



Poultry Slaughter

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Ready-to-Cook Weight Down Slightly from Last Year

September 2025 contained 22 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

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

Poultry certified wholesome during September 2026 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 4.74 billion pounds, down slightly from the amount certified in September 2025. The August 2026 revised certified total at 4.65 billion pounds, was up 4 percent from August 2025.

The preliminary total live weight of all federally inspected poultry during September 2026 was 6.22 billion pounds, down slightly from 6.25 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 5.53 billion pounds, down 1 percent from September 2025. Mature chickens, at 76.8 million pounds, were up 5 percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 594 million pounds, up 7 percent from a year ago. Ducks totaled 18.5 million pounds, up 24 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during September 2026 averaged 6.67 pounds per bird, down 0.06 pound from September 2025. The average live weight of mature chickens was 7.41 pounds per bird, up 0.28 pound from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during September 2026 averaged 33.44 pounds per bird, up 1.20 pounds from September 2025.

Ante-mortem condemnations during September 2026 totaled 14.5 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.23 percent of the live weight inspected, as compared with 0.20 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 24.6 million pounds, were 0.52 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	September 2025	August 2026	September 2026	September 2026 as % of		January to September		2026 as percent of 2025
				September 2025	August 2026	2025	2026	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Slaughtered								
Chickens								
Young	834,089	825,887	829,632	99	100	7,172,236	7,376,815	103
Mature	10,241	10,593	10,367	101	98	80,247	88,279	110
Light	2,977	2,626	2,525	85	96	24,568	23,634	96
Heavy	7,264	7,967	7,842	108	98	55,679	64,645	116
Total	844,330	836,480	839,999	99	100	7,252,483	7,465,094	103
Turkeys								
Young	17,100	16,848	17,587	103	104	140,020	144,248	103
Old	172	169	171	99	101	1,411	1,530	108
Total	17,272	17,017	17,758	103	104	141,431	145,778	103
Ducks	2,119	2,127	2,636	124	124	18,454	18,333	99
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Total live weight								
Chickens								
Young	5,609,783	5,464,683	5,534,482	99	101	47,441,019	48,948,063	103
Mature	73,033	77,244	76,824	105	99	558,238	636,912	114
Light	10,241	9,247	8,887	87	96	85,024	82,713	97
Heavy	62,792	67,997	67,937	108	100	473,214	554,199	117
Total	5,682,816	5,541,927	5,611,306	99	101	47,999,257	49,584,975	103
Turkeys								
Young	551,465	546,144	588,297	107	108	4,488,632	4,786,836	107
Old	5,314	5,344	5,495	103	103	42,967	47,859	111
Total	556,779	551,488	593,792	107	108	4,531,599	4,834,695	107
Ducks	14,937	14,905	18,511	124	124	129,447	129,551	100
Other ¹	432	308	471	109	153	2,125	1,953	92
Total	6,254,964	6,108,628	6,224,080	100	102	52,662,428	54,551,174	104
	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)
Average live weight								
Chickens								
Young	6.73	6.62	6.67	99	101	6.61	6.64	100
Mature	7.13	7.29	7.41	104	102	6.96	7.21	104
Light	3.44	3.52	3.52	102	100	3.46	3.50	101
Heavy	8.64	8.53	8.66	100	102	8.50	8.57	101
Total	6.73	6.63	6.68	99	101	6.62	6.64	100
Turkeys								
Young	32.25	32.42	33.45	104	103	32.06	33.18	103
Old	30.90	31.62	32.13	104	102	30.45	31.28	103
Total	32.24	32.41	33.44	104	103	32.04	33.16	103
Ducks	7.05	7.01	7.02	100	100	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	September 2025	August 2026	September 2026	September 2026 as % of		January to September		2026 as percent of 2025
				September 2025	August 2026	2025	2026	
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Chilled								
Chickens								
Young	3,955,779	3,870,046	3,915,576	99	101	33,503,466	34,714,237	104
Mature	51,818	54,733	54,459	105	99	387,091	448,725	116
Light	5,438	4,773	4,755	87	100	45,196	43,157	95
Heavy	46,380	49,960	49,704	107	99	341,895	405,568	119
Total	4,007,597	3,924,779	3,970,035	99	101	33,890,557	35,162,962	104
Turkeys								
Young	269,267	254,113	288,937	107	114	2,221,291	2,293,262	103
Old	3,914	3,791	3,755	96	99	30,238	34,257	113
Total	273,181	257,904	292,692	107	113	2,251,529	2,327,519	103
Ducks	3,090	3,250	3,954	128	122	29,050	28,856	99
Other ¹	124	132	139	112	105	1,017	1,051	103
Total	4,283,992	4,186,065	4,266,820	100	102	36,172,153	37,520,388	104
Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	295,841	278,234	279,435	94	100	2,384,523	2,410,410	101
Mature	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	253	207	82
Light	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	5	81	1,620
Heavy	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	248	126	51
Total	295,841	278,234	279,435	94	100	2,384,776	2,410,617	101
Turkeys								
Young	169,486	181,385	179,533	106	99	1,347,967	1,518,162	113
Old	80	316	409	511	129	2,401	1,992	83
Total	169,566	181,701	179,942	106	99	1,350,368	1,520,154	113
Ducks	7,773	7,640	9,679	125	127	66,092	66,411	100
Other ¹	140	49	140	100	286	362	190	52
Total	473,320	467,624	469,196	99	100	3,801,598	3,997,372	105
Chilled and frozen								
Chickens								
Young	4,251,620	4,148,280	4,195,011	99	101	35,887,989	37,124,647	103
Mature	51,818	54,733	54,459	105	99	387,344	448,932	116
Light	5,438	4,773	4,755	87	100	45,201	43,238	96
Heavy	46,380	49,960	49,704	107	99	342,143	405,694	119
Total	4,303,438	4,203,013	4,249,470	99	101	36,275,333	37,573,579	104
Turkeys								
Young	438,753	435,498	468,470	107	108	3,569,258	3,811,424	107
Old	3,994	4,107	4,164	104	101	32,639	36,249	111
Total	442,747	439,605	472,634	107	108	3,601,897	3,847,673	107
Ducks	10,863	10,890	13,633	125	125	95,142	95,267	100
Other ¹	264	181	279	106	154	1,379	1,241	90
Total	4,757,312	4,653,689	4,736,016	100	102	39,973,751	41,517,760	104

- Represents zero.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Includes geese, guineas, and squab.

Ante-Mortem Condemnations by Type – United States

[Federally inspected only]

Commodity	September 2025	August 2026	September 2026	September 2026 as % of		January to September		2026 as percent of 2025
				September 2025	August 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	10,160	11,561	11,378	112	98	93,623	93,950	100
Mature	727	963	1,003	138	104	7,330	7,272	99
Light	87	82	79	91	96	596	703	118
Heavy	640	881	924	144	105	6,734	6,569	98
Total	10,887	12,524	12,381	114	99	100,953	101,222	100
Turkeys								
Young	1,668	2,342	2,002	120	85	16,009	17,866	112
Old	32	49	42	131	86	324	370	114
Total	1,700	2,391	2,044	120	85	16,333	18,236	112
Ducks	106	99	109	103	110	907	819	90
Total ¹	12,694	15,015	14,536	115	97	118,199	120,280	102
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of live weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.18	0.21	0.21	117	100	0.20	0.19	95
Mature	1.00	1.25	1.31	131	105	1.31	1.14	87
Light	0.85	0.89	0.89	105	100	0.70	0.85	121
Heavy	1.02	1.30	1.36	133	105	1.42	1.19	84
Total	0.19	0.23	0.22	116	96	0.21	0.20	95
Turkeys								
Young	0.30	0.43	0.34	113	79	0.36	0.37	103
Old	0.60	0.92	0.76	127	83	0.75	0.77	103
Total	0.31	0.43	0.34	110	79	0.36	0.38	106
Ducks	0.71	0.66	0.59	83	89	0.70	0.63	90
Total ¹	0.20	0.25	0.23	115	92	0.22	0.22	100

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	September 2025	August 2026	September 2026	September 2026 as % of		January to September		2026 as percent of 2025
				September 2025	August 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	19,327	18,100	17,132	89	95	163,785	160,523	98
Mature	1,464	1,539	1,447	99	94	12,384	13,135	106
Light	442	326	321	73	98	3,500	3,166	90
Heavy	1,022	1,213	1,126	110	93	8,884	9,969	112
Total	20,791	19,639	18,579	89	95	176,169	173,658	99
Turkeys								
Young	6,413	5,733	5,635	88	98	54,364	54,404	100
Old	249	207	179	72	86	1,691	1,990	118
Total	6,662	5,940	5,814	87	98	56,055	56,394	101
Ducks	291	252	207	71	82	2,045	1,746	85
Other ¹	4	3	4	100	133	43	28	65
Total	27,748	25,834	24,604	89	95	234,312	231,826	99
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.45	0.43	0.41	91	95	0.45	0.43	96
Mature	2.75	2.73	2.59	94	95	3.10	2.84	92
Light	7.52	6.39	6.32	84	99	7.19	6.82	95
Heavy	2.16	2.37	2.22	103	94	2.53	2.40	95
Total	0.48	0.47	0.44	92	94	0.48	0.46	96
Turkeys								
Young	1.44	1.30	1.19	83	92	1.50	1.41	94
Old	5.87	4.80	4.12	70	86	4.93	5.20	105
Total	1.48	1.33	1.22	82	92	1.53	1.44	94
Ducks	2.61	2.26	1.50	57	66	2.10	1.80	86
Other ¹	1.49	1.63	1.41	95	87	3.02	2.21	73
Total	0.58	0.55	0.52	90	95	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: August and September 2026

Commodity	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	August	September	August	September	August	September
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	-	-	148	269	36,239	39,072
Mature	-	-	10	14	62,559	61,193
Light	-	-	1	14	54,524	52,613
Heavy	-	-	9	-	8,035	8,580
Total	-	-	158	283	98,798	100,265
Turkeys						
Young	-	-	-	2	2,268	2,372
Old	-	-	-	-	636	700
Total	-	-	-	2	2,904	3,072
Commodity	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	August	September	August	September	August	September
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	48,369	49,590	810	794	301	311
Mature	1,780	1,516	8	12	9,870	9,682
Light	1,772	1,499	7	12	9,795	9,609
Heavy	8	17	1	-	75	73
Total	50,149	51,106	818	806	10,171	9,993
Turkeys						
Young	1,386	1,029	39	12	30	49
Old	1,373	1,278	6	6	591	447
Total	2,759	2,307	45	18	621	496
Commodity	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	August	September	August	September	August	September
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	1,656	1,721	682	604	21,302	20,024
Mature	1,589	1,857	118	121	11,140	12,717
Light	1,589	1,851	115	113	11,140	12,711
Heavy	-	6	3	8	-	6
Total	3,245	3,578	800	725	32,442	32,741
Turkeys						
Young	83	87	102	155	361	261
Old	22	11	45	2	244	227
Total	105	98	147	157	605	488
Commodity	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	August	September	August	September	August	September
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	1,097	971	55,287	51,937	2,351,071	2,375,695
Mature	99	129	19,950	21,466	54,131	54,794
Light	98	125	19,950	21,450	-	-
Heavy	1	4	-	16	54,131	54,794
Total	1,196	1,100	75,237	73,403	2,405,202	2,430,489
Turkeys						
Young	56	17	1,368	2,168	68,446	64,851
Old	13	35	257	43	78	150
Total	69	52	1,625	2,211	68,524	65,001

- 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: August and September 2026

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

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	August	September	August	September	August	September
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
Alabama	105,141	105,458	575,491	579,882	5.47	5.50
Arkansas	89,972	90,150	652,693	663,038	7.25	7.35
Delaware	31,315	32,338	241,448	252,483	7.71	7.81
Georgia	113,416	109,302	715,884	698,828	6.31	6.39
Illinois	52	60	331	387	6.34	6.48
Kentucky	25,583	25,569	172,867	170,679	6.76	6.68
Louisiana	15,964	16,146	110,769	115,071	6.94	7.13
Maryland	11,541	12,152	77,528	86,427	6.72	7.11
Mississippi	62,934	63,338	435,855	427,700	6.93	6.75
Missouri	27,446	28,109	149,073	157,171	5.43	5.59
New Jersey	216	213	1,216	1,171	5.64	5.50
New York	3,647	3,455	18,443	17,104	5.06	4.95
North Carolina	78,573	81,272	650,652	687,786	8.28	8.46
Ohio	11,767	13,172	56,531	63,898	4.80	4.85
Oklahoma	9,025	8,996	69,838	70,463	7.74	7.83
Pennsylvania	19,421	18,111	114,419	104,574	5.89	5.77
South Carolina	25,162	26,311	189,147	196,591	7.52	7.47
Tennessee	33,611	32,398	204,285	199,827	6.08	6.17
Texas	63,007	63,752	434,214	445,297	6.89	6.98
Vermont	50	51	328	342	6.56	6.67
Virginia	27,939	27,774	179,410	178,315	6.42	6.42
United States	825,887	829,632	5,464,683	5,534,482	6.62	6.67

Young Chickens Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations – States and United States: August and September 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	
	August	September	August	September	August	September
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
Alabama	440,804	444,325	1,425	1,382	0.32	0.31
Arkansas	500,971	503,359	1,960	1,266	0.39	0.25
Delaware	193,303	202,079	1,409	1,508	0.72	0.74
Georgia	544,007	535,663	2,265	2,309	0.41	0.43
Illinois	251	289	-	-	(X)	(X)
Kentucky	130,989	129,121	802	770	0.61	0.59
Louisiana	81,122	83,720	404	376	0.50	0.45
Maryland	57,991	64,905	507	531	0.87	0.81
Mississippi	317,210	314,375	680	538	0.21	0.17
Missouri	109,096	114,200	292	318	0.27	0.28
New Jersey	901	863	16	23	1.77	2.62
New York	11,600	10,805	116	116	0.99	1.06
North Carolina	502,725	530,093	1,134	1,308	0.23	0.25
Ohio	42,066	47,800	244	331	0.58	0.69
Oklahoma	52,665	53,049	204	202	0.39	0.38
Pennsylvania	82,143	74,372	1,161	1,245	1.39	1.65
South Carolina	142,762	146,374	943	1,013	0.66	0.69
Tennessee	151,400	148,126	435	374	0.29	0.25
Texas	339,344	342,336	1,656	1,367	0.49	0.40
Vermont	247	258	-	-	(X)	(X)
Virginia	136,812	136,151	247	241	0.18	0.18
United States	4,148,280	4,195,011	18,100	17,132	0.43	0.41

- 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: August and September 2026

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

State	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	August	September	August	September	August	September
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arkansas	-	-	-	-	226	242
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	-	-	9	5	3,622	4,060
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	3	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	3	1
Texas	-	-	-	4	194	190
Virginia	-	-	-	-	1	1
United States	-	-	148	269	36,239	39,072

State	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	August	September	August	September	August	September
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arkansas	361	337	36	54	-	-
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	6,269	6,043	1	2	120	89
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	1	-	-	-	-	-
Texas	14	33	-	-	4	3
Virginia	-	3	-	-	-	-
United States	48,369	49,590	810	794	301	311

State	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	August	September	August	September	August	September
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arkansas	18	12	-	1	23	22
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	88	109	17	6	767	848
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	2	1	3	1
Texas	17	21	3	3	16	14
Virginia	4	2	-	-	-	-
United States	1,656	1,721	682	604	21,302	20,024

State	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	August	September	August	September	August	September
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	198,206	191,978
Arkansas	-	1	226	128	89,217	98,871
Delaware	-	-	-	-	169,769	183,751
Georgia	139	129	4,897	5,295	245,127	239,139
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	97,574	73,549
North Carolina	8	1	2	3	102,763	118,928
Texas	14	-	454	692	169,214	132,985
Virginia	50	10	1	3	427,526	405,996
United States	1,097	971	55,287	51,937	2,351,071	2,375,695

- 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: August and September 2026

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

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	August	September	August	September	August	September
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
California	181	221	4,027	4,513	22.27	20.42
Illinois	1	3	35	86	27.67	28.30
Indiana	1,777	1,789	78,488	77,501	44.17	43.33
Iowa	1,093	1,980	50,956	93,469	46.64	47.20
Michigan	433	451	19,257	20,234	44.51	44.90
Minnesota	3,785	3,631	106,546	103,978	28.15	28.64
North Carolina	1,979	1,902	77,559	73,634	39.19	38.71
Ohio	608	599	27,878	27,736	45.87	46.30
Pennsylvania	620	753	18,472	20,450	29.80	27.17
South Carolina	598	608	23,668	23,934	39.59	39.38
Vermont	-	2	-	83	(X)	33.46
Wisconsin	(Z)	1	4	34	22.75	31.49
United States	16,848	17,587	546,144	588,297	32.42	33.45

- 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: August and September 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	
	August	September	August	September	August	September
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
California	3,215	3,532	3	3	0.10	0.07
Illinois	26	63	-	-	(X)	(X)
Indiana	63,423	62,735	968	899	1.50	1.41
Iowa	40,112	73,413	636	640	1.56	0.86
Michigan	14,924	15,737	45	-	0.30	(X)
Minnesota	85,198	83,291	892	756	1.04	0.90
North Carolina	61,048	57,639	421	392	0.68	0.67
Ohio	22,294	22,184	372	311	1.64	1.38
Pennsylvania	14,579	16,332	272	319	1.83	1.92
South Carolina	17,813	17,930	439	506	2.40	2.75
Vermont	-	66	-	-	(X)	(X)
Wisconsin	4	27	(Z)	-	(X)	(X)
United States	435,498	468,470	5,733	5,635	1.30	1.19

- 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.

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- 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

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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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