



Poultry Slaughter

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Ready-to-Cook Weight Up 4 Percent from Last Year

February 2023 contained 20 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

February 2024 contained 21 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

Poultry certified wholesome during February 2024 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 4.21 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the amount certified in February 2023. The January 2024 revised certified total at 4.55 billion pounds, was up 2 percent from January 2023. The January revision represented an increase of 301 thousand pounds from last month's preliminary pounds certified.

The preliminary total live weight of all federally inspected poultry during February 2024 was 5.55 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 5.35 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 4.94 billion pounds, up 4 percent from February 2023. Mature chickens, at 63.1 million pounds, were up 1 percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 531 million pounds, up 1 percent from a year ago. Ducks totaled 14.4 million pounds, down 7 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during February 2024 averaged 6.49 pounds per bird, unchanged from February 2023. The average live weight of mature chickens was 7.02 pounds per bird, up 1 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during February 2024 averaged 32.5 pounds per bird, down 1 percent from February 2023.

Ante-mortem condemnations during February 2024 totaled 12.2 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.22 percent of the live weight inspected, as compared with 0.23 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 26.5 million pounds, were 0.63 percent of quantities inspected, unchanged from a year earlier.

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

[Federally inspected only]

Commodity	February 2023	January 2024	February 2024	February 2024 as % of		January to February		2024 as percent of 2023
				February 2023	January 2024	2023	2024	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Slaughtered								
Chickens								
Young	731,001	815,273	761,068	104	93	1,535,097	1,576,341	103
Mature	8,996	9,822	8,980	100	91	18,629	18,802	101
Light	2,716	2,883	2,447	90	85	5,460	5,330	98
Heavy	6,280	6,939	6,533	104	94	13,169	13,472	102
Total	739,997	825,095	770,048	104	93	1,553,726	1,595,143	103
Turkeys								
Young	15,829	16,367	16,181	102	99	32,707	32,548	100
Old	146	160	165	113	103	336	325	97
Total	15,975	16,527	16,346	102	99	33,043	32,873	99
Ducks	2,177	2,570	2,008	92	78	4,519	4,578	101
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Total live weight								
Chickens								
Young	4,745,133	5,362,059	4,940,932	104	92	10,004,959	10,302,991	103
Mature	62,355	68,303	63,084	101	92	129,896	131,387	101
Light	9,423	10,051	8,384	89	83	19,060	18,435	97
Heavy	52,932	58,252	54,700	103	94	110,836	112,952	102
Total	4,807,488	5,430,362	5,004,016	104	92	10,134,855	10,434,378	103
Turkeys								
Young	519,506	546,344	526,344	101	96	1,072,126	1,072,688	100
Old	4,541	4,794	5,074	112	106	10,138	9,868	97
Total	524,047	551,138	531,418	101	96	1,082,264	1,082,556	100
Ducks	15,461	18,456	14,367	93	78	32,462	32,823	101
Other ¹	135	176	164	121	93	334	340	102
Total	5,347,131	6,000,132	5,549,965	104	92	11,249,915	11,550,097	103
	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)
Average live weight								
Chickens								
Young	6.49	6.58	6.49	100	99	6.52	6.54	100
Mature	6.93	6.95	7.02	101	101	6.97	6.99	100
Light	3.47	3.49	3.43	99	98	3.49	3.46	99
Heavy	8.43	8.39	8.37	99	100	8.42	8.38	100
Total	6.50	6.58	6.50	100	99	6.52	6.54	100
Turkeys								
Young	32.82	33.38	32.53	99	97	32.78	32.96	101
Old	31.10	29.96	30.75	99	103	30.17	30.36	101
Total	32.80	33.35	32.51	99	97	32.75	32.93	101
Ducks	7.10	7.18	7.15	101	100	7.18	7.17	100

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

Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified by Type – United States

[Ready-to-cook weights]

Commodity	February 2023	January 2024	February 2024	February 2024 as % of		January to February		2024 as percent of 2023
				February 2023	January 2024	2023	2024	
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Chilled								
Chickens								
Young	3,340,493	3,770,945	3,481,825	104	92	7,064,726	7,252,770	103
Mature	43,813	47,368	44,424	101	94	90,338	91,792	102
Light	5,148	5,391	4,385	85	81	10,151	9,776	96
Heavy	38,665	41,977	40,039	104	95	80,187	82,016	102
Total	3,384,306	3,818,313	3,526,249	104	92	7,155,064	7,344,562	103
Turkeys								
Young	254,773	275,263	268,535	105	98	525,678	543,798	103
Old	3,311	3,439	3,702	112	108	7,127	7,141	100
Total	258,084	278,702	272,237	105	98	532,805	550,939	103
Ducks	3,493	5,206	3,505	100	67	7,980	8,711	109
Other ¹	96	107	104	108	97	219	211	96
Total	3,645,979	4,102,328	3,802,095	104	93	7,696,068	7,904,423	103
Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	244,475	280,419	252,502	103	90	492,134	532,921	108
Mature	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	-	(X)
Light	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	-	(X)
Heavy	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	-	(X)
Total	244,475	280,419	252,502	103	90	492,134	532,921	108
Turkeys								
Young	160,946	156,232	151,487	94	97	330,909	307,719	93
Old	175	228	188	107	82	670	416	62
Total	161,121	156,460	151,675	94	97	331,579	308,135	93
Ducks	7,646	8,334	7,008	92	84	15,494	15,342	99
Other ¹	-	16	13	(X)	81	16	29	181
Total	413,242	445,229	411,198	100	92	839,223	856,427	102
Chilled and frozen								
Chickens								
Young	3,584,968	4,051,364	3,734,327	104	92	7,556,860	7,785,691	103
Mature	43,813	47,368	44,424	101	94	90,338	91,792	102
Light	5,148	5,391	4,385	85	81	10,151	9,776	96
Heavy	38,665	41,977	40,039	104	95	80,187	82,016	102
Total	3,628,781	4,098,732	3,778,751	104	92	7,647,198	7,877,483	103
Turkeys								
Young	415,719	431,495	420,022	101	97	856,587	851,517	99
Old	3,486	3,667	3,890	112	106	7,797	7,557	97
Total	419,205	435,162	423,912	101	97	864,384	859,074	99
Ducks	11,139	13,540	10,513	94	78	23,474	24,053	102
Other ¹	96	123	117	122	95	235	240	102
Total	4,059,221	4,547,557	4,213,293	104	93	8,535,291	8,760,850	103

- Represents zero.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Includes geese, guineas, and squab.

Ante-Mortem Condemnations by Type – United States

[Federally inspected only]

Commodity	February 2023	January 2024	February 2024	February 2024 as % of		January to February		2024 as percent of 2023
				February 2023	January 2024	2023	2024	
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Live weight								
Chickens								
Young	9,528	11,869	9,586	101	81	20,539	21,455	104
Mature	803	910	807	100	89	1,679	1,717	102
Light	115	65	40	35	62	231	105	45
Heavy	688	845	767	111	91	1,448	1,612	111
Total	10,331	12,779	10,393	101	81	22,218	23,172	104
Turkeys								
Young	1,606	1,921	1,690	105	88	3,258	3,611	111
Old	35	50	50	143	100	83	100	120
Total	1,641	1,971	1,740	106	88	3,341	3,711	111
Ducks	74	108	83	112	77	149	191	128
Total ¹	12,046	14,858	12,216	101	82	25,708	27,074	105
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of live weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.20	0.22	0.19	95	86	0.21	0.21	100
Mature	1.29	1.33	1.28	99	96	1.29	1.31	102
Light	1.22	0.65	0.48	39	74	1.21	0.57	47
Heavy	1.30	1.45	1.40	108	97	1.31	1.43	109
Total	0.21	0.24	0.21	100	88	0.22	0.22	100
Turkeys								
Young	0.31	0.35	0.32	103	91	0.30	0.34	113
Old	0.77	1.04	0.99	129	95	0.82	1.01	123
Total	0.31	0.36	0.33	106	92	0.31	0.34	110
Ducks	0.48	0.59	0.58	121	98	0.46	0.58	126
Total ¹	0.23	0.25	0.22	96	88	0.23	0.23	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	February 2023	January 2024	February 2024	February 2024 as % of		January to February		2024 as percent of 2023
				February 2023	January 2024	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	18,904	19,694	17,975	95	91	39,616	37,669	95
Mature	1,744	1,736	1,616	93	93	3,537	3,352	95
Light	383	418	381	99	91	823	799	97
Heavy	1,361	1,318	1,235	91	94	2,714	2,553	94
Total	20,648	21,430	19,591	95	91	43,153	41,021	95
Turkeys								
Young	4,744	6,569	6,566	138	100	10,031	13,135	131
Old	188	157	139	74	89	395	296	75
Total	4,932	6,726	6,705	136	100	10,426	13,431	129
Ducks	210	225	206	98	92	455	431	95
Other ¹	2	3	3	150	100	5	6	120
Total	25,792	28,384	26,505	103	93	54,039	54,889	102
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.52	0.48	0.48	92	100	0.52	0.48	92
Mature	3.83	3.54	3.51	92	99	3.77	3.52	93
Light	6.92	7.20	7.99	115	111	7.50	7.56	101
Heavy	3.40	3.04	2.99	88	98	3.27	3.02	92
Total	0.57	0.52	0.52	91	100	0.56	0.52	93
Turkeys								
Young	1.13	1.50	1.54	136	103	1.16	1.52	131
Old	5.12	4.11	3.45	67	84	4.82	3.77	78
Total	1.16	1.52	1.56	134	103	1.19	1.54	129
Ducks	1.85	1.63	1.92	104	118	1.90	1.76	93
Other ¹	2.04	2.38	2.50	123	105	2.08	2.44	117
Total	0.63	0.62	0.63	100	102	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: January and February 2024

Commodity	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	January	February	January	February	January	February
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	-	-	190	118	101,755	93,686
Mature	-	-	15	1	46,011	47,223
Light	-	-	11	1	39,264	39,140
Heavy	-	-	4	-	6,747	8,083
Total	-	-	205	119	147,766	140,909
Turkeys						
Young	-	-	6	3	5,262	6,086
Old	-	-	1	1	671	654
Total	-	-	7	4	5,933	6,740
Commodity	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	January	February	January	February	January	February
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	144,136	175,019	725	741	2,931	2,342
Mature	11,338	11,046	137	97	19,324	17,512
Light	4,618	4,750	11	3	15,036	13,951
Heavy	6,720	6,296	126	94	4,288	3,561
Total	155,474	186,065	862	838	22,255	19,854
Turkeys						
Young	1,281	1,838	59	3	16	141
Old	427	420	16	19	193	278
Total	1,708	2,258	75	22	209	419
Commodity	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	January	February	January	February	January	February
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	4,902	4,846	1,348	1,340	42,103	37,729
Mature	2,579	3,219	76	102	18,728	15,196
Light	2,094	2,607	50	86	18,083	14,537
Heavy	485	612	26	16	645	659
Total	7,481	8,065	1,424	1,442	60,831	52,925
Turkeys						
Young	51	63	528	493	658	931
Old	8	13	11	13	70	62
Total	59	76	539	506	728	993
Commodity	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	January	February	January	February	January	February
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	5,107	5,053	112,471	114,355	2,067,278	1,826,981
Mature	104	144	32,444	29,995	34,053	34,506
Light	50	57	24,081	22,538	-	-
Heavy	54	87	8,363	7,457	34,053	34,506
Total	5,211	5,197	144,915	144,350	2,101,331	1,861,487
Turkeys						
Young	126	59	2,373	3,304	89,851	83,336
Old	6	19	88	45	236	281
Total	132	78	2,461	3,349	90,087	83,617

- 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: January and February 2024

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

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	January	February	January	February	January	February
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
Alabama	99,249	94,052	544,233	516,368	5.48	5.49
Arkansas	88,867	84,225	653,935	614,252	7.36	7.29
Delaware	32,949	30,557	258,469	237,847	7.84	7.78
Georgia	112,575	104,026	687,353	621,996	6.11	5.98
Illinois	69	56	447	358	6.43	6.38
Indiana	6,208	5,678	28,914	27,583	4.66	4.86
Iowa	1,729	1,685	10,078	9,780	5.83	5.80
Kentucky	25,102	23,824	161,038	153,788	6.42	6.46
Louisiana	15,059	14,670	101,090	97,105	6.71	6.62
Maryland	12,352	11,762	78,867	73,062	6.38	6.21
Mississippi	59,225	57,370	395,176	380,888	6.67	6.64
Missouri	27,679	25,672	150,503	134,639	5.44	5.24
Nebraska	10,193	9,538	68,019	62,516	6.67	6.55
New Jersey	228	268	1,134	1,463	4.97	5.46
New York	2,818	2,768	13,547	13,476	4.81	4.87
North Carolina	83,371	75,484	703,783	626,298	8.44	8.30
Ohio	10,398	10,054	46,901	45,861	4.51	4.56
Oklahoma	8,128	7,766	64,420	61,611	7.93	7.93
Pennsylvania	15,059	13,778	87,428	78,195	5.81	5.68
South Carolina	26,091	24,207	192,632	176,737	7.38	7.30
Tennessee	34,322	33,042	207,390	198,976	6.04	6.02
Texas	61,408	58,413	429,029	397,322	6.99	6.80
Virginia	26,823	24,092	176,218	151,231	6.57	6.28
United States	815,273	761,068	5,362,059	4,940,932	6.58	6.49

Young Chickens Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations – States and United States: January and February 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	
	January	February	January	February	January	February
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
Alabama	419,907	398,235	1,801	1,752	0.43	0.44
Arkansas	489,180	458,120	2,280	2,108	0.46	0.46
Delaware	200,600	184,055	1,027	1,018	0.51	0.55
Georgia	518,749	471,884	2,796	2,668	0.54	0.56
Illinois	332	267	-	-	(X)	(X)
Indiana	20,983	19,880	144	130	0.68	0.65
Iowa	6,957	7,082	402	390	5.47	5.22
Kentucky	121,814	116,478	590	560	0.48	0.48
Louisiana	75,546	73,236	447	300	0.59	0.41
Maryland	58,899	54,333	455	518	0.77	0.94
Mississippi	293,540	281,623	1,057	906	0.36	0.32
Missouri	109,750	98,154	273	243	0.25	0.25
Nebraska	51,944	47,907	309	239	0.59	0.50
New Jersey	829	1,078	11	8	1.26	0.70
New York	8,363	8,347	142	113	1.67	1.33
North Carolina	541,379	483,045	1,572	1,211	0.29	0.25
Ohio	35,096	34,288	230	198	0.65	0.57
Oklahoma	48,317	46,219	147	138	0.30	0.30
Pennsylvania	62,256	55,290	900	782	1.42	1.39
South Carolina	145,535	133,284	912	978	0.62	0.73
Tennessee	153,133	146,832	321	307	0.21	0.21
Texas	329,202	305,543	890	842	0.27	0.27
Virginia	134,546	115,248	392	360	0.29	0.31
United States	4,051,364	3,734,327	19,694	17,975	0.48	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: January and February 2024

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

State	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	January	February	January	February	January	February
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	4	17	11,483	10,461
Arkansas	-	-	-	-	176	120
Delaware	-	-	2	37	11,929	8,980
Georgia	-	-	14	2	16,290	13,573
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	1	1
Texas	-	-	-	-	10,860	12,694
Virginia	-	-	2	1	1,496	1,572
United States	-	-	190	118	101,755	93,686

State	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	January	February	January	February	January	February
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	4,073	4,621	2	5	132	134
Arkansas	241	9	63	13	-	-
Delaware	7,283	7,550	6	1	38	36
Georgia	34,224	33,768	8	36	420	276
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	2	-
Texas	10,351	14,167	-	14	534	394
Virginia	366	531	1	3	21	29
United States	144,136	175,019	725	741	2,931	2,342

State	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	January	February	January	February	January	February
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	412	322	187	134	2,952	2,249
Arkansas	34	-	-	-	84	5
Delaware	538	303	17	31	2,174	1,406
Georgia	1,221	1,744	384	396	3,398	4,528
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	2	2	3	5	-	-
Texas	140	130	5	2	613	284
Virginia	10	14	6	6	114	195
United States	4,902	4,846	1,348	1,340	42,103	37,729

State	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	January	February	January	February	January	February
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	1,261	1,010	13,689	17,175	148,558	160,105
Arkansas	6	-	116	50	209,380	218,917
Delaware	352	770	3,856	3,498	10,144	8,046
Georgia	336	440	15,750	18,820	188,810	202,774
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	169,565	138,848
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	120,648	98,795
Texas	684	360	1,102	1,250	75,742	69,401
Virginia	670	136	5,001	6,192	157,729	129,760
United States	5,107	5,053	112,471	114,355	2,067,278	1,826,981

- 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: January and February 2024

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

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	January	February	January	February	January	February
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
California	293	295	11,315	10,848	38.67	36.78
Illinois	(Z)	(Z)	6	(Z)	20.58	27.17
Indiana	1,868	1,899	80,360	81,599	43.02	42.96
Iowa	970	1,134	45,343	53,323	46.73	47.02
Michigan	444	457	19,095	19,760	43.03	43.28
North Carolina	1,788	1,617	69,784	60,271	39.03	37.27
Ohio	610	554	28,869	26,162	47.33	47.22
Pennsylvania	627	553	18,564	17,071	29.60	30.89
South Carolina	625	574	29,468	26,377	47.12	45.94
South Dakota	211	160	9,250	7,160	43.93	44.84
Vermont	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States	16,367	16,181	546,344	526,344	33.38	32.53

- Represents zero.

(Z) Less than half of the unit shown.

Young Turkeys Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations – States and United States: January and February 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	
	January	February	January	February	January	February
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
California	9,053	8,655	56	69	0.62	0.79
Illinois	4	(Z)	-	-	(X)	(X)
Indiana	64,185	65,715	994	998	1.52	1.50
Iowa	35,503	42,138	538	745	1.49	1.74
Michigan	14,799	15,314	209	234	1.39	1.50
North Carolina	54,780	47,635	314	247	0.57	0.51
Ohio	23,085	20,920	335	360	1.43	1.69
Pennsylvania	14,705	13,491	212	238	1.42	1.73
South Carolina	18,924	19,374	1,151	1,080	5.73	5.28
South Dakota	7,387	5,728	142	116	1.89	1.98
Vermont	-	-	-	-	(X)	(X)
United States	431,495	420,022	6,569	6,566	1.50	1.54

- 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 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

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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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- 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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2024 USDA Spring Data Users' Meeting

April 16, 2024

**Register at: nass.usda.gov/go/data_users
Free and open to the public**

USDA Spring Data Users' Meeting

Join Us Online or in Chicago

April 16, 2024

University of Chicago – Gleacher Center
450 North Cityfront Plaza Drive
Chicago, IL 60611

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will hold an open forum for users of U.S. domestic and international agriculture data. NASS is organizing the 2024 Spring Data Users' Meeting in cooperation with five other USDA agencies – Agricultural Marketing Service, Economic Research Service, Farm Service Agency, Foreign Agricultural Service, and World Agricultural Outlook Board – and the Census Bureau's Foreign Trade Division. Agency representatives will provide updates on recent and pending changes in statistical and information programs important to agriculture, answer questions, and welcome comments and input from data users.

For registration details or additional information about the Data Users' Meeting, see the meeting page on the NASS website (https://www.nass.usda.gov/go/data_users).