



Poultry Slaughter

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Ready-to-Cook Weight Up 5 Percent from Last Year

June 2024 contained 20 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

June 2025 contained 21 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

Poultry certified wholesome during June 2025 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 4.39 billion pounds, up 5 percent from the amount certified in June 2024. The May 2025 revised certified total at 4.44 billion pounds, was down 2 percent from May 2024. The May revision represented an increase of 12.3 million pounds from last month's preliminary pounds certified.

The preliminary total live weight of all federally inspected poultry during June 2025 was 5.78 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 5.53 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 5.19 billion pounds, up 5 percent from June 2024. Mature chickens, at 52.9 million pounds, were down 23 percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 522 million pounds, up 1 percent from a year ago. Ducks totaled 13.5 million pounds, up 8 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during June 2025 averaged 6.59 pounds per bird, up 1 percent from June 2024. The average live weight of mature chickens was 6.76 pounds per bird, down 4 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during June 2025 averaged 31.8 pounds per bird, down 3 percent from June 2024.

Ante-mortem condemnations during June 2025 totaled 13.3 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.23 percent of the live weight inspected, as compared with 0.22 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 24.8 million pounds, were 0.56 percent of quantities inspected, as compared with 0.60 percent a year earlier.

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

[Federally inspected only]

Commodity	June 2024	May 2025	June 2025	June 2025 as % of		January to June		2025 as percent of 2024
				June 2024	May 2025	2024	2025	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Slaughtered								
Chickens								
Young	753,245	795,709	787,303	105	99	4,683,182	4,700,411	100
Mature	9,718	9,123	7,833	81	86	57,604	51,273	89
Light	2,796	2,392	2,741	98	115	16,484	16,151	98
Heavy	6,922	6,731	5,092	74	76	41,120	35,122	85
Total	762,963	804,832	795,136	104	99	4,740,786	4,751,684	100
Turkeys								
Young	15,568	15,133	16,277	105	108	97,266	89,595	92
Old	114	160	141	124	88	841	926	110
Total	15,682	15,293	16,418	105	107	98,107	90,521	92
Ducks	1,814	2,132	1,922	106	90	12,798	12,055	94
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Total live weight								
Chickens								
Young	4,934,082	5,286,595	5,189,887	105	98	30,538,643	30,997,085	102
Mature	68,616	65,639	52,934	77	81	402,469	351,914	87
Light	9,736	8,243	9,379	96	114	57,092	55,605	97
Heavy	58,880	57,396	43,555	74	76	345,377	296,309	86
Total	5,002,698	5,352,234	5,242,821	105	98	30,941,112	31,348,999	101
Turkeys								
Young	511,037	492,753	517,517	101	105	3,212,188	2,899,322	90
Old	3,604	5,130	4,184	116	82	25,871	28,028	108
Total	514,641	497,883	521,701	101	105	3,238,059	2,927,350	90
Ducks	12,454	15,047	13,468	108	90	91,123	84,951	93
Other ¹	165	185	173	105	94	1,003	1,035	103
Total	5,529,958	5,865,349	5,778,163	104	99	34,271,297	34,362,335	100
	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)
Average live weight								
Chickens								
Young	6.55	6.64	6.59	101	99	6.52	6.59	101
Mature	7.06	7.19	6.76	96	94	6.99	6.86	98
Light	3.48	3.45	3.42	98	99	3.46	3.44	99
Heavy	8.51	8.53	8.55	100	100	8.40	8.44	100
Total	6.56	6.65	6.59	100	99	6.53	6.60	101
Turkeys								
Young	32.83	32.56	31.79	97	98	33.02	32.36	98
Old	31.61	32.06	29.67	94	93	30.76	30.27	98
Total	32.82	32.56	31.78	97	98	33.01	32.34	98
Ducks	6.87	7.06	7.01	102	99	7.12	7.05	99

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

Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified by Type – United States

[Ready-to-cook weights]

Commodity	June 2024	May 2025	June 2025	June 2025 as % of		January to June		2025 as percent of 2024
				June 2024	May 2025	2024	2025	
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Chilled								
Chickens								
Young	3,481,919	3,711,402	3,672,909	105	99	21,562,451	21,891,865	102
Mature	47,674	46,557	36,802	77	79	280,458	242,321	86
Light	5,074	4,490	4,960	98	110	30,204	29,525	98
Heavy	42,600	42,067	31,842	75	76	250,254	212,796	85
Total	3,529,593	3,757,959	3,709,711	105	99	21,842,909	22,134,186	101
Turkeys								
Young	255,234	248,566	251,563	99	101	1,620,272	1,441,411	89
Old	2,634	3,836	3,056	116	80	18,764	19,236	103
Total	257,868	252,402	254,619	99	101	1,639,036	1,460,647	89
Ducks	2,996	3,088	3,074	103	100	22,459	18,503	82
Other ¹	99	120	125	126	104	610	650	107
Total	3,790,556	4,013,569	3,967,529	105	99	23,505,014	23,613,986	100
Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	242,958	279,850	253,132	104	90	1,522,541	1,545,617	102
Mature	-	5	-	(X)	(X)	-	5	(X)
Light	-	5	-	(X)	(X)	-	5	(X)
Heavy	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	-	(X)
Total	242,958	279,855	253,132	104	90	1,522,541	1,545,622	102
Turkeys								
Young	150,945	142,411	160,191	106	112	935,020	863,442	92
Old	118	96	134	114	140	923	2,164	234
Total	151,063	142,507	160,325	106	113	935,943	865,606	92
Ducks	6,118	7,901	6,778	111	86	44,210	43,673	99
Other ¹	16	10	-	(X)	(X)	91	65	71
Total	400,155	430,273	420,235	105	98	2,502,785	2,454,966	98
Chilled and frozen								
Chickens								
Young	3,724,877	3,991,252	3,926,041	105	98	23,084,992	23,437,482	102
Mature	47,674	46,562	36,802	77	79	280,458	242,326	86
Light	5,074	4,495	4,960	98	110	30,204	29,530	98
Heavy	42,600	42,067	31,842	75	76	250,254	212,796	85
Total	3,772,551	4,037,814	3,962,843	105	98	23,365,450	23,679,808	101
Turkeys								
Young	406,179	390,977	411,754	101	105	2,555,292	2,304,853	90
Old	2,752	3,932	3,190	116	81	19,687	21,400	109
Total	408,931	394,909	414,944	101	105	2,574,979	2,326,253	90
Ducks	9,114	10,989	9,852	108	90	66,669	62,176	93
Other ¹	115	130	125	109	96	701	715	102
Total	4,190,711	4,443,842	4,387,764	105	99	26,007,799	26,068,952	100

- Represents zero.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Includes geese, guineas, and squab.

Ante-Mortem Condemnations by Type – United States

[Federally inspected only]

Commodity	June 2024	May 2025	June 2025	June 2025 as % of		January to June		2025 as percent of 2024
				June 2024	May 2025	2024	2025	
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Live weight								
Chickens								
Young	9,381	9,416	10,347	110	110	58,576	61,389	105
Mature	835	1,141	712	85	62	4,828	4,968	103
Light	66	38	71	108	187	307	355	116
Heavy	769	1,103	641	83	58	4,521	4,613	102
Total	10,216	10,557	11,059	108	105	63,404	66,357	105
Turkeys								
Young	1,854	1,528	2,100	113	137	10,559	10,407	99
Old	33	24	44	133	183	240	198	83
Total	1,887	1,552	2,144	114	138	10,799	10,605	98
Ducks	88	79	132	150	167	549	542	99
Total ¹	12,191	12,188	13,336	109	109	74,752	77,506	104
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of live weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.19	0.18	0.20	105	111	0.19	0.20	105
Mature	1.22	1.74	1.35	111	78	1.20	1.41	118
Light	0.68	0.46	0.76	112	165	0.54	0.64	119
Heavy	1.31	1.92	1.47	112	77	1.31	1.56	119
Total	0.20	0.20	0.21	105	105	0.20	0.21	105
Turkeys								
Young	0.36	0.31	0.41	114	132	0.33	0.36	109
Old	0.92	0.47	1.05	114	223	0.93	0.71	76
Total	0.37	0.31	0.41	111	132	0.33	0.36	109
Ducks	0.71	0.53	0.98	138	185	0.60	0.64	107
Total ¹	0.22	0.21	0.23	105	110	0.22	0.23	105

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	June 2024	May 2025	June 2025	June 2025 as % of		January to June		2025 as percent of 2024
				June 2024	May 2025	2024	2025	
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Carcass and parts								
Chickens								
Young	17,459	17,240	16,924	97	98	109,795	108,706	99
Mature	1,644	1,366	1,388	84	102	10,455	8,081	77
Light	308	303	371	120	122	2,351	2,210	94
Heavy	1,336	1,063	1,017	76	96	8,104	5,871	72
Total	19,103	18,606	18,312	96	98	120,250	116,787	97
Turkeys								
Young	5,851	5,525	6,127	105	111	37,900	34,798	92
Old	133	191	152	114	80	894	985	110
Total	5,984	5,716	6,279	105	110	38,794	35,783	92
Ducks	162	166	189	117	114	1,157	1,035	89
Other ¹	3	3	8	267	267	18	28	156
Total	25,252	24,491	24,788	98	101	160,219	153,633	96
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.47	0.43	0.43	91	100	0.47	0.46	98
Mature	3.33	2.85	3.63	109	127	3.59	3.23	90
Light	5.72	6.32	6.96	122	110	7.22	6.96	96
Heavy	3.04	2.46	3.10	102	126	3.14	2.68	85
Total	0.50	0.46	0.46	92	100	0.51	0.49	96
Turkeys								
Young	1.42	1.39	1.47	104	106	1.46	1.49	102
Old	4.61	4.63	4.55	99	98	4.34	4.40	101
Total	1.44	1.43	1.49	103	104	1.48	1.51	102
Ducks	1.75	1.49	1.88	107	126	1.71	1.64	96
Other ¹	2.54	2.26	6.02	237	266	2.50	3.77	151
Total	0.60	0.55	0.56	93	102	0.61	0.59	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: May and June 2025

Commodity	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	May	June	May	June	May	June
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	-	-	218	220	47,906	39,144
Mature	-	-	3	4	48,966	63,627
Light	-	-	2	4	40,032	56,389
Heavy	-	-	1	-	8,934	7,238
Total	-	-	221	224	96,872	102,771
Turkeys						
Young	-	-	25	10	3,575	3,215
Old	-	-	-	-	807	576
Total	-	-	25	10	4,382	3,791
Commodity	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	May	June	May	June	May	June
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	52,996	28,379	620	639	986	854
Mature	10,833	7,858	76	94	15,554	17,452
Light	3,788	3,499	10	8	10,602	14,091
Heavy	7,045	4,359	66	86	4,952	3,361
Total	63,829	36,237	696	733	16,540	18,306
Turkeys						
Young	1,235	2,179	10	42	77	63
Old	680	534	60	17	343	150
Total	1,915	2,713	70	59	420	213
Commodity	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	May	June	May	June	May	June
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	1,796	1,551	611	494	19,700	17,725
Mature	2,875	4,827	132	126	17,439	17,506
Light	2,224	4,197	119	120	16,886	17,129
Heavy	651	630	13	6	553	377
Total	4,671	6,378	743	620	37,139	35,231
Turkeys						
Young	42	56	337	156	597	554
Old	20	11	30	8	133	55
Total	62	67	367	164	730	609
Commodity	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	May	June	May	June	May	June
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	2,443	1,986	64,979	47,091	1,886,938	1,988,984
Mature	1,042	570	31,323	27,603	42,076	30,948
Light	218	194	19,643	21,013	-	-
Heavy	824	376	11,680	6,590	42,076	30,948
Total	3,485	2,556	96,302	74,694	1,929,014	2,019,932
Turkeys						
Young	34	68	3,190	3,554	59,642	72,296
Old	7	2	218	66	97	492
Total	41	70	3,408	3,620	59,739	72,788

- 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: May and June 2025

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

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	May	June	May	June	May	June
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
Alabama	99,159	101,928	553,053	574,679	5.58	5.64
Arkansas	87,440	87,681	644,880	649,668	7.38	7.41
Delaware	33,654	31,779	259,838	239,054	7.72	7.52
Georgia	104,742	105,528	643,253	643,200	6.14	6.10
Illinois	59	78	376	502	6.35	6.40
Iowa	839	762	4,633	4,264	5.52	5.59
Kentucky	24,760	25,547	165,772	169,084	6.70	6.62
Louisiana	14,864	15,184	102,451	105,312	6.89	6.94
Maryland	12,428	11,824	83,029	77,293	6.68	6.54
Mississippi	61,920	61,743	410,972	419,413	6.64	6.79
Missouri	28,052	26,379	153,002	147,091	5.45	5.58
New Jersey	241	252	1,393	1,352	5.78	5.36
New York	3,231	2,924	16,525	14,845	5.11	5.08
North Carolina	78,929	75,100	678,347	629,680	8.59	8.38
Ohio	11,431	10,546	52,339	48,205	4.58	4.57
Oklahoma	8,511	8,629	72,433	68,587	8.51	7.95
Pennsylvania	14,358	15,263	83,157	87,247	5.79	5.72
South Carolina	24,485	25,322	179,458	184,537	7.33	7.29
Tennessee	34,376	33,302	211,910	204,596	6.16	6.14
Texas	61,214	60,608	427,377	398,965	6.98	6.58
Vermont	53	46	348	301	6.61	6.57
Virginia	24,222	24,099	155,656	154,162	6.43	6.40
United States	795,709	787,303	5,286,595	5,189,887	6.64	6.59

Young Chickens Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations – States and United States: May and June 2025

[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	
	May	June	May	June	May	June
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
Alabama	419,037	441,271	1,366	1,592	0.33	0.36
Arkansas	490,307	496,369	2,158	2,083	0.44	0.42
Delaware	202,555	186,132	1,094	888	0.54	0.47
Georgia	488,354	487,924	1,995	1,947	0.41	0.40
Illinois	279	359	(Z)	(Z)	0.02	0.02
Iowa	3,328	3,090	88	104	2.56	3.24
Kentucky	124,868	128,462	841	887	0.67	0.69
Louisiana	75,022	76,710	442	415	0.59	0.54
Maryland	62,117	57,826	440	394	0.70	0.68
Mississippi	295,277	304,556	995	1,011	0.34	0.33
Missouri	111,474	107,036	497	283	0.44	0.26
New Jersey	1,079	1,010	12	16	1.07	1.61
New York	10,366	9,307	75	55	0.72	0.59
North Carolina	524,822	486,722	1,370	1,173	0.26	0.24
Ohio	39,143	36,145	167	172	0.42	0.47
Oklahoma	54,284	51,488	255	301	0.47	0.58
Pennsylvania	58,677	61,535	1,015	1,055	1.70	1.69
South Carolina	134,977	139,125	999	1,117	0.74	0.80
Tennessee	157,391	151,670	656	730	0.42	0.48
Texas	322,700	307,844	727	720	0.22	0.23
Vermont	261	226	-	-	(X)	(X)
Virginia	117,160	116,134	316	302	0.27	0.26
United States	3,991,252	3,926,041	17,240	16,924	0.43	0.43

- 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.

Young Chickens Condemned Post-Mortem by Cause – States and United States: May and June 2025

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

State	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	May	June	May	June	May	June
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arkansas	-	-	-	-	400	297
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	-	-	2	1	10,567	5,099
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	-	-
Texas	-	-	-	2	59	72
Virginia	-	-	-	-	6	1
United States	-	-	218	220	47,906	39,144

State	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	May	June	May	June	May	June
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arkansas	128	193	25	49	-	-
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	13,171	1,406	14	28	218	106
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	1	-	-	-	-
Texas	23	10	-	3	3	6
Virginia	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States	52,996	28,379	620	639	986	854

State	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	May	June	May	June	May	June
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arkansas	10	22	2	-	49	51
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	146	45	60	9	1,669	286
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	2	-	-	1
Texas	9	21	-	8	16	18
Virginia	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States	1,796	1,551	611	494	19,700	17,725

State	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	May	June	May	June	May	June
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	-	-	205,639	209,130
Arkansas	7	10	119	152	198,436	165,938
Delaware	-	-	-	-	56,130	31,634
Georgia	532	59	10,327	2,478	181,825	193,295
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	161,623	232,818
North Carolina	-	3	-	2	123,376	107,330
Texas	3	11	822	809	50,875	53,435
Virginia	-	-	4	-	156,646	211,596
United States	2,443	1,986	64,979	47,091	1,886,938	1,988,984

- 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: May and June 2025

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

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	May	June	May	June	May	June
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
California	189	159	3,777	3,034	19.98	19.05
Illinois	-	2	-	25	-	13.61
Indiana	1,645	1,636	68,394	66,425	41.59	40.60
Iowa	954	1,106	44,101	48,151	46.23	43.53
Michigan	275	312	11,709	13,145	42.57	42.08
Minnesota	3,314	3,421	99,716	103,236	30.09	30.18
North Carolina	1,866	1,843	72,154	72,099	38.66	39.12
Ohio	420	548	18,322	24,552	43.60	44.81
Pennsylvania	530	554	16,290	17,357	30.74	31.31
South Carolina	458	529	18,494	21,146	40.36	40.00
Vermont	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wisconsin	(Z)	(Z)	(Z)	(Z)	24.86	15.00
United States	15,133	16,277	492,753	517,517	32.56	31.79

- Represents zero.

(Z) Less than half of the unit shown.

Young Turkeys Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations – States and United States: May and June 2025

[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	
	May	June	May	June	May	June
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
California	3,026	2,458	11	3	0.37	0.12
Illinois	-	19	-	-	(X)	(X)
Indiana	54,715	53,304	924	868	1.66	1.60
Iowa	34,585	37,781	493	606	1.41	1.58
Michigan	9,074	10,021	140	225	1.52	2.20
Minnesota	79,840	83,187	881	967	1.09	1.15
North Carolina	56,503	56,700	349	338	0.61	0.59
Ohio	14,638	19,621	297	395	1.99	1.98
Pennsylvania	12,801	13,456	318	316	2.42	2.30
South Carolina	13,616	15,494	338	524	2.42	3.27
Vermont	-	-	-	-	(X)	(X)
Wisconsin	(Z)	(Z)	-	-	(X)	(X)
United States	390,977	411,754	5,525	6,127	1.39	1.47

- 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 361 plants slaughtered poultry in the United States under Federal Inspection in 2024. 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
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter	(202) 690-8632
Tiffany Byrne – Dairy Products.....	(651) 440-7789
Ryan Cowen – Cattle, Cattle on Feed.....	(202) 720-3040
Kim DaPra – Milk Production	(202) 720-3278
Fatema Haque – Poultry Slaughter, Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised	(202) 720-3244
Derron Martin – Catfish, Census of Aquaculture, Egg Products, Mink, Trout	(202) 690-3237
Ralph Mondesir – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106
Suzanne Richards – Cost of Pollination, Honey, Honey Bee Colonies, Sheep and Goats	(202) 720-4448
Shulonda Shaw – Capacity of Refrigerated Warehouses, Cold Storage.....	(202) 720-3240
Autumn Stone – Layers, Eggs	(202) 690-3676
Takiyah Walker – Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery.....	(202) 720-6147

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- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site: www.nass.usda.gov.
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- Cornell’s Mann Library website houses NASS’s and other agency’s archived reports at <https://usda.library.cornell.edu>. All email subscriptions containing reports will be sent from <https://usda.library.cornell.edu>. To receive the reports via e-mail, you will have to go to the website and 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.

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.

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