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1087	Title 2014 Spring Wild Turkey Harvest Results	7/29/2014

Abstract: Hunters harvested 10,872 wild turkeys in 88 of the 92 counties. The 2014 harvest was 4% less than the 2013 harvest of 11,374. The majority of the birds was harvested in the early part of the season and the early morning hours. A total of 1,185 birds (11% of total harvest) was taken during the youth-only weekend prior to the regular season. The proportion of juvenile turkeys in the harvest was 17% with 53% 2-yr-olds, and 30% ≥ 3 yr-olds. The northern region, the largest region, supported 25% of the harvest, with 46% of the harvest occurring in the south-central and southeast regions. The estimated number of hunters afield was 59,237 in 2014, with an estimated hunter success of 18%, the lowest success rate since 1986.

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Hunters harvested 10,872 wild turkeys in 88 of the 92 counties during the 45th spring wild turkey hunt based on reports from 367 check stations (57% of the harvest records) with the remaining 43% of the harvest records from the web-based "Check-IN-Game" (42%) and tele-check (1%) systems implemented in 2012. The 2014 harvest was 4% less than the 2013 harvest of 11,374. There were 17 counties with harvests ≥ 200 birds compared to 24 in 2013. Overall, 52 counties showed declines in harvests (-1 to -100%), 3 counties showed no change, and the harvests increased in 37 counties (1% to 167%). The top 10 counties were Switzerland (394), Harrison (363), Jefferson (360), Dearborn (313), Steuben (306), Perry (269), Franklin (268), Greene (260), Washington (248), with Clark (241) and Ripley (241) tied for 10th (**Table 1; Figure 1**).

Approximately 57% of the regular season harvest (9,676 birds; 23 April to 11 May 2014; 19 days) occurred during the first 5 days, with 47% occurring on the 3 weekends. A total of 1,185 birds (11% of total harvest) was taken during the youth-only weekend (4/19 & 4/20) and 11 birds were taken during the "Wounded Warrior" hunt at Camp Atterbury prior to the regular season. Approximately 78% of the harvest occurred by noon, 5% from noon to 3 pm with 17% occurring from 3 pm to sunset. Landowners/active military personnel (license exempt) accounted for 8% of the harvest.

Juvenile gobblers (1 yr-old birds; "jakes") made up 17% of the 2014 harvest; 2 yr-olds (53%); ≥ 3 yr-olds (30%) (**Table 2**). Mean weights were similar to previous years. Bearded hens made up 2% of the harvest. All regions showed net decreases in harvest except east-central Indiana, reflecting the overall 4% decrease in the total harvest (**Table 3**). The northern region, the largest region, supported 25% of the harvest with 46% of the harvest occurring in the south-central and southeast regions (**Figure 2**).

Reasons for the 4% decrease in 2014 were likely related to the continued low summer production over the last decade and possibly to what appeared to be roughly a general 2 week delay in the onset in the breeding season, perhaps as a result of the abnormally hard winter. Annual harvest levels have been in a slight decline the last few years with the last 2 seasons below the 12,000 bird harvest level (**Table 4; Figure 3**). The estimated number of hunters afield decreased slightly in 2014 and the estimated hunter success was 18%, the lowest success rate since 1986.

Special thanks go to Roger Hunter and Steve Burcham who handle the check station logistics. Steve handled the data entry from check stations. Kevin Hoffman facilitated the data transfer from the Check-IN-Game system. Acknowledgment also goes to the 367 volunteer check station operators for their cooperation.

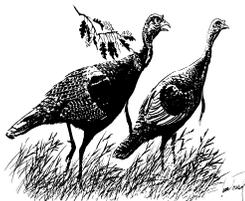


Table 1. Indiana wild turkey harvest by county, spring 2013 and 2014.

County	2013 Reported* Harvest	Percent of Harvest	2014 Reported* Harvest	Percent of Harvest	Difference from prior year	Percent Change
Adams	8	0.1%	7	0.1%	-1	-13%
Allen	41	0.4%	45	0.4%	4	10%
Bartholomew	131	1.2%	99	0.9%	-32	-24%
Benton	12	0.1%	10	0.1%	-2	-17%
Blackford	7	0.1%	11	0.1%	4	57%
Boone	3	0.0%	8	0.1%	5	167%
Brown	186	1.6%	162	1.5%	-24	-13%
Carroll	19	0.2%	23	0.2%	4	21%
Cass	54	0.5%	56	0.5%	2	4%
Clark	283	2.5%	241	2.2%	-42	-15%
Clay	107	0.9%	99	0.9%	-8	-7%
Clinton	2	0.0%	1	0.0%	-1	-50%
Crawford	240	2.1%	199	1.8%	-41	-17%
Daviess	98	0.9%	93	0.9%	-5	-5%
Dearborn	319	2.8%	313	2.9%	-6	-2%
Decatur	61	0.5%	49	0.5%	-12	-20%
DeKalb	163	1.4%	154	1.4%	-9	-6%
Delaware	3	0.0%	2	0.0%	-1	-33%
Dubois	171	1.5%	165	1.5%	-6	-4%
Elkhart	148	1.3%	119	1.1%	-29	-20%
Fayette	65	0.6%	57	0.5%	-8	-12%
Floyd	103	0.9%	96	0.9%	-7	-7%
Fountain	118	1.0%	100	0.9%	-18	-15%
Franklin	269	2.4%	268	2.5%	-1	0%
Fulton	132	1.2%	141	1.3%	9	7%
Gibson	157	1.4%	132	1.2%	-25	-16%
Grant	11	0.1%	9	0.1%	-2	-18%
Greene	258	2.3%	260	2.4%	2	1%
Hamilton	1	0.0%	0	0.0%	-1	-100%
Hancock	4	0.0%	3	0.0%	-1	-25%
Harrison	408	3.6%	363	3.3%	-45	-11%
Hendricks	25	0.2%	36	0.3%	11	44%
Henry	2	0.0%	5	0.0%	3	150%
Howard	4	0.0%	2	0.0%	-2	-50%
Huntington	27	0.2%	36	0.3%	9	33%
Jackson	214	1.9%	192	1.8%	-22	-10%
Jasper	131	1.2%	112	1.0%	-19	-15%
Jay	12	0.1%	26	0.2%	14	117%
Jefferson	363	3.2%	360	3.3%	-3	-1%
Jennings	240	2.1%	176	1.6%	-64	-27%
Johnson	23	0.2%	40	0.4%	17	74%
Knox	108	0.9%	105	1.0%	-3	-3%
Kosciusko	154	1.4%	151	1.4%	-3	-2%
Lagrange	160	1.4%	175	1.6%	15	9%
Lake	18	0.2%	16	0.1%	-2	-11%
LaPorte	189	1.7%	161	1.5%	-28	-15%
Lawrence	223	2.0%	192	1.8%	-31	-14%

* Harvest totals from check station reports and web-based Check-IN-Game (2014).

Table 1. Indiana wild turkey harvest by county, spring 2013 and 2014; *continued*.

County	2013 Reported* Harvest	Percent of Harvest	2014 Reported* Harvest	Percent of Harvest	Difference from prior year	Percent Change
Madison	3	0.0%	0	0.0%	-3	-100%
Marion	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	---
Marshall	282	2.5%	205	1.9%	-77	-27%
Martin	155	1.4%	181	1.7%	26	17%
Miami	22	0.2%	33	0.3%	11	50%
Monroe	140	1.2%	176	1.6%	36	26%
Montgomery	73	0.6%	58	0.5%	-15	-21%
Morgan	89	0.8%	88	0.8%	-1	-1%
Newton	80	0.7%	82	0.8%	2	3%
Noble	137	1.2%	162	1.5%	25	18%
Ohio	119	1.0%	152	1.4%	33	28%
Orange	254	2.2%	205	1.9%	-49	-19%
Owen	213	1.9%	203	1.9%	-10	-5%
Parke	219	1.9%	187	1.7%	-32	-15%
Perry	270	2.4%	269	2.5%	-1	0%
Pike	226	2.0%	211	1.9%	-15	-7%
Porter	38	0.3%	33	0.3%	-5	-13%
Posey	124	1.1%	132	1.2%	8	6%
Pulaski	120	1.1%	134	1.2%	14	12%
Putnam	172	1.5%	190	1.7%	18	10%
Randolph	0	0.0%	7	0.1%	7	---
Ripley	219	1.9%	241	2.2%	22	10%
Rush	3	0.0%	2	0.0%	-1	-33%
St. Joseph	185	1.6%	163	1.5%	-22	-12%
Scott	176	1.5%	156	1.4%	-20	-11%
Shelby	10	0.1%	10	0.1%	0	0%
Spencer	206	1.8%	195	1.8%	-11	-5%
Starke	256	2.3%	223	2.1%	-33	-13%
Steuben	308	2.7%	306	2.8%	-2	-1%
Sullivan	215	1.9%	184	1.7%	-31	-14%
Switzerland	366	3.2%	394	3.6%	28	8%
Tippecanoe	33	0.3%	47	0.4%	14	42%
Tipton	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	---
Union	61	0.5%	62	0.6%	1	2%
Vanderburg	50	0.4%	63	0.6%	13	26%
Vermillion	82	0.7%	91	0.8%	9	11%
Vigo	160	1.4%	142	1.3%	-18	-11%
Wabash	55	0.5%	69	0.6%	14	25%
Warren	92	0.8%	97	0.9%	5	5%
Warrick	291	2.6%	216	2.0%	-75	-26%
Washington	233	2.0%	248	2.3%	15	6%
Wayne	51	0.4%	48	0.4%	-3	-6%
Wells	8	0.1%	13	0.1%	5	63%
White	69	0.6%	74	0.7%	5	7%
Whitley	34	0.3%	50	0.5%	16	47%
Totals	11,374		10,872		-502	-4%

* Harvest totals from check station reports and web-based Check-IN-Game (2014).

Figure 1. 2014 Spring Turkey Harvest

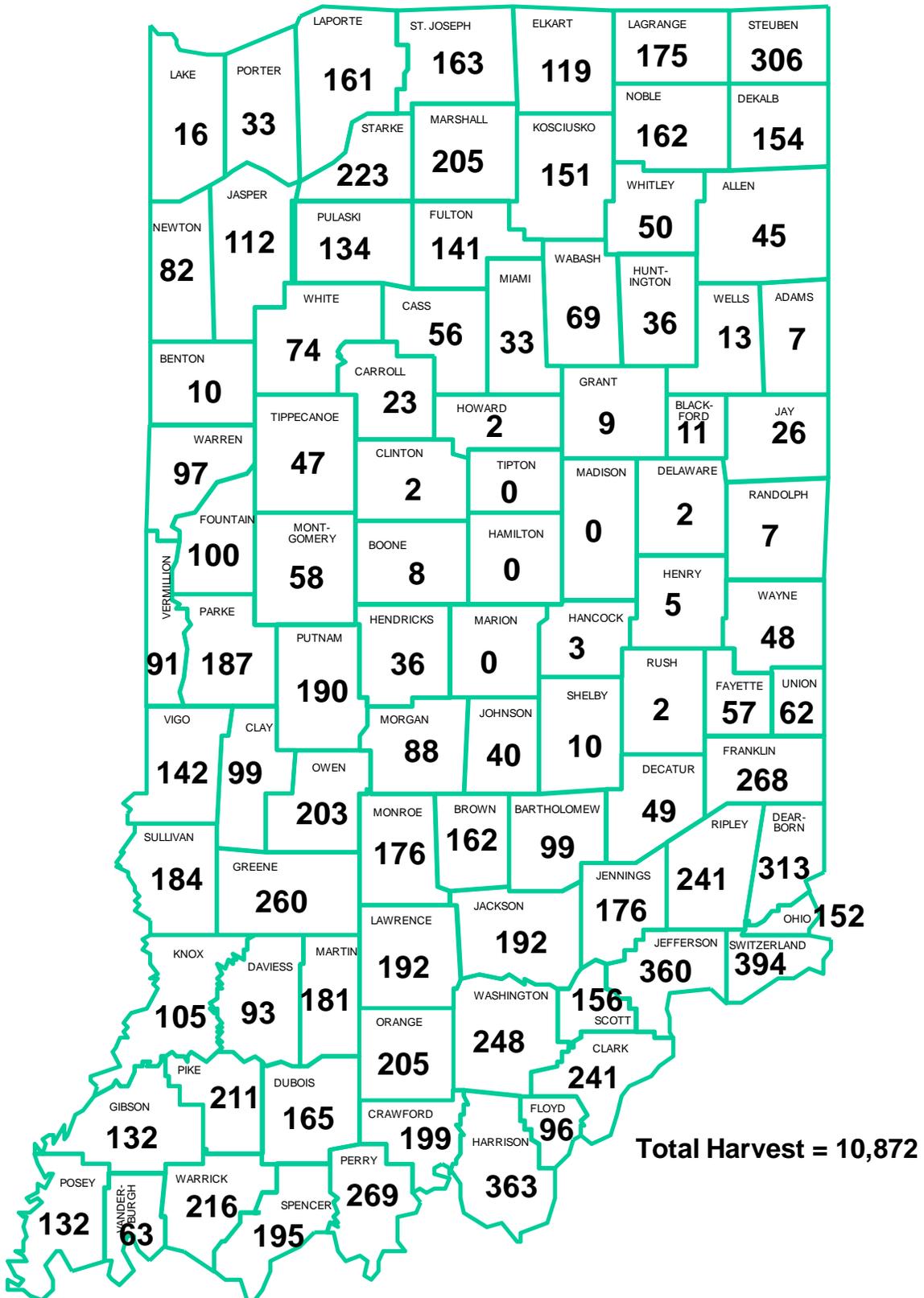


Table 2. Composition of Indiana's spring gobbler harvests, 1988-2014.

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
Previous 10 Year Means		21%	15.6	49%	21.4	28%	22.6
2014	10,872	17.1%	15.4	53.4%	21.7	29.5%	24.4

* 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 2014.

	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%	23%	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%
2013 to 2014 Differences							
Change in Harvest	-101	36	-84	-159	-75	-119	-502
Percent change in Harvest	-4%	34%	-5%	-6%	-3%	-8%	-4%

Figure 2. 2014 Spring wild turkey harvest and age structure by region.

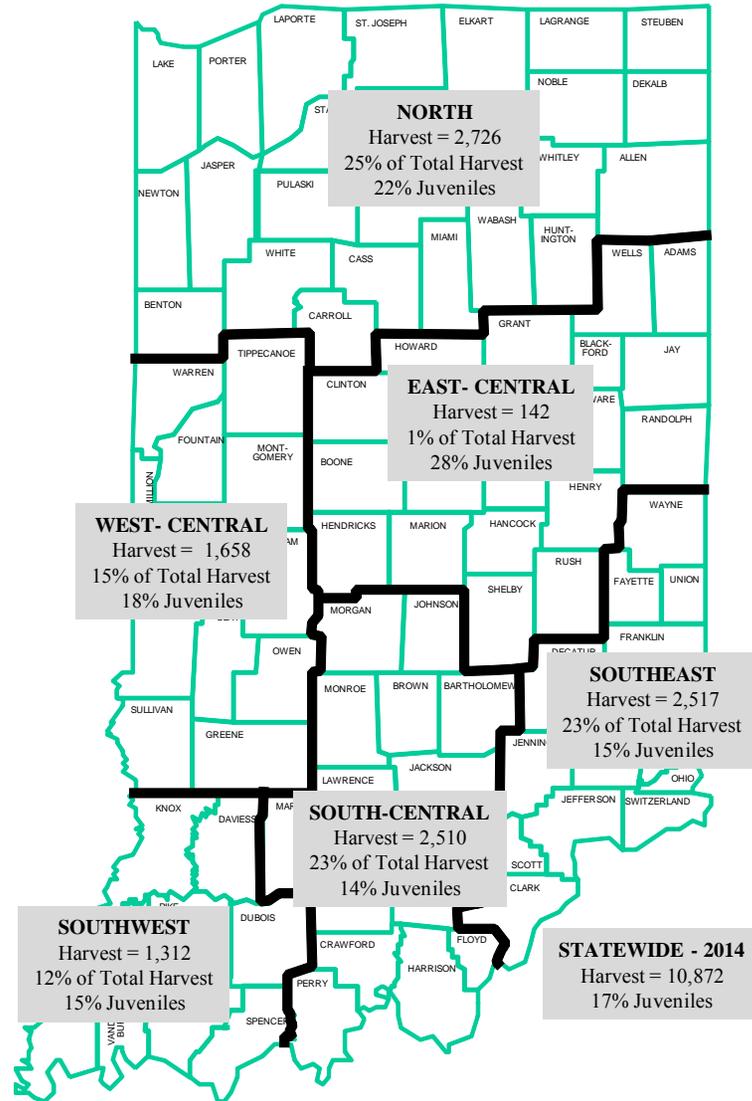


Table 4. Indiana's spring wild turkey hunting seasons, 1970 to 2014.

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				

* 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

