	84	79	2.71	2.44	90
Total	0.51	0.51	0.47	92	92	0.51	0.49	96
Turkeys								
Young	1.44	1.52	1.46	101	96	1.51	1.48	98
Old	4.30	5.04	5.88	137	117	4.23	5.49	130
Total	1.47	1.56	1.50	102	96	1.54	1.52	99
Ducks	1.47	1.42	1.41	96	99	1.64	1.40	85
Other ¹	2.54	1.79	1.68	66	94	2.88	1.77	61
Total	0.60	0.61	0.57	95	93	0.60	0.59	98

¹ Includes geese, guineas, and squab.

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

Condemned Post-Mortem by Cause and Type – United States: February and March 2026

Commodity	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	February	March	February	March	February	March
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	-	-	154	213	29,350	26,673
Mature	-	-	15	20	57,326	49,166
Light	-	-	15	15	49,140	39,266
Heavy	-	-	-	5	8,186	9,900
Total	-	-	169	233	86,676	75,839
Turkeys						
Young	-	-	-	2	2,720	3,668
Old	-	-	-	-	2,067	1,137
Total	-	-	-	2	4,787	4,805
Commodity	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	February	March	February	March	February	March
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	54,246	63,782	506	518	431	334
Mature	1,947	2,111	8	13	11,217	10,134
Light	1,947	2,111	7	11	11,177	10,104
Heavy	-	-	1	2	40	30
Total	56,193	65,893	514	531	11,648	10,468
Turkeys						
Young	1,135	1,777	3	42	13	39
Old	1,203	1,176	51	68	642	124
Total	2,338	2,953	54	110	655	163
Commodity	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	February	March	February	March	February	March
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	1,926	2,090	639	689	20,110	21,288
Mature	2,383	2,795	102	80	12,759	9,139
Light	2,378	2,789	98	71	12,748	9,136
Heavy	5	6	4	9	11	3
Total	4,309	4,885	741	769	32,869	30,427
Turkeys						
Young	52	131	219	301	378	369
Old	39	27	8	9	163	239
Total	91	158	227	310	541	608
Commodity	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	February	March	February	March	February	March
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	886	1,035	49,287	67,873	2,221,665	2,253,798
Mature	193	250	27,189	25,667	40,838	43,106
Light	192	245	27,169	25,649	-	-
Heavy	1	5	20	18	40,838	43,106
Total	1,079	1,285	76,476	93,540	2,262,503	2,296,904
Turkeys						
Young	9	13	3,177	2,689	87,028	71,441
Old	21	1	130	113	301	103
Total	30	14	3,307	2,802	87,329	71,544

- 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: February and March 2026

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

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	February	March	February	March	February	March
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
Alabama	92,758	102,165	512,325	543,186	5.52	5.32
Arkansas	84,125	90,700	624,085	667,967	7.42	7.36
Delaware	28,446	33,134	214,632	260,332	7.55	7.86
Georgia	104,111	112,368	654,921	697,066	6.29	6.20
Illinois	53	48	343	307	6.46	6.35
Kentucky	24,387	25,776	162,081	177,548	6.65	6.89
Louisiana	14,900	13,879	99,488	98,006	6.68	7.06
Maryland	10,703	12,017	71,692	82,047	6.70	6.83
Mississippi	57,547	64,777	403,483	436,512	7.01	6.74
Missouri	25,104	29,237	137,666	160,873	5.48	5.50
New Jersey	158	246	810	1,306	5.14	5.30
New York	3,180	3,699	16,136	18,719	5.07	5.06
North Carolina	73,160	82,326	613,063	685,501	8.38	8.33
Ohio	10,670	10,805	52,478	51,636	4.92	4.78
Oklahoma	8,522	9,193	67,302	72,817	7.90	7.92
Pennsylvania	15,592	17,434	87,120	98,718	5.59	5.66
South Carolina	23,694	25,332	179,902	190,747	7.59	7.53
Tennessee	31,274	34,680	191,475	209,064	6.12	6.03
Texas	56,348	63,321	390,880	447,224	6.94	7.06
Vermont	43	47	289	308	6.68	6.59
Virginia	24,595	27,988	151,656	170,559	6.17	6.09
United States	754,189	830,562	5,013,105	5,488,078	6.65	6.61

Young Chickens Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations – States and United States: February and March 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	
	February	March	February	March	February	March
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
Alabama	393,845	419,426	1,494	1,495	0.38	0.36
Arkansas	475,141	508,876	1,555	1,522	0.33	0.30
Delaware	172,303	208,623	1,129	1,227	0.65	0.58
Georgia	492,737	524,280	2,492	2,579	0.50	0.49
Illinois	255	228	-	-	(X)	(X)
Kentucky	123,218	135,174	627	713	0.51	0.52
Louisiana	72,658	71,765	667	554	0.91	0.77
Maryland	53,731	61,463	668	637	1.23	1.03
Mississippi	294,871	324,259	759	723	0.26	0.22
Missouri	100,650	117,534	274	328	0.27	0.28
New Jersey	598	969	12	30	1.99	2.98
New York	10,246	11,960	83	78	0.81	0.65
North Carolina	475,773	528,698	1,606	1,341	0.34	0.25
Ohio	39,360	38,796	162	142	0.41	0.36
Oklahoma	50,636	54,807	298	321	0.59	0.58
Pennsylvania	61,258	70,026	1,213	1,385	1.94	1.94
South Carolina	135,315	143,371	982	1,123	0.72	0.78
Tennessee	141,187	154,560	373	479	0.26	0.31
Texas	300,935	344,804	722	735	0.24	0.21
Vermont	218	232	-	-	(X)	(X)
Virginia	115,267	128,712	253	243	0.22	0.19
United States	3,794,534	4,159,669	18,462	18,480	0.48	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: February and March 2026

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

State	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	February	March	February	March	February	March
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arkansas	-	-	-	-	27	107
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	-	-	-	-	2,692	3,683
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	2	3
Texas	-	-	18	23	494	400
Virginia	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States	-	-	154	213	29,350	26,673
State	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	February	March	February	March	February	March
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arkansas	50	49	2	3	-	1
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	4,153	5,252	2	-	95	84
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	3	-	-	-	1
Texas	23	21	4	6	3	8
Virginia	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States	54,246	63,782	506	518	431	334
State	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	February	March	February	March	February	March
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arkansas	-	1	-	-	4	153
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	72	131	23	16	368	695
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	1	-	-	-	-
Texas	24	33	12	15	26	12
Virginia	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States	1,926	2,090	639	689	20,110	21,288
State	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	February	March	February	March	February	March
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	229,616	225,785
Arkansas	1	-	5	33	130,322	121,831
Delaware	-	-	-	-	131,053	136,530
Georgia	-	11	4,057	18,422	254,218	273,781
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	118,321	108,765
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	96,742	125,033
Texas	11	6	335	1,360	58,364	62,157
Virginia	-	-	-	-	267,707	270,784
United States	886	1,035	49,287	67,873	2,221,665	2,253,798

- 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: February and March 2026

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

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	February	March	February	March	February	March
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
California	16	90	317	2,184	20.02	24.28
Illinois	(Z)	(Z)	8	6	24.92	32.56
Indiana	1,699	1,953	77,208	87,334	45.44	44.72
Iowa	1,063	1,140	49,559	54,950	46.60	48.22
Michigan	298	316	13,043	14,576	43.74	46.12
Minnesota	2,845	3,364	87,058	99,964	30.61	29.71
North Carolina	1,729	1,869	72,057	78,676	41.67	42.10
Ohio	548	626	26,455	29,139	48.28	46.52
Pennsylvania	547	643	17,716	19,020	32.39	29.59
South Carolina	564	644	25,342	28,443	44.90	44.20
Vermont	-	-	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Wisconsin	(Z)	(Z)	(Z)	(Z)	33.67	15.00
United States	14,374	15,619	490,327	537,989	34.11	34.44

- 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: February and March 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	
	February	March	February	March	February	March
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
California	253	1,745	(Z)	3	0.16	0.15
Illinois	5	5	-	-	(X)	(X)
Indiana	62,730	71,048	815	995	1.28	1.38
Iowa	38,881	43,266	545	683	1.38	1.55
Michigan	10,108	11,295	136	181	1.32	1.58
Minnesota	69,555	79,963	1,134	817	1.60	1.01
North Carolina	56,213	61,546	347	367	0.61	0.59
Ohio	21,158	23,115	377	448	1.75	1.90
Pennsylvania	13,879	14,985	446	373	3.11	2.43
South Carolina	18,901	21,249	735	580	3.75	2.66
Vermont	-	-	-	-	(X)	(X)
Wisconsin	(Z)	(Z)	-	-	(X)	(X)
United States	390,042	427,983	6,028	6,330	1.52	1.46

- 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.

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