



2021 New Mexico Turkey Harvest Results

In 2021, 18,367 turkey licenses were sold. This number was down slightly from 18,497 in 2020. Reporting is mandatory for turkey hunters, and 14,261 license holders filed a report, yielding a return rate of 77.6%. Seventy-seven percent of reporting license holders said they went hunting. The average harvest success rate for hunters across the year was 22.2%. A total of 2,934 turkeys were reported harvested in 2021.

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>
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
2019	10,789	2,220	4,194	654
2020	12,717	2,125	5,780	701
2021	13,421	2,422	4,946	512

Spring

There were 13,421 spring turkey licenses sold in 2021. Of the license holders, 10,156 filed an online harvest report for a return rate of 75.7%. Eighty percent of reporting license holders (8,104) said that they went hunting. The average number of days spent afield per hunter was 4.1 days, though the greatest number of hunters spent 2 or 3 days afield. Hunters reported harvesting 2,422 turkeys in the spring season, with 1,932 as first turkeys and 490 as second turkeys. The success rate on first bird harvest was 23.8%. Of the spring hunters who harvested a first turkey, 25.4% were successful at harvesting a second turkey. For the purpose of this report, age was classified by beard length, and a male with a beard longer than 4 inches was considered an adult (older than two years). The proportion of adult males harvested was

87.9%. Seventeen bearded hens were harvested. Harvest information reported for each Game Management Unit is listed below.

We can estimate total number of hunters and total harvest by using information from license holders who submit harvest reports, and extrapolating percent hunting and harvest success to non-reporting license holders. The estimated total number of spring hunters was 10,709. The estimated total of spring turkeys harvested was 3,201, with estimated first and second harvests of 2,553 and 648, respectively.

Table 2. New Mexico spring turkey hunting statistics broken 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*	45	178	5	5	11%		100%	3.2
2	284	1059	99	85	30%	14	77%	3.6
3*	4	11	0	0	0%			2.8
4	103	321	36	29	28%	7	75%	3.6
5	225	832	37	34	15%	3	92%	3.3
6	917	3578	113	97	11%	16	75%	3.2
7	17	58	3	3	18%		33%	3.2
8**	11	82	1	1	9%		100%	3.2
9	232	937	34	29	13%	5	76%	3.1
10	416	1761	83	72	17%	11	95%	3.3
11	7	31	0	0	0%			2.3
12	19	57	5	4	21%	1	80%	3.4
13	73	233	13	13	18%	0	85%	3.5
14	365	1366	60	52	14%	8	87%	3.2
15	377	1604	87	69	18%	18	87%	3.3
16	761	2947	192	158	21%	34	92%	3.4
17	160	481	40	34	21%	6	93%	3.2
18	95	343	33	26	27%	7	58%	3.4
19**	7	39	0	0	0%			3.4
20	58	194	21	14	24%	7	71%	3.6
21	130	468	37	31	24%	6	95%	3.4
22	27	94	14	10	37%	4	100%	3.3
23	166	697	49	38	23%	11	96%	3.3
24	298	1214	72	57	19%	15	94%	3.2
25**	2	11	1	1	50%		100%	4.0
26**	1	8	1	1	100%		100%	4.0
28**	1	8	0	0	0%			2.0
30**	11	29	4	3	27%	1	100%	3.6

31**	6	18	0	0	0%			2.7
32	92	229	48	35	38%	13	73%	4.0
33*	7	23	3	3	43%		33%	3.7
34	1333	4545	317	261	20%	56	90%	3.3
35*	10	31	0	0	0%			2.4
36	437	1563	142	110	25%	32	94%	3.6
37	197	661	66	47	24%	19	97%	3.7
38	71	220	17	14	20%	3	82%	3.5
39	52	148	23	20	38%	3	78%	3.6
40	35	100	20	15	43%	5	70%	3.9
41	13	21	5	5	38%	0	80%	3.5
42	135	291	78	51	38%	27	92%	3.9
43	76	293	29	23	30%	6	79%	3.6
44	4	20	0	0	0%			2.8
45	552	2199	123	103	19%	20	86%	3.4
46	136	458	60	49	36%	11	93%	3.9
47	51	111	20	12	24%	8	100%	3.9
48	72	246	16	14	19%	2	100%	3.3
49	190	856	59	44	23%	15	86%	3.6
50	10	20	3	2	20%	1	100%	4.2
51	323	1192	53	41	13%	12	87%	3.3
52	86	319	20	16	19%	4	80%	3.4
53	63	308	20	18	29%	2	100%	3.3
54	30	63	23	14	47%	9	91%	4.5
55	125	326	79	56	45%	23	91%	4.3
56	35	102	18	13	37%	5	94%	4.1
57	106	329	57	43	41%	14	95%	3.8
58	71	127	56	34	48%	22	91%	4.3
59	32	66	21	19	59%	2	90%	3.9
UNK	8	5	6	4	50%	2	83%	3.5
TOTAL	8,104	33,531	2,422	1,932	23.8%	490	88%	3.4

* 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.

Fall

There were 4,946 fall turkey licenses sold in 2021. Of these license holders, 4,105 filed an online harvest report for a return rate of 83.0%. Seventy percent of reporting license holders (2,891) said that they went hunting. The average number of days spent afield per hunter was 3.8, with the largest number of hunters spending 2 days afield. Hunters reported harvesting 512 turkeys in the fall season, comprised of 317 hens and 195 gobblers. The success rate for fall harvest was 17.7%. Reported information for each Game Management Unit is listed below.

We can estimate total number of hunters and total harvest by using information from license holders who submit harvest reports, and extrapolating percent hunting and harvest success to non-reporting license holders. The estimated total number of fall hunters was 3,483. The estimated total of fall turkeys harvested was 661, with an estimated 409 hens and 252 gobblers.

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

GMU	Hunters	Days Hunted	Harvest	Success Rates	Hunter Rating	Sex of Harvest		Harvest Month	
						Hens	Gobblers	Sept	Nov
1*	15	51	1	7%	3.1	1	0	0	1
2	54	159	13	24%	3.2	7	6	3	9
3	1	1	1	100%	3.0		1		
4	12	60	4	33%	3.8	2	2	1	3
5	125	456	17	14%	3.1	8	9	3	13
6	415	1444	60	14%	3.3	34	26	0	19
7	8	31	2	25%	2.5	1	1		1
8**	1	1	0	0%	2.0				
9	125	509	20	16%	3.4	12	8	5	15
10	153	710	20	13%	3.2	14	6	1	19
11	2	4	0	0%	3.5				
12	10	33	1	10%	3.2		1		
13	38	173	2	5%	3.1	1	1		2
14**	19	56	2	11%	3.0	1	1	0	2
15	136	676	17	13%	3.1	10	7	1	15
16	281	1086	42	15%	3.1	27	15	2	40
17	74	312	6	8%	3.0	2	4		6
18**	5	20	1	20%	2.4	1			1
19**	3	8	0	0%	3.3				
20**	2	5	0	0%	3.0				
21	37	135	6	16%	2.7	4	2	0	6
22	10	46	2	20%	3.5	2			2

23	59	222	8	14%	3.0	5	3	2	6
24	89	351	7	8%	3.3	3	4		6
31**	1	2	0	0%	3.0			2	10
32	35	81	14	40%	3.6	12	2	0	1
34	498	1634	117	23%	3.4	81	36	5	108
35	3	2	1	33%	3.0	0	1	0	1
36	146	595	38	26%	3.5	22	16	3	35
37	64	256	2	3%	2.8	1	1	1	1
38**	1	5	0	0%	5.0				
39	11	25	2	18%	2.8	1	1		2
40	14	37	4	29%	3.8		4	1	3
41	5	8	1	20%	3.0		1		1
42	22	75	10	45%	4.0	6	4		10
43**	12	49	3	25%	3.3	1	2		3
45	200	875	30	15%	3.5	20	10	5	24
46	28	72	3	11%	3.3	3			3
47	8	17	3	38%	4.5	3			3
48	28	134	4	14%	3.1	1	3	1	3
49**	12	44	2	17%	3.3	1	1	1	1
50**	5	26	0	0%	3.2				
51	138	464	23	17%	3.3	12	11	3	17
52	67	295	6	9%	3.2	6		3	3
53**	8	43	1	13%	3.5	1			1
54	7	22	2	29%	3.7	2		1	
55	14	34	6	43%	3.6	4	2	1	5
56	3	6	0	0%	3.3				
57	12	54	5	42%	4.1	5			5
58	4	6	1	25%	4.0		1		1
59	4	7	2	50%	4.5		2		2
TOTAL	2,891	11,434	512	17.7%	3.3	317	195	49	442

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