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Poultry Slaughter

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Ready-to-Cook Weight Down 2 Percent from Last Year

Poultry certified wholesome during February 2007 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 3.15 billion pounds, down 2 percent from the amount certified in February 2006. January 2007 revised certified total at 3.55 billion pounds, was down slightly from January 2006. The January revision represented an increase of 4.15 million pounds from last month's preliminary pounds certified.

The preliminary total live weight of poultry inspected during February 2007 was 4.26 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 4.30 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 3.63 billion pounds, down 2 percent from February 2006. Mature chickens, at 58.1 million pounds, were down 2 Percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 563 million pounds, up 7 percent from a year ago. Ducks totaled 14.6 million pounds, up slightly from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during February 2007 averaged 5.43 pounds per bird, down slightly from February 2006. The average live weight of mature chickens was 5.91 pounds per bird, up 1 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during February 2007 averaged 28.8 pounds per bird, down 3 percent from February 2006.

Ante-mortem condemnations during February 2007 totaled 16.9 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.40 percent of the live weight inspected, as compared with 0.34 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 46.5 million pounds, were 1.46 percent of quantities inspected, compared with 1.43 percent a year earlier.

February 2007 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays, while February 2006 had 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

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**Poultry Slaughter: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight by Type,
United States, February, 2006-2007¹**

Commodity	Feb 2006	Jan 2007	Feb 2007	Pct of		January to Date		Pct of 2006
				Feb 2006	Jan 2007	2006	2007	
	<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	678,251	749,922	667,518	98	89	1,423,133	1,417,440	100
Mature	10,073	10,728	9,828	98	92	22,675	20,556	91
Light	4,492	4,634	4,322	96	93	10,929	8,956	82
Heavy	5,581	6,094	5,506	99	90	11,746	11,600	99
Total	688,324	760,650	677,346	98	89	1,445,808	1,437,996	99
Turkeys								
Young	17,621	20,565	19,371	110	94	36,142	39,936	110
Old	132	194	133	101	69	320	327	102
Total	17,753	20,759	19,504	110	94	36,462	40,263	110
Ducks	2,148	2,470	2,163	101	88	4,495	4,633	103
	<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	3,696,466	4,121,661	3,626,446	98	88	7,792,189	7,748,107	99
Mature	59,207	63,303	58,121	98	92	129,605	121,424	94
Light	15,204	15,176	14,139	93	93	36,503	29,315	80
Heavy	44,003	48,127	43,982	100	91	93,102	92,109	99
Total	3,755,673	4,184,964	3,684,567	98	88	7,921,794	7,869,531	99
Turkeys								
Young	523,618	609,562	558,942	107	92	1,084,353	1,168,504	108
Old	3,427	5,185	3,637	106	70	8,553	8,822	103
Total	527,045	614,747	562,579	107	92	1,092,906	1,177,326	108
Ducks	14,529	16,676	14,595	100	88	30,411	31,271	103
Other Poultry ²	256	341	276	108	81	556	617	111
Total Poultry	4,297,503	4,816,728	4,262,017	99	88	9,045,667	9,078,745	100
	<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	5.45	5.50	5.43	100	99	5.48	5.47	100
Mature	5.88	5.90	5.91	101	100	5.72	5.91	103
Light	3.38	3.27	3.27	97	100	3.34	3.27	98
Heavy	7.88	7.90	7.99	101	101	7.93	7.94	100
Total	5.46	5.50	5.44	100	99	5.48	5.47	100
Turkeys								
Young	29.72	29.64	28.85	97	97	30.00	29.26	98
Old	25.96	26.73	27.35	105	102	26.73	26.98	101
Total	29.69	29.61	28.84	97	97	29.97	29.24	98
Ducks	6.76	6.75	6.75	100	100	6.77	6.75	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, February, 2006-2007¹**

Commodity	Feb 2006	Jan 2007	Feb 2007	Pct of		January to Date		Pct of 2006
				Feb 2006	Jan 2007	2006	2007	
				<i>Pct</i>	<i>Pct</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	
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	2,486,391	2,735,373	2,401,766	97	88	5,252,938	5,137,139	98
Mature	37,103	39,032	36,077	97	92	79,636	75,109	94
Light	7,933	7,728	7,206	91	93	18,616	14,934	80
Heavy	29,170	31,304	28,871	99	92	61,020	60,175	99
Total	2,523,494	2,774,405	2,437,843	97	88	5,332,574	5,212,248	98
Turkeys								
Young	232,672	273,258	250,600	108	92	477,910	523,858	110
Old	2,180	3,435	2,403	110	70	5,408	5,838	108
Total	234,852	276,693	253,003	108	91	483,318	529,696	110
Ducks	5,246	5,660	4,897	93	87	11,034	10,557	96
Other Poultry ²	131	180	149	114	83	294	329	112
Total Poultry	2,763,723	3,056,938	2,695,892	98	88	5,827,220	5,752,830	99
Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	256,715	279,932	253,381	99	91	539,671	533,313	99
Mature	208	195	210	101	108	640	405	63
Light						2		
Heavy	208	195	210	101	108	638	405	63
Total	256,923	280,127	253,591	99	91	540,311	533,718	99
Turkeys								
Young	180,584	205,769	191,885	106	93	378,321	397,654	105
Old	401	476	350	87	74	1,057	826	78
Total	180,985	206,245	192,235	106	93	379,378	398,480	105
Ducks	5,157	6,222	5,530	107	89	10,720	11,752	110
Other Poultry ²	23	25	22	96	88	42	47	112
Total Poultry	443,088	492,619	451,378	102	92	930,451	943,997	101
Total Chilled and Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	2,743,106	3,015,305	2,655,147	97	88	5,792,609	5,670,452	98
Mature	37,311	39,227	36,287	97	93	80,276	75,514	94
Light	7,933	7,728	7,206	91	93	18,618	14,934	80
Heavy	29,378	31,499	29,081	99	92	61,658	60,580	98
Total	2,780,417	3,054,532	2,691,434	97	88	5,872,885	5,745,966	98
Turkeys								
Young	413,256	479,027	442,485	107	92	856,231	921,512	108
Old	2,581	3,911	2,753	107	70	6,465	6,664	103
Total	415,837	482,938	445,238	107	92	862,696	928,176	108
Ducks	10,403	11,882	10,427	100	88	21,754	22,309	103
Other Poultry ²	154	205	171	111	83	336	376	112
Total Poultry	3,206,811	3,549,557	3,147,270	98	89	6,757,671	6,696,827	99

¹ Ready-to-cook weights.

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

**Poultry Slaughter: Ante-Mortem Condemnations by Type,
United States, February, 2006-2007¹**

Commodity	Feb 2006	Jan 2007	Feb 2007	Percent of		January to Date		Percent of 2006
				Feb 2006	Jan 2007	2006	2007	
				<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>	
Live Weight								
Chickens								
Young	12,355	14,271	13,782	112	97	25,324	28,053	111
Mature	639	855	1,055	165	123	1,410	1,910	135
Light	170	265	457	269	172	462	722	156
Heavy	469	590	598	128	101	948	1,188	125
Total	12,994	15,126	14,837	114	98	26,734	29,963	112
Turkeys								
Young	1,659	1,944	2,024	122	104	3,359	3,968	118
Old	28	104	48	171	46	71	152	214
Total	1,687	2,048	2,072	123	101	3,430	4,120	120
Ducks	28	35	31	111	89	56	66	118
Total Poultry	14,709	17,209	16,940	115	98	30,220	34,149	113
	<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	0.33	0.35	0.38	115	109	0.32	0.36	113
Mature	1.08	1.35	1.82	169	135	1.09	1.57	144
Light	1.12	1.75	3.23	288	185	1.27	2.46	194
Heavy	1.07	1.23	1.36	127	111	1.02	1.29	126
Total	0.35	0.36	0.40	114	111	0.34	0.38	112
Turkeys								
Young	0.32	0.32	0.36	113	113	0.31	0.34	110
Old	0.82	2.01	1.32	161	66	0.83	1.72	207
Total	0.32	0.33	0.37	116	112	0.31	0.35	113
Ducks	0.19	0.21	0.21	111	100	0.18	0.21	117
Total Poultry	0.34	0.36	0.40	118	111	0.33	0.38	115

¹ Federally inspected only.

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

**Poultry Slaughter: Post-Mortem Condemnations by Type,
United States, February, 2006-2007¹**

Commodity	Feb 2006	Jan 2007	Feb 2007	Percent of		January to Date		Percent of 2006
				Feb 2006	Jan 2007	2006	2007	
				<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>	
Carcass and Parts								
Chickens								
Young	35,413	35,474	34,663	98	98	72,230	70,137	97
Mature	2,500	2,870	2,901	116	101	5,814	5,771	99
Light	1,175	1,182	1,191	101	101	2,905	2,373	82
Heavy	1,325	1,688	1,710	129	101	2,909	3,398	117
Total	37,913	38,344	37,564	99	98	78,044	75,908	97
Turkeys								
Young	8,057	8,752	8,433	105	96	16,579	17,185	104
Old	186	323	214	115	66	421	537	128
Total	8,243	9,075	8,647	105	95	17,000	17,722	104
Ducks	399	387	307	77	79	800	694	87
Other Poultry	3	4	3	100	75	6	7	117
Total Poultry	46,558	47,810	46,521	100	97	95,850	94,331	98
	<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	1.27	1.16	1.29	101	111	1.23	1.22	99
Mature	6.28	6.82	7.40	118	109	6.75	7.10	105
Light	12.90	13.27	14.18	110	107	13.50	13.71	102
Heavy	4.32	5.09	5.55	129	109	4.51	5.31	118
Total	1.35	1.24	1.38	102	111	1.31	1.30	99
Turkeys								
Young	1.91	1.79	1.87	98	104	1.90	1.83	96
Old	6.72	7.63	7.21	107	95	6.11	7.46	122
Total	1.94	1.84	1.91	98	103	1.93	1.87	97
Ducks	3.69	3.15	2.86	77	91	3.55	3.02	85
Other Poultry	1.91	1.91	1.72	90	90	1.75	1.83	104
Total Poultry	1.43	1.33	1.46	102	110	1.40	1.39	99

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, January 2007-February 2007**

State	Number Slaughtered		Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	January	February	January	February	January	February
	<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	86,216	80,385	475,117	442,681	5.51	5.51
AR	97,679	85,545	506,849	443,282	5.19	5.18
DE	27,122	22,830	184,859	149,858	6.82	6.56
GA	110,255	100,056	573,752	516,524	5.20	5.16
KY	23,945	21,674	128,399	116,036	5.36	5.35
LA	15,995	14,482	92,588	84,406	5.79	5.83
MD	12,074	10,506	58,125	47,849	4.81	4.55
MS	62,488	58,415	355,899	325,888	5.70	5.58
MO	33,598	31,240	157,535	143,997	4.69	4.61
NC	63,583	52,759	437,394	356,817	6.88	6.76
OH	3,924	3,600	21,115	19,798	5.38	5.50
PA	10,551	9,104	56,923	48,913	5.39	5.37
SC	24,121	21,881	153,247	136,175	6.35	6.22
TN	23,402	20,020	120,405	99,177	5.14	4.95
TX	55,126	47,976	290,442	249,767	5.27	5.21
VA	27,170	23,293	140,409	120,484	5.17	5.17
Oth Sts	72,673	63,752	368,603	324,794	5.07	5.09
US	749,922	667,518	4,121,661	3,626,446	5.50	5.43

**Young Chickens Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations
by State and United States, January 2007-February 2007**

State	Total Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified ¹		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
			Carcass and Parts		Percent ²	
	January	February	January	February	January	February
	<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	350,545	325,975	4,050	4,199	1.14	1.27
AR	363,142	318,051	5,216	4,656	1.42	1.44
DE	133,488	107,866	2,047	2,037	1.51	1.85
GA	424,585	381,833	3,994	4,410	0.93	1.14
KY	92,363	83,359	832	895	0.89	1.06
LA	67,636	61,835	384	368	0.56	0.59
MD	42,436	34,819	653	657	1.52	1.85
MS	251,566	232,708	2,869	2,893	1.13	1.23
MO	115,775	105,977	1,314	1,295	1.12	1.21
NC	332,945	273,307	4,504	3,874	1.33	1.40
OH	15,350	14,569	316	322	2.02	2.16
PA	38,376	33,301	820	827	2.09	2.42
SC	112,552	100,069	994	945	0.88	0.94
TN	86,914	71,617	940	850	1.07	1.17
TX	220,533	190,108	2,343	2,191	1.05	1.14
VA	98,099	84,142	873	879	0.88	1.03
Oth Sts	269,000	235,611	3,325	3,365	1.22	1.41
US	3,015,305	2,655,147	35,474	34,663	1.16	1.29

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, January 2007-February 2007**

State	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	January	February	January	February	January	February
	<i>Number of Head</i>					
Young						
AL			74	119	88,997	85,329
AR			649	*	191,495	177,404
DE			1,693	2,231	97,586	95,754
GA			352	670	92,271	89,897
KY			*	*	36,107	35,910
LA			42	*	13,650	13,407
MD			275	*	*	*
MS			*	*	46,355	51,751
MO			453	*	89,477	84,621
NC			621	*	102,096	85,799
OH			*	*	6,911	7,063
PA			*	48	22,963	21,995
SC			*	*	9,960	11,337
TN			116	161	52,271	46,316
TX			45	*	62,846	56,212
VA			*	*	34,058	32,165
Oth Sts			1,861	3,929	227,629	239,022
US			6,181	7,158	1,174,672	1,133,982
Mature						
Light			1,762	1,481	134,933	136,037
Heavy			227	308	44,633	40,005
US			1,989	1,789	179,566	176,042
State	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	January	February	January	February	January	February
	<i>Number of Head</i>					
Young						
AL	89,209	113,410	541	676	3,985	3,646
AR	63,033	64,083	1,940	2,328	3,297	2,980
DE	36,281	50,563	*	*	*	10,433
GA	147,122	217,336	181	473	8,132	6,988
KY	*	17,347	*	*	*	*
LA	6,076	7,127	68	*	464	471
MD	*	*	41	41	*	*
MS	33,635	49,436	99	112	812	925
MO	14,886	16,792	270	470	1,848	1,882
NC	58,700	66,393	*	69	*	*
OH	2,005	2,601	*	7	145	150
PA	16,361	15,417	*	*	416	337
SC	*	*	20	*	*	*
TN	25,818	23,111	46	*	611	605
TX	28,212	28,257	63	85	1,447	1,119
VA	18,901	22,732	44	*	*	*
Oth Sts	115,627	98,444	1,521	1,763	42,413	37,042
US	655,866	793,049	4,834	6,024	63,570	66,578
Mature						
Light	27,182	27,294	133	223	61,590	61,149
Heavy	2,647	2,094	79	59	6,333	5,239
US	29,829	29,388	212	282	67,923	66,388

* 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, January 2007-February 2007**

State	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	January	February	January	February	January	February
	<i>Number of Head</i>					
Young						
AL	2,142	1,812	7,899	7,792	9,649	7,912
AR	3,994	4,008	15,533	14,762	23,526	23,548
DE	1,617	1,288	4,664	5,090	5,731	5,538
GA	1,968	1,910	27,195	32,141	11,666	12,227
KY	237	210	4,298	4,323	6,306	4,550
LA	198	192	2,342	2,460	1,177	948
MD	*	*	3,388	2,998	*	*
MS	1,596	1,566	3,929	4,643	3,884	4,154
MO	1,035	881	5,427	5,832	8,810	8,962
NC	2,137	1,791	21,971	18,501	16,637	14,716
OH	*	*	979	2,177	302	301
PA	697	825	1,871	2,071	4,888	5,328
SC	514	*	2,532	2,282	*	*
TN	562	498	*	3,863	3,693	3,142
TX	636	595	6,223	6,513	6,651	6,130
VA	871	968	2,663	3,117	4,228	3,920
Oth Sts	3,786	3,700	17,591	14,794	32,997	30,452
US	21,990	20,244	128,505	133,359	140,145	131,828
Mature						
Light	17,600	12,951	2,286	2,496	83,448	73,846
Heavy	935	842	7,134	5,517	10,005	9,317
US	18,535	13,793	9,420	8,013	93,453	83,163
State	Overscald		Other		Total ¹	
	January	February	January	February	January	February
	<i>Number of Head</i>					
Young						
AL	12,091	9,591	152,426	164,102	367,013	394,389
AR	10,881	*	121,296	102,683	435,644	400,440
DE	*	*	37,589	*	199,564	220,389
GA	4,927	8,105	79,432	114,288	373,246	484,035
KY	692	*	*	47,360	*	117,244
LA	27	39	4,093	1,571	28,137	26,323
MD	376	*	*	*	*	*
MS	*	*	101,355	93,672	192,618	207,531
MO	647	*	75,639	65,803	198,492	187,809
NC	6,665	6,891	69,374	69,727	292,859	281,114
OH	*	*	*	*	*	*
PA	*	*	10,474	10,475	58,293	57,324
SC	1,898	2,803	44,280	42,789	74,597	76,400
TN	*	*	*	5,360	95,760	84,388
TX	2,811	*	48,259	51,913	157,193	152,794
VA	*	*	19,065	21,352	84,710	90,373
Oth Sts	13,626	32,666	210,393	228,937	665,953	591,796
US	54,641	60,095	973,675	1,020,032	3,224,079	3,372,349
Mature						
Light	219	444	83,736	105,499	412,889	421,420
Heavy	777	199	84,213	87,753	156,983	151,333
US	996	643	167,949	193,252	569,872	572,753

* 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, January 2007-February 2007

State	Number Slaughtered		Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	January	February	January	February	January	February
	<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	2,874	2,866	56,575	54,081	19.69	18.87
MN	2,739	2,655	73,959	71,357	27.00	26.87
MO	1,384	1,332	44,000	42,556	31.79	31.94
Oth Sts	13,568	12,518	435,028	390,948	32.06	31.23
US	20,565	19,371	609,562	558,942	29.64	28.85

Young Turkeys Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations, by State and United States, January 2007-February 2007

State	Total Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified ¹		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
			Carcass and Parts		Percent ²	
	January	February	January	February	January	February
	<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	45,652	44,375	945	871	2.03	1.93
MN	58,621	56,877	1,220	1,328	2.04	2.28
MO	34,562	33,371	752	738	2.13	2.16
Oth Sts	340,192	307,862	5,835	5,496	1.69	1.75
US	479,027	442,485	8,752	8,433	1.79	1.87

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, United States, January 2007-February 2007

Cause	Young		Old	
	January	February	January	February
	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>
Tuberculosis				
Leukosis	143	48		
Septicaemia	62,763	69,237	2,556	1,258
Airsacculitis	9,193	9,230	452	267
Synovitis	3,899	3,932	37	4
Tumors	132	80	163	115
Bruises	350	437	19	16
Cadaver	3,327	2,710	34	28
Contamination	3,259	2,924	89	129
Overscald	987	1,418	6	3
Other	23,703	20,921	2,170	2,889
Total	107,756	110,937	5,526	4,709

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 305 plants slaughtered poultry in the U.S. under Federal Inspection in 2005. Young chickens were slaughtered in 35 States, young turkeys in 26 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 included. 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 using 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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David Colwell - Cold Storage	(202) 720-8784
Fleming Gibson - Egg Products, Poultry Slaughter, Catfish Processing, Mink	(202) 690-3237
Sharyn Lavender - Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery, Honey	(202) 720-3244
Toby Paterson - Catfish Production, Trout Production, Census of Aquaculture, Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised	(202) 720-0585

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