2017 New Mexico Turkey Harvest Results

In 2017, 14,997 turkey licenses were sold. This number was up from 14,001 in 2016. Reporting for turkey hunters is mandatory, and 9,757 license holders filed a report, yielding a return rate of 80.4%. Eighty-one percent of reporting license holders said they went hunting. The average harvest success rate for hunters throughout the year was 29.8%. A total of 3,459 turkeys were reported harvested in 2017.

Table 1. New Mexico turkey hunting license sales and reported harvests

Year	Spring Licenses Sold	Reported Spring Harvest	Fall Licenses Sold	Reported Fall Harvest
2011*	9,656	624	2,431	45
2012*	8,524	540	2,828	240
2013	9,284	1,459	2,989	258
2014	8,916	1,960	3,336	555
2015	9,462	2,155	3,790	556
2016	10,159	2,339	3,842	427
2017	10,507	2,611	4,490	848

* Online reporting was voluntary in 2011 and 2012

Spring

There were 10,507 spring turkey licenses sold in 2017. Of the license holders, 8,362 filed an online harvest report for a return rate of 79.6%. Eighty-three percent of reporting license holders (6,903) said that they went hunting. The average number days hunters reported hunting was 3.8, with the greatest number of hunters spending 2 days afield. Hunters reported harvesting 2,611 turkeys in the spring season, 2,061 as first turkeys, and 550 as second turkeys. The success rate on first bird harvest was 29.9%. Of the spring hunters who harvested a first turkey, 26.7% were successful at harvesting a second turkey. For the purpose of this report, age was estimated by beard length, and a male with a beard less than 4 inches was considered a juvenile. The proportion of juvenile males harvested was 11.3%.

Additionally, 14 bearded hens were harvested. Harvest information reported for each Game Management Unit is listed below.

Using the number of non-reporting license holders, estimates for the total number of hunters and harvests can be made. The estimated total number of spring hunters was 8,674. The estimated total of spring turkeys harvested was 3,281, with estimated first and second harvests of 2,590 and 691, respectively.

Table 2. New Mexico spring turkey hunting statistics broke down by GMU.

GMU	Hunters	Days Hunted	Harvest	First Turkey	Success on First Harvest	Second Turkey	% of Beards >4"	Hunter Rating
1[a]	35	133	10	9	25.7%	1	70%	3.3
2	209	755	83	77	36.8%	6	79.5%	3.7
3[a]	2	8	0		0%			4
4	106	278	39	32	30.2%	7	89.7%	3.6
5	145	491	18	14	9.7%	4	72.2%	3.4
6	815	2,906	141	122	15%	19	85.1%	3.2
7	19	44	8	5	26.3%	3	100%	3.7
8	14	44	2	2	14.3%		100%	3.5
9	213	760	43	35	16.4%	8	79.1%	3.4
10	337	1,320	73	57	16.9%	16	89%	3.3
11[a]	1	5	1	1	100%		100%	5
12	20	89	3	2	10%	1	100%	3.8
13	51	174	8	6	11.8%	2	87.5%	3.3
14	340	1,182	73	61	17.9%	12	84.9%	3.4
15	311	1,258	76	68	21.9%	8	92.1%	3.3
16	748	2,630	249	200	26.7%	49	91.2%	3.5
17	118	355	27	19	16.1%	8	85.2%	3
18	27	88	7	6	22.2%	1	85.7%	3.1
19	4	7	2	2	50%		100%	3.8
20	32	75	7	5	15.6%	2	28.6%	3.2
21	144	456	41	32	22.2%	9	95.1%	3.4
22	15	61	1	1	6.7%		100%	3.7
23	132	549	42	36	27.3%	6	100%	3.4
24	296	1,215	91	72	24.3%	19	91.2%	3.5
25	4	12	1	1	25%		100%	4.3
26	1	2	0		0%			3
27	3	18	1	1	33.3%		100%	4
29	1	4	0		0			2
30	3	10	0		0%			3

GMU								
31	1	2	0		0%			5
32	62	157	27	22	35.5%	5	81.5%	3.7
33	9	18	4	3	33.3%	1	75%	3.6
34	1,182	3,532	391	307	26%	84	93.1%	3.7
35 [a]	5	25	0		0%			2.4
36	361	117	157	120	33.2%	37	94.9%	3.8
37	200	711	68	54	27%	14	89.7%	3.7
38	28	81	8	6	21.4%	2	62.5%	3.6
39	64	112	51	35	54.7%	16	88.2%	4.3
40	30	35	23	13	43.3%	10	91.3%	4.4
41	23	46	16	12	52.2%	4	81.3%	4
42	119	250	77	54	45.4%	23	85.7%	4.2
43	72	245	29	23	31.9	6	79.3%	3.6
44	5	16	0		0%			2.2
45	446	1,605	157	125	28%	32	86.6%	3.6
46	108	358	56	49	45.4%	7	82.1%	4
47	32	62	20	13	40.6%	7	60%	4.2
48	82	260	39	35	42.7%	4	94.9%	3.9
49	158	625	58	47	29.7%	11	82.8%	3.5
50	1	2	0		0%			3
51	220	788	71	60	27.3%	11	83.1%	3.7
52	68	221	23	18	26.5%	5	95.7%	3.6
53	45	220	17	14	31.1%	3	94.1%	3.8
54	16	34	11	8	50%	3	72.7%	4.1
55	124	252	100	65	52.4%	35	95%	4.6
56	21	63	18	15	71.4%	3	100%	4.4
57	102	239	70	50	49%	20	88.6%	4.3
58	61	95	5	30	49.2%	20	90%	4.7
59	25	53	21	16	64%	5	85.7%	4.4
UNK	2	6	2	1	50%	1	100%	5
TOTAL	7,838	26,219	2,611	2,061	29.8%	550	88.7%	3.6

a. These GMUs are in Reservation lands, and not under the jurisdiction of New Mexico Game and Fish. Hunters may have misreported GMU of harvest, or reported a harvest from a Reservation Permit.

b. These GMUs are closed to spring turkey hunting. Hunters may have misreported GMU of harvest.

Fall

There were 4,490 fall turkey licenses sold in 2017. Of these license holders, 3,696 filed an online harvest report for a return rate of 82.3%.   Seventy-seven percent of reporting license holders (2,854) said that they went hunting. The average number of days spent hunting per hunter was 3.5, with the largest number of hunters spending 2 days afield. Hunters reported harvesting 848 turkeys in the fall season, 514 hens, and 334 gobblers. The success rate for fall harvest was 29.7%. Reported information for each Game Management Unit is listed below.

Using the number of non-reporting license holders, estimates for the total number of hunters and harvests can be made. The estimated total number of fall hunters was 3,467. The estimated total of fall turkeys harvested was 1,030, with estimated 624 hens and 406 gobblers.

Table 3. New Mexico fall turkey hunting statistics broke down by GMU.

GMU	Hunters	Days Hunted	Harvest	Success Rates	Hunter Rating	Sex of Harvest Hens	Gobblers	Harvest Month Sept	Nov
1[a]	16	42	2	12.5%	3.4		2		2
2	64	217	24	37.5%	3.5	12	12	3	21
4[b]	2	4		0%	3				
5	86	362	25	29.1%	3.8	15	10	11	14
6	407	1,358	65	16%	3.3	35	30	8	57
7	7	44		0%	4				
8[b]	2	9		0%	2.5				
9	159	529	43	27%	3.6	27	16	8	35
10	183	657	36	19.7%	3.4	24	12	6	30
11[a]	1	4		0%	4				
12	10	49	2	20%	3.2		2		2
13	33	117	7	21.2%	3.5	4	3	2	5
14[b]	13	33	2	15.4%	3.1	1	1		2
15	121	455	27	22.3%	3.5	19	8	5	22
16	305	1,361	91	29.8%	3.5	56	35	5	86
17	54	197	10	18.5%	3.3	7	3		10
18[b]	1	6		0%	2				
19[b]	3	9		0%	2				
20[b]	2	8		0%	3.5				
21	58	199	16	27.6%	3.3	12	4	1	15
22	6	23	2	33.3%	3	2			2
23	67	284	26	38.8%	3.3	10	16	2	24
24	128	340	62	48.4%	3.8	38	24	8	54
30[b]	1	2		0%	3				

GMU									
31[b]	1	2		0%	3				
32	24	68	10	41.7%	3.6	5	5	1	9
33[b]	1	1		0%	3				
34	521	1,598	174	33.4%	3.7	129	45	13	161
35[a]	4	9	2	50%	4	2			2
36	187	587	77	41.2%	3.7	49	28	4	73
37	101	334	35	34.7%	3.8	18	17		35
38[b]	5	17	2	40%	2.6		2		2
39[b]	3	4		0%	3.7				
40	10	11	5	50%	3.4	3	2		5
41	6	7	5	83.3%	4.3	4	1		5
42	22	33	14	63.6%	4.5	5	9		14
43[b]	6	19	1	16.7%	3.3		1		1
44[b]	3	20		0%	1				
45	146	497	34	23.3%	3.5	20	14	1	33
46	27	86	11	40.7%	3.7	5	6	1	10
47	6	17	1	16.7%	3.3	1			1
48	31	121	10	32.3%	3.4	2	8	3	7
49[b]	10	40	5	50%	3.1	2	3		5
50[b]	1	8	0	0%	3				
51[b]	21	55	6	28.6%	3.4	4	2	2	4
52[b]	11	57	1	9.1%	4	1			1
53[b]	4	9	0	0%	3.5				
54	10	26	1	10%	3.2		1	1	
55	13	25	3	23.1%	3.9	1	2	2	1
56	1	6	0	0%	2				
57	20	83	10	50%	4.2	1	9		10
58	2	3	1	50%	5		1		1
UNK	1	6		0%	4				
TOTAL	2,938	10,058	848	29.7%	3.5	514	334	87	761

a. These GMUs are in Reservation lands, and not under the jurisdiction of New Mexico Game and Fish. Hunters may have misreported GMU of harvest, or reported a harvest from a Reservation Permit.

b. These GMUs are closed to fall turkey hunting. Hunters may have misreported GMU of harvest.