



Poultry Slaughter

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Ready-to-Cook Weight Up 8 Percent from Last Year

June 2025 contained 21 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

June 2026 contained 22 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

Poultry certified wholesome during June 2026 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 4.75 billion pounds, up 8 percent from the amount certified in June 2025. The May 2026 revised certified total at 4.47 billion pounds, was up 1 percent from May 2025. The May revision represented an increase of 7.8 million pounds from last month's preliminary pounds certified.

The preliminary total live weight of all federally inspected poultry during June 2026 was 6.23 billion pounds, up 7 percent from 5.80 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 5.58 billion pounds, up 7 percent from June 2025. Mature chickens, at 78.9 million pounds, were up 42 percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 555 million pounds, up 6 percent from a year ago. Ducks totaled 14.3 million pounds, up 5 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during June 2026 averaged 6.62 pounds per bird, up slightly from June 2025. The average live weight of mature chickens was 7.27 pounds per bird, up 6 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during June 2026 averaged 34.0 pounds per bird, up 7 percent from June 2025.

Ante-mortem condemnations during June 2026 totaled 13.5 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.22 percent of the live weight inspected, as compared with 0.23 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 24.9 million pounds, were 0.52 percent of quantities inspected, as compared with 0.56 percent a year earlier.

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

[Federally inspected only]

Commodity	June 2025	May 2026	June 2026	June 2026 as % of		January to June		2026 as percent of 2025
				June 2025	May 2026	2025	2026	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Slaughtered								
Chickens								
Young	789,676	794,920	842,921	107	106	4,704,439	4,850,201	103
Mature	8,145	9,521	10,845	133	114	51,591	56,991	110
Light	2,747	2,596	2,807	102	108	16,157	15,720	97
Heavy	5,398	6,925	8,038	149	116	35,434	41,271	116
Total	797,821	804,441	853,766	107	106	4,756,030	4,907,192	103
Turkeys								
Young	16,320	14,968	16,168	99	108	89,638	91,953	103
Old	141	140	156	111	111	926	1,015	110
Total	16,461	15,108	16,324	99	108	90,564	92,968	103
Ducks	1,948	1,853	2,057	106	111	12,081	11,507	95
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Total live weight								
Chickens								
Young	5,204,474	5,290,425	5,582,905	107	106	31,020,620	32,191,802	104
Mature	55,621	69,082	78,878	142	114	354,601	407,630	115
Light	9,401	9,149	9,797	104	107	55,627	54,929	99
Heavy	46,220	59,933	69,081	149	115	298,974	352,701	118
Total	5,260,095	5,359,507	5,661,783	108	106	31,375,221	32,599,432	104
Turkeys								
Young	518,359	491,934	549,971	106	112	2,900,164	3,098,198	107
Old	4,184	4,477	4,757	114	106	28,028	31,774	113
Total	522,543	496,411	554,728	106	112	2,928,192	3,129,972	107
Ducks	13,676	13,248	14,317	105	108	85,159	81,958	96
Other ¹	173	175	155	90	89	1,035	966	93
Total	5,796,487	5,869,341	6,230,983	107	106	34,389,607	35,812,328	104
	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)
Average live weight								
Chickens								
Young	6.59	6.66	6.62	100	99	6.59	6.64	101
Mature	6.83	7.26	7.27	106	100	6.87	7.15	104
Light	3.42	3.52	3.49	102	99	3.44	3.49	101
Heavy	8.56	8.65	8.59	100	99	8.44	8.55	101
Total	6.59	6.66	6.63	101	100	6.60	6.64	101
Turkeys								
Young	31.76	32.87	34.02	107	103	32.35	33.69	104
Old	29.67	31.98	30.49	103	95	30.27	31.30	103
Total	31.74	32.86	33.98	107	103	32.33	33.67	104
Ducks	7.02	7.15	6.96	99	97	7.05	7.12	101

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

Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified by Type – United States

[Ready-to-cook weights]

Commodity	June 2025	May 2026	June 2026	June 2026 as % of		January to June		2026 as percent of 2025
				June 2025	May 2026	2025	2026	
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Chilled								
Chickens								
Young	3,684,062	3,770,666	3,964,960	108	105	21,909,375	22,865,067	104
Mature	38,808	48,174	55,327	143	115	244,327	287,100	118
Light	4,976	4,815	5,159	104	107	29,541	28,545	97
Heavy	33,832	43,359	50,168	148	116	214,786	258,555	120
Total	3,722,870	3,818,840	4,020,287	108	105	22,153,702	23,152,167	105
Turkeys								
Young	251,860	229,863	270,731	107	118	1,441,708	1,493,265	104
Old	3,056	3,269	3,511	115	107	19,236	22,915	119
Total	254,916	233,132	274,242	108	118	1,460,944	1,516,180	104
Ducks	3,124	3,094	3,117	100	101	18,553	18,606	100
Other ¹	125	115	110	88	96	650	661	102
Total	3,981,035	4,055,181	4,297,756	108	106	23,633,849	24,687,614	104
Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	254,427	249,545	278,833	110	112	1,546,912	1,558,093	101
Mature	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	5	203	4,060
Light	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	5	77	1,540
Heavy	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	126	(X)
Total	254,427	249,545	278,833	110	112	1,546,917	1,558,296	101
Turkeys								
Young	160,576	162,616	166,992	104	103	863,827	973,051	113
Old	134	111	83	62	75	2,164	1,112	51
Total	160,710	162,727	167,075	104	103	865,991	974,163	112
Ducks	6,871	6,664	7,432	108	112	43,766	41,755	95
Other ¹	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	65	1	2
Total	422,008	418,936	453,340	107	108	2,456,739	2,574,215	105
Chilled and frozen								
Chickens								
Young	3,938,489	4,020,211	4,243,793	108	106	23,456,287	24,423,160	104
Mature	38,808	48,174	55,327	143	115	244,332	287,303	118
Light	4,976	4,815	5,159	104	107	29,546	28,622	97
Heavy	33,832	43,359	50,168	148	116	214,786	258,681	120
Total	3,977,297	4,068,385	4,299,120	108	106	23,700,619	24,710,463	104
Turkeys								
Young	412,436	392,479	437,723	106	112	2,305,535	2,466,316	107
Old	3,190	3,380	3,594	113	106	21,400	24,027	112
Total	415,626	395,859	441,317	106	111	2,326,935	2,490,343	107
Ducks	9,995	9,758	10,549	106	108	62,319	60,361	97
Other ¹	125	115	110	88	96	715	662	93
Total	4,403,043	4,474,117	4,751,096	108	106	26,090,588	27,261,829	104

- Represents zero.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Includes geese, guineas, and squab.

Ante-Mortem Condemnations by Type – United States

[Federally inspected only]

Commodity	June 2025	May 2026	June 2026	June 2026 as % of		January to June		2026 as percent of 2025
				June 2025	May 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	10,396	8,991	10,324	99	115	61,458	59,332	97
Mature	772	674	817	106	121	5,028	4,495	89
Light	71	73	81	114	111	355	459	129
Heavy	701	601	736	105	122	4,673	4,036	86
Total	11,168	9,665	11,141	100	115	66,486	63,827	96
Turkeys								
Young	2,101	1,739	2,180	104	125	10,408	11,050	106
Old	44	33	51	116	155	198	234	118
Total	2,145	1,772	2,231	104	126	10,606	11,284	106
Ducks	132	79	88	67	111	542	507	94
Total ¹	13,446	11,516	13,460	100	117	77,636	75,618	97
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of live weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.20	0.17	0.18	90	106	0.20	0.18	90
Mature	1.39	0.98	1.04	75	106	1.42	1.10	77
Light	0.76	0.80	0.83	109	104	0.64	0.84	131
Heavy	1.52	1.00	1.07	70	107	1.56	1.14	73
Total	0.21	0.18	0.20	95	111	0.21	0.20	95
Turkeys								
Young	0.41	0.35	0.40	98	114	0.36	0.36	100
Old	1.05	0.74	1.07	102	145	0.71	0.74	104
Total	0.41	0.36	0.40	98	111	0.36	0.36	100
Ducks	0.97	0.60	0.61	63	102	0.64	0.62	97
Total ¹	0.23	0.20	0.22	96	110	0.23	0.21	91

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	June 2025	May 2026	June 2026	June 2026 as % of		January to June		2026 as percent of 2025
				June 2025	May 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	17,008	17,118	17,193	101	100	108,834	107,616	99
Mature	1,478	1,399	1,563	106	112	8,171	8,637	106
Light	374	351	355	95	101	2,213	2,197	99
Heavy	1,104	1,048	1,208	109	115	5,958	6,440	108
Total	18,486	18,517	18,756	101	101	117,005	116,253	99
Turkeys								
Young	6,130	5,345	5,699	93	107	34,801	36,644	105
Old	152	231	211	139	91	985	1,390	141
Total	6,282	5,576	5,910	94	106	35,786	38,034	106
Ducks	190	197	192	101	97	1,036	1,029	99
Other ¹	8	3	7	88	233	28	18	64
Total	24,966	24,293	24,865	100	102	153,855	155,334	101
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.43	0.42	0.40	93	95	0.46	0.44	96
Mature	3.67	2.82	2.75	75	98	3.24	2.92	90
Light	6.99	6.79	6.44	92	95	6.97	7.13	102
Heavy	3.16	2.36	2.35	74	100	2.70	2.43	90
Total	0.46	0.45	0.43	93	96	0.49	0.47	96
Turkeys								
Young	1.46	1.34	1.29	88	96	1.49	1.46	98
Old	4.55	6.40	5.55	122	87	4.40	5.47	124
Total	1.49	1.39	1.32	89	95	1.51	1.50	99
Ducks	1.87	1.98	1.79	96	90	1.64	1.68	102
Other ¹	6.02	2.54	5.98	99	235	3.77	2.65	70
Total	0.56	0.54	0.52	93	96	0.59	0.57	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: May and June 2026

Commodity	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	May	June	May	June	May	June
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	-	-	303	269	25,742	27,062
Mature	-	-	23	10	65,339	68,163
Light	-	-	23	10	54,966	56,124
Heavy	-	-	-	-	10,373	12,039
Total	-	-	326	279	91,081	95,225
Turkeys						
Young	-	-	3	1	2,185	2,064
Old	-	-	-	-	1,094	875
Total	-	-	3	1	3,279	2,939
Commodity	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	May	June	May	June	May	June
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	55,930	54,741	579	658	332	490
Mature	2,320	2,300	4	4	10,592	11,682
Light	2,320	2,300	2	4	10,539	11,640
Heavy	-	-	2	-	53	42
Total	58,250	57,041	583	662	10,924	12,172
Turkeys						
Young	1,067	1,373	18	27	4	54
Old	928	1,048	21	84	186	429
Total	1,995	2,421	39	111	190	483
Commodity	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	May	June	May	June	May	June
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	1,441	1,475	718	783	20,846	20,711
Mature	1,662	1,961	120	119	11,618	10,683
Light	1,658	1,956	116	116	11,618	10,680
Heavy	4	5	4	3	-	3
Total	3,103	3,436	838	902	32,464	31,394
Turkeys						
Young	108	86	158	263	270	630
Old	18	17	54	34	305	268
Total	126	103	212	297	575	898
Commodity	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	May	June	May	June	May	June
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	729	978	46,159	49,852	2,162,845	2,232,043
Mature	229	140	24,709	24,376	53,243	64,392
Light	223	135	24,699	24,357	-	-
Heavy	6	5	10	19	53,243	64,392
Total	958	1,118	70,868	74,228	2,216,088	2,296,435
Turkeys						
Young	69	56	1,706	2,052	66,319	74,130
Old	45	32	240	207	188	251
Total	114	88	1,946	2,259	66,507	74,381

- 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: May and June 2026

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

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	May	June	May	June	May	June
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
Alabama	98,244	105,984	538,703	580,160	5.48	5.47
Arkansas	84,814	94,424	624,885	691,001	7.37	7.32
Delaware	38,352	33,081	308,373	256,165	8.04	7.74
Georgia	106,065	113,518	669,708	714,955	6.31	6.30
Illinois	56	64	360	410	6.45	6.40
Kentucky	25,793	26,679	173,779	179,909	6.74	6.74
Louisiana	14,083	15,501	96,292	105,782	6.84	6.82
Maryland	11,383	12,156	75,481	76,864	6.63	6.32
Mississippi	60,719	63,582	408,120	419,927	6.72	6.60
Missouri	25,796	28,052	142,263	149,330	5.52	5.32
New Jersey	205	195	1,146	1,162	5.58	5.96
New York	3,208	3,482	16,212	17,918	5.05	5.15
North Carolina	76,119	83,248	635,794	698,308	8.35	8.39
Ohio	10,247	12,167	49,835	59,086	4.86	4.86
Oklahoma	8,187	9,171	64,980	73,561	7.94	8.02
Pennsylvania	16,090	16,927	92,190	96,699	5.73	5.71
South Carolina	23,720	25,609	178,535	193,357	7.53	7.55
Tennessee	32,731	35,582	198,533	219,021	6.07	6.16
Texas	63,301	63,226	440,205	437,853	6.95	6.93
Vermont	34	54	225	355	6.65	6.62
Virginia	26,656	27,734	168,688	178,983	6.33	6.45
United States	794,920	842,921	5,290,425	5,582,905	6.66	6.62

Young Chickens Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations – States and United States: May and June 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	
	May	June	May	June	May	June
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
Alabama	415,653	445,180	1,359	1,455	0.33	0.33
Arkansas	478,109	527,262	1,315	1,366	0.27	0.26
Delaware	239,008	204,037	1,205	1,446	0.50	0.70
Georgia	508,414	546,652	2,550	2,352	0.50	0.43
Illinois	269	306	-	-	(X)	(X)
Kentucky	132,181	136,486	685	693	0.52	0.51
Louisiana	70,524	77,411	483	472	0.68	0.61
Maryland	56,567	57,438	520	511	0.91	0.88
Mississippi	305,146	307,105	629	658	0.21	0.21
Missouri	103,600	108,835	292	341	0.28	0.31
New Jersey	848	864	13	10	1.53	1.17
New York	10,177	11,232	98	94	0.96	0.83
North Carolina	496,984	540,633	1,343	1,190	0.27	0.22
Ohio	37,540	44,368	149	159	0.40	0.36
Oklahoma	48,906	55,345	253	236	0.51	0.42
Pennsylvania	64,990	68,235	983	1,065	1.49	1.54
South Carolina	134,848	145,615	991	958	0.73	0.65
Tennessee	146,488	162,192	496	470	0.34	0.29
Texas	338,026	345,829	742	718	0.22	0.21
Vermont	169	268	-	-	(X)	(X)
Virginia	128,050	135,572	317	220	0.25	0.16
United States	4,020,211	4,243,793	17,118	17,193	0.42	0.40

- 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: May and June 2026

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

State	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	May	June	May	June	May	June
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arkansas	-	-	-	-	523	248
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	-	-	-	-	2,827	3,019
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	2	2
Texas	-	-	60	60	234	327
Virginia	-	-	-	-	7	6
United States	-	-	303	269	25,742	27,062

State	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	May	June	May	June	May	June
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arkansas	201	219	22	11	-	-
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	6,067	6,213	2	-	198	129
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	1	-	-	-	-	-
Texas	12	25	2	-	-	1
Virginia	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States	55,930	54,741	579	658	332	490

State	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	May	June	May	June	May	June
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arkansas	5	4	-	2	49	20
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	124	97	14	9	1,374	742
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	1	-	-	-	-	10
Texas	21	21	9	18	7	9
Virginia	1	3	-	-	-	-
United States	1,441	1,475	718	783	20,846	20,711

State	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	May	June	May	June	May	June
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	195,934	214,654
Arkansas	-	1	167	134	97,881	100,829
Delaware	-	-	-	-	123,727	123,947
Georgia	105	53	5,798	5,130	297,935	274,208
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	93,100	86,164
North Carolina	-	3	2	-	97,887	100,551
Texas	6	4	704	570	60,052	60,240
Virginia	-	4	-	7	293,740	286,973
United States	729	978	46,159	49,852	2,162,845	2,232,043

- 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: May and June 2026

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

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	May	June	May	June	May	June
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
California	110	102	2,618	2,171	23.71	21.20
Illinois	-	(Z)	(X)	2	(X)	33.09
Indiana	1,567	1,808	70,215	79,883	44.82	44.19
Iowa	1,000	1,234	47,262	57,120	47.27	46.27
Michigan	312	439	14,221	20,175	45.56	45.92
Minnesota	3,479	3,510	97,983	106,162	28.16	30.25
North Carolina	1,879	1,942	77,728	79,537	41.36	40.96
Ohio	563	604	25,519	28,248	45.33	46.75
Pennsylvania	566	689	16,912	19,872	29.88	28.86
South Carolina	537	647	22,555	26,794	41.98	41.41
Vermont	-	(Z)	(X)	(Z)	(X)	34.00
Wisconsin	(Z)	(Z)	1	(Z)	32.38	19.75
United States	14,968	16,168	491,934	549,971	32.87	34.02

- 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: May and June 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	
	May	June	May	June	May	June
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
California	2,089	1,735	6	2	0.27	0.10
Illinois	(X)	1	(X)	-	(X)	(X)
Indiana	57,104	64,731	770	969	1.33	1.47
Iowa	37,145	44,844	568	653	1.51	1.44
Michigan	11,021	15,636	160	-	1.43	(X)
Minnesota	78,397	84,597	807	880	1.02	1.03
North Carolina	61,071	62,075	336	343	0.55	0.55
Ohio	20,404	22,589	295	327	1.42	1.43
Pennsylvania	13,291	15,630	349	380	2.56	2.37
South Carolina	17,110	20,309	389	483	2.23	2.32
Vermont	(X)	(Z)	(X)	-	(X)	(X)
Wisconsin	(Z)	(Z)	-	-	(X)	(X)
United States	392,479	437,723	5,345	5,699	1.34	1.29

- 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.

USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service - Estimation Branch Contacts

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- Fleming Gibson, Section Chief (Acting)**..... (202) 236-2428
- Catfish, Census of Aquaculture, Dairy Products, Livestock Slaughter, Poultry Slaughter, Trout, Turkey Hatchery, Turkey Raised
- Julie Weber, Section Chief** (202) 317-0165
- Cost of Pollination, Egg Products, Honey, Honey Bee Colonies, Milk Production

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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.

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