

Poultry Slaughter



USDA
Washington, D.C.

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Ready-to-Cook Weight Down 2 Percent

Poultry Certified Wholesome during March (ready-to-cook weight), totaled 2.59 billion pounds, down 2 percent from the amount certified in March 1996. Updated totals for February 1997 show that 2.52 billion pounds were certified.

The preliminary total Live Weight of Poultry Inspected during March 1997 was 3.52 billion pounds. Inspections included 2.93 billion pounds of young chickens, 67.3 million pounds of mature chickens, 511 million pounds of turkeys, and 11.6 million pounds of ducks.

Young chickens slaughtered during March 1997 averaged 4.83 pounds per bird, up 1 percent from the average live weight a year ago. The average live weight of mature chickens was down 11 percent from 5.38 pounds per bird the previous year to 4.79 pounds. Turkeys slaughtered during March 1997 averaged 23.8 pounds per bird, up fractionally from March 1996.

Ante-mortem condemnations during March 1997 totaled 12.1 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.34 percent of the live weight inspected, compared with 0.41 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 60.4 million pounds (N.Y. dressed weight), were 1.91 percent of quantities inspected, compared with 1.97 percent a year earlier.

March 1997 contained 21 weekdays and five Saturdays, the same as March 1996. Each weekday represents approximately 5 percent of the month's total.

Poultry Slaughter: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight
by Type, United States, March 1997 with Comparisons 1/

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature 2/	Total		
1,000 Head					
Number Inspected					
Feb 1997	588,238	12,452	600,690	1,582	-----
Mar 1996	617,555	13,243	630,798	1,514	-----
Mar 1997	605,540	14,043	619,583	1,715	-----
Jan-Mar 1996	1,880,313	40,746	1,921,059	4,810	-----
Jan-Mar 1997	1,855,950	41,455	1,897,405	5,192	-----
1,000 Pounds					
Live Weight					
Feb 1997	2,853,397	63,527	2,916,924	10,491	1,023
Mar 1996	2,956,400	71,281	3,027,681	10,212	602
Mar 1997	2,926,616	67,318	2,993,934	11,561	1,154
Jan-Mar 1996	9,042,554	212,648	9,255,202	32,249	1,777
Jan-Mar 1997	9,011,471	204,839	9,216,310	34,695	3,401
Pounds					
Average Live Weight					
Feb 1997	4.85	5.10	4.86	6.63	-----
Mar 1996	4.79	5.38	4.80	6.75	-----
Mar 1997	4.83	4.79	4.83	6.74	-----
Jan-Mar 1996	4.81	5.22	4.82	6.71	-----
Jan-Mar 1997	4.86	4.94	4.86	6.68	-----

See footnotes at end of table.

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Poultry Slaughter: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight
by Type, United States, March 1997 with Comparisons 1/ (continued)

		Turkeys			Total	
		Fryer- Roasters	Young 3/	Old	Total Turkeys	Poultry
		1,000 Head				
Number Inspected						
Feb 1997	---	20,538	107	20,645	-----	
Mar 1996	16	22,483	116	22,615	-----	
Mar 1997	---	21,334	113	21,447	-----	
Jan-Mar 1996	44	66,521	426	66,991	-----	
Jan-Mar 1997	16	64,670	322	65,009	-----	
		1,000 Pounds				
Live Weight						
Feb 1997	---	496,147	2,912	499,059	3,427,498	
Mar 1996	138	533,780	3,024	536,942	3,575,437	
Mar 1997	4	507,994	2,908	510,906	3,517,555	
Jan-Mar 1996	424	1,598,609	10,955	1,609,989	10,899,217	
Jan-Mar 1997	188	1,565,101	8,720	1,574,009	10,828,415	
		Pounds				
Average Live Weight						
Feb 1997	---	24.16	27.15	24.17	-----	
Mar 1996	8.89	23.74	26.08	23.74	-----	
Mar 1997	8.87	23.81	25.81	23.82	-----	
Jan-Mar 1996	9.54	24.03	25.70	24.03	-----	
Jan-Mar 1997	11.91	24.20	27.06	24.21	-----	

- 1/ Federally inspected only. Totals may not add due to rounding.
- 2/ Of the Mature Chickens inspected, the number reported in thousands as heavy fowl (broiler breeding stock) was: March 1996: 5,930, March 1997: 4,639.
- 3/ Of the Young Turkeys inspected, the number reported in thousands as young breeders was: March 1996: 80, March 1997: 92.

Poultry Slaughter: Chilled and Frozen, Pounds Certified by Type,
United States, March 1997 with Comparisons 1/

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature	Total		
1,000 Pounds					
Feb 1997					
Chilled	1,921,460	36,044	1,957,504	2,980	356
Frozen	161,660	1,985	163,645	4,543	194
Total	2,083,120	38,029	2,121,149	7,523	551
Mar 1996					
Chilled	1,977,572	40,899	2,018,471	2,663	150
Frozen	177,610	2,065	179,675	4,695	197
Total	2,155,182	42,964	2,198,146	7,358	347
Mar 1997					
Chilled	1,957,706	39,308	1,997,014	3,063	391
Frozen	182,116	1,337	183,453	5,121	249
Total	2,139,822	40,645	2,180,467	8,184	640
Jan-Mar 1996					
Chilled	6,042,835	123,007	6,165,842	8,987	436
Frozen	567,237	5,869	573,106	14,244	602
Total	6,610,072	128,876	6,738,948	23,231	1,038
Jan-Mar 1997					
Chilled	6,034,161	118,188	6,152,349	9,427	1,177
Frozen	541,367	4,676	546,043	15,401	678
Total	6,575,528	122,863	6,698,392	24,828	1,855

See footnotes at end of table.

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Poultry Slaughter: Chilled and Frozen, Pounds Certified by Type,
 United States, March 1997 with Comparisons 1/ (continued)

	Turkeys				Total Poultry
	Fryer- Roasters	Young	Old	Total Turkeys	
	1,000 Pounds				
Feb 1997					
Chilled	---	194,313	2,039	196,353	2,157,193
Frozen	---	195,152	171	195,323	363,706
Total	---	389,465	2,210	391,676	2,520,899
Mar 1996					
Chilled	---	212,805	1,634	214,439	2,235,724
Frozen	109	209,524	602	210,235	394,802
Total	109	422,330	2,236	424,675	2,630,526
Mar 1997					
Chilled	3	199,177	1,578	200,758	2,201,226
Frozen	---	200,084	669	200,752	389,575
Total	3	399,261	2,246	401,510	2,590,801
Jan-Mar 1996					
Chilled	---	629,906	5,575	635,481	6,810,746
Frozen	336	631,339	2,697	634,371	1,222,324
Total	336	1,261,245	8,272	1,269,852	8,033,070
Jan-Mar 1997					
Chilled	70	611,108	5,364	616,542	6,779,494
Frozen	69	617,364	1,335	618,769	1,180,891
Total	139	1,228,472	6,699	1,235,311	7,960,385

1/ Ready-to-cook weights. Totals may not add due to rounding.

Poultry Slaughter: Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem Condemnations
by Type, United States, March 1997 with Comparisons 1/

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature	Total		

	1,000 Pounds				

Ante-Mortem (Live Weight)					
Feb 1997	9,796	1,035	10,831	8	6
Mar 1996	11,862	1,114	12,976	7	3
Mar 1997	9,370	902	10,272	9	7
Jan-Mar 1996	40,184	3,462	43,647	24	9
Jan-Mar 1997	32,253	3,545	35,798	27	16

Percent 2/					
Mar 1996	0.40	1.56	0.43	0.06	0.49
Mar 1997	0.32	1.34	0.34	0.08	0.58

	1,000 Pounds				

Post-Mortem (N.Y. Dressed Weight)					
Feb 1997	49,694	3,651	53,345	218	12
Mar 1996	47,950	4,259	52,209	154	5
Mar 1997	45,855	4,238	50,094	233	10
Jan-Mar 1996	150,351	12,315	162,666	479	25
Jan-Mar 1997	147,372	12,475	159,847	739	33

Percent 3/					
Mar 1996	1.80	6.64	1.92	1.68	1.01
Mar 1997	1.74	7.00	1.86	2.24	0.99

See footnotes at end of table.

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Poultry Slaughter: Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem Condemnations
by Type, United States, March 1997 with Comparisons 1/ (continued)

		Turkeys				Total
		Fryer- Roasters	Young	Old	Total Turkeys	Poultry
		1,000 Pounds				
Ante-Mortem (Live Weight)						
Feb 1997	---	1,495	20	1,515	12,359	
Mar 1996	---	1,555	40	1,595	14,581	
Mar 1997	---	1,812	16	1,828	12,116	
Jan-Mar 1996	2	5,158	153	5,313	48,992	
Jan-Mar 1997	---	6,627	96	6,724	42,564	
Percent 2/						
Mar 1996	0.16	0.29	1.33	0.30	0.41	
Mar 1997	0.49	0.36	0.56	0.36	0.34	
Post-Mortem (N.Y. Dressed Weight)						
Feb 1997	---	10,936	145	11,081	64,655	
Mar 1996	1	10,713	247	10,961	63,329	
Mar 1997	---	9,927	154	10,081	60,418	
Jan-Mar 1996	4	34,014	733	34,750	197,920	
Jan-Mar 1997	7	33,544	447	33,999	194,617	
Percent 3/						
Mar 1996	1.13	2.23	9.06	2.27	1.97	
Mar 1997	2.18	2.17	5.88	2.19	1.91	

1/ Federally inspected only. Totals may not add due to rounding.

2/ Pounds condemned as percent of pounds (live weight) inspected. Percentages based on unrounded data.

3/ Pounds condemned as percent of pounds N.Y. dressed weight of quantity inspected. Percentages based on unrounded data.

Young Chickens Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight,
Selected States and United States, March 1996-97

State	Number Inspected		Live Weight Inspected		Average Live Weight Inspected 1/	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	-----	1,000 -----	----	1,000 Pounds ----	---	Pounds ---
AL	73,110	64,536	354,451	312,997	4.85	4.85
AR	95,323	93,016	450,981	444,153	4.73	4.78
CA	18,494	19,800	92,892	100,074	5.02	5.05
DE	22,771	22,102	126,045	121,068	5.54	5.48
FL	11,301	10,467	50,358	47,250	4.46	4.51
GA	86,507	87,136	424,784	445,740	4.91	5.12
LA	13,533	11,510	63,392	49,461	4.68	4.30
MD	17,270	16,387	82,188	78,687	4.76	4.80
MS	51,486	55,179	242,497	253,106	4.71	4.59
MO	26,554	28,579	111,521	124,041	4.20	4.34
NC	54,148	49,714	279,408	270,269	5.16	5.44
PA	7,951	8,648	40,348	43,325	5.07	5.01
SC	18,803	16,850	82,505	77,407	4.39	4.59
TN	13,520	13,264	59,937	60,291	4.43	4.55
TX	37,261	37,817	169,459	171,197	4.55	4.53
VA	28,452	27,789	135,754	133,993	4.77	4.82
WA	2,833	2,540	14,823	13,030	5.23	5.13
US	617,555	605,540	2,956,400	2,926,616	4.79	4.83

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

Young Chickens Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations,
Selected States and United States, March 1996-97

State	Total		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
	Certified 1/		N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----				-- Percent --	
AL	258,654	231,986	7,469	7,059	2.34	2.51
AR	321,692	321,522	7,203	5,709	1.77	1.43
CA	68,002	72,722	1,313	1,325	1.57	1.47
DE	91,373	86,815	2,818	2,452	2.48	2.25
FL	35,837	33,819	560	784	1.24	1.84
GA	313,882	323,664	6,538	6,496	1.71	1.62
LA	45,918	35,524	1,110	849	1.95	1.91
MD	58,233	56,264	1,452	1,408	1.96	1.99
MS	182,417	193,720	2,793	2,535	1.28	1.11
MO	80,635	89,756	1,899	1,872	1.89	1.68
NC	205,970	202,661	4,115	4,710	1.64	1.94
PA	28,346	30,273	1,316	1,165	3.62	2.99
SC	60,976	56,680	1,328	1,552	1.79	2.23
TN	43,930	43,563	655	728	1.21	1.34
TX	129,012	129,721	2,160	2,378	1.42	1.54
VA	94,700	92,336	2,026	1,973	1.66	1.64
WA	11,035	9,539	405	358	3.03	3.06
US	2,155,182	2,139,822	47,950	45,855	1.80	1.74

1/ Ready-to-cook weights.

2/ Pounds condemned as percent of equivalent N.Y. dressed weight of quantity inspected. Percentages based on unrounded data.

Young Chickens Slaughtered: Number Condemned Post-Mortem by Cause,
Selected States and United States, March 1997

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
Number						
AL	---	6,975	191,906	317,575	6,026	10,452
AR	---	8,190	334,182	134,811	13,447	9,606
CA	---	6,278	89,979	8,077	1,572	8,896
DE	---	---	108,116	136,141	---	---
FL	---	---	---	---	---	2,282
GA	---	2,775	158,619	264,481	1,680	15,059
LA	---	220	38,682	---	481	2,671
MD	---	14,794	91,749	64,127	68	9,488
MS	---	5,891	104,710	38,014	1,348	7,954
MO	---	8,793	128,413	33,930	2,525	2,535
NC	---	30,638	149,973	128,398	92	37,403
PA	---	---	33,988	49,986	348	---
SC	---	---	27,983	---	162	3,290
TN	---	593	50,916	19,729	---	---
TX	---	---	137,401	50,097	507	3,152
VA	---	---	89,738	70,003	144	---
WA	---	---	29,656	---	---	1,226
US	---	135,856	1,960,017	1,485,274	43,703	156,001

State	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
Number						
AL	12,032	26,388	60,727	7,012	261,791	900,884
AR	14,474	30,631	64,861	4,982	106,575	721,759
CA	914	8,224	2,760	509	45,085	172,294
DE	3,466	6,535	13,353	---	42,670	310,281
FL	1,764	2,706	10,397	---	---	17,149
GA	15,763	44,745	45,251	17,672	218,945	784,990
LA	2,276	5,305	---	---	---	49,635
MD	2,201	9,208	---	1,653	22,579	215,867
MS	5,663	21,040	26,147	754	116,278	327,799
MO	3,028	12,289	21,551	---	46,157	259,221
NC	7,180	22,221	---	2,675	141,717	520,297
PA	2,055	2,860	---	---	---	89,237
SC	2,988	15,952	19,359	3,019	80,788	153,541
TN	2,316	7,653	10,799	---	40,996	133,002
TX	1,423	10,211	17,102	740	17,297	237,930
VA	3,630	8,889	29,438	927	101,509	304,278
WA	---	1,019	393	---	---	32,294
US	88,305	253,602	481,388	50,359	1,419,209	6,073,714

Mature Chickens Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight,
Selected States and United States, March 1996-97

State	Number Inspected		Live Weight Inspected		Average Live Weight Inspected 1/	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	----- 1,000 -----		---- 1,000 Pounds ----		--- Pounds ---	
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	13,243	14,043	71,281	67,318	5.38	4.79

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

Mature Chickens Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations,
Selected States and United States, March 1996-97

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
	1996	1997	N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----				-- Percent --	
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	42,964	40,645	4,259	4,238	6.64	7.00

1/ Ready-to-cook weights.

2/ Pounds condemned as percent of equivalent N.Y. dressed weight of quantity inspected. Percentages based on unrounded data.

Mature Chickens Slaughtered: Number Condemned Post-Mortem by Cause,
Selected States and United States, March 1997

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
	Number					
CA	---	---	---	---	3	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	---	6,343	263,108	18,561	536	165,892
	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
	Number					
CA	---	37	---	8	---	48
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	35,015	65,725	194,443	1,744	50,830	802,197

Young Turkeys (Mature) Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight, Selected States and United States, March 1996-97

State	Number Inspected		Live Weight Inspected		Average Live Weight Inspected 1/	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	----- 1,000 -----		---- 1,000 Pounds ----		--- Pounds ---	
AR	2,281	2,131	45,074	36,516	19.76	17.14
CA	1,557	1,537	32,784	34,554	21.05	22.48
IA	917	752	28,883	20,651	31.51	27.46
MN	2,836	3,111	60,955	69,792	21.49	22.43
MO	1,931	1,990	49,279	53,278	25.52	26.77
NC	4,112	3,442	97,455	86,237	23.70	25.06
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	3,196	2,699	61,089	52,831	19.11	19.57
US	22,483	21,334	533,780	507,994	23.74	23.81

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

Young Turkeys (Mature) Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemns, Selected States and United States, March 1996-97

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemns			
	1996	1997	N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----				-- Percent --	
AR	37,053	30,275	824	466	2.03	1.42
CA	26,813	28,093	406	404	1.38	1.30
IA	22,356	16,266	900	507	3.46	2.73
MN	47,868	54,832	1,510	2,033	2.75	3.24
MO	39,118	41,789	1,493	1,258	3.37	2.62
NC	76,901	67,593	1,580	1,483	1.80	1.91
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	48,175	40,361	791	853	1.44	1.79
US	422,330	399,261	10,713	9,927	2.23	2.17

1/ Ready-to-cook weights.

2/ Pounds condemned as percent of equivalent N.Y. dressed weight of quantity inspected. Percentages based on unrounded data.

Young Turkeys (Mature) Slaughtered: Number Condemned Post-Mortem by Cause,
Selected States and United States, March 1997

State	Tuberculosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsacculitis	Synovitis	Tumors
AR	---	---	5,710	402	---	---
CA	---	---	6,438	---	---	7
IA	---	---	---	4,882	---	---
MN	---	24	16,564	6,079	957	---
MO	---	---	23,409	3,348	---	---
NC	---	---	5,998	---	---	---
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	---	---	---	598	---	---
US	---	41	99,076	23,541	5,552	63

State	Bruises	Cadaver	Contamination	Overscald	Other	Total
AR	---	416	1,104	---	899	8,531
CA	---	383	---	---	---	6,828
IA	---	---	---	---	211	5,093
MN	---	---	2,165	339	2,569	28,697
MO	147	237	---	---	1,174	28,315
NC	193	2,139	---	---	1,591	9,921
PA	---	---	---	---	267	267
VA	38	706	298	---	---	1,640
US	1,193	7,646	9,609	1,714	11,899	160,334

Poultry Slaughter Estimates

Data Sources: Primary data for commercial poultry slaughter estimates are obtained from the Poultry Inspection Form (FSIS 6000-21) completed by inspectors of the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), USDA. This form provides actual counts of birds slaughtered in Federally Inspected (FI) plants. Over 99 percent of the total U.S. slaughter for any species is under FI. The FSIS 6000-21 forms collect number of head slaughtered daily under FI by species and class as well as condemnations and total live and dressed weights. Approximately 350 plants in the U.S. are operated under Federal Inspection. Annual totals of poultry slaughtered under State-administered Non-Federal Inspection (NFI) are published in the April release.

Revision Policy: Revisions are generally the result of late reports received by FSIS from plants and are usually less than one-half of 1 percent of the preliminary totals. Revisions for the previous month and year-to-date totals are published in each monthly release. Final data are published in the annual summary released in April and reflect any late reports or corrections which occurred after the monthly revision were published.

Procedures and Reliability: Plant inspectors submit forms (FSIS 6000-21) weekly summarizing the plant's activity. When inconsistencies in the data are detected, the reports are returned to the inspectors for correction. Inspectors correct or validate the report and resubmit it. The reports cover weekly activities through Saturday night and reported data are allocated to the appropriate month as it enters the database.

A NASS computer program provides a review of current data with historical data for each plant. An edit provides checks for the detection of errors such as invalid plant information, duplication, and erroneous data. The program also generates a missing reports listing for a telephone follow-up. Data are summarized weekly and accumulated to a monthly total for this release.

Major slaughter plants with missing reports are adjusted prior to publication to assure that all plants slaughtering a significant portion of a specific class are accounted for each week. Estimates for missing weeks are made only after verifying that the plant was in operation. Adjustments are based on either the previous week's information or a week determined to be similar to the one missing. Late reports replace imputed data as they become available. While there will continue to be a varying degree of incompleteness from month to month, it is expected to have only a minimal impact on the final totals.

Poultry slaughter estimates are based on a census of operating plants and, therefore, have no sampling error. However, they may be subject to errors such as omissions, duplications, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. These errors are minimized through strict quality controls in the edit and summarization process, and a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

Generally, no State data are published if less than three plants operate for a species in a State, or if one plant has 60 percent or more of the total head for that species. These data are included in the U.S. totals.

Definitions Used To Report Federally Inspected Slaughter

Ante-Mortem Condemnations - Birds condemned prior to their entry into the slaughter plant.

Certified Ready-to-Cook - The weight of poultry certified wholesome by inspection after post-mortem condemnation pounds are removed. Ready-to-cook represents poultry meat ready for the marketing channel.

Ducks - Includes all ducks regardless of age and weight.

Fryer-Roaster Turkeys - Young immature birds, usually under 16 weeks of age.

Mature Chickens - Fowl from breeder and market egg flocks and stags and cocks.

New York Dressed Weight - Carcass weight after only feathers and blood are removed. This weight is approximately 90% of live weight.

Old Turkeys (Breeders) - Fully matured birds held for egg production, usually over 15 months of age.

Other Poultry - Includes all other ready-to-cook products which bear the U.S.D.A. Inspected for Wholesomeness legend.

Post-Mortem Condemnations - Carcasses or parts condemned by the inspector because of disease or mishandling and removed from the slaughter line and destroyed.

Young Chickens - Commercially grown broilers-fryers and other young immature birds such as roasters and capons.

Young Turkeys (Mature) - Young birds grown to a matured market age, about 5 months.

Index

	Page
Definitions.....	17
Mature Chickens Number Inspected, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight, U.S., March 1996-1997.....	11
Mature Chickens Post-Mortem Condemnations by Cause, Selected States and U.S., March 1996-1997.....	12
Mature Chickens Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations, U.S., March 1996-1997.....	11
Old Turkeys (Breeders) Post-Mortem Condemnations by Cause, U.S., March 1996-1997.....	15
Poultry Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified (RTC) by Type, U.S., March 1996.....	4
Poultry Slaughter Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem Condemnations by Type, U.S., March 1996.....	6
Poultry Slaughter Number Inspected, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight by Type, U.S., March 1996.....	2
Reliability Statement.....	16
Young Chickens Number Inspected, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight, Selected States and U.S., March 1996-1997.....	8
Young Chickens Post-Mortem Condemnations by Cause, Selected States and U.S., March 1996-1997.....	10
Young Chickens Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations, Selected States and U.S., March 1996-1997.....	9
Young Turkeys (Mature) Number Inspected, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight, Selected States and U.S., March 1996-1997.....	13
Young Turkeys (Mature) Post-Mortem Condemnations by Cause, Selected States and U.S., March 1996-1997.....	14
Young Turkeys (Mature) Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations, Selected States and U.S., March 1996-1997.....	13

The next "Poultry Slaughter" report will be released at 3:00 p.m. ET on June 4, 1997.

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