



2018 New Mexico Turkey Harvest Results

In 2018, 17,696 turkey licenses were sold. This number was up from 14,997 in 2017. Reporting is mandatory for turkey hunters, and 11,740 license holders filed a report, yielding a return rate of 66.3%. Eighty-one percent of reporting license holders said they went hunting. The average harvest success rate for hunters for both spring and fall hunts was 25.2%. A total of 2,924 turkeys were reported harvested in 2018.

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

<i>Year</i>	<i>Spring Licenses Sold</i>	<i>Reported Spring Harvest</i>	<i>Fall Licenses Sold</i>	<i>Reported Fall Harvest</i>
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
2018	13,361	2,541	4,335	383

* Online reporting was voluntary in 2011 and 2012

Spring

There were 13,361 spring turkey licenses sold in 2018. Of the license holders, 8,473 filed an online harvest report for a return rate of 63.4%. Eighty-four percent of reporting license holders (7,085) said that they went hunting. The average number of days hunters reported hunting was 3.8, with the greatest number of hunters spending 2 days afield. Hunters reported harvesting 2,541 turkeys in the spring season, 1,997 as first turkeys, and 544 as second turkeys. The success rate on first bird harvest was 28.2%. Of the spring hunters who harvested a first turkey, 27.2% 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 14.6%.

Additionally, 21 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 11,170. The estimated total of spring turkeys harvested was 4,007, with estimated first and second harvests of 3,149 and 858, respectively.

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

<i>GMU</i>	<i>Hunters</i>	<i>Days Hunted</i>	<i>Harvest</i>	<i>First Harvest</i>	<i>Success on First Turkey</i>	<i>Second Turkey</i>	<i>% of Beards >4"</i>	<i>Hunter Rating</i>
1*	28	63	2	2	7%		50%	3.6
2	232	880	90	74	32%	16	74%	3.5
3*	4	8	1	1	25%		100%	3.5
4	100	329	46	35	35%	11	78%	3.4
5	177	650	36	30	17%	6	69%	3.2
6	871	3048	119	98	11%	21	80%	3.1
7	15	38	4	3	20%	1	50%	2.9
8***	14	69	1	1	7%		100%	3.8
9	223	830	38	33	15%	5	89%	3.2
10	283	1258	60	49	17%	11	83%	3.2
12	19	71	2	2	11%		100%	2.8
13	55	216	7	7	13%		86%	3.1
14	271	838	38	32	12%	6	84%	3.2
15	312	1251	78	68	22%	10	87%	3.3
16	690	2634	208	165	24%	43	93%	3.4
17	118	455	35	27	23%	8	57%	3.2
18	38	126	7	6	16%	1	57%	3.1
19**	1	10	2	1	100%	1	100%	4
20	32	84	14	12	38%	2	71%	3.5
21	116	364	31	26	22%	5	90%	3.2
22	15	77	4	3	20%	1	100%	3.1
23	138	511	37	32	23%	5	70%	3.3
24	299	1156	106	80	27%	26	86%	3.3
25**	2	4	0	0	0%		0	2
26**	3	8	1	1	33%		100%	3.3
27***	1	4	1	1	100%		0	5
28**	1	7	0	0	0%		0	2
29	1	3	1	1	100%		100%	3
30**	9	28	5	3	33%	2	60%	3.4

31**	10	26	3	2	20%	1	100%	3.1
32	44	110	25	17	39%	8	88%	3.9
33***	2	4	0	0	0%		0	4
34	1102	3823	365	289	26%	76	88%	3.5
35*	8	20	4	2	25%	2	100%	3.8
36	371	1300	145	109	29%	36	90%	3.5
37	169	599	53	43	25%	10	85%	3.5
38	29	92	5	4	14%	1	010%	3.2
39	38	88	20	14	37%	6	75%	3.5
40	26	63	17	15	58%	2	76%	3.9
41	13	22	17	13	100%	4	88%	4
42	104	312	94	66	63%	28	86%	4
43	57	200	29	24	42%	5	86%	3.6
44**	4	13	0	0	0%		0	2.8
45	460	1828	158	130	28%	28	87%	3.5
46	113	388	76	58	51%	18	92%	4
47	47	128	32	24	51%	8	91%	3.8
48	68	262	39	33	49%	6	90%	3.7
49	162	725	73	58	36%	15	100%	3.6
50**	9	27	1	1	11%		100%	3.2
51	231	825	58	52	23%	6	90%	3.4
52	97	307	28	23	24%	5	82%	3.6
53	51	219	26	20	39%	6	81%	3.6
54	22	61	19	12	55%	7	100%	4.3
55	96	265	93	64	67%	29	87%	4.3
56	16	42	19	11	69%	8	84%	4.6
57	105	311	95	65	62%	30	89%	4.4
58	50	114	47	33	66%	14	89%	4.6
59	23	42	24	20	87%	4	88%	4.3
UNK	3	6	2	2	67%		50%	3.5
TOTAL	7,598	27,242	2,541	1,997	28.2%	544	86%	3.5

* 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.

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

*** These GMUs have draw hunts, but are primarily closed to spring turkey hunting. GMU 8 had more hunter reports than tags offered. Hunters may have misreported GMU of harvest.

Fall

There were 4,335 fall turkey licenses sold in 2018. Of these license holders, 3,267 filed an online harvest report for a return rate of 75.4%. Seventy-three percent of reporting license holders (2,377) said that they went hunting. The average number of days spent hunting per hunter was 3.8, with the largest number of hunters spending 2 days afield. Hunters reported harvesting 383 turkeys in the fall season, 190 hens, and 193 gobblers. The success rate for fall harvest was 16.1%. 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 3,154. The estimated total of fall turkeys harvested was 508, with estimated 252 hens and 256 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		Harvest Month	
						Hens	Gobblers	Sept	Nov
1*	13	33	0	0%	2.5				
2	71	204	21	30%	3.3	18	3	2	19
3*	1	3	0	0%	3				
4**	3	9	0	0%	2				
5	71	296	11	15%	3.0	2	9	2	9
6	322	1199	30	9%	2.9	11	19	6	24
7	2	9	0	0%	2				
8**	3	18	1	33%	3	1			1
9	152	562	16	11%	3	11	5	2	14
10	120	470	10	8%	2.8	8	2	1	9
12	12	45	2	17%	4	1	1		2
13	22	92	0	0%	2.1				
14**	10	28	1	10%	2.6		1		1
15	100	376	7	7%	3	1	6		7
16	264	1273	36	14%	3.0	12	24	1	35
17	35	123	1	3%	2.5	1			1
18**	1	4	1	100%	5	1			1
19**	3	7	0	0%	2				
21	36	122	7	19%	3.0	2	5	0	7
22	11	35	1	9%	3.5	1			1
23	49	180	8	16%	3.1	2	6	1	7
24	93	368	17	18%	3	11	6	1	16
28	1	4	0	0%	3				
30**	1	2	0	0%	2				

31	2	3	0	0%	2.5				
32	32	62	9	28%	3.4	5	4	1	8
34	438	1409	70	16%	3.2	28	42	6	64
35	1	3	0	0%	5				
36	154	538	32	21%	3.5	17	15	3	29
37	110	371	9	8%	3	3	6	1	8
38**	7	24	1	14%	3	1			1
39**	2	6	0	0%	4.5				
40	12	21	9	75%	4.1	6	3	1	8
41	5	10	1	20%	3.8		1		1
42	26	53	16	62%	3.7	14	2	1	15
43**	6	30	1	17%	3.7	1			1
44	1	7	0	0%	5				
45	156	586	32	21%	3.3	15	17	2	30
46	22	99	8	36%	3.9	4	4	1	7
47	5	8	2	40%	3.6	2			2
48	23	128	3	13%	3		3	1	2
49**	5	19	0	0%	2.4				
50**	1	7	0	0%	1				
51**	18	50	1	6%	3.3	0	1	0	1
52**	12	47	1	8%	2.8	1		1	
53**	10	52	2	20%	3.5	2			2
54	3	7	1	33%	3.3		1		1
55	12	44	2	17%	3.0	2	0	1	1
56	7	27	2	29%	4.3	2			2
57	16	47	7	44%	3.9	3	4		7
58	5	19	3	60%	4.4	3			3
59	1	2	0	0%	5				
UNK	1	2	1	100%	0	1			1
TOTAL	2,489	9,141	383	16.1%	3.1	193	190	35	348

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.