



Poultry Slaughter

ISSN: 1949-1581

Released August 25, 2026, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Ready-to-Cook Weight Up 4 Percent from Last Year

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

July 2026 contained 23 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

Poultry certified wholesome during July 2026 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 4.84 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the amount certified in July 2025. The June 2026 revised certified total at 4.76 billion pounds, was up 8 percent from June 2025. The June revision represented an increase of 5.97 million pounds from last month's preliminary pounds certified.

The preliminary total live weight of all federally inspected poultry during July 2026 was 6.37 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 6.13 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 5.75 billion pounds, up 4 percent from July 2025. Mature chickens, at 75.2 million pounds, were up 18 percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 538 million pounds, up slightly from a year ago. Ducks totaled 14.2 million pounds, down 4 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during July 2026 averaged 6.61 pounds per bird, up slightly from July 2025. The average live weight of mature chickens was 7.28 pounds per bird, up 5 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during July 2026 averaged 32.5 pounds per bird, up 5 percent from July 2025.

Ante-mortem condemnations during July 2026 totaled 15.0 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.24 percent of the live weight inspected, as compared with 0.25 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 25.8 million pounds, were 0.53 percent of quantities inspected, as compared with 0.57 percent a year earlier.

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

[Federally inspected only]

Commodity	July 2025	June 2026	July 2026	July 2026 as % of		January to July		2026 as percent of 2025
				July 2025	June 2026	2025	2026	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Slaughtered								
Chickens								
Young	836,662	843,229	869,717	104	103	5,541,101	5,720,226	103
Mature	9,210	10,845	10,327	112	95	60,801	67,318	111
Light	2,766	2,807	2,762	100	98	18,923	18,482	98
Heavy	6,444	8,038	7,565	117	94	41,878	48,836	117
Total	845,872	854,074	880,044	104	103	5,601,902	5,787,544	103
Turkeys								
Young	17,165	16,912	16,363	95	97	106,803	109,060	102
Old	159	156	175	110	112	1,085	1,190	110
Total	17,324	17,068	16,538	95	97	107,888	110,250	102
Ducks	2,168	2,057	2,063	95	100	14,249	13,570	95
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Total live weight								
Chickens								
Young	5,511,257	5,584,682	5,746,513	104	103	36,531,877	37,940,092	104
Mature	63,817	78,878	75,213	118	95	418,418	482,843	115
Light	9,833	9,797	9,649	98	98	65,460	64,578	99
Heavy	53,984	69,081	65,564	121	95	352,958	418,265	119
Total	5,575,074	5,663,560	5,821,726	104	103	36,950,295	38,422,935	104
Turkeys								
Young	531,823	560,297	532,434	100	95	3,431,987	3,640,958	106
Old	5,026	4,757	5,246	104	110	33,054	37,020	112
Total	536,849	565,054	537,680	100	95	3,465,041	3,677,978	106
Ducks	14,825	14,317	14,177	96	99	99,984	96,135	96
Other ¹	275	155	208	76	134	1,310	1,174	90
Total	6,127,023	6,243,086	6,373,791	104	102	40,516,630	42,198,222	104
	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)
Average live weight								
Chickens								
Young	6.59	6.62	6.61	100	100	6.59	6.63	101
Mature	6.93	7.27	7.28	105	100	6.88	7.17	104
Light	3.55	3.49	3.49	98	100	3.46	3.49	101
Heavy	8.38	8.59	8.67	103	101	8.43	8.56	102
Total	6.59	6.63	6.62	100	100	6.60	6.64	101
Turkeys								
Young	30.98	33.13	32.54	105	98	32.13	33.38	104
Old	31.61	30.49	29.98	95	98	30.46	31.11	102
Total	30.99	33.11	32.51	105	98	32.12	33.36	104
Ducks	6.84	6.96	6.87	100	99	7.02	7.08	101

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

Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified by Type – United States

[Ready-to-cook weights]

Commodity	July 2025	June 2026	July 2026	July 2026 as % of		January to July		2026 as percent of 2025
				July 2025	June 2026	2025	2026	
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Chilled								
Chickens								
Young	3,887,915	3,962,242	4,059,802	104	102	25,797,290	26,922,151	104
Mature	43,986	55,327	52,433	119	95	288,313	339,533	118
Light	5,268	5,159	5,084	97	99	34,809	33,629	97
Heavy	38,718	50,168	47,349	122	94	253,504	305,904	121
Total	3,931,901	4,017,569	4,112,235	105	102	26,085,603	27,261,684	105
Turkeys								
Young	261,778	272,250	255,452	98	94	1,703,486	1,750,236	103
Old	3,702	3,511	3,796	103	108	22,938	26,711	116
Total	265,480	275,761	259,248	98	94	1,726,424	1,776,947	103
Ducks	4,127	3,117	3,046	74	98	22,680	21,652	95
Other ¹	129	110	119	92	108	779	780	100
Total	4,201,637	4,296,557	4,374,648	104	102	27,835,486	29,061,063	104
Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	275,430	278,833	294,309	107	106	1,822,342	1,852,402	102
Mature	124	-	4	3	(X)	129	207	160
Light	-	-	4	(X)	(X)	5	81	1,620
Heavy	124	-	-	(X)	(X)	124	126	102
Total	275,554	278,833	294,313	107	106	1,822,471	1,852,609	102
Turkeys								
Young	161,521	174,161	167,931	104	96	1,025,348	1,148,151	112
Old	73	83	155	212	187	2,237	1,267	57
Total	161,594	174,244	168,086	104	96	1,027,585	1,149,418	112
Ducks	7,315	7,432	7,337	100	99	51,081	49,092	96
Other ¹	42	-	-	(X)	(X)	107	1	1
Total	444,505	460,509	469,736	106	102	2,901,244	3,051,120	105
Chilled and frozen								
Chickens								
Young	4,163,345	4,241,075	4,354,111	105	103	27,619,632	28,774,553	104
Mature	44,110	55,327	52,437	119	95	288,442	339,740	118
Light	5,268	5,159	5,088	97	99	34,814	33,710	97
Heavy	38,842	50,168	47,349	122	94	253,628	306,030	121
Total	4,207,455	4,296,402	4,406,548	105	103	27,908,074	29,114,293	104
Turkeys								
Young	423,299	446,411	423,383	100	95	2,728,834	2,898,387	106
Old	3,775	3,594	3,951	105	110	25,175	27,978	111
Total	427,074	450,005	427,334	100	95	2,754,009	2,926,365	106
Ducks	11,442	10,549	10,383	91	98	73,761	70,744	96
Other ¹	171	110	119	70	108	886	781	88
Total	4,646,142	4,757,066	4,844,384	104	102	30,736,730	32,112,183	104

- Represents zero.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Includes geese, guineas, and squab.

Ante-Mortem Condemnations by Type – United States

[Federally inspected only]

Commodity	July 2025	June 2026	July 2026	July 2026 as % of		January to July		2026 as percent of 2025
				July 2025	June 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	11,909	10,326	11,606	97	112	73,367	70,940	97
Mature	770	817	811	105	99	5,798	5,306	92
Light	81	81	83	102	102	436	542	124
Heavy	689	736	728	106	99	5,362	4,764	89
Total	12,679	11,143	12,417	98	111	79,165	76,246	96
Turkeys								
Young	2,216	2,189	2,457	111	112	12,624	13,516	107
Old	71	51	45	63	88	269	279	104
Total	2,287	2,240	2,502	109	112	12,893	13,795	107
Ducks	140	88	104	74	118	682	611	90
Total ¹	15,107	13,471	15,023	99	112	92,743	90,652	98
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of live weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.22	0.18	0.20	91	111	0.20	0.19	95
Mature	1.21	1.04	1.08	89	104	1.39	1.10	79
Light	0.82	0.83	0.86	105	104	0.67	0.84	125
Heavy	1.28	1.07	1.11	87	104	1.52	1.14	75
Total	0.23	0.20	0.21	91	105	0.21	0.20	95
Turkeys								
Young	0.42	0.39	0.46	110	118	0.37	0.37	100
Old	1.41	1.07	0.86	61	80	0.81	0.75	93
Total	0.43	0.40	0.47	109	118	0.37	0.38	103
Ducks	0.94	0.61	0.73	78	120	0.68	0.64	94
Total ¹	0.25	0.22	0.24	96	109	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	July 2025	June 2026	July 2026	July 2026 as % of		January to July		2026 as percent of 2025
				July 2025	June 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	18,151	17,195	17,630	97	103	126,985	125,248	99
Mature	1,373	1,563	1,512	110	97	9,544	10,149	106
Light	429	355	322	75	91	2,642	2,519	95
Heavy	944	1,208	1,190	126	99	6,902	7,630	111
Total	19,524	18,758	19,142	98	102	136,529	135,397	99
Turkeys								
Young	6,686	5,778	6,226	93	108	41,487	42,949	104
Old	205	211	214	104	101	1,190	1,604	135
Total	6,891	5,989	6,440	93	108	42,677	44,553	104
Ducks	366	192	258	70	134	1,402	1,287	92
Other ¹	6	7	3	50	43	34	21	62
Total	26,787	24,946	25,843	96	104	180,642	181,258	100
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.43	0.40	0.40	93	100	0.46	0.43	93
Mature	3.02	2.75	2.80	93	102	3.20	2.90	91
Light	7.53	6.44	5.95	79	92	7.05	6.95	99
Heavy	2.37	2.35	2.45	103	104	2.65	2.43	92
Total	0.46	0.43	0.43	93	100	0.49	0.46	94
Turkeys								
Young	1.55	1.28	1.45	94	113	1.50	1.46	97
Old	5.15	5.55	5.14	100	93	4.51	5.42	120
Total	1.59	1.31	1.48	93	113	1.53	1.50	98
Ducks	3.10	1.79	2.42	78	135	1.87	1.79	96
Other ¹	3.39	5.98	2.46	73	41	3.70	2.62	71
Total	0.57	0.52	0.53	93	102	0.58	0.56	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: June and July 2026

Commodity	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	June	July	June	July	June	July
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	-	-	269	225	27,059	26,781
Mature	-	-	10	6	68,163	63,968
Light	-	-	10	6	56,124	54,429
Heavy	-	-	-	-	12,039	9,539
Total	-	-	279	231	95,222	90,749
Turkeys						
Young	-	-	1	2	2,194	2,065
Old	-	-	-	-	875	946
Total	-	-	1	2	3,069	3,011
Commodity	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	June	July	June	July	June	July
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	54,729	54,651	658	735	490	320
Mature	2,300	2,260	4	16	11,682	10,687
Light	2,300	2,260	4	7	11,640	10,657
Heavy	-	-	-	9	42	30
Total	57,029	56,911	662	751	12,172	11,007
Turkeys						
Young	1,373	1,450	40	9	54	55
Old	1,048	1,630	84	17	429	360
Total	2,421	3,080	124	26	483	415
Commodity	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	June	July	June	July	June	July
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	1,475	1,434	783	570	20,711	20,460
Mature	1,961	1,897	119	93	10,683	12,785
Light	1,956	1,888	116	91	10,680	12,780
Heavy	5	9	3	2	3	5
Total	3,436	3,331	902	663	31,394	33,245
Turkeys						
Young	86	74	263	133	630	341
Old	17	16	34	17	268	280
Total	103	90	297	150	898	621
Commodity	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	June	July	June	July	June	July
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	978	1,174	49,852	47,784	2,232,147	2,302,075
Mature	140	146	24,376	23,986	64,392	71,192
Light	135	143	24,357	23,968	-	-
Heavy	5	3	19	18	64,392	71,192
Total	1,118	1,320	74,228	71,770	2,296,539	2,373,267
Turkeys						
Young	56	73	2,058	1,428	74,509	85,443
Old	32	56	207	82	251	178
Total	88	129	2,265	1,510	74,760	85,621

- 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: June and July 2026

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

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	June	July	June	July	June	July
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
Alabama	106,288	109,733	581,914	603,489	5.47	5.50
Arkansas	94,424	93,465	691,001	675,642	7.32	7.23
Delaware	33,081	33,429	256,165	261,099	7.74	7.81
Georgia	113,518	126,375	714,955	798,908	6.30	6.32
Illinois	64	58	410	366	6.40	6.36
Kentucky	26,679	26,018	179,909	173,095	6.74	6.65
Louisiana	15,501	16,167	105,782	111,031	6.82	6.87
Maryland	12,156	12,674	76,864	86,008	6.32	6.79
Mississippi	63,582	66,265	419,927	440,845	6.60	6.65
Missouri	28,052	28,581	149,330	155,701	5.32	5.45
New Jersey	199	175	1,185	1,011	5.94	5.78
New York	3,482	3,379	17,918	16,704	5.15	4.94
North Carolina	83,248	85,611	698,308	713,735	8.39	8.34
Ohio	12,167	12,879	59,086	61,549	4.86	4.78
Oklahoma	9,171	9,044	73,561	68,086	8.02	7.53
Pennsylvania	16,927	16,519	96,699	96,485	5.71	5.84
South Carolina	25,609	26,166	193,357	196,386	7.55	7.51
Tennessee	35,582	35,693	219,021	216,809	6.16	6.07
Texas	63,226	66,061	437,853	458,001	6.93	6.93
Vermont	54	51	355	333	6.62	6.59
Virginia	27,734	27,080	178,983	170,590	6.45	6.30
United States	843,229	869,717	5,584,682	5,746,513	6.62	6.61

Young Chickens Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations – States and United States: June and July 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	
	June	July	June	July	June	July
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
Alabama	446,785	464,045	1,457	1,655	0.33	0.36
Arkansas	527,262	517,066	1,366	1,366	0.26	0.26
Delaware	204,037	208,953	1,446	1,592	0.70	0.76
Georgia	546,652	602,132	2,352	2,434	0.43	0.40
Illinois	306	274	-	-	(X)	(X)
Kentucky	136,486	130,756	693	740	0.51	0.56
Louisiana	77,411	81,012	472	408	0.61	0.50
Maryland	57,438	64,481	511	572	0.88	0.88
Mississippi	307,105	324,306	658	660	0.21	0.20
Missouri	108,835	112,884	341	368	0.31	0.32
New Jersey	880	737	10	9	1.15	1.26
New York	11,232	10,398	94	118	0.83	1.12
North Carolina	540,633	550,713	1,190	1,217	0.22	0.22
Ohio	44,368	46,152	159	241	0.36	0.52
Oklahoma	55,345	51,240	236	258	0.42	0.50
Pennsylvania	68,235	68,667	1,065	1,044	1.54	1.50
South Carolina	145,615	147,904	958	878	0.65	0.59
Tennessee	162,192	160,341	470	485	0.29	0.30
Texas	341,490	353,227	718	1,153	0.21	0.33
Vermont	268	250	-	-	(X)	(X)
Virginia	135,572	128,582	220	191	0.16	0.15
United States	4,241,075	4,354,111	17,195	17,630	0.40	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: June and July 2026

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

State	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	June	July	June	July	June	July
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	50	-	-
Arkansas	-	-	-	-	248	370
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	-	-	-	-	3,019	4,113
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	2	2
Texas	-	-	60	-	327	223
Virginia	-	-	-	-	6	-
United States	-	-	269	225	27,059	26,781
State	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	June	July	June	July	June	July
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arkansas	219	326	11	33	-	-
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	6,213	6,862	-	-	129	84
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	-	-
Texas	25	4	-	-	1	-
Virginia	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States	54,729	54,651	658	735	490	320
State	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	June	July	June	July	June	July
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arkansas	4	3	2	-	20	28
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	97	77	9	12	742	704
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	1	10	-
Texas	21	3	18	6	9	18
Virginia	3	-	-	-	-	-
United States	1,475	1,434	783	570	20,711	20,460
State	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	June	July	June	July	June	July
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	214,758	222,542
Arkansas	1	14	134	189	100,829	102,107
Delaware	-	-	-	-	123,947	186,020
Georgia	53	41	5,130	4,925	274,208	266,166
Mississippi	-	-	-	1	86,164	96,105
North Carolina	3	6	-	1	100,551	96,901
Texas	4	3	570	583	60,240	86,576
Virginia	4	1	7	3	286,973	317,606
United States	978	1,174	49,852	47,784	2,232,147	2,302,075

- 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: June and July 2026

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

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	June	July	June	July	June	July
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
California	102	181	2,171	3,641	21.20	20.06
Illinois	(Z)	2	2	40	33.09	25.13
Indiana	1,808	1,796	79,883	78,722	44.19	43.83
Iowa	1,234	1,131	57,120	52,883	46.27	46.75
Michigan	439	427	20,175	19,382	45.92	45.44
Minnesota	3,871	3,841	112,148	110,443	28.97	28.75
North Carolina	2,143	1,952	81,334	76,999	37.95	39.44
Ohio	604	614	28,248	27,113	46.75	44.13
Pennsylvania	694	711	20,013	19,176	28.84	26.97
South Carolina	647	610	26,794	23,747	41.41	38.90
Vermont	(Z)	-	(Z)	(X)	34.00	(X)
Wisconsin	(Z)	(Z)	(Z)	5	19.75	36.34
United States	16,912	16,363	560,297	532,434	33.13	32.54

- 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: June and July 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	
	June	July	June	July	June	July
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
California	1,735	2,848	2	2	0.10	0.06
Illinois	1	30	-	-	(X)	(X)
Indiana	64,731	63,723	969	1,017	1.47	1.57
Iowa	44,844	41,572	653	643	1.44	1.52
Michigan	15,636	15,021	-	-	(X)	(X)
Minnesota	89,846	88,069	933	951	1.03	1.07
North Carolina	63,483	60,502	349	413	0.55	0.68
Ohio	22,589	21,665	327	322	1.43	1.46
Pennsylvania	15,741	15,122	381	396	2.36	2.55
South Carolina	20,309	17,821	483	434	2.32	2.38
Vermont	(Z)	(X)	-	(X)	(X)	(X)
Wisconsin	(Z)	4	-	-	(X)	(X)
United States	446,411	423,383	5,778	6,226	1.28	1.45

- 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

For more information about specific data items, please contact the Estimation Branch staff members below. You can also email inquiries to nass@usda.gov.

- Anthony Prillaman, Associate Deputy Administrator** (202) 720-2127
- Darin Jantzi, Section Chief**..... (701) 412-5953
- Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery, Eggs, Hogs and Pigs, Layers, Sheep and Goats
- Jeff Lemmons, Section Chief**..... (202) 973-3272
- Cattle, Cattle on Feed, Capacity of Refrigerated Warehouses, Cold Storage
- 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

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.