



Turkeys Raised

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Turkeys Raised Up 2 Percent from 2010

Turkeys raised in the United States during 2011 is 248 million, up 2 percent from the number raised during 2010.

A combination of six States account for nearly two-thirds of the turkeys produced in the United States during 2011. The largest turkey producing state is Minnesota, at 46.5 million turkeys, which is down 1 percent from the previous year. North Carolina remains unchanged from last year, producing 30.0 million turkeys. Arkansas also produced 30.0 million turkeys, which is 7 percent higher than the previous year. Missouri remained unchanged from last year, producing 18.0 million turkeys. Virginia increased the number of turkeys raised compared to the previous year by 3 percent at 17.5 million. Indiana remained unchanged from a year ago at 16.0 million turkeys.

Number of Turkeys Raised – United States

Million head



Number of Turkeys Raised – States and United States: 2010 and 2011

State	Number raised ¹		2011 as percent of 2010
	2010	2011	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Arkansas	28,000	30,000	107
California	15,200	15,000	99
Indiana	16,000	16,000	100
Minnesota	47,000	46,500	99
Missouri	18,000	18,000	100
North Carolina	30,000	30,000	100
Ohio	4,600	5,000	109
Pennsylvania	7,400	7,900	107
South Carolina	11,900	11,500	97
South Dakota	4,600	4,300	93
Utah	4,600	4,300	93
Virginia	17,000	17,500	103
West Virginia	3,100	3,200	103
Other States ²	36,788	38,700	105
United States	244,188	247,900	102

¹ Excludes young turkeys lost.

² Includes State estimates not shown and States withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: A random sample of approximately 1,000 United States turkey producers was surveyed to provide data for these estimates. Survey procedures ensured that all turkey producers, regardless of size, had a chance to be included in the survey. Large operations were sampled more heavily than small operations. The data collected were received by electronic data reporting (EDR), mail, telephone, and face-to-face personal interviews.

Estimating Procedures: Turkeys raised preliminary estimates include young turkeys intended for meat production and breeder turkeys reaching maturity during the calendar year. These estimates exclude turkeys lost to disease or those destroyed. Placement of turkey poults from the monthly Turkey Hatchery Survey and indications from the September Turkeys Raised Survey provide the basis for the preliminary estimates published in September. Final estimates, published in April, use indications from the February Turkeys Raised Survey in addition to updated hatchery data. Other indications for the final estimates are obtained from monthly slaughter totals and check-off data provided by individual State turkey or poultry associations.

Revision Policy: Estimates for the previous year are subject to revision when final raised estimates are made in April. Revisions are primarily based on updated hatchery and slaughter data. Estimates will also be reviewed after data from the five-year Census of Agriculture are available. No revisions will be made after that date.

Reliability: Since all operations raising turkeys are not included in the sample, survey estimates are subject to sampling variability. Survey results are also subject to non-sampling errors such as omissions, duplication, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing of the data. The affects of these errors cannot be measured directly. They are minimized through strict quality controls in the data collection process and through a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

To assist in evaluating the reliability of the estimates in this report, the “Root Mean Square Error” for number of turkeys raised is shown in the following table. The “Root Mean Square Error” is a statistical measure based on past performance and is computed using the differences between first and final estimates. The “Root Mean Square Error” for number of turkeys raised over the past 10 years is 1.9 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 248 million turkeys by more than 1.9 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 3.5 percent.

Reliability of September Turkeys Raised Estimates

[Based on data for the past ten years]

Item	Root mean square error	90 percent confidence level	Difference between first and latest estimate				
			Average	Smallest	Largest	Years	
						Below latest	Above latest
	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(number)	(number)
Number raised	1.9	3.5	4,190	356	8,540	5	5

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov

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