



Poultry Slaughter

ISSN: 1949-1581

Released September 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

August 2025 contained 21 weekdays (including 0 holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

August 2026 contained 21 weekdays (including 0 holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

Poultry certified wholesome during August 2026 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 4.65 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the amount certified in August 2025. The July 2026 revised certified total at 4.86 billion pounds, was up 5 percent from July 2025. The July revision represented an increase of 15.9 million pounds from last month's preliminary pounds certified.

The preliminary total live weight of all federally inspected poultry during August 2026 was 6.11 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 5.89 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 5.47 billion pounds, up 3 percent from August 2025. Mature chickens, at 77.2 million pounds, were up 16 percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 550 million pounds, up 8 percent from a year ago. Ducks totaled 14.9 million pounds, up 3 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during August 2026 averaged 6.62 pounds per bird, down slightly from August 2025. The average live weight of mature chickens was 7.29 pounds per bird, up slightly from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during August 2026 averaged 32.4 pounds per bird, up 3 percent from August 2025.

Ante-mortem condemnations during August 2026 totaled 15.0 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.25 percent of the live weight inspected, as compared with 0.22 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 25.8 million pounds, were 0.55 percent of quantities inspected, as compared with 0.58 percent a year earlier.

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

[Federally inspected only]

Commodity	August 2025	July 2026	August 2026	August 2026 as % of		January to August		2026 as percent of 2025
				August 2025	July 2026	2025	2026	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Slaughtered								
Chickens								
Young	797,046	870,787	826,092	104	95	6,338,147	6,547,388	103
Mature	9,205	10,328	10,592	115	103	70,006	77,911	111
Light	2,668	2,763	2,625	98	95	21,591	21,108	98
Heavy	6,537	7,565	7,967	122	105	48,415	56,803	117
Total	806,251	881,115	836,684	104	95	6,408,153	6,625,299	103
Turkeys								
Young	16,117	17,116	16,830	104	98	122,920	126,643	103
Old	154	175	169	110	97	1,239	1,359	110
Total	16,271	17,291	16,999	104	98	124,159	128,002	103
Ducks	2,086	2,063	2,127	102	103	16,335	15,697	96
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Total live weight								
Chickens								
Young	5,299,359	5,755,319	5,466,306	103	95	41,831,236	43,415,204	104
Mature	66,787	75,214	77,240	116	103	485,205	560,084	115
Light	9,323	9,650	9,243	99	96	74,783	73,822	99
Heavy	57,464	65,564	67,997	118	104	410,422	486,262	118
Total	5,366,146	5,830,533	5,543,546	103	95	42,316,441	43,975,288	104
Turkeys								
Young	505,180	543,871	544,543	108	100	3,937,167	4,196,938	107
Old	4,599	5,246	5,344	116	102	37,653	42,364	113
Total	509,779	549,117	549,887	108	100	3,974,820	4,239,302	107
Ducks	14,526	14,177	14,904	103	105	114,510	111,039	97
Other ¹	383	208	308	80	148	1,693	1,482	88
Total	5,890,834	6,394,035	6,108,645	104	96	46,407,464	48,327,111	104
	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)
Average live weight								
Chickens								
Young	6.65	6.61	6.62	100	100	6.60	6.63	100
Mature	7.26	7.28	7.29	100	100	6.93	7.19	104
Light	3.49	3.49	3.52	101	101	3.46	3.50	101
Heavy	8.79	8.67	8.53	97	98	8.48	8.56	101
Total	6.66	6.62	6.63	100	100	6.60	6.64	101
Turkeys								
Young	31.34	31.78	32.36	103	102	32.03	33.14	103
Old	29.86	29.98	31.62	106	105	30.39	31.17	103
Total	31.33	31.76	32.35	103	102	32.01	33.12	103
Ducks	6.96	6.87	7.01	101	102	7.01	7.07	101

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

Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified by Type – United States

[Ready-to-cook weights]

Commodity	August 2025	July 2026	August 2026	August 2026 as % of		January to August		2026 as percent of 2025
				August 2025	July 2026	2025	2026	
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Chilled								
Chickens								
Young	3,750,397	4,066,266	3,863,874	103	95	29,547,687	30,792,489	104
Mature	46,960	52,433	54,730	117	104	335,273	394,263	118
Light	4,949	5,084	4,770	96	94	39,758	38,399	97
Heavy	42,011	47,349	49,960	119	106	295,515	355,864	120
Total	3,797,357	4,118,699	3,918,604	103	95	29,882,960	31,186,752	104
Turkeys								
Young	248,538	255,428	253,574	102	99	1,952,024	2,003,786	103
Old	3,386	3,796	3,791	112	100	26,324	30,502	116
Total	251,924	259,224	257,365	102	99	1,978,348	2,034,288	103
Ducks	3,280	3,046	3,249	99	107	25,960	24,901	96
Other ¹	114	119	132	116	111	893	912	102
Total	4,052,675	4,381,088	4,179,350	103	95	31,888,161	33,246,853	104
Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	266,340	294,648	278,344	105	94	2,088,682	2,131,085	102
Mature	124	4	-	(X)	(X)	253	207	82
Light	-	4	-	(X)	(X)	5	81	1,620
Heavy	124	-	-	(X)	(X)	248	126	51
Total	266,464	294,652	278,344	104	94	2,088,935	2,131,292	102
Turkeys								
Young	153,133	177,024	180,777	118	102	1,178,481	1,338,021	114
Old	84	155	316	376	204	2,321	1,583	68
Total	153,217	177,179	181,093	118	102	1,180,802	1,339,604	113
Ducks	7,238	7,337	7,640	106	104	58,319	56,732	97
Other ¹	115	-	49	43	(X)	222	50	23
Total	427,034	479,168	467,126	109	97	3,328,278	3,527,678	106
Chilled and frozen								
Chickens								
Young	4,016,737	4,360,914	4,142,218	103	95	31,636,369	32,923,574	104
Mature	47,084	52,437	54,730	116	104	335,526	394,470	118
Light	4,949	5,088	4,770	96	94	39,763	38,480	97
Heavy	42,135	47,349	49,960	119	106	295,763	355,990	120
Total	4,063,821	4,413,351	4,196,948	103	95	31,971,895	33,318,044	104
Turkeys								
Young	401,671	432,452	434,351	108	100	3,130,505	3,341,807	107
Old	3,470	3,951	4,107	118	104	28,645	32,085	112
Total	405,141	436,403	438,458	108	100	3,159,150	3,373,892	107
Ducks	10,518	10,383	10,889	104	105	84,279	81,633	97
Other ¹	229	119	181	79	152	1,115	962	86
Total	4,479,709	4,860,256	4,646,476	104	96	35,216,439	36,774,531	104

- Represents zero.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Includes geese, guineas, and squab.

Ante-Mortem Condemnations by Type – United States

[Federally inspected only]

Commodity	August 2025	July 2026	August 2026	August 2026 as % of		January to August		2026 as percent of 2025
				August 2025	July 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	10,096	11,677	11,559	114	99	83,463	82,570	99
Mature	805	811	963	120	119	6,603	6,269	95
Light	73	83	82	112	99	509	624	123
Heavy	732	728	881	120	121	6,094	5,645	93
Total	10,901	12,488	12,522	115	100	90,066	88,839	99
Turkeys								
Young	1,717	2,463	2,341	136	95	14,341	15,863	111
Old	23	45	49	213	109	292	328	112
Total	1,740	2,508	2,390	137	95	14,633	16,191	111
Ducks	119	104	99	83	95	801	710	89
Total ¹	12,762	15,100	15,012	118	99	105,505	105,741	100
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of live weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.19	0.20	0.21	111	105	0.20	0.19	95
Mature	1.21	1.08	1.25	103	116	1.36	1.12	82
Light	0.78	0.86	0.89	114	103	0.68	0.85	125
Heavy	1.27	1.11	1.30	102	117	1.48	1.16	78
Total	0.20	0.21	0.23	115	110	0.21	0.20	95
Turkeys								
Young	0.34	0.45	0.43	126	96	0.36	0.38	106
Old	0.50	0.86	0.92	184	107	0.78	0.77	99
Total	0.34	0.46	0.43	126	93	0.37	0.38	103
Ducks	0.82	0.73	0.66	80	90	0.70	0.64	91
Total ¹	0.22	0.24	0.25	114	104	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	August 2025	July 2026	August 2026	August 2026 as % of		January to August		2026 as percent of 2025
				August 2025	July 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	17,473	17,673	18,096	104	102	144,458	143,387	99
Mature	1,376	1,512	1,539	112	102	10,920	11,688	107
Light	416	322	326	78	101	3,058	2,845	93
Heavy	960	1,190	1,213	126	102	7,862	8,843	112
Total	18,849	19,185	19,635	104	102	155,378	155,075	100
Turkeys								
Young	6,464	6,313	5,731	89	91	47,951	48,767	102
Old	252	214	207	82	97	1,442	1,811	126
Total	6,716	6,527	5,938	88	91	49,393	50,578	102
Ducks	352	258	252	72	98	1,754	1,539	88
Other ¹	5	3	3	60	100	39	24	62
Total	25,922	25,973	25,828	100	99	206,564	207,216	100
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.43	0.40	0.43	100	108	0.45	0.43	96
Mature	2.84	2.80	2.74	96	98	3.15	2.88	91
Light	7.75	5.95	6.40	83	108	7.14	6.88	96
Heavy	2.23	2.45	2.37	106	97	2.59	2.42	93
Total	0.46	0.43	0.47	102	109	0.48	0.46	96
Turkeys								
Young	1.58	1.44	1.30	82	90	1.51	1.44	95
Old	6.77	5.14	4.80	71	93	4.79	5.34	111
Total	1.63	1.47	1.34	82	91	1.54	1.48	96
Ducks	3.24	2.42	2.26	70	93	2.04	1.85	91
Other ¹	2.14	2.46	1.63	76	66	3.38	2.43	72
Total	0.58	0.53	0.55	95	104	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: July and August 2026

Commodity	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	July	August	July	August	July	August
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	-	-	225	148	27,877	25,236
Mature	-	-	6	10	63,969	62,559
Light	-	-	6	1	54,430	54,524
Heavy	-	-	-	9	9,539	8,035
Total	-	-	231	158	91,846	87,795
Turkeys						
Young	-	-	2	-	2,065	2,245
Old	-	-	-	-	946	636
Total	-	-	2	-	3,011	2,881
Commodity	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	July	August	July	August	July	August
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	54,145	48,369	735	810	320	295
Mature	2,260	1,780	16	8	10,687	9,867
Light	2,260	1,772	7	7	10,657	9,792
Heavy	-	8	9	1	30	75
Total	56,405	50,149	751	818	11,007	10,162
Turkeys						
Young	1,450	1,386	9	36	55	30
Old	1,630	1,373	17	6	360	591
Total	3,080	2,759	26	42	415	621
Commodity	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	July	August	July	August	July	August
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	1,439	1,645	570	679	20,465	21,293
Mature	1,897	1,577	93	118	12,789	11,131
Light	1,888	1,577	91	115	12,784	11,131
Heavy	9	-	2	3	5	-
Total	3,336	3,222	663	797	33,254	32,424
Turkeys						
Young	74	83	133	102	341	361
Old	16	22	17	45	280	244
Total	90	105	150	147	621	605
Commodity	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	July	August	July	August	July	August
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	1,175	1,066	49,058	55,266	2,305,163	2,350,630
Mature	146	99	23,993	19,920	71,192	54,131
Light	143	98	23,975	19,920	-	-
Heavy	3	1	18	-	71,192	54,131
Total	1,321	1,165	73,051	75,186	2,376,355	2,404,761
Turkeys						
Young	73	55	1,428	1,358	85,646	68,446
Old	56	13	82	257	178	78
Total	129	68	1,510	1,615	85,824	68,524

- 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: July and August 2026

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

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	July	August	July	August	July	August
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
Alabama	109,733	105,141	603,489	575,491	5.50	5.47
Arkansas	93,465	89,972	675,642	652,693	7.23	7.25
Delaware	33,429	31,315	261,099	241,448	7.81	7.71
Georgia	126,646	113,416	801,969	715,884	6.33	6.31
Illinois	58	52	366	331	6.36	6.34
Kentucky	26,018	25,583	173,095	172,867	6.65	6.76
Louisiana	16,167	15,964	111,031	110,769	6.87	6.94
Maryland	12,674	11,541	86,008	77,528	6.79	6.72
Mississippi	66,265	62,934	440,845	435,855	6.65	6.93
Missouri	28,581	27,527	155,701	150,500	5.45	5.47
New Jersey	180	216	1,044	1,216	5.78	5.64
New York	3,383	3,641	16,725	18,411	4.94	5.06
North Carolina	85,931	78,789	716,804	651,613	8.34	8.27
Ohio	12,879	11,767	61,549	56,531	4.78	4.80
Oklahoma	9,044	9,025	68,086	69,838	7.53	7.74
Pennsylvania	16,758	19,421	97,900	114,419	5.84	5.89
South Carolina	26,166	25,162	196,386	189,147	7.51	7.52
Tennessee	35,693	33,611	216,809	204,285	6.07	6.08
Texas	66,061	63,067	458,001	434,513	6.93	6.89
Vermont	51	50	333	328	6.59	6.56
Virginia	27,080	27,793	170,590	178,378	6.30	6.42
United States	870,787	826,092	5,755,319	5,466,306	6.61	6.62

Young Chickens Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations – States and United States: July and August 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	
	July	August	July	August	July	August
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
Alabama	464,045	440,804	1,655	1,425	0.36	0.32
Arkansas	517,066	500,971	1,366	1,960	0.26	0.39
Delaware	208,953	186,992	1,592	1,409	0.76	0.75
Georgia	604,274	544,007	2,445	2,265	0.40	0.41
Illinois	274	251	-	-	(X)	(X)
Kentucky	130,756	130,989	740	802	0.56	0.61
Louisiana	81,012	81,122	408	404	0.50	0.50
Maryland	64,481	57,991	572	507	0.88	0.87
Mississippi	324,306	317,210	660	680	0.20	0.21
Missouri	112,884	109,439	368	292	0.32	0.27
New Jersey	757	901	9	16	1.23	1.77
New York	10,415	11,574	118	116	1.12	0.99
North Carolina	553,469	503,316	1,220	1,132	0.22	0.22
Ohio	46,152	42,066	241	244	0.52	0.58
Oklahoma	51,240	52,665	258	204	0.50	0.39
Pennsylvania	69,701	82,143	1,051	1,161	1.49	1.39
South Carolina	147,904	142,762	878	943	0.59	0.66
Tennessee	160,341	151,400	485	435	0.30	0.29
Texas	353,227	339,556	1,153	1,657	0.33	0.49
Vermont	250	247	-	-	(X)	(X)
Virginia	128,582	135,941	191	244	0.15	0.18
United States	4,360,914	4,142,218	17,673	18,096	0.40	0.43

- 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: July and August 2026

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

State	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	July	August	July	August	July	August
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	50	-	-	-
Arkansas	-	-	-	-	370	226
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	-	-	-	9	4,113	3,622
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	3
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	2	3
Texas	-	-	-	-	223	194
Virginia	-	-	-	-	-	1
United States	-	-	225	148	27,877	25,236
State	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	July	August	July	August	July	August
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arkansas	326	361	33	36	-	-
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	6,197	6,269	-	1	84	120
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	1	-	-	-	-
Texas	4	14	-	-	-	4
Virginia	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States	54,145	48,369	735	810	320	295
State	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	July	August	July	August	July	August
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arkansas	3	18	-	-	28	23
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	77	88	12	17	704	767
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	1	2	-	3
Texas	3	17	6	3	18	16
Virginia	-	2	-	-	-	-
United States	1,439	1,645	570	679	20,465	21,293
State	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	July	August	July	August	July	August
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	222,542	198,206
Arkansas	14	-	189	226	102,107	89,217
Delaware	-	-	-	-	186,020	169,769
Georgia	41	139	4,925	4,897	266,586	245,127
Mississippi	-	-	1	-	96,105	97,574
North Carolina	6	8	1	2	96,982	102,682
Texas	3	14	583	454	86,576	169,214
Virginia	1	25	3	1	317,606	427,166
United States	1,175	1,066	49,058	55,266	2,305,163	2,350,630

- 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: July and August 2026

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

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	July	August	July	August	July	August
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
California	181	181	3,641	4,027	20.06	22.27
Illinois	2	1	40	35	25.13	27.67
Indiana	1,796	1,777	78,722	78,488	43.83	44.17
Iowa	1,131	1,093	52,883	50,956	46.75	46.64
Michigan	427	433	19,382	19,257	45.44	44.51
Minnesota	3,841	3,767	110,414	106,286	28.74	28.21
North Carolina	1,952	1,979	76,999	77,559	39.44	39.19
Ohio	614	608	27,113	27,878	44.13	45.87
Pennsylvania	711	620	19,176	17,131	26.97	27.64
South Carolina	610	598	23,747	23,668	38.90	39.59
Vermont	-	-	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Wisconsin	(Z)	(Z)	5	4	36.34	22.75
United States	17,116	16,830	543,871	544,543	31.78	32.36

- 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: July and August 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	
	July	August	July	August	July	August
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
California	2,848	3,215	2	3	0.06	0.10
Illinois	30	26	-	-	(X)	(X)
Indiana	63,723	63,423	1,017	968	1.57	1.50
Iowa	41,572	40,112	643	636	1.52	1.56
Michigan	15,021	14,924	-	45	(X)	0.30
Minnesota	88,045	84,996	951	890	1.07	1.04
North Carolina	60,502	61,048	413	421	0.68	0.68
Ohio	21,665	22,294	322	372	1.46	1.64
Pennsylvania	15,122	13,634	396	272	2.55	1.96
South Carolina	17,821	17,813	434	439	2.38	2.40
Vermont	-	-	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Wisconsin	4	4	-	-	(X)	(X)
United States	432,452	434,351	6,313	5,731	1.44	1.30

- Represents zero.

(X) Not applicable.

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.



USDA Virtual Data Users' Meeting
October 14, 2026
12:00 PM ET

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will host a virtual USDA Fall Data Users' Meeting on October 14, 2026, starting at 12:00 p.m. ET. This Data Users' Meeting is free of charge and open to the public.

The event is regularly held to share recent and pending updates to USDA data and statistical products with the public and to solicit input on agency programs important to agriculture. It is organized by NASS in cooperation with the World Agricultural Outlook Board, Farm Service Agency, Economic Research Service, Agricultural Marketing Service, Foreign Agricultural Service, and the U.S. Census Bureau. Leaders from each agency will be available to take questions and comments.

To view the complete agenda and register for the meeting, please visit www.nass.usda.gov/go/data_users. For more information, contact Shareefah Williams at Shareefah.williams@usda.gov.