



NASS

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Poultry Slaughter

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Ready-to-Cook Weight Down 1 Percent from Last Year

Poultry certified wholesome during November 2006 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 3.44 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the amount certified in November 2005. October 2006 revised certified total at 3.77 billion pounds, was up 5 percent from October 2005. The October revision represented an increase of 1.38 million pounds from last month's preliminary pounds certified.

The preliminary total live weight of poultry inspected during November 2006 was 4.65 billion pounds, up slightly from 4.64 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 3.93 billion pounds, down 1 percent from November 2005. Mature chickens, at 64.5 million pounds, were down 1 percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 635 million pounds, up 5 percent from a year ago. Ducks totaled 15.8 million pounds, down 7 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during November 2006 averaged 5.52 pounds per bird, up 1 percent from November 2005. The average live weight of mature chickens was 6.34 pounds per bird, up 10 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during November 2006 averaged 27.1 pounds per bird, up 1 percent from November 2005.

Ante-mortem condemnations during November 2006 totaled 15.3 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.33 percent of the live weight inspected, as compared with 0.33 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 43.2 million pounds, were 1.24 percent of quantities inspected, compared with 1.26 percent a year earlier.

November 2006 contained 22 weekdays (including two holidays) and 4 Saturdays, while November 2005 had 22 weekdays (including two holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

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**Poultry Slaughter: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight by Type,
United States, November, 2005-2006¹**

Commodity	Nov 2005	Oct 2006	Nov 2006	Pct of		January to Date		Pct of 2005
				Nov 2005	Oct 2006	2005	2006	
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Pct</i>	<i>Pct</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Pct</i>
Number Slaughtered								
Chickens								
Young	720,430	774,720	712,255	99	92	8,136,172	8,154,954	100
Mature	11,307	11,246	10,161	90	90	134,837	121,178	90
Light	5,467	4,440	3,663	67	83	67,505	49,820	74
Heavy	5,840	6,806	6,498	111	95	67,332	71,358	106
Total	731,737	785,966	722,416	99	92	8,271,009	8,276,132	100
Turkeys								
Young	22,429	24,730	23,167	103	94	226,447	233,532	103
Old	227	222	244	107	110	2,285	2,394	105
Total	22,656	24,952	23,411	103	94	228,732	235,926	103
Ducks	2,509	2,286	2,362	94	103	25,335	25,688	101
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Pct</i>	<i>Pct</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Pct</i>
Live Weight								
Chickens								
Young	3,953,986	4,325,589	3,929,550	99	91	43,647,513	44,585,760	102
Mature	65,080	69,720	64,470	99	92	767,996	743,076	97
Light	18,139	14,594	12,467	69	85	223,574	166,368	74
Heavy	46,941	55,126	52,003	111	94	544,422	576,708	106
Total	4,019,066	4,395,309	3,994,020	99	91	44,415,509	45,328,836	102
Turkeys								
Young	601,524	677,821	628,982	105	93	6,334,739	6,577,681	104
Old	6,019	6,000	6,410	106	107	59,860	62,908	105
Total	607,543	683,821	635,392	105	93	6,394,599	6,640,589	104
Ducks	17,002	15,319	15,849	93	103	170,456	172,610	101
Other Poultry ²	690	1,539	407	59	26	7,656	5,939	78
Total Poultry	4,644,301	5,095,988	4,645,668	100	91	50,988,220	52,147,974	102
	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pct</i>	<i>Pct</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pct</i>
Avg Live Weight								
Chickens								
Young	5.49	5.58	5.52	101	99	5.36	5.47	102
Mature	5.76	6.20	6.34	110	102	5.70	6.13	108
Light	3.32	3.29	3.40	102	103	3.31	3.34	101
Heavy	8.04	8.10	8.00	100	99	8.09	8.08	100
Total	5.49	5.59	5.53	101	99	5.37	5.48	102
Turkeys								
Young	26.82	27.41	27.15	101	99	27.97	28.17	101
Old	26.52	27.03	26.27	99	97	26.20	26.28	100
Total	26.82	27.41	27.14	101	99	27.96	28.15	101
Ducks	6.78	6.70	6.71	99	100	6.73	6.72	100

¹ Federally inspected only.

² Includes geese, guineas, ostriches, emus, rheas, squab, and any other voluntary poultry.

**Poultry Slaughter: Chilled and Frozen, Pounds Certified by Type,
United States, November, 2005-2006¹**

Commodity	Nov 2005	Oct 2006	Nov 2006	Pct of		January to Date		Pct of 2005
				Nov 2005	Oct 2006	2005	2006	
						1,000 Pounds	1,000 Pounds	
Chilled	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Pct</i>	<i>Pct</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Pct</i>
Chickens								
Young	2,652,060	2,857,271	2,597,700	98	91	29,351,361	29,847,134	102
Mature	39,836	43,397	40,280	101	93	470,534	462,870	98
Light	9,077	7,305	6,414	71	88	114,118	84,768	74
Heavy	30,759	36,092	33,866	110	94	356,416	378,102	106
Total	2,691,896	2,900,668	2,637,980	98	91	29,821,895	30,310,004	102
Turkeys								
Young	291,432	317,038	298,360	102	94	2,860,127	2,934,632	103
Old	3,443	3,637	3,241	94	89	36,494	38,695	106
Total	294,875	320,675	301,601	102	94	2,896,621	2,973,327	103
Ducks	5,950	5,218	5,302	89	102	61,815	61,450	99
Other Poultry ²	173	176	155	90	88	2,291	1,914	84
Total Poultry	2,992,894	3,226,737	2,945,038	98	91	32,782,622	33,346,695	102
Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	290,175	319,160	283,033	98	89	3,096,672	3,159,466	102
Mature	380	608	312	82	51	4,306	4,263	99
Light		51	8		16	8	181	2,263
Heavy	380	557	304	80	55	4,298	4,082	95
Total	290,555	319,768	283,345	98	89	3,100,978	3,163,729	102
Turkeys								
Young	186,811	218,719	198,934	106	91	2,161,116	2,272,848	105
Old	1,160	1,003	1,667	144	166	8,874	9,299	105
Total	187,971	219,722	200,601	107	91	2,169,990	2,282,147	105
Ducks	6,251	5,693	5,996	96	105	60,501	62,092	103
Other Poultry ²	247	703	79	32	11	2,364	1,555	66
Total Poultry	485,024	545,886	490,021	101	90	5,333,833	5,509,523	103
Total Chilled and Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	2,942,235	3,176,431	2,880,733	98	91	32,448,033	33,006,600	102
Mature	40,216	44,005	40,592	101	92	474,840	467,133	98
Light	9,077	7,356	6,422	71	87	114,126	84,949	74
Heavy	31,139	36,649	34,170	110	93	360,714	382,184	106
Total	2,982,451	3,220,436	2,921,325	98	91	32,922,873	33,473,733	102
Turkeys								
Young	478,243	535,757	497,294	104	93	5,021,243	5,207,480	104
Old	4,603	4,640	4,908	107	106	45,368	47,994	106
Total	482,846	540,397	502,202	104	93	5,066,611	5,255,474	104
Ducks	12,201	10,911	11,298	93	104	122,316	123,542	101
Other Poultry ²	420	879	234	56	27	4,655	3,469	75
Total Poultry	3,477,918	3,772,623	3,435,059	99	91	38,116,455	38,856,218	102

¹ Ready-to-cook weights.

² Includes geese, guineas, squab, and any other voluntary poultry.

**Poultry Slaughter: Ante-Mortem Condemnations by Type,
United States, November, 2005-2006¹**

Commodity	Nov 2005	Oct 2006	Nov 2006	Percent of		January to Date		Percent of 2005
				Nov 2005	Oct 2006	2005	2006	
				<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>	
Live Weight								
Chickens								
Young	12,781	12,748	12,875	101	101	154,231	154,856	100
Mature	736	917	809	110	88	11,718	11,121	95
Light	271	270	178	66	66	4,335	3,308	76
Heavy	465	647	631	136	98	7,383	7,813	106
Total	13,517	13,665	13,684	101	100	165,949	165,977	100
Turkeys								
Young	1,508	1,703	1,552	103	91	17,601	19,146	109
Old	52	50	54	104	108	522	706	135
Total	1,560	1,753	1,606	103	92	18,123	19,852	110
Ducks	27	42	38	141	90	357	421	118
Other Poultry	1	4	1	100	25	19	10	53
Total Poultry	15,105	15,464	15,329	101	99	184,448	186,260	101
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Percent of Live Weight Condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.32	0.29	0.33	103	114	0.35	0.35	100
Mature	1.13	1.32	1.25	111	95	1.53	1.50	98
Light	1.49	1.85	1.43	96	77	1.94	1.99	103
Heavy	0.99	1.17	1.21	122	103	1.36	1.35	99
Total	0.34	0.31	0.34	100	110	0.37	0.37	100
Turkeys								
Young	0.25	0.25	0.25	100	100	0.28	0.29	104
Old	0.86	0.83	0.84	98	101	0.87	1.12	129
Total	0.26	0.26	0.25	96	96	0.28	0.30	107
Ducks	0.15	0.27	0.24	160	89	0.21	0.24	114
Other Poultry	0.14	0.26	0.25	179	96	0.25	0.17	68
Total Poultry	0.33	0.30	0.33	100	110	0.36	0.36	100

¹ Federally inspected only.

² Pounds condemned as a percent of live weight pounds inspected.

**Poultry Slaughter: Post-Mortem Condemnations by Type,
United States, November, 2005-2006¹**

Commodity	Nov 2005	Oct 2006	Nov 2006	Percent of		January to Date		Percent of 2005
				Nov 2005	Oct 2006	2005	2006	
				<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>	
Carcass and Parts								
Chickens								
Young	32,365	31,975	31,271	97	98	378,799	375,482	99
Mature	3,136	3,170	2,974	95	94	34,261	32,412	95
Light	1,573	1,240	1,093	69	88	17,214	13,448	78
Heavy	1,563	1,930	1,881	120	97	17,047	18,964	111
Total	35,501	35,145	34,245	96	97	413,060	407,894	99
Turkeys								
Young	7,999	9,274	8,322	104	90	93,847	95,052	101
Old	308	183	259	84	142	3,322	2,610	79
Total	8,307	9,457	8,581	103	91	97,169	97,662	101
Ducks	405	373	355	88	95	4,078	4,175	102
Other Poultry	6	18	5	83	28	78	72	92
Total Poultry	44,219	44,993	43,186	98	96	514,385	509,803	99
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Percent of Weight Condemned²								
Chickens								
Young	1.09	1.00	1.07	99	108	1.15	1.12	97
Mature	7.23	6.72	6.83	94	102	6.73	6.49	96
Light	14.77	14.43	14.54	98	101	13.11	13.67	104
Heavy	4.78	5.00	5.22	109	104	4.51	4.73	105
Total	1.18	1.08	1.16	98	107	1.24	1.20	97
Turkeys								
Young	1.65	1.70	1.65	100	97	1.83	1.79	98
Old	6.27	3.79	5.01	80	132	6.82	5.16	76
Total	1.69	1.72	1.68	99	98	1.88	1.82	97
Ducks	3.21	3.31	3.05	95	92	3.23	3.27	101
Other Poultry	1.41	2.01	2.09	149	104	1.65	2.03	123
Total Poultry	1.26	1.18	1.24	99	105	1.33	1.30	97

¹ Federally inspected only.

² Pounds condemned as a percent of pounds certified plus post-mortem condemnations.

**Young Chickens Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight,
by State and United States, October-November 2006**

State	Number Slaughtered		Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	October	November	October	November	October	November
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>
AL	94,304	87,120	525,535	475,362	5.57	5.46
AR	102,733	90,127	550,985	480,611	5.36	5.33
DE	25,770	24,500	176,118	166,637	6.83	6.80
GA	115,828	106,796	612,448	563,028	5.29	5.27
KY	24,535	23,606	137,986	127,955	5.62	5.42
LA	16,909	15,821	98,652	92,601	5.83	5.85
MD	12,308	11,915	58,934	57,298	4.79	4.81
MS	66,478	62,249	391,488	362,090	5.89	5.82
MO	35,849	32,986	167,136	151,716	4.66	4.60
NC	61,529	54,704	426,754	373,379	6.94	6.83
OH	3,844	3,481	20,578	19,473	5.35	5.59
PA	10,074	9,049	56,673	49,526	5.63	5.47
SC	24,653	23,474	155,969	149,530	6.33	6.37
TN	24,160	21,616	124,832	110,600	5.17	5.12
TX	58,222	53,337	311,813	281,640	5.36	5.28
VA	26,979	25,278	144,552	132,488	5.36	5.24
Oth Sts	70,545	66,196	365,136	335,616	5.18	5.07
US	774,720	712,255	4,325,589	3,929,550	5.58	5.52

**Young Chickens Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations
by State and United States, October-November 2006**

State	Total Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified ¹		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
	October	November	Carcass and Parts		Percent ²	
			October	November	October	November
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	387,476	350,938	3,632	3,603	0.93	1.02
AR	399,708	346,538	4,795	4,660	1.19	1.33
DE	127,326	120,145	1,626	1,532	1.26	1.26
GA	451,781	416,122	3,339	3,464	0.73	0.83
KY	99,622	92,260	1,069	1,030	1.06	1.10
LA	71,680	68,022	408	366	0.57	0.54
MD	42,772	41,858	500	553	1.16	1.30
MS	281,462	260,259	2,981	3,029	1.05	1.15
MO	123,154	111,672	1,084	1,008	0.87	0.89
NC	326,317	283,785	3,719	3,526	1.13	1.23
OH	15,170	14,464	273	243	1.77	1.65
PA	38,671	32,938	796	699	2.02	2.08
SC	116,106	109,949	789	818	0.67	0.74
TN	90,299	79,817	809	787	0.89	0.98
TX	237,482	214,528	2,246	2,194	0.94	1.01
VA	101,155	92,937	795	682	0.78	0.73
Oth Sts	266,250	244,501	3,114	3,077	1.16	1.24
US	3,176,431	2,880,733	31,975	31,271	1.00	1.07

¹ Ready-to-cook weights.

² Pounds condemned as percent of pounds certified plus post-mortem condemnations.

**Chickens Slaughtered: Number Condemned Post-Mortem by Cause, by Type,
by State and United States, October-November 2006**

State	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	October	November	October	November	October	November
	<i>Number of Head</i>					
Young						
AL			130	75	87,495	88,976
AR			590	*	143,778	148,873
DE			1,322	1,284	86,291	75,850
GA			350	315	78,562	76,425
KY			*	*	38,682	36,976
LA			*	*	13,821	12,368
MD			*	278	23,118	25,060
MS			*	*	51,419	48,468
MO			575	514	67,716	69,444
NC			*	*	96,040	87,420
OH					5,821	5,930
PA			91	80	17,393	16,661
SC			102	75	*	9,810
TN			173	139	49,081	48,991
TX			*	*	53,859	54,175
VA			*	*	31,117	26,505
Oth Sts			3,038	2,017	190,989	186,437
US			6,371	4,777	1,035,182	1,018,369
Mature						
Light			1,183	1,180	151,365	141,726
Heavy			481	387	53,087	51,498
US			1,664	1,567	204,452	193,224
State	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	October	November	October	November	October	November
	<i>Number of Head</i>					
Young						
AL	30,005	53,002	639	693	3,236	3,568
AR	26,769	41,733	2,349	1,472	3,083	3,057
DE	17,880	19,979	*	*	*	*
GA	38,479	59,935	285	180	7,419	6,848
KY	*	*	*	38	*	*
LA	4,164	4,317	77	*	426	444
MD	*	*	*	18	*	*
MS	18,490	26,159	158	125	771	814
MO	5,608	8,309	193	232	1,620	1,586
NC	29,552	33,604	*	*	7,354	8,805
OH	*	2,234	8	*	82	80
PA	9,686	13,047	*	*	433	314
SC	*	*	*	*	663	*
TN	12,205	19,083	102	99	632	463
TX	16,858	19,902	136	73	1,224	1,247
VA	7,927	10,044	25	*	*	*
Oth Sts	57,961	85,697	1,725	1,631	21,854	21,103
US	275,584	397,045	5,697	4,561	48,797	48,329
Mature						
Light	43,086	32,551	147	133	52,248	56,913
Heavy	1,985	2,185	83	82	7,075	7,393
US	45,071	34,736	230	215	59,323	64,306

* Included in "Other States" to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

**Chickens Slaughtered: Number Condemned Post-Mortem by Cause, by Type,
by State and United States, October-November 2006**

State	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	October	November	October	November	October	November
	<i>Number of Head</i>					
Young						
AL	2,096	2,167	8,853	9,339	12,256	12,913
AR	4,076	4,228	22,269	18,837	26,566	23,622
DE	1,372	1,236	4,384	3,856	6,513	5,156
GA	1,602	1,468	24,507	23,657	16,587	13,617
KY	173	222	4,086	3,702	5,978	5,531
LA	227	230	2,810	3,119	1,510	1,299
MD	*	*	*	*	*	*
MS	2,090	1,733	3,762	3,972	5,001	4,398
MO	992	948	3,124	2,445	7,502	8,202
NC	1,958	1,790	19,575	17,688	18,163	12,930
OH	*	*	739	*	*	*
PA	548	517	2,255	1,590	4,810	3,788
SC	413	388	2,580	3,002	1,200	1,437
TN	718	766	4,328	4,215	4,358	3,320
TX	774	673	4,320	3,521	6,280	5,597
VA	1,002	873	3,090	2,118	4,216	3,360
Oth Sts	3,582	3,659	16,082	13,639	36,662	33,827
US	21,623	20,898	126,764	114,700	157,602	138,997
Mature						
Light	10,220	9,526	3,201	1,904	90,763	83,426
Heavy	799	1,004	6,685	8,388	11,832	12,614
US	11,019	10,530	9,886	10,292	102,595	96,040
State	Overscald		Other		Total ¹	
	October	November	October	November	October	November
	<i>Number of Head</i>					
Young						
AL	17,175	5,169	111,773	125,433	273,658	301,335
AR	5,892	*	94,207	104,433	329,579	352,388
DE	*	1,862	*	22,321	157,434	137,610
GA	9,471	5,090	76,102	82,139	253,364	269,674
KY	*	*	*	*	*	*
LA	*	56	1,547	2,262	24,683	24,205
MD	1,084	562	*	*	*	*
MS	*	*	73,597	64,729	155,743	151,444
MO	844	611	59,291	46,878	147,465	139,169
NC	5,489	9,398	70,546	67,436	249,506	239,628
OH	*	*	*	*	*	*
PA	*	*	7,807	9,283	43,399	46,094
SC	2,900	*	28,870	*	52,837	51,249
TN	593	309	5,471	5,166	77,661	82,551
TX	*	*	49,071	51,021	135,193	139,181
VA	*	*	*	17,034	67,913	62,484
Oth Sts	15,587	20,494	238,571	217,960	585,073	610,310
US	59,035	43,551	816,853	816,095	2,553,508	2,607,322
Mature						
Light	2,050	1,479	81,438	44,426	435,701	373,264
Heavy	780	1,381	67,550	75,009	150,357	159,941
US	2,830	2,860	148,988	119,435	586,058	533,205

* Included in "Other States" to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

¹ The sum of the individual diseases does not add to total for "Other States."

Young Turkeys Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight, by State and United States, October-November 2006

State	Number Slaughtered		Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	October	November	October	November	October	November
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>
AR	3,154	2,828	60,871	55,504	19.30	19.63
MN	3,396	3,222	88,822	83,149	26.15	25.81
MO	1,663	1,288	50,428	41,316	30.33	32.08
Oth Sts	16,517	15,829	477,700	449,013	28.92	28.37
US	24,730	23,167	677,821	628,982	27.41	27.15

Young Turkeys Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations, by State and United States, October-November 2006

State	Total Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified ¹		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
			Carcass and Parts		Percent ²	
	October	November	October	November	October	November
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AR	48,884	45,016	947	871	1.90	1.90
MN	71,218	66,626	1,353	1,349	1.86	1.98
MO	39,674	32,372	931	726	2.29	2.19
Oth Sts	375,981	353,280	6,043	5,376	1.58	1.50
US	535,757	497,294	9,274	8,322	1.70	1.65

¹ Ready-to-cook weights.

² Pounds condemned as percent of pounds certified plus post-mortem condemnations.

Turkeys Slaughtered: Number Condemned Post-Mortem by Cause, by Type, by State and United States, October-November 2006

Cause	Young		Old	
	October	November	October	November
	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>
Tuberculosis				
Leukosis	58	48		2
Septicaemia	79,484	69,975	1,817	2,333
Airsacculitis	11,371	6,848	179	386
Synovitis	4,763	3,640	1	3
Tumors	149	116	150	117
Bruises	473	568	4	11
Cadaver	4,580	4,751	21	15
Contamination	3,850	3,525	33	74
Overscald	1,590	2,076	5	85
Other	22,895	21,051	214	347
Total	129,213	112,598	2,424	3,373

Reliability of Poultry Slaughter Estimates

Data Sources: Data for poultry slaughter estimates are collected by inspectors of the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), USDA for all Federally Inspected (FI) plants. Over 99 percent of the total U.S. slaughter for any species is under FI. The number of head slaughtered daily, by species and class, as well as condemnations and total live and dressed weights are obtained by shift for each plant. Approximately 320 plants slaughtered poultry in the U.S. under Federal Inspection in 2005. Young chickens were killed in 35 states, young turkeys in 24 states.

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 February and reflect any late reports or corrections which occurred after the monthly revisions were published.

Procedures and Reliability: Plant inspectors submit data electronically for each shift a plant operates. An edit provides checks for the detection of errors such as invalid plant information, duplication, and erroneous data. Data are accumulated to monthly totals for this release.

Data for 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. Estimates for missing shifts are made only after verifying that the plant was in operation. Adjustments are based on a shift determined to be similar to the one missing. Late reports replace imputed data as they become available. While there is a varying degree of incompleteness from month to month, it has only a minimal impact on the published 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.

State data are published for selected states for young chickens and young turkeys. Data for all states not published are included in the "Other States" category. Also included in this category are data for published states that are confidential (denoted by an *). Data for all states are included in the U.S. totals.

Terms and Definitions Used for Poultry Slaughter Estimates:

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. Included with young turkeys.

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

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

Other Poultry Chilled or Frozen - Includes all other ready-to-cook products which bear the USDA 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 - Young birds grown to a matured market age, about 5 months.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information.

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Darin Jantzi, Head, Poultry and Specialty Commodities Section	(202) 720-3570
David Colwell - Cold Storage	(202) 720-8784
Fleming Gibson - Egg Products, Poultry Slaughter, Catfish Processing, Mink, Turkey Hatchery	(202) 690-3237
Darin Jantzi - Turkeys Raised, Catfish Production, Trout Production, Census of Aquaculture	(202) 720-3570
Sharyn Lavender - Layers, Eggs, Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery, Honey	(202) 720-3244

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