



Poultry Slaughter

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Ready-to-Cook Weight Up 10 Percent from Last Year

April 2023 contained 20 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 5 Saturdays.

April 2024 contained 22 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

Poultry certified wholesome during April 2024 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 4.43 billion pounds, up 10 percent from the amount certified in April 2023. The March 2024 certified total at 4.10 billion pounds, was down 10 percent from March 2023, unchanged from last month's preliminary pounds certified.

The preliminary total live weight of all federally inspected poultry during April 2024 was 5.82 billion pounds, up 10 percent from 5.31 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 5.17 billion pounds, up 10 percent from April 2023. Mature chickens, at 67.7 million pounds, were up 7 percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 565 million pounds, up 6 percent from a year ago. Ducks totaled 16.2 million pounds, up 4 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during April 2024 averaged 6.52 pounds per bird, up slightly from April 2023. The average live weight of mature chickens was 6.90 pounds per bird, up 1 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during April 2024 averaged 33.3 pounds per bird, up 2 percent from April 2023.

Ante-mortem condemnations during April 2024 totaled 11.9 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.20 percent of the live weight inspected, as compared with 0.21 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 26.8 million pounds, were 0.60 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	April 2023	March 2024	April 2024	April 2024 as % of		January to April		2024 as percent of 2023
				April 2023	March 2024	2023	2024	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Slaughtered								
Chickens								
Young	724,124	744,888	792,881	109	106	3,075,306	3,116,006	101
Mature	9,235	8,940	9,809	106	110	38,374	37,650	98
Light	2,864	2,581	2,842	99	110	11,361	10,753	95
Heavy	6,371	6,359	6,967	109	110	27,013	26,897	100
Total	733,359	753,828	802,690	109	106	3,113,680	3,153,656	101
Turkeys								
Young	16,281	15,395	16,876	104	110	67,762	64,819	96
Old	164	113	126	77	112	650	564	87
Total	16,445	15,508	17,002	103	110	68,412	65,383	96
Ducks	2,173	2,096	2,265	104	108	8,996	8,939	99
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Total live weight								
Chickens								
Young	4,698,567	4,816,338	5,172,487	110	107	19,992,931	20,302,204	102
Mature	63,003	62,196	67,684	107	109	266,408	262,084	98
Light	10,033	8,924	9,744	97	109	39,438	37,103	94
Heavy	52,970	53,272	57,940	109	109	226,970	224,981	99
Total	4,761,570	4,878,534	5,240,171	110	107	20,259,339	20,564,288	102
Turkeys								
Young	529,335	510,572	561,485	106	110	2,202,216	2,144,745	97
Old	4,909	3,640	3,929	80	108	19,640	17,437	89
Total	534,244	514,212	565,414	106	110	2,221,856	2,162,182	97
Ducks	15,546	15,012	16,244	104	108	64,346	64,079	100
Other ¹	149	148	169	113	114	665	657	99
Total	5,311,509	5,407,906	5,821,998	110	108	22,546,206	22,791,206	101
	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)
Average live weight								
Chickens								
Young	6.49	6.47	6.52	100	101	6.50	6.52	100
Mature	6.82	6.96	6.90	101	99	6.94	6.96	100
Light	3.50	3.46	3.43	98	99	3.47	3.45	99
Heavy	8.31	8.38	8.32	100	99	8.40	8.36	100
Total	6.49	6.47	6.53	101	101	6.51	6.52	100
Turkeys								
Young	32.51	33.16	33.27	102	100	32.50	33.09	102
Old	29.93	32.21	31.18	104	97	30.22	30.92	102
Total	32.49	33.16	33.26	102	100	32.48	33.07	102
Ducks	7.15	7.16	7.17	100	100	7.15	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	April 2023	March 2024	April 2024	April 2024 as % of		January to April		2024 as percent of 2023
				April 2023	March 2024	2023	2024	
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Chilled								
Chickens								
Young	3,303,459	3,400,230	3,658,932	111	108	14,096,399	14,319,602	102
Mature	44,002	42,854	47,177	107	110	186,210	182,444	98
Light	5,149	4,649	5,204	101	112	20,719	19,629	95
Heavy	38,853	38,205	41,973	108	110	165,491	162,815	98
Total	3,347,461	3,443,084	3,706,109	111	108	14,282,609	14,502,046	102
Turkeys								
Young	272,951	254,668	286,108	105	112	1,106,924	1,084,574	98
Old	2,702	2,687	2,881	107	107	12,290	12,709	103
Total	275,653	257,355	288,989	105	112	1,119,214	1,097,283	98
Ducks	3,425	3,763	3,742	109	99	15,329	16,216	106
Other ¹	90	93	102	113	110	419	406	97
Total	3,626,629	3,704,295	3,998,942	110	108	15,417,571	15,615,951	101
Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	242,637	236,574	257,129	106	109	998,794	1,026,479	103
Mature	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	-	(X)
Light	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	-	(X)
Heavy	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	-	(X)
Total	242,637	236,574	257,129	106	109	998,794	1,026,479	103
Turkeys								
Young	152,004	152,076	161,591	106	106	655,323	621,386	95
Old	1,082	68	75	7	110	2,828	559	20
Total	153,086	152,144	161,666	106	106	658,151	621,945	94
Ducks	7,848	7,272	8,159	104	112	31,278	30,773	98
Other ¹	15	11	16	107	145	49	56	114
Total	403,586	396,001	426,970	106	108	1,688,272	1,679,253	99
Chilled and frozen								
Chickens								
Young	3,546,096	3,636,804	3,916,061	110	108	15,095,193	15,346,081	102
Mature	44,002	42,854	47,177	107	110	186,210	182,444	98
Light	5,149	4,649	5,204	101	112	20,719	19,629	95
Heavy	38,853	38,205	41,973	108	110	165,491	162,815	98
Total	3,590,098	3,679,658	3,963,238	110	108	15,281,403	15,528,525	102
Turkeys								
Young	424,955	406,744	447,699	105	110	1,762,247	1,705,960	97
Old	3,784	2,755	2,956	78	107	15,118	13,268	88
Total	428,739	409,499	450,655	105	110	1,777,365	1,719,228	97
Ducks	11,273	11,035	11,901	106	108	46,607	46,989	101
Other ¹	105	104	118	112	113	468	462	99
Total	4,030,215	4,100,296	4,425,912	110	108	17,105,843	17,295,204	101

- Represents zero.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Includes geese, guineas, and squab.

Ante-Mortem Condemnations by Type – United States

[Federally inspected only]

Commodity	April 2023	March 2024	April 2024	April 2024 as % of		January to April		2024 as percent of 2023
				April 2023	March 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	8,815	8,910	9,301	106	104	39,556	39,703	100
Mature	716	727	726	101	100	3,344	3,175	95
Light	87	41	41	47	100	403	187	46
Heavy	629	686	685	109	100	2,941	2,988	102
Total	9,531	9,637	10,027	105	104	42,900	42,878	100
Turkeys								
Young	1,487	1,624	1,692	114	104	6,384	6,927	109
Old	19	40	39	205	98	128	179	140
Total	1,506	1,664	1,731	115	104	6,512	7,106	109
Ducks	74	84	101	136	120	304	376	124
Total ¹	11,111	11,385	11,859	107	104	49,716	50,360	101
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of live weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.19	0.18	0.18	95	100	0.20	0.20	100
Mature	1.14	1.17	1.07	94	91	1.26	1.21	96
Light	0.87	0.46	0.42	48	91	1.02	0.50	49
Heavy	1.19	1.29	1.18	99	91	1.30	1.33	102
Total	0.20	0.20	0.19	95	95	0.21	0.21	100
Turkeys								
Young	0.28	0.32	0.30	107	94	0.29	0.32	110
Old	0.39	1.10	0.99	254	90	0.65	1.03	158
Total	0.28	0.32	0.31	111	97	0.29	0.33	114
Ducks	0.48	0.56	0.62	129	111	0.47	0.59	126
Total ¹	0.21	0.21	0.20	95	95	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	April 2023	March 2024	April 2024	April 2024 as % of		January to April		2024 as percent of 2023
				April 2023	March 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	17,249	18,025	17,944	104	100	77,158	73,760	96
Mature	1,715	1,578	1,937	113	123	7,135	6,877	96
Light	435	419	406	93	97	1,661	1,624	98
Heavy	1,280	1,159	1,531	120	132	5,474	5,253	96
Total	18,964	19,603	19,881	105	101	84,293	80,637	96
Turkeys								
Young	4,881	5,821	6,553	134	113	20,425	25,509	125
Old	190	126	147	77	117	761	569	75
Total	5,071	5,947	6,700	132	113	21,186	26,078	123
Ducks	188	171	185	98	108	879	787	90
Other ¹	2	3	3	150	100	9	12	133
Total	24,225	25,724	26,769	111	104	106,367	107,514	101
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.48	0.49	0.46	96	94	0.51	0.48	94
Mature	3.75	3.55	3.94	105	111	3.69	3.63	98
Light	7.79	8.27	7.24	93	88	7.42	7.64	103
Heavy	3.19	2.94	3.52	110	120	3.20	3.13	98
Total	0.53	0.53	0.50	94	94	0.55	0.52	95
Turkeys								
Young	1.14	1.41	1.44	126	102	1.15	1.47	128
Old	4.78	4.37	4.74	99	108	4.79	4.11	86
Total	1.17	1.43	1.46	125	102	1.18	1.49	126
Ducks	1.64	1.53	1.53	93	100	1.85	1.65	89
Other ¹	1.87	2.80	2.48	133	89	1.89	2.53	134
Total	0.60	0.62	0.60	100	97	0.62	0.62	100

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: March and April 2024

Commodity	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	March	April	March	April	March	April
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	-	-	379	356	107,710	103,089
Mature	-	-	24	12	46,905	56,272
Light	-	-	22	11	39,816	46,774
Heavy	-	-	2	1	7,089	9,498
Total	-	-	403	368	154,615	159,361
Turkeys						
Young	-	-	5	2	3,877	4,062
Old	-	-	2	1	920	1,134
Total	-	-	7	3	4,797	5,196
Commodity	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	March	April	March	April	March	April
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	187,422	200,907	462	549	1,945	1,939
Mature	12,970	13,836	90	108	20,324	20,219
Light	5,729	5,039	10	7	15,884	15,690
Heavy	7,241	8,797	80	101	4,440	4,529
Total	200,392	214,743	552	657	22,269	22,158
Turkeys						
Young	1,281	1,396	10	33	36	52
Old	506	427	14	11	252	204
Total	1,787	1,823	24	44	288	256
Commodity	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	March	April	March	April	March	April
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	4,312	3,758	1,480	1,272	44,708	39,479
Mature	2,204	2,145	328	148	18,877	22,620
Light	1,720	1,464	298	120	18,106	21,992
Heavy	484	681	30	28	771	628
Total	6,516	5,903	1,808	1,420	63,585	62,099
Turkeys						
Young	74	56	240	295	845	389
Old	7	14	14	4	41	98
Total	81	70	254	299	886	487
Commodity	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	March	April	March	April	March	April
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	4,857	4,098	129,803	97,985	1,840,300	1,842,192
Mature	36	111	29,385	33,654	24,423	27,456
Light	31	57	22,032	24,596	-	-
Heavy	5	54	7,353	9,058	24,423	27,456
Total	4,893	4,209	159,188	131,639	1,864,723	1,869,648
Turkeys						
Young	91	164	1,644	1,952	71,495	85,241
Old	1	10	100	76	100	35
Total	92	174	1,744	2,028	71,595	85,276

- 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: March and April 2024

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

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	March	April	March	April	March	April
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
Alabama	93,629	100,497	505,661	546,258	5.40	5.44
Arkansas	79,431	87,054	574,212	634,757	7.23	7.29
Delaware	29,539	31,359	226,744	242,478	7.68	7.73
Georgia	101,944	107,490	609,595	642,113	5.98	5.97
Illinois	50	66	316	418	6.31	6.37
Indiana	3,536	3,731	19,130	20,233	5.41	5.42
Iowa	1,988	1,767	11,727	10,152	5.90	5.74
Kentucky	24,302	25,131	159,825	169,972	6.58	6.76
Louisiana	14,443	15,267	96,372	102,876	6.67	6.74
Maryland	11,608	12,066	71,782	75,460	6.18	6.25
Mississippi	55,235	59,810	363,175	397,284	6.58	6.64
Missouri	25,027	27,334	133,031	147,577	5.32	5.40
Nebraska	9,533	10,682	61,934	71,396	6.50	6.68
New Jersey	224	214	1,171	1,102	5.23	5.14
New York	2,744	2,708	13,412	13,166	4.89	4.86
North Carolina	73,861	77,917	619,223	658,055	8.38	8.45
Ohio	9,987	10,891	45,295	50,008	4.54	4.59
Oklahoma	7,837	8,585	59,087	68,212	7.54	7.95
Pennsylvania	13,459	14,091	76,773	81,295	5.70	5.77
South Carolina	23,974	25,380	171,953	183,610	7.17	7.23
Tennessee	32,388	32,703	192,870	197,645	5.95	6.04
Texas	56,642	60,494	378,910	411,707	6.69	6.81
Virginia	24,346	25,450	155,010	161,809	6.37	6.36
United States	744,888	792,881	4,816,338	5,172,487	6.47	6.52

Young Chickens Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations – States and United States: March and April 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	
	March	April	March	April	March	April
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
Alabama	387,330	421,266	1,795	1,660	0.46	0.39
Arkansas	429,907	476,078	1,883	1,900	0.44	0.40
Delaware	175,423	188,074	1,068	1,143	0.61	0.60
Georgia	460,621	486,639	2,701	2,680	0.58	0.55
Illinois	235	312	-	-	(X)	(X)
Indiana	13,701	14,475	54	70	0.39	0.48
Iowa	8,586	7,378	307	379	3.45	4.89
Kentucky	120,938	128,449	638	492	0.52	0.38
Louisiana	72,182	76,541	329	333	0.45	0.43
Maryland	53,316	56,056	578	622	1.07	1.10
Mississippi	269,111	299,216	875	985	0.32	0.33
Missouri	96,969	107,643	355	317	0.36	0.29
Nebraska	47,461	54,232	232	184	0.49	0.34
New Jersey	857	807	9	9	1.04	1.15
New York	8,266	8,173	119	138	1.42	1.66
North Carolina	477,125	506,820	1,143	1,273	0.24	0.25
Ohio	33,962	37,347	209	239	0.61	0.63
Oklahoma	44,256	51,169	167	195	0.38	0.38
Pennsylvania	54,402	57,857	713	724	1.29	1.24
South Carolina	129,777	138,460	1,005	862	0.77	0.62
Tennessee	142,585	146,627	299	291	0.21	0.20
Texas	291,159	316,482	968	874	0.33	0.28
Virginia	117,611	122,995	358	359	0.30	0.29
United States	3,636,804	3,916,061	18,025	17,944	0.49	0.46

- 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: March and April 2024

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

State	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	March	April	March	April	March	April
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	6	3	10,875	10,178
Arkansas	-	-	-	-	18	169
Delaware	-	-	1	-	10,503	9,184
Georgia	-	-	-	-	11,998	12,495
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	-	2
Texas	-	-	-	-	17,798	17,883
Virginia	-	-	3	-	2,085	1,921
United States	-	-	379	356	107,710	103,089
State	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	March	April	March	April	March	April
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	4,300	4,539	1	-	93	153
Arkansas	49	116	2	7	-	-
Delaware	8,675	9,329	44	7	45	30
Georgia	37,413	43,313	11	5	255	314
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	5	-	-	-	-
Texas	16,912	19,591	2	1	231	275
Virginia	387	432	1	-	13	13
United States	187,422	200,907	462	549	1,945	1,939
State	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	March	April	March	April	March	April
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	355	364	133	147	2,407	1,967
Arkansas	1	7	-	-	8	35
Delaware	284	427	14	14	1,542	1,432
Georgia	1,199	659	352	382	3,970	4,211
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	-	-
Texas	120	92	6	5	408	367
Virginia	21	12	4	1	181	187
United States	4,312	3,758	1,480	1,272	44,708	39,479
State	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	March	April	March	April	March	April
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	466	427	34,184	7,727	151,749	161,203
Arkansas	-	1	42	124	186,008	178,975
Delaware	344	659	2,017	2,596	11,298	19,750
Georgia	440	633	19,803	18,331	209,627	227,404
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	137,323	154,698
North Carolina	-	-	1	1	93,067	107,525
Texas	660	508	1,679	1,783	79,392	63,149
Virginia	10	145	5,778	6,520	151,222	147,572
United States	4,857	4,098	129,803	97,985	1,840,300	1,842,192

- 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: March and April 2024

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

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	March	April	March	April	March	April
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
California	286	287	11,257	11,521	39.35	40.16
Illinois	1	(Z)	21	(Z)	33.23	33.00
Indiana	1,847	1,916	78,034	84,093	42.24	43.89
Iowa	1,040	1,242	49,212	59,956	47.33	48.25
Michigan	414	508	18,132	22,386	43.75	44.07
North Carolina	1,745	1,707	66,357	64,177	38.02	37.60
Ohio	494	568	23,192	26,861	46.95	47.29
Pennsylvania	558	525	17,500	16,630	31.34	31.66
South Carolina	501	609	22,134	25,496	44.21	41.84
South Dakota	157	264	7,293	11,767	46.54	44.56
Vermont	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States	15,395	16,876	510,572	561,485	33.16	33.27

- Represents zero.

(Z) Less than half of the unit shown.

Young Turkeys Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations – States and United States: March and April 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	
	March	April	March	April	March	April
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
California	9,003	9,217	43	34	0.48	0.37
Illinois	16	(Z)	-	-	(X)	(X)
Indiana	62,577	67,551	893	1,075	1.41	1.57
Iowa	38,503	47,141	575	736	1.47	1.54
Michigan	14,052	17,349	207	252	1.45	1.43
North Carolina	52,422	50,630	271	284	0.51	0.56
Ohio	18,522	21,464	344	410	1.83	1.87
Pennsylvania	13,691	13,069	273	294	1.96	2.20
South Carolina	16,434	18,744	705	708	4.11	3.64
South Dakota	5,846	9,387	96	131	1.61	1.38
Vermont	-	-	-	-	(X)	(X)
United States	406,744	447,699	5,821	6,553	1.41	1.44

- 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

Travis Averill, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 692-0069
Vacant, Head, Poultry and Specialty Commodities Section	
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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