

Minnesota's Wild Turkey Harvest Fall 2023 - Spring 2024

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Summary of Season Structure

The fall 2023 turkey season opened on September 30 and closed on October 27. An unlimited number of permits were available, and hunters could harvest a single bird of any sex, in any permit area (Figure 1). All hunters, regardless of license type (archery/firearm), could hunt the entire season.

The spring 2024 hunting season was open April 17 through May 31. Hunters were limited to harvesting a single bird: either a tom, jake, or bearded hen. Firearm hunters were restricted to hunting one of 5 week-long time periods (A-E), in addition to the final two weeks of the season (F) if they did not harvest a bird earlier. Archery and youth hunters could hunt the entire season. An unlimited number of permits were available during all time periods, except for 3 permit areas that maintained a lottery during the A-C periods (511, 512) or A-B periods (502). All hunters declared a permit area at the time of license purchase but could harvest a bird within any permit area (Figure 1).

Fall 2023 Season

Permits Issued

The number of fall turkey hunters in 2023 (9,713) was similar to the number of hunters in fall 2022 (Table 1; Figure 2) and was 18% above the 10-year average (8,222). The proportion of youth hunters was consistent with previous seasons (24%).

Harvest

The fall 2023 harvest (1,224) was 5% less than the fall 2022 harvest (Table 1). Hunter success was 12.6% which was slightly below the long-term average (14.1%). Hens comprised 55% of the total harvest with jakes and toms comprising 15% and 31% of the total fall harvest, respectively. Two permit areas, 507 and 508, accounted for 49% of the total fall harvest (Table 2). These two permit areas were also the most hunted, accounting for 48% of all fall permit sales (Table 2).

Spring 2024 Season

Permits Issued

The number of permits issued across all license types in 2024 was up 11% from 53,574 hunters in 2023 to 59,565 in 2024 (Tables 3 and 4, Figure 3). Permit sales increased across all permit categories, though the increase was greatest among archery hunters (Table 4). Permit sales was the second highest all-time (2020, 63,196; Table 4; Figure 3). All hunters had to declare a permit area in 2024 but were not restricted to harvesting a bird in the declared area. Permit sales were greatest in permit area 507 and, along with units 508 and 501, comprised approximately 62% of all permit sales (Table 5).

Harvest

During the 2024 spring turkey season, 16,714 turkeys were harvested. The harvest total increased 22% compared to 2023 and is the highest season harvest total for the modern turkey season (since 1978; Table 4, Figure 3). Permit areas 507, 501, and 508 saw the greatest harvests and comprised roughly 62% of the total harvest (Table 5). Harvest success increased among all license holders (28.1%) and was the highest in the last 10 years (Table 3).

The lack of snowpack across much of the northern portion of the turkey range at the open of the turkey season led to modern turkey season harvest records in periods A, B, and C. In 2024, the combined A and B period harvest accounted for approximately 64.4% of the total spring harvest (Table 6). Collectively, A-C periods accounted for approximately 80% of all spring turkey harvest (Table 6), which is in line with harvest in most years.

Tables

Table 1. Permits issued, registered harvest, and hunter success rates for the ten most recent fall wild turkey seasons in Minnesota, 2014-2023.

| Year | Permits issued | Registered harvest | Hunter success (%)^a |
|-------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2014 | 8,345 | 1,216 | 14.6% |
| 2015 | 8,210 | 1,213 | 14.8% |
| 2016 | 8,563 | 1,175 | 13.7% |
| 2017 | 7,747 | 1,017 | 13.1% |
| 2018 | 6,725 | 835 | 12.4% |
| 2019 | 6,481 | 855 | 13.2% |
| 2020 | 8,410 | 1,136 | 13.5% |
| 2021 | 9,026 | 1,238 | 13.7% |
| 2022 | 8,999 | 1,285 | 14.3% |
| 2023 | 9,713 | 1,224 | 12.6% |

^a Total hunter success (registered harvest divided by all permits issued). Success rates not adjusted for non-participation or unregistered harvest.

Table 2. Permits issued, registered harvest by sex, and total registered harvest during the 2023 fall wild turkey season in Minnesota.

| Permit area | General permits issued ^a | Youth permits issued | Toms ^a | Jakes ^a | Hens ^a | Total registered harvest ^a |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 501 | 894 | 269 | 44 | 12 | 90 | 146 |
| 502 | 77 | 17 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 9 |
| 503 | 629 | 178 | 36 | 15 | 63 | 114 |
| 504 | 238 | 89 | 10 | 4 | 8 | 22 |
| 505 | 437 | 116 | 20 | 11 | 27 | 58 |
| 506 | 352 | 119 | 22 | 8 | 28 | 58 |
| 507 | 1,712 | 609 | 94 | 57 | 180 | 331 |
| 508 | 1,829 | 542 | 81 | 36 | 151 | 268 |
| 509 | 339 | 173 | 21 | 13 | 48 | 82 |
| 510 | 711 | 154 | 46 | 19 | 61 | 126 |
| 511 | 115 | 32 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 8 |
| 512 | 66 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Total | 7,399 | 2,314 | 376 | 178 | 670 | 1,224 |

^a Total harvest for all license types.

Table 3. Total permits issued, harvest, and hunter success rates by permit type during the spring 2024 wild turkey season in Minnesota.

| | Total permits issued | Harvest | Hunter success (%) ^a |
|----------------|----------------------|---------|---------------------------------|
| General | 31,299 | 10,886 | 34.80% |
| Youth | 13,771 | 3,198 | 23.20% |
| Archery | 14,495 | 2,630 | 18.10% |
| Total | 59,565 | 16,714 | 28.10% |

^a Success rates (registered harvest divided by number of permits issued) not adjusted for non-participation or unregistered harvest.

Table 4. Permits issued, registered harvest, and hunter success rates for the ten most recent spring wild turkey hunting seasons in Minnesota, 2015-2024.

| Year | General permits issued | Youth permits issued | Archery permits issued | Total permits issued | Registered harvest ^a | Hunter success (%) ^b |
|-------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2015c | 30,269 | 11,330 | 5,046 | 46,645 | 11,740 | 25.20% |
| 2016c | 28,188 | 11,448 | 10,336 | 49,972 | 12,323 | 24.70% |
| 2017c | 27,235 | 11,354 | 11,237 | 49,826 | 11,854 | 23.80% |
| 2018c | 24,737 | 9,952 | 11,399 | 46,088 | 10,750 | 23.30% |
| 2019 | 24,432 | 10,032 | 11,794 | 46,258 | 10,746 | 23.20% |
| 2020 | 34,173 | 14,292 | 14,731 | 63,196 | 13,996 | 22.10% |
| 2021 | 32,522 | 12,598 | 12,966 | 58,086 | 12,067 | 20.80% |
| 2022 | 29,603 | 12,551 | 12,337 | 54,491 | 12,297 | 22.60% |
| 2023 | 29,542 | 12,343 | 11,688 | 53,573 | 13,669 | 25.50% |
| 2024 | 31,299 | 13,771 | 14,495 | 59,565 | 16,714 | 28.10% |

^a Includes all license types.

^b Total hunter success (registered harvest divided by number of permits issued). Success rates not adjusted for non-participation or unregistered harvest.

^c Permits issued, registered harvest, and hunter success (%) were reviewed and adjusted to address inconsistencies in data query and previous reporting.

Table 5. Permits issued by license type and total registered harvest within each permit area during the 2024 spring wild turkey season in Minnesota^a.

| Permit area | Archery permits declared | General permits declared | Youth permits declared | Total permits declared | Total registered harvest |
|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 501 | 1,714 | 5,866 | 1,771 | 9,351 | 2,782 |
| 502 | 172 | 654 | 176 | 1,002 | 270 |
| 503 | 1,319 | 3,457 | 1,362 | 6,138 | 1,745 |
| 504 | 582 | 890 | 501 | 1,973 | 507 |
| 505 | 764 | 1,791 | 708 | 3,263 | 990 |
| 506 | 748 | 1,307 | 705 | 2,760 | 689 |
| 507 | 3,922 | 7,762 | 4,200 | 15,884 | 4,522 |
| 508 | 2,842 | 6,099 | 2,518 | 11,459 | 3,018 |
| 509 | 535 | 1,083 | 692 | 2,310 | 672 |
| 510 | 1,646 | 2,028 | 931 | 4,605 | 1,375 |
| 511 | 180 | 219 | 115 | 514 | 88 |
| 512 | 71 | 143 | 92 | 306 | 56 |
| Total | 14,495 | 31,299 | 13,771 | 59,565 | 16,714 |

^a Beginning in 2020, all hunters declared but were not restricted to harvesting a turkey in their declared permit area.

Table 6. Permits issued and harvest by license type and time period for the spring 2023 wild turkey season in Minnesota.

| Time period | Archery permits issued ^a | Youth permits issued ^a | General permits issued | Registered harvest ^b | Percent of total harvest ^b |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Any | 14,495 | 13,771 | | | |
| A | | | 11,900 | 7,123 | 42.60% |
| B | | | 7,704 | 3,649 | 21.80% |
| C | | | 6,036 | 2,595 | 15.50% |
| D | | | 2,815 | 1,268 | 7.60% |
| E | | | 1,958 | 762 | 4.60% |
| F | | | 886 | 1,317 | 7.90% |

^a Archery and youth permits were valid during any time period.

^b Includes harvest from all license types.

Table 7. Total declared harvest within each turkey permit area by time period for the 2024 spring wild turkey seasons in Minnesota.

| Year | Period A | Period B | Period C | Period D | Period E | Period F |
|------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 501 | 1,222 | 665 | 439 | 211 | 95 | 150 |
| 502 | 112 | 58 | 43 | 25 | 13 | 19 |
| 503 | 726 | 400 | 239 | 134 | 87 | 159 |
| 504 | 203 | 109 | 91 | 33 | 24 | 47 |
| 505 | 386 | 231 | 166 | 86 | 41 | 80 |
| 506 | 279 | 143 | 124 | 53 | 31 | 59 |
| 507 | 1,950 | 916 | 686 | 368 | 248 | 354 |
| 508 | 1,303 | 623 | 484 | 206 | 137 | 265 |
| 509 | 286 | 159 | 108 | 43 | 24 | 52 |
| 510 | 596 | 312 | 197 | 100 | 51 | 119 |
| 511 | 35 | 22 | 11 | 7 | 6 | 7 |
| 512 | 25 | 11 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 6 |

Table 8. General declared harvest within each turkey permit area by time period for the 2024 spring wild turkey seasons in Minnesota.

| Year | Period A | Period B | Period C | Period D | Period E | Period F |
|------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 501 | 1,070 | 607 | 394 | 185 | 80 | 137 |
| 502 | 103 | 53 | 40 | 22 | 12 | 17 |
| 503 | 622 | 351 | 205 | 120 | 71 | 144 |
| 504 | 156 | 88 | 76 | 20 | 17 | 41 |
| 505 | 323 | 202 | 143 | 75 | 35 | 70 |
| 506 | 224 | 121 | 108 | 45 | 24 | 46 |
| 507 | 1,597 | 792 | 566 | 294 | 209 | 295 |
| 508 | 1,076 | 526 | 409 | 158 | 105 | 207 |
| 509 | 226 | 125 | 94 | 36 | 19 | 42 |
| 510 | 441 | 231 | 142 | 67 | 33 | 88 |
| 511 | 30 | 19 | 10 | 7 | 4 | 6 |
| 512 | 23 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 5 |

Table 9. Declared turkey permit area by archery, youth, and general (by time period) permit holders within each turkey permit area for the 2024 spring wild turkey seasons in Minnesota.

| Year | Archery and Youth | Period A | Period B | Period C | Period D | Period E | Period F |
|------|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 501 | 3,485 | 2,177 | 1,476 | 1,133 | 593 | 334 | 153 |
| 502 | 348 | 229 | 151 | 137 | 63 | 46 | 28 |
| 503 | 2,681 | 1,277 | 883 | 657 | 316 | 242 | 82 |
| 504 | 1,083 | 305 | 246 | 185 | 82 | 52 | 20 |
| 505 | 1,472 | 664 | 459 | 371 | 158 | 93 | 46 |
| 506 | 1,453 | 485 | 296 | 271 | 120 | 91 | 44 |
| 507 | 8,122 | 2,939 | 1,897 | 1,491 | 694 | 510 | 231 |
| 508 | 5,360 | 2,382 | 1,468 | 1,198 | 506 | 374 | 171 |
| 509 | 1,227 | 425 | 258 | 189 | 93 | 83 | 35 |
| 510 | 2,577 | 876 | 503 | 335 | 150 | 109 | 55 |
| 511 | 295 | 83 | 40 | 47 | 31 | 10 | 8 |
| 512 | 163 | 58 | 27 | 22 | 9 | 14 | 13 |

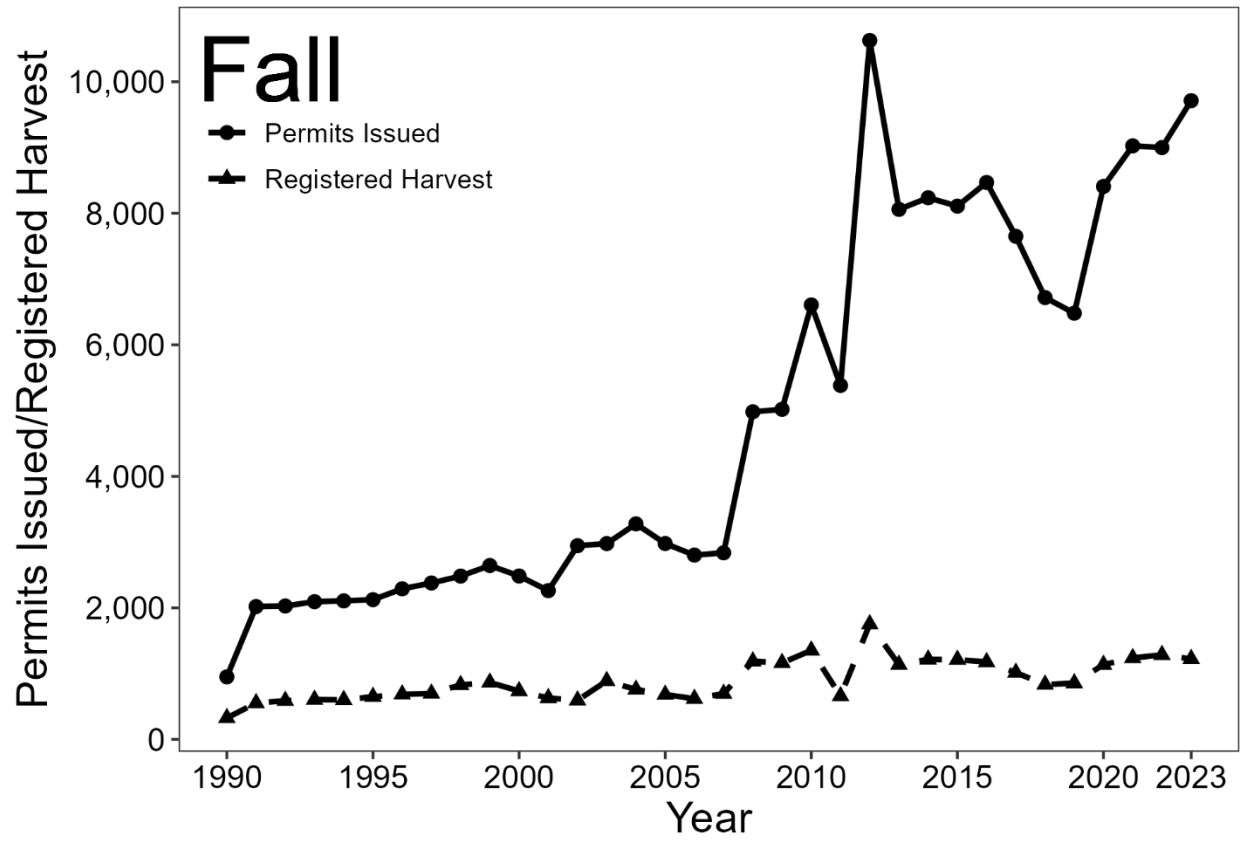


Figure 2. Permits issued and registered harvest for fall wild turkey seasons in Minnesota, 1990-2023.

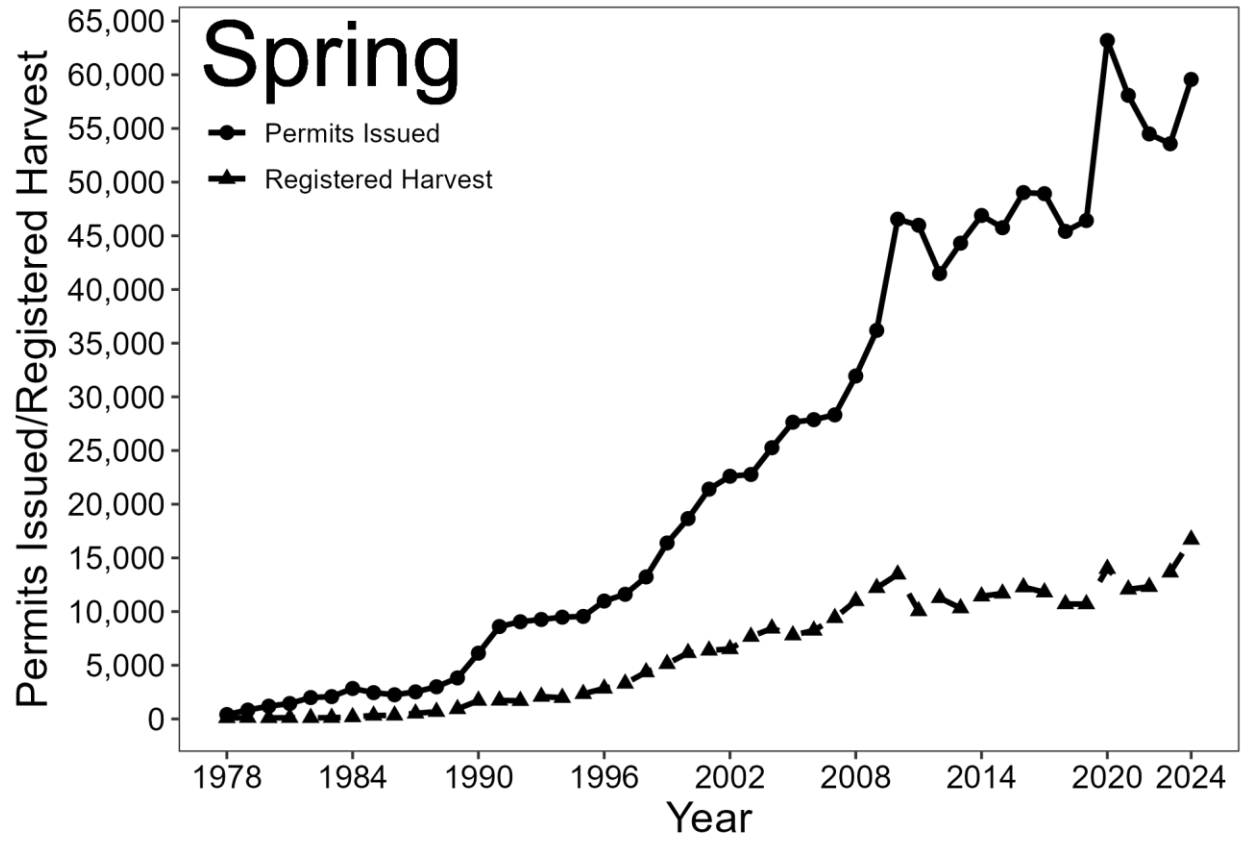


Figure 3. Permits issued and registered harvest for spring wild turkey seasons in Minnesota, 1978-2024.