

50 Years of Wild Turkey Restoration

1973 vs 2023 Population Estimates

Between 1973-2023, wild turkey populations have soared from 1.1 million turkeys to over 6 million (data collected from the National Wild Turkey Federation, state fish & wildlife agencies, and historical wildlife restoration grants). This dramatic increase in population is due to the use of Wildlife Restoration (WR) Funds generated by federal excise taxes paid by manufacturers of firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment. WR funds are used by state fish and wildlife agencies to restore, conserve, manage, and enhance wild birds and mammals and their habitats. Some of the many WR funded projects include population assessments, disease management, habitat restoration, and harvest evaluations. Thanks to our partners (state fish & wildlife agencies, excise tax-paying industry members, and NGOs), wild turkey populations have dramatically increased during the past 50 years.

**1.1 million
wild turkeys**

occurred across the
United States in 1973

**6 million
wild turkeys**

occurred across the
United States in 2023

**68 million
meals (6oz servings)**

were generated by
turkey hunting in the
United States (2014-2019)



Last updated August 2024

THESE PROJECTS ARE
SUPPORTED by the Office of
Conservation Investment and
the following partners:



Office of
CONSERVATION
INVESTMENT



NSSF
The Firearm Industry
Trade Association

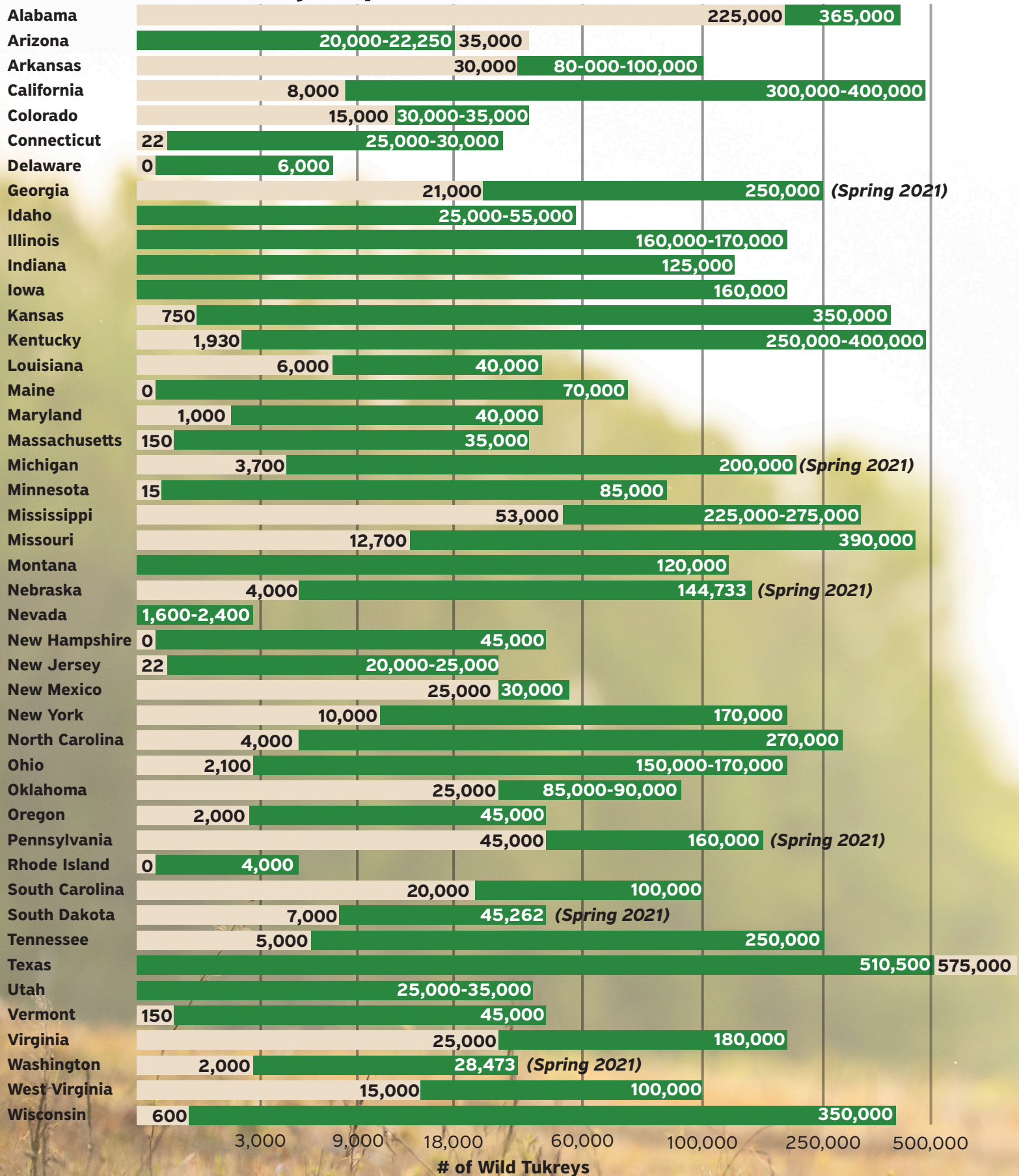


affta
AMERICAN FISHING TRADE ASSOCIATION

NMMA



Wild Turkey Population Estimates 1973 vs 2023



Presented in the table are population estimates from 45 states. Alaska, Florida, Hawaii, North Dakota, and Wyoming did not have 1973 or 2023 population estimates. Some states only had 2023 populations estimates and are represented as such.

1973 Population Estimate

2023 Population Estimate