



No.	Author Steven E. Backs, Wildlife Research Biologist	Date 8/20/2015
2005	Title 2015 Spring Wild Turkey Harvest Results	

Abstract: Hunters harvested 11,583 wild turkeys in 89 of the 92 counties. The 2015 harvest was a 9% increase over the 2014 harvest of 10,582. Harvests in 26 counties exceeded 200 birds with 65 counties showing increased harvests. The majority of the birds was harvested in the early part of the season and the early morning hours. A total of 1,177 birds (10% of total harvest) was taken during the youth-only weekend prior to the regular season. The proportion of juvenile turkeys in the harvest was 21% with 46% 2-yr-olds, and 33% ≥ 3 yrs. The northern region, the largest region, supported 28% of the harvest, with 44% of the harvest occurring in the south-central and southeast regions. The estimated number of hunters afield was 59,412 in 2015, with an estimated hunter success of 20%.

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Hunters harvested 11,583 wild turkeys in 89 of the 92 counties during the 46th spring wild turkey hunt based on reports from 335 check stations (48% of the harvest records) with the remaining 52% of the harvest records from the web-based "Check-IN-Game" (50%) and tele-check (2%) systems implemented in 2012. The 2015 harvest was a 9% increase over the 2014 harvest of 10,582. There were 26 counties with harvests ≥ 200 birds compared to 17 in 2014. Overall, 65 counties showed increased harvests, 8 counties showed no change, and harvests decreased in 19 counties. The top 10 counties were Harrison (380), Switzerland (360), Jefferson (346), Steuben (337), Dearborn (331), Perry (308), Warrick (297), Franklin (269), Clark (268) and Crawford (250) (**Table 1; Figure 1**).

Approximately 58% of the regular season harvest (10,654 birds; 22 April to 10 May 2015; 19 days) occurred during the first 5 days, with 43% occurring on the 3 weekends. A total of 1,177 birds (10% of total harvest) was taken during the youth-only weekend (4/18 & 4/19). Approximately 68% of the harvest occurred by 10 am, 78% by noon, 10% from noon to 3 pm with 18% occurring from 3 pm to sunset. Landowners/active military personnel (license exempt) accounted for 7% of the harvest.

Juvenile gobblers (1 yr-old birds; "jakes") made up 21% of the 2015 harvest (compared to 17% in 2014); 2 yr-olds (46%); ≥ 3 yr-olds (33%) (**Table 2**). Mean weights for jakes were up slightly while older birds were similar to previous years. Bearded hens made up $< 2\%$ of the harvest. Except the southeast, all regions showed increases in harvests, reflecting the overall 9% increase in the total harvest (**Table 3**). The northern region, the largest region, supported 28% of the harvest with 44% of the harvest occurring in the south-central and southeast regions (**Figure 2**).

Reasons for the 9% increase in 2015 were likely related to the continued growth of the relatively "younger" northern region populations (i.e., in terms of years post restoration) and the slight increase in 2014 summer brood production. Annual harvest levels have leveled off in last 5 years in the range of 11,000 to 12,000 birds with the number of hunters in the field ranging from 55,000 to 60,000 (**Table 4; Figure 3**). Hunter numbers have declined slightly the last few years following similar declines in the estimate hunter success rates. The 2015 harvest was the 6th highest spring harvest. The estimated number of spring turkey hunters afield was 55,531 and the estimated hunter success was 21%.

Special thanks go to Roger Hunter and Steve Burcham who handle various aspects of the check station logistics. Kevin McCarty facilitated the data transfer from the Check-IN-Game system. Acknowledgment also goes to the 335 volunteer check station operators for their cooperation.

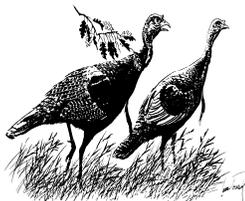


Table 1. Indiana wild turkey harvest by county, spring 2014 and 2015.

County	2014 Reported* Harvest	Percent of Harvest	2015 Reported* Harvest	Percent of Harvest	Difference from prior year	Percent Change
Adams	7	0.1%	16	0.1%	9	129%
Allen	45	0.4%	70	0.6%	25	56%
Bartholomew	99	1.2%	103	0.9%	4	4%
Benton	10	0.1%	7	0.1%	-3	-30%
Blackford	11	0.1%	7	0.1%	-4	-36%
Boone	8	0.0%	8	0.1%	0	0%
Brown	162	1.6%	178	1.6%	16	10%
Carroll	23	0.2%	27	0.2%	4	17%
Cass	56	0.5%	73	0.7%	17	30%
Clark	241	2.5%	268	2.5%	27	11%
Clay	99	0.9%	125	1.1%	26	26%
Clinton	1	0.0%	0	0.0%	-1	-100%
Crawford	199	2.1%	250	2.3%	51	26%
Daviess	93	0.9%	97	0.9%	4	4%
Dearborn	313	2.8%	331	3.0%	18	6%
Decatur	49	0.5%	50	0.5%	1	2%
DeKalb	154	1.4%	222	2.0%	68	44%
Delaware	2	0.0%	4	0.0%	2	100%
Dubois	165	1.5%	177	1.6%	12	7%
Elkhart	119	1.3%	166	1.5%	47	39%
Fayette	57	0.6%	55	0.5%	-2	-4%
Floyd	96	0.9%	105	1.0%	9	9%
Fountain	100	1.0%	103	0.9%	3	3%
Franklin	268	2.4%	269	2.5%	1	0%
Fulton	141	1.2%	144	1.3%	3	2%
Gibson	132	1.4%	134	1.2%	2	2%
Grant	9	0.1%	12	0.1%	3	33%
Greene	260	2.3%	233	2.1%	-27	-10%
Hamilton	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0%
Hancock	3	0.0%	4	0.0%	1	33%
Harrison	363	3.6%	380	3.5%	17	5%
Hendricks	36	0.2%	32	0.3%	-4	-11%
Henry	5	0.0%	2	0.0%	-3	-60%
Howard	2	0.0%	7	0.1%	5	250%
Huntington	36	0.2%	36	0.3%	0	0%
Jackson	192	1.9%	202	1.9%	10	5%
Jasper	112	1.2%	136	1.3%	24	21%
Jay	26	0.1%	37	0.3%	11	42%
Jefferson	360	3.2%	346	3.2%	-14	-4%
Jennings	176	2.1%	167	1.5%	-9	-5%
Johnson	40	0.2%	33	0.3%	-7	-18%
Knox	105	0.9%	105	1.0%	0	0%
Kosciusko	151	1.4%	217	2.0%	66	44%
Lagrange	175	1.4%	205	1.9%	30	17%
Lake	16	0.2%	21	0.2%	5	31%
LaPorte	161	1.7%	184	1.7%	23	14%
Lawrence	192	2.0%	221	2.0%	29	15%

* Harvest totals from check station reports and web-based and phone Check-IN-Game (2015).

Table 1. Indiana wild turkey harvest by county, spring 2014 and 2015; *continued*.

County	2014 Reported* Harvest	Percent of Harvest	2015 Reported* Harvest	Percent of Harvest	Difference from prior year	Percent Change
Madison	0	0.0%	1	0.0%	1	---
Marion	0	0.0%	1	0.0%	1	---
Marshall	205	2.5%	229	2.1%	24	12%
Martin	181	1.4%	203	1.9%	22	12%
Miami	33	0.2%	46	0.4%	13	39%
Monroe	176	1.2%	176	1.6%	0	0%
Montgomery	58	0.6%	75	0.7%	17	29%
Morgan	88	0.8%	113	1.0%	25	28%
Newton	82	0.7%	104	1.0%	22	27%
Noble	162	1.2%	187	1.7%	25	15%
Ohio	152	1.0%	116	1.1%	-36	-24%
Orange	205	2.2%	224	2.1%	19	9%
Owen	203	1.9%	214	2.0%	11	5%
Parke	187	1.9%	210	1.9%	23	12%
Perry	269	2.4%	308	2.8%	39	14%
Pike	211	2.0%	228	2.1%	17	8%
Porter	33	0.3%	63	0.6%	30	91%
Posey	132	1.1%	140	1.3%	8	6%
Pulaski	134	1.1%	156	1.4%	22	16%
Putnam	190	1.5%	147	1.4%	-43	-23%
Randolph	7	0.0%	14	0.1%	7	---
Ripley	241	1.9%	237	2.2%	-4	-2%
Rush	2	0.0%	1	0.0%	-1	-50%
St. Joseph	163	1.6%	189	1.7%	26	16%
Scott	156	1.5%	145	1.3%	-11	-7%
Shelby	10	0.1%	8	0.1%	-2	-20%
Spencer	195	1.8%	191	1.8%	-4	-2%
Starke	223	2.3%	225	2.1%	2	1%
Steuben	306	2.7%	337	3.1%	31	10%
Sullivan	184	1.9%	226	2.1%	42	23%
Switzerland	394	3.2%	360	3.3%	-34	-9%
Tippecanoe	47	0.3%	55	0.5%	8	17%
Tipton	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0%
Union	62	0.5%	69	0.6%	7	11%
Vanderburg	63	0.4%	81	0.7%	18	29%
Vermillion	91	0.7%	105	1.0%	14	15%
Vigo	142	1.4%	152	1.4%	10	7%
Wabash	69	0.5%	88	0.8%	19	28%
Warren	97	0.8%	97	0.9%	0	0%
Warrick	216	2.6%	297	2.7%	81	38%
Washington	248	2.0%	216	2.0%	-32	-13%
Wayne	48	0.4%	72	0.7%	24	50%
Wells	13	0.1%	13	0.1%	0	0%
White	74	0.6%	85	0.8%	11	15%
Whitley	50	0.3%	80	0.7%	30	60%
Totals	10,872		11,853		981	9%

* Harvest totals from check station reports and web-based and phone Check-IN-Game (2015).

Figure 1. 2015 Spring Turkey Harvest

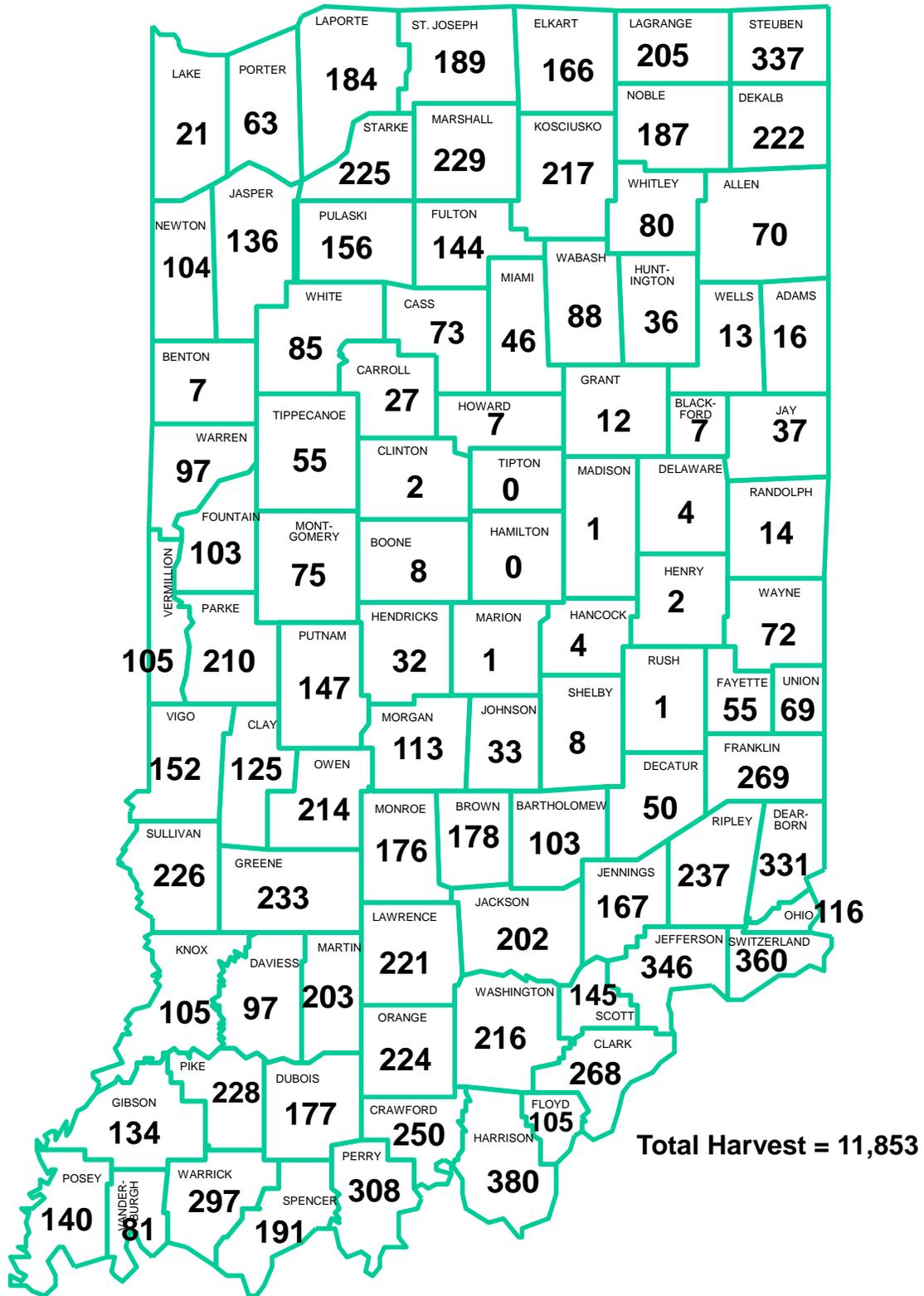


Table 2. Composition of Indiana's spring gobbler harvests, 1988-2015.

Year	Reported Harvest	Age Class Percentages and Mean Weights (lbs) *					
		1Yr	Wt.	2Yr	Wt.	3+Yr	Wt.
1988	905	45%	15.4	39%	20.7	16%	21.8
1989	1,359	20%	15.5	63%	20.7	17%	22.2
1990	1,505	31%	15.2	41%	21.0	28%	21.9
1991	2,318	25%	15.5	53%	21.1	22%	22.2
1992	2,531	38%	15.1	43%	20.8	19%	22.2
1993	3,500	18%	15.9	60%	20.9	22%	22.4
1994	3,741	41%	15.2	37%	21.2	22%	22.4
1995	4,706	28%	15.6	55%	20.6	18%	22.1
1996	4,859	24%	15.6	53%	21.6	23%	22.7
1997	5,790	21%	15.7	56%	21.5	24%	22.7
1998	6,384	22%	15.5	51%	21.1	28%	22.5
1999	6,548	25%	15.5	49%	21.1	26%	22.6
2000	7,822	27%	15.2	44%	20.7	28%	21.9
2001	9,975	26%	15.7	50%	20.1	24%	22.1
2002	10,575	27%	15.7	47%	21.3	27%	22.5
2003	10,366	24%	15.3	49%	21.3	28%	22.4
2004	10,765	24%	15.8	49%	21.4	27%	22.8
2005	11,159	33%	14.9	44%	20.9	23%	22.3
2006	13,193	14%	14.5	67%	20.7	19%	22.1
2007	11,163	22%	15.5	42%	21.5	26%	22.6
2008	12,204	22%	16.0	52%	21.7	26%	22.9
2009	12,993	19%	16.0	51%	21.7	30%	22.9
2010	13,742	18%	15.6	54%	21.4	28%	22.6
2011	11,669	21%	15.6	48%	21.3	31%	22.4
2012	12,655	14%	15.9	52%	21.1	34%	22.3
2013	11,374	24%	16.1	38%	21.8	38%	23.2
2014	10,872	17%	15.4	53%	21.7	30%	24.4
Previous 10 Year Means		20%	15.5	50%	21.4	29%	22.8
2015	11,853	21%	16.6	46%	22.0	33%	23.4

* Age based on longest spur length from check stations and spur length category selected on web-based "Check-IN-Game" combined starting in 2012; weights based on check station data only.

Table 3. Regional spring turkey harvest and age structure in Indiana, 2004 to 2015.

	Region						Statewide
	North	East-central	West-central	South-central	Southeast	Southwest	
2004							
Harvest	1,303	18	2,074	3,125	2,681	1,511	10,765
% of Total Harvest	12%	0.2%	19%	29%	25%	14%	---
Juvenile %	37%	28%	24%	22%	23%	20%	24%
2005							
Harvest	1,346	21	2,076	3,277	2,945	1,480	11,159
% of Total Harvest	12%	0.2%	19%	29%	26%	13%	---
Juvenile %	37%	48%	38%	33%	26%	30%	34%
2006							
Harvest	1,533	23	2,566	3,946	3,458	1,667	13,193
% of Total Harvest	12%	0.2%	20%	30%	26%	13%	---
Juvenile %	34%	9%	12%	10%	13%	13%	14%
2007							
Harvest	1,758	51	2,104	2,919	2,831	1,500	11,163
% of Total Harvest	16%	0.5%	19%	26%	25%	13%	---
Juvenile %	32%	38%	23%	18%	18%	22%	22%
2008							
Harvest	2,166	60	2,233	3,172	3,057	1,516	12,204
% of Total Harvest	18%	0.5%	18%	26%	25%	12%	---
Juvenile %	34%	25%	22%	19%	18%	18%	22%
2009							
Harvest	2,561	61	2,072	3,314	3,233	1,752	12,993
% of Total Harvest	20%	0.5%	16%	26%	25%	14%	---
Juvenile %	27%	22%	16%	25%	25%	14%	19%
2010							
Harvest	3,088	94	2,021	3,406	3,340	1,793	13,742
% of Total Harvest	23%	0.7%	15%	25%	24%	13%	---
Juvenile %	25%	28%	20%	15%	14%	17%	18%
2011							
Harvest	2,589	77	1,739	2,902	2,800	1,562	11,669
% of Total Harvest	22%	0.7%	15%	25%	24%	13%	---
Juvenile %	25%	27%	24%	20%	19%	16%	21%
2012							
Harvest	3,007	110	2,008	3,069	2,868	1,593	12,655
% of Total Harvest	24%	0.9%	16%	24%	23%	13%	---
Juvenile %	22%	20%	15%	11%	11%	12%	14%
2013							
Harvest	2,834	106	1,742	2,669	2,592	1,431	11,374
% of Total Harvest	25%	1%	15%	24%	23%	13%	---
Juvenile %	25%	31%	29%	22%	22%	24%	24%
2014							
Harvest	2,733	142	1,658	2,510	2,517	1,312	10,872
% of Total Harvest	25%	1%	15%	23%	23%	12%	---
Juvenile %	22%	28%	18%	14%	15%	15%	17%
2015							
Harvest	3,297	167	1,742	2,712	2,485	1,450	11,853
% of Total Harvest	28%	1%	15%	23%	21%	12%	---
Juvenile %	28%	24%	24%	18%	18%	17%	21%
2014 to 2015 Differences							
Change in Harvest	564	25	84	202	-32	138	981
Percent change in Harvest	21%	18%	5%	8%	-1%	11%	9%

Figure 2. 2015 Spring wild turkey harvest and age structure by region.

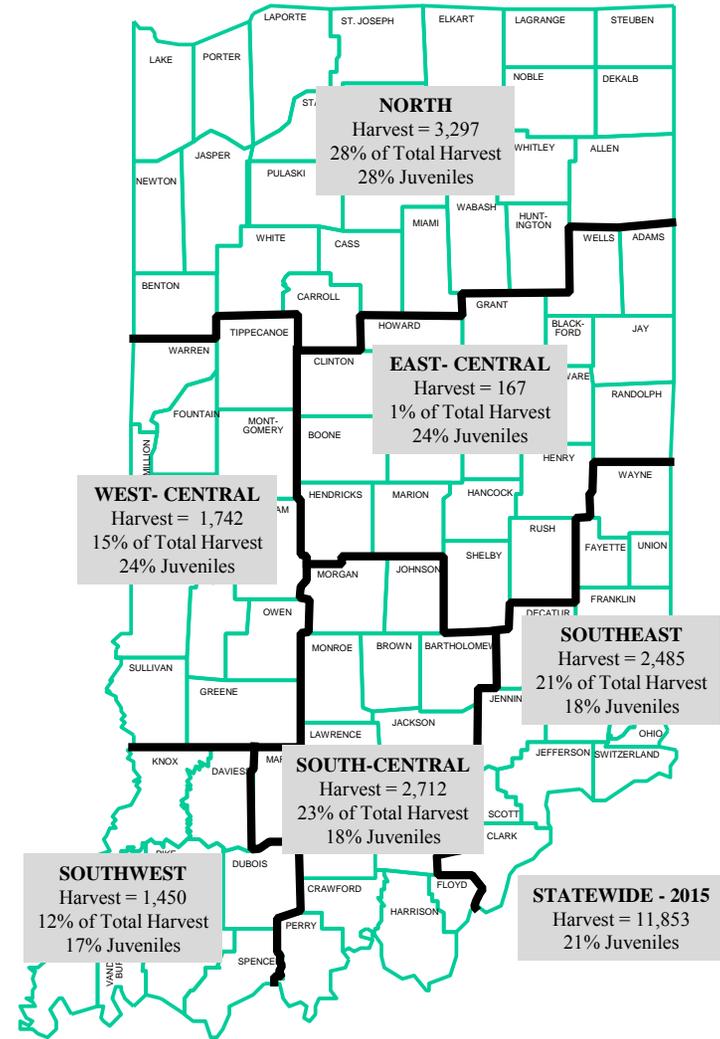


Table 4. Indiana's spring wild turkey hunting seasons, 1970 to 2015.

Year	Regular Season Dates	Season Length (Days)	No. of Counties	No. of Permits Sold*	Est. No. of Hunters**	Reported Harvest	Hunter Success
1970	5/2-5/5	4	3	75	62	6	9.7%
1971	5/1-5/5	5	9	298	224	11	4.9%
1972	4/26-4/30	5	9	585	422	12	2.8%
1973	4/25-4/29	5	11	625	503	27	5.4%
1974	4/24-4/28	5	11	665	496	26	5.2%
1975	4/29-5/5	7	11	722	501	15	3.0%
1976	4/29-5/5	7	13	666	500	32	6.4%
1977	4/28-5/5	8	16	668	520	46	8.8%
1978	4/26-5/7	12	18	852	619	33	5.3%
1979	4/25-5/6	12	19	932	860	48	5.6%
1980	4/23-5/4	12	17	706	670	54	8.1%
1981	4/22-5/3	12	18	922	814	90	11.1%
1982	4/21-5/2	12	18	1,125	696	73	10.5%
1983	4/20-5/1	12	18	1,218	984	93	9.5%
1984	4/25-5/6	12	18	1,320	1,205	104	8.6%
1985	4/24-5/5	12	25	1,882	1,302	255	19.6%
1986	4/23-5/4	12	25	2,523	1,648	293	17.8%
1987	4/22-5/6	15	33	3,348	2,619	741	28.3%
1988	4/27-5/11	15	33	10,894	4,677	905	19.4%
1989	4/26-5/10	15	39	11,442	6,068	1,359	22.4%
1990	4/25-5/9	15	39	14,379	7,860	1,505	19.1%
1991	4/24-5/8	15	43	16,387	9,643	2,318	24.0%
1992	4/22-5/6	15	43	18,735	13,110	2,531	19.3%
1993	4/28-5/16	19	48	21,078	15,673	3,500	22.3%
1994	4/27-5/15	19	48	23,357	18,622	3,741	20.1%
1995	4/26-5/14	19	52	28,858	20,861	4,706	22.6%
1996	4/24-5/12	19	52	28,733	21,442	4,859	22.6%
1997	4/23-5/11	19	74	32,703	23,085	5,790	25.1%
1998	4/22-5/10	19	74	32,889	22,876	6,384	27.9%
1999	4/21-5/9	19	74	38,730	27,285	6,548	24.0%
2000	4/26-5/14	19	74	40,801	28,615	7,822	27%
2001	4/25-5/13	19	74	43,815	36,103	9,975	28%
2002	4/24-5/12 [†]	19	90	44,333	37,919	10,575	28%
2003	4/23-5/11	19	90	48,857	40,110	10,366	26%
2004	4/21-5/9	19	90	50,839	41,996	10,765	26%
2005	4/27-5/15	19	88	50,839	49,684	11,159	22%
2006	4/26-5/14	19	88	67,290	50,880	13,193	26%
2007	4/25-5/13 ^{††}	19	91	69,861	53,402	11,163	21%
2008	4/23-5/11	19	91	71,052	55,022	12,204	22%
2009	4/22-5/10	19	92	75,161	59,000	12,993	22%
2010	4/21-5/9	19	92	73,089	56,891	13,742	24%
2011	4/27-5/15	19	92	72,323	56,220	11,669	21%
2012	4/25-5/13	19	92	71,836	57,631	12,655	22%
2013	4/24-5/12	19	92	74,966	60,889	11,374	19%
2014	4/23-5/11	19	92	73,279	59,237	10,872	18%
2015	4/22-5/10	19	92	69,192	55,531	11,853	21%
2016	4/27-5/15	19	92				

* Includes all allowable license types (e.g., lifetime, youth licenses sold by May, non-residents, and apprentice).

** No. of hunters includes those permit holders who hunted ≥1 day and since 1986, the number of hunters includes an estimate of license exempt landowners or military hunters on active leave participating in the spring season.

[†] "All-day" turkey hunting initiated; 1/2 hr prior to sunrise to sunset.

^{††} Beginning with the spring 2007 season, a special 2-day youth-only season is held the weekend prior to the regular season opening.

Bold italics = preliminary estimates based on projecting previous years' trends or means

Figure 3. Indiana Spring Turkey Seasons

