



Poultry Slaughter

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Ready-to-Cook Weight Up 2 Percent from Last Year

January 2023 contained 22 weekdays (including 2 holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

January 2024 contained 23 weekdays (including 2 holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

Poultry certified wholesome during January 2024 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 4.55 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the amount certified in January 2023. The December 2023 revised certified total at 4.06 billion pounds, was down 6 percent from December 2022. The December revision represented an increase of 603 thousand pounds from last month's preliminary pounds certified.

The preliminary total live weight of all federally inspected poultry during January 2024 was 6.00 billion pounds, up 2 percent from 5.90 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 5.36 billion pounds, up 2 percent from January 2023. Mature chickens, at 68.0 million pounds, were up 1 percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 551 million pounds, down 1 percent from a year ago. Ducks totaled 17.9 million pounds, up 6 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during January 2024 averaged 6.58 pounds per bird, up 1 percent from January 2023. The average live weight of mature chickens was 6.95 pounds per bird, down 1 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during January 2024 averaged 33.4 pounds per bird, up 2 percent from January 2023.

Ante-mortem condemnations during January 2024 totaled 14.8 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.25 percent of the live weight inspected, as compared with 0.23 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 28.4 million pounds, were 0.62 percent of quantities inspected, as compared with 0.63 percent a year earlier.

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

[Federally inspected only]

Commodity	January 2023	December 2023	January 2024	January 2024 as % of		January to January		2024 as percent of 2023
				January 2023	December 2023	2023	2024	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Slaughtered								
Chickens								
Young	804,096	723,802	815,293	101	113	804,096	815,293	101
Mature	9,633	8,800	9,783	102	111	9,633	9,783	102
Light	2,744	2,693	2,883	105	107	2,744	2,883	105
Heavy	6,889	6,107	6,900	100	113	6,889	6,900	100
Total	813,729	732,602	825,076	101	113	813,729	825,076	101
Turkeys								
Young	16,878	15,628	16,367	97	105	16,878	16,367	97
Old	190	86	160	84	186	190	160	84
Total	17,068	15,714	16,527	97	105	17,068	16,527	97
Ducks	2,342	2,337	2,497	107	107	2,342	2,497	107
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Total live weight								
Chickens								
Young	5,259,826	4,785,540	5,362,009	102	112	5,259,826	5,362,009	102
Mature	67,541	59,967	67,976	101	113	67,541	67,976	101
Light	9,637	9,271	10,051	104	108	9,637	10,051	104
Heavy	57,904	50,696	57,925	100	114	57,904	57,925	100
Total	5,327,367	4,845,507	5,429,985	102	112	5,327,367	5,429,985	102
Turkeys								
Young	552,620	493,208	546,344	99	111	552,620	546,344	99
Old	5,597	2,764	4,794	86	173	5,597	4,794	86
Total	558,217	495,972	551,138	99	111	558,217	551,138	99
Ducks	17,001	16,637	17,945	106	108	17,001	17,945	106
Other ¹	199	203	176	88	87	199	176	88
Total	5,902,784	5,358,319	5,999,244	102	112	5,902,784	5,999,244	102
	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)
Average live weight								
Chickens								
Young	6.54	6.61	6.58	101	100	6.54	6.58	101
Mature	7.01	6.81	6.95	99	102	7.01	6.95	99
Light	3.51	3.44	3.49	99	101	3.51	3.49	99
Heavy	8.41	8.30	8.39	100	101	8.41	8.39	100
Total	6.55	6.61	6.58	100	100	6.55	6.58	100
Turkeys								
Young	32.74	31.56	33.38	102	106	32.74	33.38	102
Old	29.46	32.14	29.96	102	93	29.46	29.96	102
Total	32.71	31.56	33.35	102	106	32.71	33.35	102
Ducks	7.26	7.12	7.19	99	101	7.26	7.19	99

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

Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified by Type – United States

[Ready-to-cook weights]

Commodity	January 2023	December 2023	January 2024	January 2024 as % of		January to January		2024 as percent of 2023
				January 2023	December 2023	2023	2024	
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Chilled								
Chickens								
Young	3,724,233	3,374,394	3,771,421	101	112	3,724,233	3,771,421	101
Mature	46,525	41,530	47,121	101	113	46,525	47,121	101
Light	5,003	4,958	5,391	108	109	5,003	5,391	108
Heavy	41,522	36,572	41,730	101	114	41,522	41,730	101
Total	3,770,758	3,415,924	3,818,542	101	112	3,770,758	3,818,542	101
Turkeys								
Young	270,905	249,470	275,263	102	110	270,905	275,263	102
Old	3,816	1,943	3,439	90	177	3,816	3,439	90
Total	274,721	251,413	278,702	101	111	274,721	278,702	101
Ducks	4,487	4,654	5,195	116	112	4,487	5,195	116
Other ¹	123	131	107	87	82	123	107	87
Total	4,050,089	3,672,122	4,102,546	101	112	4,050,089	4,102,546	101
Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	247,659	241,174	280,273	113	116	247,659	280,273	113
Mature	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	-	(X)
Light	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	-	(X)
Heavy	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	-	(X)
Total	247,659	241,174	280,273	113	116	247,659	280,273	113
Turkeys								
Young	169,963	141,398	156,232	92	110	169,963	156,232	92
Old	495	184	228	46	124	495	228	46
Total	170,458	141,582	156,460	92	111	170,458	156,460	92
Ducks	7,848	7,630	7,961	101	104	7,848	7,961	101
Other ¹	16	18	16	100	89	16	16	100
Total	425,981	390,404	444,710	104	114	425,981	444,710	104
Chilled and frozen								
Chickens								
Young	3,971,892	3,615,568	4,051,694	102	112	3,971,892	4,051,694	102
Mature	46,525	41,530	47,121	101	113	46,525	47,121	101
Light	5,003	4,958	5,391	108	109	5,003	5,391	108
Heavy	41,522	36,572	41,730	101	114	41,522	41,730	101
Total	4,018,417	3,657,098	4,098,815	102	112	4,018,417	4,098,815	102
Turkeys								
Young	440,868	390,868	431,495	98	110	440,868	431,495	98
Old	4,311	2,127	3,667	85	172	4,311	3,667	85
Total	445,179	392,995	435,162	98	111	445,179	435,162	98
Ducks	12,335	12,284	13,156	107	107	12,335	13,156	107
Other ¹	139	149	123	88	83	139	123	88
Total	4,476,070	4,062,526	4,547,256	102	112	4,476,070	4,547,256	102

- Represents zero.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Includes geese, guineas, and squab.

Ante-Mortem Condemnations by Type – United States

[Federally inspected only]

Commodity	January 2023	December 2023	January 2024	January 2024 as % of		January to January		2024 as percent of 2023
				January 2023	December 2023	2023	2024	
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Live weight								
Chickens								
Young	11,011	9,409	11,866	108	126	11,011	11,866	108
Mature	876	733	905	103	123	876	905	103
Light	116	46	65	56	141	116	65	56
Heavy	760	687	840	111	122	760	840	111
Total	11,887	10,142	12,771	107	126	11,887	12,771	107
Turkeys								
Young	1,652	1,432	1,921	116	134	1,652	1,921	116
Old	48	23	50	104	217	48	50	104
Total	1,700	1,455	1,971	116	135	1,700	1,971	116
Ducks	75	76	107	143	141	75	107	143
Total ¹	13,662	11,673	14,849	109	127	13,662	14,849	109
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of live weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.21	0.20	0.22	105	110	0.21	0.22	105
Mature	1.30	1.22	1.33	102	109	1.30	1.33	102
Light	1.20	0.50	0.65	54	130	1.20	0.65	54
Heavy	1.31	1.36	1.45	111	107	1.31	1.45	111
Total	0.22	0.21	0.24	109	114	0.22	0.24	109
Turkeys								
Young	0.30	0.29	0.35	117	121	0.30	0.35	117
Old	0.86	0.83	1.04	121	125	0.86	1.04	121
Total	0.30	0.29	0.36	120	124	0.30	0.36	120
Ducks	0.44	0.46	0.60	136	130	0.44	0.60	136
Total ¹	0.23	0.22	0.25	109	114	0.23	0.25	109

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	January 2023	December 2023	January 2024	January 2024 as % of		January to January		2024 as percent of 2023
				January 2023	December 2023	2023	2024	
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Carcass and parts								
Chickens								
Young	20,712	16,413	19,694	95	120	20,712	19,694	95
Mature	1,793	1,474	1,726	96	117	1,793	1,726	96
Light	440	348	418	95	120	440	418	95
Heavy	1,353	1,126	1,308	97	116	1,353	1,308	97
Total	22,505	17,887	21,420	95	120	22,505	21,420	95
Turkeys								
Young	5,287	6,018	6,569	124	109	5,287	6,569	124
Old	207	95	157	76	165	207	157	76
Total	5,494	6,113	6,726	122	110	5,494	6,726	122
Ducks	245	217	221	90	102	245	221	90
Other ¹	3	3	3	100	100	3	3	100
Total	28,247	24,220	28,370	100	117	28,247	28,370	100
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.52	0.45	0.48	92	107	0.52	0.48	92
Mature	3.71	3.43	3.53	95	103	3.71	3.53	95
Light	8.08	6.56	7.20	89	110	8.08	7.20	89
Heavy	3.16	2.99	3.04	96	102	3.16	3.04	96
Total	0.56	0.49	0.52	93	106	0.56	0.52	93
Turkeys								
Young	1.19	1.52	1.50	126	99	1.19	1.50	126
Old	4.58	4.28	4.11	90	96	4.58	4.11	90
Total	1.22	1.53	1.52	125	99	1.22	1.52	125
Ducks	1.95	1.74	1.65	85	95	1.95	1.65	85
Other ¹	2.11	1.97	2.38	113	121	2.11	2.38	113
Total	0.63	0.59	0.62	98	105	0.63	0.62	98

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: December 2023 and January 2024

Commodity	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	December	January	December	January	December	January
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	-	-	144	190	88,135	102,178
Mature	-	-	14	15	46,148	45,919
Light	-	-	12	11	39,689	39,264
Heavy	-	-	2	4	6,459	6,655
Total	-	-	158	205	134,283	148,097
Turkeys						
Young	-	-	8	6	5,337	5,262
Old	-	-	-	1	356	671
Total	-	-	8	7	5,693	5,933
Commodity	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	December	January	December	January	December	January
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	105,138	144,087	482	725	1,989	2,927
Mature	9,325	11,023	154	131	13,399	19,324
Light	3,872	4,618	8	11	9,143	15,036
Heavy	5,453	6,405	146	120	4,256	4,288
Total	114,463	155,110	636	856	15,388	22,251
Turkeys						
Young	928	1,281	88	59	49	16
Old	222	427	9	16	97	193
Total	1,150	1,708	97	75	146	209
Commodity	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	December	January	December	January	December	January
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	4,268	4,901	974	1,348	36,813	42,101
Mature	2,393	2,579	97	76	15,150	18,728
Light	2,005	2,094	82	50	14,547	18,083
Heavy	388	485	15	26	603	645
Total	6,661	7,480	1,071	1,424	51,963	60,829
Turkeys						
Young	54	51	203	528	772	658
Old	15	8	7	11	52	70
Total	69	59	210	539	824	728
Commodity	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	December	January	December	January	December	January
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	4,168	5,107	85,295	112,435	1,843,842	2,067,178
Mature	113	104	30,547	32,414	25,411	34,053
Light	97	50	22,590	24,081	-	-
Heavy	16	54	7,957	8,333	25,411	34,053
Total	4,281	5,211	115,842	144,849	1,869,253	2,101,231
Turkeys						
Young	130	126	2,791	2,373	83,231	89,851
Old	3	6	98	88	343	236
Total	133	132	2,889	2,461	83,574	90,087

- 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: December 2023 and January 2024

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

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	December	January	December	January	December	January
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
Alabama	89,994	99,255	497,835	544,233	5.53	5.48
Arkansas	77,506	88,863	571,730	653,935	7.38	7.36
Delaware	30,164	32,979	238,470	258,753	7.91	7.85
Georgia	98,881	112,609	609,753	687,353	6.17	6.10
Illinois	44	69	288	447	6.50	6.43
Indiana	5,519	6,208	25,880	28,914	4.69	4.66
Iowa	1,349	1,729	7,898	10,078	5.85	5.83
Kentucky	21,399	25,102	140,311	161,038	6.56	6.42
Louisiana	13,494	15,059	90,364	101,090	6.70	6.71
Maryland	11,483	12,352	71,023	78,867	6.18	6.38
Mississippi	54,576	59,225	366,177	395,176	6.71	6.67
Missouri	24,843	27,679	136,012	150,503	5.47	5.44
Nebraska	9,518	10,193	61,787	68,019	6.49	6.67
New Jersey	261	238	1,319	1,200	5.05	5.04
New York	2,531	2,818	12,185	13,547	4.81	4.81
North Carolina	72,219	83,371	615,523	703,783	8.52	8.44
Ohio	10,472	10,398	47,769	46,901	4.56	4.51
Oklahoma	8,203	8,128	62,428	64,420	7.61	7.93
Pennsylvania	12,472	15,000	73,313	87,131	5.88	5.81
South Carolina	24,784	26,091	185,805	192,632	7.50	7.38
Tennessee	28,811	34,322	177,488	207,390	6.16	6.04
Texas	56,084	61,444	392,298	429,029	6.99	6.98
Virginia	23,163	26,918	149,915	176,865	6.47	6.57
United States	723,802	815,293	4,785,540	5,362,009	6.61	6.58

Young Chickens Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations – States and United States: December 2023 and January 2024

[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	
	December	January	December	January	December	January
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
Alabama	382,656	419,907	1,600	1,801	0.42	0.43
Arkansas	429,821	489,180	1,775	2,280	0.41	0.46
Delaware	184,762	200,827	886	1,032	0.48	0.51
Georgia	459,200	518,749	2,327	2,796	0.50	0.54
Illinois	215	332	-	-	(X)	(X)
Indiana	18,830	20,983	138	144	0.73	0.68
Iowa	5,316	6,957	341	402	6.03	5.47
Kentucky	105,844	121,814	513	590	0.48	0.48
Louisiana	67,967	75,546	301	447	0.44	0.59
Maryland	52,878	58,899	392	455	0.74	0.77
Mississippi	270,868	293,903	793	1,057	0.29	0.36
Missouri	99,505	109,750	239	273	0.24	0.25
Nebraska	47,256	51,944	234	309	0.49	0.59
New Jersey	967	879	23	11	2.35	1.18
New York	7,516	8,363	147	142	1.91	1.67
North Carolina	473,366	541,379	1,206	1,572	0.25	0.29
Ohio	35,901	35,096	224	230	0.62	0.65
Oklahoma	46,855	48,317	107	147	0.23	0.30
Pennsylvania	51,938	62,055	762	899	1.45	1.43
South Carolina	140,058	145,535	984	912	0.70	0.62
Tennessee	131,131	153,133	253	321	0.19	0.21
Texas	301,998	329,202	683	890	0.23	0.27
Virginia	114,425	134,996	367	394	0.32	0.29
United States	3,615,568	4,051,694	16,413	19,694	0.45	0.48

- 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: December 2023 and January 2024

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

State	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	December	January	December	January	December	January
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	12	4	10,086	11,483
Arkansas	-	-	-	-	307	746
Delaware	-	-	-	2	12,347	11,929
Georgia	-	-	-	14	14,421	16,290
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	1	1
Texas	-	-	3	-	6,262	10,860
Virginia	-	-	1	2	1,620	1,496
United States	-	-	144	190	88,135	102,178
State	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	December	January	December	January	December	January
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	4,081	4,073	2	2	154	132
Arkansas	324	241	23	63	-	-
Delaware	7,084	7,283	9	6	28	38
Georgia	27,827	34,224	5	8	308	420
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	1	-	-	-	-	2
Texas	6,314	10,351	5	-	381	534
Virginia	324	366	1	1	24	21
United States	105,138	144,087	482	725	1,989	2,927
State	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	December	January	December	January	December	January
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	423	412	100	187	3,462	2,952
Arkansas	10	34	-	-	55	84
Delaware	697	538	34	17	2,522	2,174
Georgia	736	1,221	225	384	3,703	3,398
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	1	2	-	3	-	-
Texas	109	140	3	5	292	613
Virginia	10	10	4	6	166	114
United States	4,268	4,901	974	1,348	36,813	42,101
State	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	December	January	December	January	December	January
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	1,004	1,261	6,246	13,689	144,336	148,558
Arkansas	17	6	155	116	166,228	209,380
Delaware	396	352	5,247	3,856	5,913	10,144
Georgia	224	336	10,644	15,750	162,344	188,810
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	125,845	169,565
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	90,153	120,648
Texas	214	684	771	1,102	61,432	75,742
Virginia	753	670	3,379	5,001	136,876	157,729
United States	4,168	5,107	85,295	112,435	1,843,842	2,067,178

- 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: December 2023 and January 2024

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

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	December	January	December	January	December	January
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
California	349	293	12,742	11,315	36.51	38.67
Illinois	1	(Z)	39	6	26.97	20.58
Indiana	1,738	1,868	72,304	80,360	41.60	43.02
Iowa	984	970	43,613	45,343	44.31	46.73
Michigan	414	444	17,368	19,095	41.94	43.03
North Carolina	1,662	1,788	62,468	69,784	37.58	39.03
Ohio	622	610	28,426	28,869	45.73	47.33
Pennsylvania	546	627	14,699	18,564	26.91	29.60
South Carolina	567	625	25,438	29,468	44.89	47.12
South Dakota	237	211	10,838	9,250	45.73	43.93
Vermont	5	-	166	-	31.55	-
United States	15,628	16,367	493,208	546,344	31.56	33.38

- Represents zero.

(Z) Less than half of the unit shown.

Young Turkeys Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations – States and United States: December 2023 and January 2024

[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	
	December	January	December	January	December	January
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
California	10,191	9,053	64	56	0.63	0.62
Illinois	29	4	-	-	(X)	(X)
Indiana	57,842	64,185	934	994	1.59	1.52
Iowa	34,273	35,503	522	538	1.50	1.49
Michigan	13,460	14,799	186	209	1.36	1.39
North Carolina	48,746	54,780	287	314	0.58	0.57
Ohio	22,698	23,085	458	335	1.98	1.43
Pennsylvania	11,663	14,705	209	212	1.76	1.42
South Carolina	17,592	18,924	971	1,151	5.23	5.73
South Dakota	8,687	7,387	144	142	1.63	1.89
Vermont	129	-	-	-	(X)	(X)
United States	390,868	431,495	6,018	6,569	1.52	1.50

- 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 352 plants slaughtered poultry in the United States under Federal Inspection in 2023. Young chickens were slaughtered in 38 States, young turkeys in 30 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.

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@usda.gov

Travis Averill, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 692-0069
Jean Porter, Head, Poultry and Specialty Commodities Section	(202) 690-3223
Holly Brenize – Poultry Slaughter.....	(202) 720-0585
Liana Cuffman – Catfish and Trout, Mink, Census of Aquaculture	(202) 720-8784
Fatema Haque – Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised	(202) 720-3244
Derron Martin – Chicken Hatchery, Egg Products.....	(202) 690-3237
Seth Riggins – Honey, Honey Bee Colonies	(202) 690-4870
Shulonda Shaw – Cold Storage, Capacity of Refrigerated Warehouses	(202) 720-3240
Autumn Stone – Layers, Eggs	(202) 690-3676
Takiyah Walker – Broiler Hatchery.....	(202) 720-6147

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- Both national and state 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” or “State” in upper right corner above “search” box to create an account and select the reports you would like to receive.
- Cornell’s Mann Library has launched a new website housing NASS’s and other agency’s archived reports. The new website, <https://usda.library.cornell.edu>. All email subscriptions containing reports will be sent from the new website, <https://usda.library.cornell.edu>. To continue receiving the reports via e-mail, you will have to go to the new website, create a new account and re-subscribe to the reports. If you need instructions to set up an account or subscribe, they are located at: <https://usda.library.cornell.edu/help>. You should whitelist notifications@usda-esmis.library.cornell.edu 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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