



Poultry Slaughter

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Ready-to-Cook Weight Up 6 Percent from Last Year

December 2023 contained 21 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

December 2024 contained 22 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

Poultry certified wholesome during December 2024 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 4.31 billion pounds, up 6 percent from the amount certified in December 2023. The November 2024 revised certified total at 4.09 billion pounds, was down 5 percent from November 2023. The November revision represented an increase of 1.95 million pounds from last month's preliminary pounds certified.

The preliminary total live weight of all federally inspected poultry during December 2024 was 5.68 billion pounds, up 6 percent from 5.36 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 5.13 billion pounds, up 7 percent from December 2023. Mature chickens, at 59.9 million pounds, were down slightly from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 473 million pounds, down 5 percent from a year ago. Ducks totaled 14.2 million pounds, down 15 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during December 2024 averaged 6.61 pounds per bird, up slightly from December 2023. The average live weight of mature chickens was 7.08 pounds per bird, up 4 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during December 2024 averaged 33.6 pounds per bird, up 6 percent from December 2023.

Ante-mortem condemnations during December 2024 totaled 12.1 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.21 percent of the live weight inspected, as compared with 0.22 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 25.6 million pounds, were 0.59 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	December 2023	November 2024	December 2024	December 2024 as % of		January to December		2024 as percent of 2023
				December 2023	November 2024	2023	2024	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Slaughtered								
Chickens								
Young	724,789	728,242	776,349	107	107	9,381,211	9,459,259	101
Mature	8,800	7,696	8,466	96	110	120,400	113,388	94
Light	2,693	2,483	2,430	90	98	33,912	31,278	92
Heavy	6,107	5,213	6,036	99	116	86,488	82,110	95
Total	733,589	735,938	784,815	107	107	9,501,611	9,572,647	101
Turkeys								
Young	15,628	16,282	13,976	89	86	214,087	196,149	92
Old	86	85	134	156	158	1,905	1,845	97
Total	15,714	16,367	14,110	90	86	215,992	197,994	92
Ducks	2,337	1,981	1,961	84	99	28,203	24,802	88
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Total live weight								
Chickens								
Young	4,786,549	4,830,189	5,128,485	107	106	61,375,736	62,129,340	101
Mature	59,967	52,953	59,916	100	113	839,422	804,065	96
Light	9,271	8,364	8,418	91	101	118,606	108,195	91
Heavy	50,696	44,589	51,498	102	115	720,816	695,870	97
Total	4,846,516	4,883,142	5,188,401	107	106	62,215,158	62,933,405	101
Turkeys								
Young	493,208	492,995	469,313	95	95	6,788,439	6,385,106	94
Old	2,764	2,746	4,015	145	146	57,545	56,714	99
Total	495,972	495,741	473,328	95	95	6,845,984	6,441,820	94
Ducks	16,637	14,282	14,154	85	99	200,204	176,896	88
Other ¹	203	229	194	96	85	3,063	3,252	106
Total	5,359,328	5,393,394	5,676,077	106	105	69,264,409	69,555,373	100
	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(percent)
Average live weight								
Chickens								
Young	6.60	6.63	6.61	100	100	6.54	6.57	100
Mature	6.81	6.88	7.08	104	103	6.97	7.09	102
Light	3.44	3.37	3.46	101	103	3.50	3.46	99
Heavy	8.30	8.55	8.53	103	100	8.33	8.47	102
Total	6.61	6.64	6.61	100	100	6.55	6.57	100
Turkeys								
Young	31.56	30.28	33.58	106	111	31.71	32.55	103
Old	32.14	32.31	29.96	93	93	30.21	30.74	102
Total	31.56	30.29	33.55	106	111	31.70	32.54	103
Ducks	7.12	7.21	7.22	101	100	7.10	7.13	100

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

Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified by Type – United States

[Ready-to-cook weights]

Commodity	December 2023	November 2024	December 2024	December 2024 as % of		January to December		2024 as percent of 2023
				December 2023	November 2024	2023	2024	
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Chilled								
Chickens								
Young	3,374,856	3,415,166	3,635,294	108	106	43,288,470	43,913,695	101
Mature	41,530	36,914	40,911	99	111	587,686	560,069	95
Light	4,958	4,513	4,452	90	99	62,781	57,462	92
Heavy	36,572	32,401	36,459	100	113	524,905	502,607	96
Total	3,416,386	3,452,080	3,676,205	108	106	43,876,156	44,473,764	101
Turkeys								
Young	249,470	246,921	238,075	95	96	3,440,823	3,219,070	94
Old	1,943	1,850	2,170	112	117	38,827	39,702	102
Total	251,413	248,771	240,245	96	97	3,479,650	3,258,772	94
Ducks	4,654	3,207	3,275	70	102	52,205	43,791	84
Other ¹	131	144	119	91	83	1,578	1,439	91
Total	3,672,584	3,704,202	3,919,844	107	106	47,409,589	47,777,766	101
Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	241,318	236,265	243,124	101	103	3,098,302	3,074,079	99
Mature	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	-	(X)
Light	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	-	(X)
Heavy	-	-	-	(X)	(X)	-	-	(X)
Total	241,318	236,265	243,124	101	103	3,098,302	3,074,079	99
Turkeys								
Young	141,398	145,086	134,820	95	93	1,971,888	1,858,694	94
Old	184	246	920	500	374	5,441	3,476	64
Total	141,582	145,332	135,740	96	93	1,977,329	1,862,170	94
Ducks	7,630	7,276	7,075	93	97	93,927	85,786	91
Other ¹	18	16	16	89	100	532	739	139
Total	390,548	388,889	385,955	99	99	5,170,090	5,022,774	97
Chilled and frozen								
Chickens								
Young	3,616,174	3,651,431	3,878,418	107	106	46,386,772	46,987,774	101
Mature	41,530	36,914	40,911	99	111	587,686	560,069	95
Light	4,958	4,513	4,452	90	99	62,781	57,462	92
Heavy	36,572	32,401	36,459	100	113	524,905	502,607	96
Total	3,657,704	3,688,345	3,919,329	107	106	46,974,458	47,547,843	101
Turkeys								
Young	390,868	392,007	372,895	95	95	5,412,711	5,077,764	94
Old	2,127	2,096	3,090	145	147	44,268	43,178	98
Total	392,995	394,103	375,985	96	95	5,456,979	5,120,942	94
Ducks	12,284	10,483	10,350	84	99	146,132	129,577	89
Other ¹	149	160	135	91	84	2,110	2,178	103
Total	4,063,132	4,093,091	4,305,799	106	105	52,579,679	52,800,540	100

- Represents zero.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Includes geese, guineas, and squab.

Ante-Mortem Condemnations by Type – United States

[Federally inspected only]

Commodity	December 2023	November 2024	December 2024	December 2024 as % of		January to December		2024 as percent of 2023
				December 2023	November 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	9,412	8,487	9,673	103	114	120,114	116,181	97
Mature	733	499	695	95	139	9,656	9,310	96
Light	46	35	59	128	169	949	589	62
Heavy	687	464	636	93	137	8,707	8,721	100
Total	10,145	8,986	10,368	102	115	129,770	125,491	97
Turkeys								
Young	1,432	1,418	1,575	110	111	20,010	20,819	104
Old	23	26	26	113	100	405	504	124
Total	1,455	1,444	1,601	110	111	20,415	21,323	104
Ducks	76	81	85	112	105	1,101	1,119	102
Total ¹	11,676	10,511	12,054	103	115	151,290	147,936	98
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of live weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.20	0.18	0.19	95	106	0.20	0.19	95
Mature	1.22	0.94	1.16	95	123	1.15	1.16	101
Light	0.50	0.42	0.70	140	167	0.80	0.54	68
Heavy	1.36	1.04	1.23	90	118	1.21	1.25	103
Total	0.21	0.18	0.20	95	111	0.21	0.20	95
Turkeys								
Young	0.29	0.29	0.34	117	117	0.29	0.33	114
Old	0.83	0.95	0.65	78	68	0.70	0.89	127
Total	0.29	0.29	0.34	117	117	0.30	0.33	110
Ducks	0.46	0.57	0.60	130	105	0.55	0.63	115
Total ¹	0.22	0.19	0.21	95	111	0.22	0.21	95

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	December 2023	November 2024	December 2024	December 2024 as % of		January to December		2024 as percent of 2023
				December 2023	November 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	16,414	16,598	18,361	112	111	216,111	217,086	100
Mature	1,474	1,560	1,546	105	99	21,124	21,114	100
Light	348	433	369	106	85	4,700	4,607	98
Heavy	1,126	1,127	1,177	105	104	16,424	16,507	101
Total	17,888	18,158	19,907	111	110	237,235	238,200	100
Turkeys								
Young	6,018	6,052	5,361	89	89	67,027	75,448	113
Old	95	94	131	138	139	2,017	1,972	98
Total	6,113	6,146	5,492	90	89	69,044	77,420	112
Ducks	217	159	152	70	96	2,599	2,264	87
Other ¹	3	3	4	133	133	39	43	110
Total	24,221	24,466	25,555	106	104	308,917	317,927	103
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Percent of weight condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.45	0.45	0.47	104	104	0.46	0.46	100
Mature	3.43	4.05	3.64	106	90	3.47	3.63	105
Light	6.56	8.75	7.65	117	87	6.96	7.42	107
Heavy	2.99	3.36	3.13	105	93	3.03	3.18	105
Total	0.49	0.49	0.51	104	104	0.50	0.50	100
Turkeys								
Young	1.52	1.52	1.42	93	93	1.22	1.46	120
Old	4.28	4.29	4.07	95	95	4.36	4.37	100
Total	1.53	1.54	1.44	94	94	1.25	1.49	119
Ducks	1.74	1.49	1.45	83	97	1.75	1.72	98
Other ¹	1.97	1.84	2.88	146	157	1.81	1.94	107
Total	0.59	0.59	0.59	100	100	0.58	0.60	103

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: November and December 2024

Commodity	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	November	December	November	December	November	December
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	-	-	159	254	39,543	44,110
Mature	-	-	16	20	51,965	56,291
Light	-	-	16	19	45,911	50,867
Heavy	-	-	-	1	6,054	5,424
Total	-	-	175	274	91,508	100,401
Turkeys						
Young	-	-	45	2	5,634	5,182
Old	-	-	-	-	553	867
Total	-	-	45	2	6,187	6,049
Commodity	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	November	December	November	December	November	December
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	52,448	104,839	1,210	777	1,262	1,295
Mature	10,432	12,875	88	125	16,742	16,328
Light	4,624	5,027	16	36	13,087	11,640
Heavy	5,808	7,848	72	89	3,655	4,688
Total	62,880	117,714	1,298	902	18,004	17,623
Turkeys						
Young	2,002	1,339	77	28	30	45
Old	252	230	18	15	151	125
Total	2,254	1,569	95	43	181	170
Commodity	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	November	December	November	December	November	December
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	2,139	2,892	1,100	1,103	27,148	28,074
Mature	2,421	3,073	92	178	16,410	17,340
Light	1,489	2,350	81	168	15,857	16,659
Heavy	932	723	11	10	553	681
Total	4,560	5,965	1,192	1,281	43,558	45,414
Turkeys						
Young	67	27	225	257	769	369
Old	12	13	6	1	36	58
Total	79	40	231	258	805	427
Commodity	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	November	December	November	December	November	December
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Chickens						
Young	1,838	2,298	61,698	67,454	1,674,667	1,966,294
Mature	134	96	40,108	37,609	31,523	31,718
Light	133	89	30,479	28,113	-	-
Heavy	1	7	9,629	9,496	31,523	31,718
Total	1,972	2,394	101,806	105,063	1,706,190	1,998,012
Turkeys						
Young	51	120	4,134	3,079	93,891	70,069
Old	1	2	54	66	62	144
Total	52	122	4,188	3,145	93,953	70,213

- 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: November and December 2024

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

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	November	December	November	December	November	December
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
Alabama	90,997	96,478	508,120	534,174	5.58	5.54
Arkansas	79,766	83,427	589,133	615,485	7.39	7.38
Delaware	29,698	30,063	234,512	233,841	7.90	7.78
Georgia	96,850	105,091	583,928	633,815	6.03	6.03
Illinois	39	56	250	364	6.47	6.46
Indiana	3,659	3,891	20,063	21,685	5.48	5.57
Iowa	763	837	4,292	4,616	5.63	5.52
Kentucky	23,221	24,179	160,806	168,743	6.93	6.98
Louisiana	14,218	15,211	97,607	104,523	6.87	6.87
Maryland	11,775	11,952	76,472	78,311	6.49	6.55
Mississippi	56,544	61,499	384,628	411,956	6.80	6.70
Missouri	25,576	28,036	136,371	146,540	5.33	5.23
Nebraska	9,349	10,596	64,007	73,091	6.85	6.90
New Jersey	216	274	1,213	1,497	5.62	5.47
New York	2,746	3,103	14,089	15,834	5.13	5.10
North Carolina	74,253	76,612	624,965	652,458	8.42	8.52
Ohio	10,487	10,656	48,554	48,310	4.63	4.53
Oklahoma	7,869	7,836	66,604	64,072	8.46	8.18
Pennsylvania	11,558	14,266	67,521	81,298	5.84	5.70
South Carolina	23,929	25,941	177,331	192,221	7.41	7.41
Tennessee	30,446	33,012	189,045	203,817	6.21	6.17
Texas	56,883	59,573	398,699	417,566	7.01	7.01
Virginia	20,618	23,543	131,244	150,693	6.37	6.40
United States	728,242	776,349	4,830,189	5,128,485	6.63	6.61

Young Chickens Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations – States and United States: November and December 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	
	November	December	November	December	November	December
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
Alabama	388,535	411,715	1,528	1,681	0.39	0.41
Arkansas	444,234	464,577	1,917	2,060	0.43	0.44
Delaware	183,302	182,777	1,306	1,052	0.71	0.57
Georgia	444,435	481,491	2,419	2,646	0.54	0.55
Illinois	187	265	-	(Z)	(X)	0.11
Indiana	14,351	15,529	60	56	0.41	0.36
Iowa	2,943	3,273	332	143	10.13	4.19
Kentucky	121,270	127,243	618	754	0.51	0.59
Louisiana	73,040	77,984	291	343	0.40	0.44
Maryland	56,952	58,276	382	539	0.67	0.92
Mississippi	285,173	304,207	1,104	1,216	0.39	0.40
Missouri	99,488	106,757	216	313	0.22	0.29
Nebraska	48,731	55,349	69	129	0.14	0.23
New Jersey	892	1,105	11	18	1.26	1.59
New York	8,902	9,911	61	105	0.68	1.05
North Carolina	479,813	501,229	1,255	1,328	0.26	0.26
Ohio	36,254	36,196	224	281	0.61	0.77
Oklahoma	49,953	48,078	246	196	0.49	0.41
Pennsylvania	47,748	57,463	788	1,221	1.62	2.08
South Carolina	133,622	145,059	963	1,008	0.72	0.69
Tennessee	139,407	150,325	661	657	0.47	0.44
Texas	305,490	320,944	788	756	0.26	0.23
Virginia	99,350	114,904	246	279	0.25	0.24
United States	3,651,431	3,878,418	16,598	18,361	0.45	0.47

- 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.

Young Chickens Condemned Post-Mortem by Cause – States and United States: November and December 2024

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

State	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	November	December	November	December	November	December
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	-	-	14	13	6,311	6,363
Arkansas	-	-	-	-	202	261
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	-	-	-	-	5,662	8,591
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	1	-
Texas	-	-	-	-	74	121
Virginia	-	-	-	-	1,170	-
United States	-	-	159	254	39,543	44,110
State	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	November	December	November	December	November	December
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	2,928	5,059	2	-	72	70
Arkansas	230	228	6	6	-	-
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	11,904	16,530	19	49	252	274
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	2	-	-	-	-	1
Texas	121	82	-	2	1	4
Virginia	402	-	-	-	1	-
United States	52,448	104,839	1,210	777	1,262	1,295
State	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	November	December	November	December	November	December
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	151	91	172	26	1,078	797
Arkansas	6	33	-	-	77	99
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-
Georgia	112	125	342	285	2,736	3,099
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	-	-
Texas	24	11	8	9	39	42
Virginia	9	-	3	-	60	-
United States	2,139	2,892	1,100	1,103	27,148	28,074
State	Overscald		Miscellaneous ¹		Unknown ²	
	November	December	November	December	November	December
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
Alabama	437	336	5,936	3,960	136,259	177,850
Arkansas	86	-	366	368	184,254	204,576
Delaware	-	-	-	-	39,095	45,035
Georgia	55	241	8,091	10,541	234,461	232,832
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	182,861	196,295
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	93,363	104,695
Texas	4	-	1,842	1,584	58,557	61,272
Virginia	143	-	2,293	-	129,556	151,904
United States	1,838	2,298	61,698	67,454	1,674,667	1,966,294

- 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: November and December 2024

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

State	Slaughtered		Total live weight		Average live weight	
	November	December	November	December	November	December
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
California	598	285	14,591	7,152	24.42	25.09
Illinois	23	1	677	33	29.25	33.60
Indiana	1,692	1,766	69,166	76,621	40.89	43.39
Iowa	935	900	42,036	40,866	44.94	45.43
Michigan	359	415	15,124	17,930	42.08	43.22
North Carolina	1,743	1,694	64,116	66,990	36.78	39.54
Ohio	598	500	24,181	22,282	40.45	44.58
Pennsylvania	866	542	21,410	15,642	24.73	28.84
South Carolina	485	479	21,291	21,000	43.91	43.80
South Dakota	333	254	15,633	11,240	46.97	44.33
Vermont	56	7	1,705	197	30.29	27.51
United States	16,282	13,976	492,995	469,313	30.28	33.58

Young Turkeys Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations – States and United States: November and December 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	
	November	December	November	December	November	December
	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(percent)
California	11,673	5,720	79	31	0.67	0.55
Illinois	518	26	-	-	(X)	(X)
Indiana	55,263	61,412	867	895	1.54	1.44
Iowa	33,058	32,177	572	522	1.70	1.60
Michigan	11,722	13,896	146	171	1.23	1.21
North Carolina	50,049	52,333	368	334	0.73	0.63
Ohio	18,980	17,765	360	350	1.86	1.93
Pennsylvania	17,070	12,288	379	363	2.17	2.87
South Carolina	15,695	15,650	650	433	3.97	2.69
South Dakota	12,514	8,956	257	215	2.02	2.35
Vermont	1,335	155	-	-	(X)	(X)
United States	392,007	372,895	6,052	5,361	1.52	1.42

- 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
Ryan Cowen, Acting Head, Poultry and Specialty Commodities Section	(202) 720-3040
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 – Catfish and Trout, Mink, Census of Aquaculture, 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 – Chicken Hatchery, Broiler Hatchery	(202) 720-6147

Access to NASS Reports

For your convenience, you may access NASS reports and products the following ways:

- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site: www.nass.usda.gov.
- 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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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



USDA's 101st Annual

Agricultural Outlook Forum

Meeting Tomorrow's Challenges, Today

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Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington VA

Registration is now open to USDA's 101st Agricultural Outlook Forum!

USDA will hold the 101st Annual Agricultural Outlook Forum on February 27-28, 2025, at the Crystal City Gateway Marriott in Arlington, VA, under the title "Meeting Tomorrow's Challenges, Today." All Forum sessions will also be livestreamed on a virtual platform.

The 2025 program will feature a presentation on agricultural markets and trade by USDA Chief Economist Seth Meyer, many distinguished speakers, and 30 breakout sessions covering timely agricultural, food market, and environmental issues. Onsite attendees will also have the opportunity to visit exhibit booths showcasing the important missions and activities of various USDA agencies as well recent USDA-funded innovations.

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