2023 New Mexico Turkey Harvest Results

In 2023, 15,969 turkey licenses were sold. This number was up 8% from 14,733 licenses in 2022. Reporting is mandatory for turkey hunters, and 12,700 license holders filed a report, yielding a return rate of 79.5%. Seventy-six percent of reporting license holders said they went hunting. The average harvest success rate for hunters across the year was 25.8%. A total of 2,862 turkeys were reported harvested in 2023.

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

Year	Spring Licenses Sold	Reported Spring Harvest	Fall Licenses Sold	Reported Fall Harvest
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
2022	10,496	1,839	4,237	460
2023	10,844	2,019	5,125	843

Spring

There were 10,844 spring turkey licenses sold in 2023. Of the license holders, 8,392 filed a harvest report for a return rate of 77.4%. Seventy-nine percent of reporting license holders said that they went hunting (6,597). The average number of days spent afield per hunter was 3.8 days, though the greatest number of hunters spent 2 days afield. Hunters reported harvesting 2,019 turkeys in the spring season, with 1,639 as first turkeys and 380 as second turkeys. The success rate on first bird harvest was 24.8%. Of the spring hunters who harvested a first turkey, 23.2% were successful at harvesting a second turkey. For 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 84.3%. Seventeen 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 proportion of license holders who hunted and harvest success of reporting hunters to the non-reporting license holders. The estimated total number of spring hunters was 8,525. The estimated total of spring turkeys harvested was 2,769, with estimated first and second harvests of 2,248 and 521, respectively.

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

GMU	Hunters	Days Hunted	Harvest	First Harvest	Success on First Turkey	Second Turkey	% of Beards >4"	Hunter Rating
1*	20	79	2	2	10%		2	3.0
2	270	894	105	85	31%	20	86	3.5
3*	4	13						3.0
4	128	357	51	38	30%	13	44	3.5
5	209	704	35	31	15%	4	29	3.1
6	683	2,363	85	73	11%	12	67	3.2
7	17	39	8	5	29%	3	8	3.5
8**	13	57	1	1	8%		1	3.5
9	184	746	22	19	10%	3	19	3.3
10	287	1,377	51	43	15%	8	42	3.2
11*	2	10						4.0
12	12	82	1	1	8%	1	1	3.6
13	79	292	11	10	13%	1	9	3.2
14	323	1,137	73	60	19%	13	62	3.3
15	335	1,387	63	54	16%	9	51	3.1
16	617	2,433	139	117	19%	22	108	3.4
17	96	362	22	18	19%	4	20	3.0
18	83	355	27	22	27%	5	18	3.4
19**	1	4						2.0
20	48	152	18	15	31%	3	13	3.5
21	66	210	10	9	14%	1	7	2.8
22	10	35	2	2	20%		1	3.0
23	148	590	47	38	26%	9	38	3.3
24	248	1,006	75	61	25%	14	63	3.3
26**	1	5						5.0
27	4	7	4	4	100%		4	4.5
28**	1	6						3.0
29	1	3						5.0

GMU								
30**	10	31	5	5	50%		5	3.1
31**	6	23						2.7
32	60	206	30	22	37%	8	27	3.6
33	4	6						2.5
34	1200	4,268	310	246	21%	64	254	3.4
35*	7	26	3	3	43%		3	3.6
36	363	1,278	112	91	25%	21	97	3.5
37	149	524	47	41	28%	6	43	3.5
38	43	157	1	1	2%		1	3.3
39	56	143	27	20	36%	7	25	3.6
40	21	40	12	10	48%	2	11	3.6
41	10	22	5	5	50%		5	3.7
42	96	236	52	44	46%	8	46	3.8
43	63	241	12	10	16%	2	12	3.1
44	2	7						2.0
45	425	1,714	104	83	20%	21	88	3.3
46	85	299	46	40	47%	6	39	4.0
47	39	128	16	14	36%	2	15	3.8
48	78	267	27	19	24%	8	22	3.3
49	189	833	74	55	29%	19	63	3.7
50	5	12						3.4
51	225	804	55	49	22%	6	17	3.3
52	76	268	17	14	18%	3	15	3.5
53	58	266	21	16	28%	5	17	3.8
54	24	45	15	9	38%	6	14	4.2
55	135	299	99	77	57%	22	91	4.3
56	23	53	13	10	43%	3	13	4.1
57	59	144	34	22	37%	12	31	3.8
58	32	90	18	15	47%	3	16	4.4
59	20	52	12	10	50%	2	11	3.9
UNK	7	34						4.0
TOTAL	6,597	27,261	2,019	1,639	24.8%	380	1,703	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 5,125 fall turkey licenses sold in 2023. Of these license holders, 4,308 filed a harvest report for a return rate of 84.1%. Seventy percent of reporting license holders (3,001) said that they went hunting. The average number of days spent afield per hunter was 3.7, with the largest number of hunters spending 2 days afield. Hunters reported harvesting 843 turkeys in the fall season, comprised of 553 hens and 290 toms. The success rate for fall harvest was 28.1%. 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 proportion of license holders who hunted and harvest success of reporting hunters to the non-reporting license holders. The estimated total number of fall hunters was 3,570. The estimated total of fall turkeys harvested was 1,003, with an estimated 658 hens and 345 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*	13	44	1	8%	2.7		1		1
2	67	242	28	42%	3.5	9	19	2	22
3*	2	8		0%	1.0				
4	16	40	3	19%	2.8	2	1	1	2
5	121	438	43	36%	3.8	30	13	6	36
6	325	1,122	64	20%	3.4	45	19	3	59
7	6	13	1	17%	2.2		1		1
8**	2	4		0%	3.0				
9	92	401	13	14%	3.2	10	3	2	12
10	143	616	20	14%	3.2	16	4		18
11*	1	5	1	100%	5.0		1		1
12	12	34	4	33%	4.0	3	1	2	2
13	57	268	8	14%	3.4	5	3		8
14**	15	33	7	47%	3.4	5	2	1	6
15	156	644	40	26%	3.4	23	17	3	37
16	337	1,375	111	33%	3.8	81	30	9	99
17	68	240	21	31%	3.4	13	8	2	19
18**	7	17		0%	3.7				
19**	3	13		0%	1.3				
20	21	38	9	43%	3.5	6	3		9
21	45	149	13	29%	3.8	10	3	2	11
22	22	82	9	41%	4.3	7	2		7

GMU									
23	116	430	40	34%	3.7	27	13	7	33
24	116	363	41	35%	3.8	30	11	3	37
27**	3	16	1	33%	4.3		1		1
31**	1	3		0%	4.0				
32	18	47	5	28%	4.1		5	2	3
33**	1	1		0%	4.0				
34	478	1,615	145	30%	3.5	94	51	8	134
35*	4	11	1	25%	5.0	1			1
36	162	544	58	36%	3.5	40	18	7	49
37	50	180	4	8%	3.2	3	1		4
38**	8	16	2	25%	4.0	2			2
39	13	37	7	54%	3.4	1	6		7
40	6	29	5	83%	3.3	5			5
41	1	1		0%	3.0				
42	24	58	6	25%	3.7	3	3		6
43	16	48	4	25%	3.4	3	1		4
45	209	845	46	22%	3.4	32	14	2	41
46	10	27	3	30%	3.5	3			3
47	8	22	3	38%	4.4	2	1		3
48	26	99	3	12%	3.4	2	1	1	2
49**	6	27	2	33%	3.3		2		2
50**	2	14		0%	1.5				
51	166	684	46	28%	3.7	27	19	2	42
52	67	336	9	13%	3.6	6	3	4	5
53**	6	44	1	17%	4.2	1		1	
54	2	6		0%	3.0				
55	16	50	8	50%	4.3	3	5	4	4
56	4	19	1	25%	4.0	1			1
57	8	20	2	25%	3.6	2			2
58	2	3	1	50%	5.0		1		1
59	3	10	3	100%	3.7		3		2
UNK	6	23	0	0%	3.8	0	0	1	0
TOTAL	3,001	11,454	843	28.1%	3.5	553	290	74	742

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