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Poultry Slaughter

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Ready-to-Cook Weight Down 7 Percent from Last Year

Poultry certified wholesome during March 2007 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 3.44 billion pounds, down 7 percent from the amount certified in March 2006. February 2007 revised certified total at 3.15 billion pounds, was down 2 percent from February 2006. The February revision represented an increase of 765 thousand pounds from last month's preliminary pounds certified.

The preliminary total live weight of poultry inspected during March 2007 was 4.65 billion pounds, down 6 percent from 4.94 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 3.96 billion pounds, down 6 percent from March 2006. Mature chickens, at 63.4 million pounds, were down 11 percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 610 million pounds, down 2 percent from a year ago. Ducks totaled 15.9 million pounds, down 7 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during March 2007 averaged 5.45 pounds per bird, up slightly from March 2006. The average live weight of mature chickens was 5.81 pounds per bird, down 5 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during March 2007 averaged 28.7 pounds per bird, up slightly from March 2006.

Ante-mortem condemnations during March 2007 totaled 15.2 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.33 percent of the live weight inspected, unchanged from last year. Post-mortem condemnations, at 48.0 million pounds, were 1.38 percent of quantities inspected, compared with 1.40 percent a year earlier.

March 2007 contained 22 weekdays and 5 Saturdays, while March 2006 had 23 weekdays and 4 Saturdays.

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

Commodity	Mar 2006	Feb 2007	Mar 2007	Pct of		January to Date		Pct of 2006
				Mar 2006	Feb 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	777,546	667,643	726,260	93	109	2,200,679	2,143,825	97
Mature	11,617	9,828	10,914	94	111	34,292	31,470	92
Light	4,624	4,322	4,992	108	116	15,553	13,948	90
Heavy	6,993	5,506	5,922	85	108	18,739	17,522	94
Total	789,163	677,471	737,174	93	109	2,234,971	2,175,295	97
Turkeys								
Young	21,544	19,381	21,104	98	109	57,686	61,050	106
Old	202	133	148	73	111	522	475	91
Total	21,746	19,514	21,252	98	109	58,208	61,525	106
Ducks	2,520	2,163	2,382	95	110	7,015	7,015	100
	<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	4,232,102	3,627,137	3,960,780	94	109	12,024,291	11,709,578	97
Mature	71,360	58,121	63,433	89	109	200,965	184,857	92
Light	15,357	14,139	16,244	106	115	51,860	45,559	88
Heavy	56,003	43,982	47,189	84	107	149,105	139,298	93
Total	4,303,462	3,685,258	4,024,213	94	109	12,225,256	11,894,435	97
Turkeys								
Young	615,810	559,188	605,867	98	108	1,700,163	1,774,617	104
Old	5,493	3,637	3,798	69	104	14,046	12,620	90
Total	621,303	562,825	609,665	98	108	1,714,209	1,787,237	104
Ducks	17,162	14,595	15,939	93	109	47,573	47,210	99
Other Poultry ²	312	276	292	94	106	868	909	105
Total Poultry	4,942,239	4,262,954	4,650,109	94	109	13,987,906	13,729,791	98
	<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	5.44	5.43	5.45	100	100	5.46	5.46	100
Mature	6.14	5.91	5.81	95	98	5.86	5.87	100
Light	3.32	3.27	3.25	98	99	3.33	3.27	98
Heavy	8.01	7.99	7.97	100	100	7.96	7.95	100
Total	5.45	5.44	5.46	100	100	5.47	5.47	100
Turkeys								
Young	28.58	28.85	28.71	100	100	29.47	29.07	99
Old	27.19	27.35	25.66	94	94	26.91	26.57	99
Total	28.57	28.84	28.69	100	99	29.45	29.05	99
Ducks	6.81	6.75	6.69	98	99	6.78	6.73	99

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, March, 2006-2007¹**

Commodity	Mar 2006	Feb 2007	Mar 2007	Pct of		January to Date		Pct of 2006
				Mar 2006	Feb 2007	2006	2007	
						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	2,850,528	2,402,340	2,619,853	92	109	8,103,466	7,757,566	96
Mature	45,051	36,077	39,116	87	108	124,687	114,225	92
Light	8,017	7,206	8,187	102	114	26,633	23,121	87
Heavy	37,034	28,871	30,929	84	107	98,054	91,104	93
Total	2,895,579	2,438,417	2,658,969	92	109	8,228,153	7,871,791	96
Turkeys								
Young	278,362	250,600	286,781	103	114	756,272	810,639	107
Old	3,404	2,403	2,654	78	110	8,812	8,492	96
Total	281,766	253,003	289,435	103	114	765,084	819,131	107
Ducks	6,224	4,897	5,273	85	108	17,258	15,830	92
Other Poultry ²	163	149	157	96	105	457	486	106
Total Poultry	3,183,732	2,696,466	2,953,834	93	110	9,010,952	8,707,238	97
Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	294,381	253,381	283,023	96	112	834,052	816,336	98
Mature	481	210	344	72	164	1,121	749	67
Light	40					42		
Heavy	441	210	344	78	164	1,079	749	69
Total	294,862	253,591	283,367	96	112	835,173	817,085	98
Turkeys								
Young	209,530	192,076	191,995	92	100	587,851	589,840	100
Old	703	350	246	35	70	1,760	1,072	61
Total	210,233	192,426	192,241	91	100	589,611	590,912	100
Ducks	6,031	5,530	6,155	102	111	16,751	17,907	107
Other Poultry ²	28	22	21	75	95	70	68	97
Total Poultry	511,154	451,569	481,784	94	107	1,441,605	1,425,972	99
Total Chilled and Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	3,144,909	2,655,721	2,902,876	92	109	8,937,518	8,573,902	96
Mature	45,532	36,287	39,460	87	109	125,808	114,974	91
Light	8,057	7,206	8,187	102	114	26,675	23,121	87
Heavy	37,475	29,081	31,273	83	108	99,133	91,853	93
Total	3,190,441	2,692,008	2,942,336	92	109	9,063,326	8,688,876	96
Turkeys								
Young	487,892	442,676	478,776	98	108	1,344,123	1,400,479	104
Old	4,107	2,753	2,900	71	105	10,572	9,564	90
Total	491,999	445,429	481,676	98	108	1,354,695	1,410,043	104
Ducks	12,255	10,427	11,428	93	110	34,009	33,737	99
Other Poultry ²	191	171	178	93	104	527	554	105
Total Poultry	3,694,886	3,148,035	3,435,618	93	109	10,452,557	10,133,210	97

¹ Ready-to-cook weights.

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

**Poultry Slaughter: Ante-Mortem Condemnations by Type,
United States, March, 2006-2007 ¹**

Commodity	Mar 2006	Feb 2007	Mar 2007	Percent of		January to Date		Percent of 2006
				Mar 2006	Feb 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	13,382	13,783	12,402	93	90	38,706	40,456	105
Mature	794	1,055	886	112	84	2,204	2,796	127
Light	190	457	319	168	70	652	1,041	160
Heavy	604	598	567	94	95	1,552	1,755	113
Total	14,176	14,838	13,288	94	90	40,910	43,252	106
Turkeys								
Young	1,905	2,025	1,874	98	93	5,264	5,843	111
Old	77	48	38	49	79	148	190	128
Total	1,982	2,073	1,912	96	92	5,412	6,033	111
Ducks	32	31	30	94	97	88	96	109
Total Poultry	16,190	16,942	15,230	94	90	46,410	49,381	106
	<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	0.38	0.31	97	82	0.32	0.35	109
Mature	1.11	1.82	1.40	126	77	1.10	1.51	137
Light	1.24	3.23	1.96	158	61	1.26	2.28	181
Heavy	1.08	1.36	1.20	111	88	1.04	1.26	121
Total	0.33	0.40	0.33	100	83	0.33	0.36	109
Turkeys								
Young	0.31	0.36	0.31	100	86	0.31	0.33	106
Old	1.40	1.32	1.00	71	76	1.05	1.51	144
Total	0.32	0.37	0.31	97	84	0.32	0.34	106
Ducks	0.19	0.21	0.19	100	90	0.18	0.20	111
Total Poultry	0.33	0.40	0.33	100	83	0.33	0.36	109

¹ Federally inspected only.

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

**Poultry Slaughter: Post-Mortem Condemnations by Type,
United States, March, 2006-2007 ¹**

Commodity	Mar 2006	Feb 2007	Mar 2007	Percent of		January to Date		Percent of 2006
				Mar 2006	Feb 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	39,283	34,679	35,736	91	103	111,513	105,889	95
Mature	3,005	2,901	2,803	93	97	8,819	8,574	97
Light	1,134	1,191	1,184	104	99	4,039	3,557	88
Heavy	1,871	1,710	1,619	87	95	4,780	5,017	105
Total	42,288	37,580	38,539	91	103	120,332	114,463	95
Turkeys								
Young	9,405	8,438	8,902	95	105	25,984	26,092	100
Old	275	214	199	72	93	696	736	106
Total	9,680	8,652	9,101	94	105	26,680	26,828	101
Ducks	440	307	315	72	103	1,240	1,009	81
Other Poultry	3	3	3	100	100	9	10	111
Total Poultry	52,411	46,542	47,958	92	103	148,261	142,310	96
	<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 Condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	1.23	1.29	1.22	99	94	1.23	1.22	99
Mature	6.19	7.40	6.63	107	90	6.55	6.94	106
Light	12.34	14.18	12.63	102	89	13.15	13.33	101
Heavy	4.76	5.55	4.92	104	89	4.60	5.18	113
Total	1.31	1.38	1.29	99	94	1.31	1.30	99
Turkeys								
Young	1.89	1.87	1.83	97	98	1.90	1.83	96
Old	6.28	7.21	6.42	102	89	6.18	7.15	116
Total	1.93	1.91	1.85	96	97	1.93	1.87	97
Ducks	3.47	2.86	2.68	77	94	3.52	2.90	83
Other Poultry	1.55	1.72	1.66	107	96	1.68	1.77	106
Total Poultry	1.40	1.46	1.38	98	94	1.40	1.38	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, February 2007-March 2007**

State	Number Slaughtered		Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	February	March	February	March	February	March
	<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	80,385	85,195	442,780	467,352	5.51	5.49
AR	85,545	93,131	443,282	485,345	5.18	5.21
DE	22,830	25,127	149,858	166,508	6.56	6.63
GA	100,056	107,320	516,524	563,822	5.16	5.25
KY	21,674	24,697	116,036	133,513	5.35	5.41
LA	14,482	15,406	84,406	89,601	5.83	5.82
MD	10,506	11,117	47,849	53,437	4.55	4.81
MS	58,415	64,758	325,888	354,671	5.58	5.48
MO	31,240	34,954	143,997	160,425	4.61	4.59
NC	52,884	58,743	357,600	399,853	6.76	6.81
OH	3,600	3,974	19,798	22,032	5.50	5.54
PA	9,104	10,297	48,913	55,658	5.37	5.41
SC	21,881	23,996	136,175	148,016	6.22	6.17
TN	20,020	22,721	99,177	114,364	4.95	5.03
TX	47,976	52,286	249,576	269,908	5.20	5.16
VA	23,293	25,935	120,484	133,419	5.17	5.14
Oth Sts	63,752	66,603	324,794	342,856	5.09	5.15
US	667,643	726,260	3,627,137	3,960,780	5.43	5.45

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

State	Total Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified ¹		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
	February	March	Carcass and Parts		Percent ²	
			February	March	February	March
	<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	325,975	345,054	4,199	3,765	1.27	1.08
AR	318,051	348,198	4,656	4,675	1.44	1.32
DE	107,866	119,863	2,037	2,064	1.85	1.69
GA	381,833	418,044	4,410	4,689	1.14	1.11
KY	83,359	95,768	895	1,085	1.06	1.12
LA	61,835	65,875	368	422	0.59	0.64
MD	34,819	38,907	657	608	1.85	1.54
MS	232,708	252,614	2,893	3,015	1.23	1.18
MO	105,977	117,746	1,295	1,470	1.21	1.23
NC	273,881	305,181	3,890	4,166	1.40	1.35
OH	14,569	16,215	322	394	2.16	2.37
PA	33,301	37,770	827	1,059	2.42	2.73
SC	100,069	108,866	945	943	0.94	0.86
TN	71,617	82,329	850	1,051	1.17	1.26
TX	190,108	206,858	2,191	2,284	1.14	1.09
VA	84,142	93,218	879	821	1.03	0.87
Oth Sts	235,611	250,370	3,365	3,225	1.41	1.27
US	2,655,721	2,902,876	34,679	35,736	1.29	1.22

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, February 2007-March 2007**

State	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	February	March	February	March	February	March
	<i>Number of Head</i>					
Young						
AL			119	*	85,329	77,757
AR			*	*	177,404	169,236
DE			2,231	1,812	95,754	92,679
GA			670	471	89,897	90,311
KY			*	*	35,910	44,907
LA			*	33	13,407	14,754
MD			*	*	*	*
MS			*	*	51,751	46,114
MO			*	437	84,621	88,016
NC			*	*	86,194	90,355
OH			*	*	7,063	11,116
PA			48	30	21,995	24,519
SC			*	*	11,337	*
TN			161	84	46,316	51,141
TX			*	57	56,212	53,129
VA			*	*	32,165	30,601
Oth Sts			3,929	3,262	239,022	234,134
US			7,158	6,186	1,134,377	1,118,769
Mature						
Light			1,481	1,764	136,037	148,334
Heavy			308	429	40,005	39,388
US			1,789	2,193	176,042	187,722
State	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	February	March	February	March	February	March
	<i>Number of Head</i>					
Young						
AL	113,410	89,099	676	763	3,646	*
AR	64,083	46,630	2,328	1,688	2,980	3,028
DE	50,563	48,767	*	*	10,433	8,773
GA	217,336	243,246	473	246	6,988	7,285
KY	17,347	*	*	*	*	*
LA	7,127	7,783	*	*	471	370
MD	*	*	41	43	*	*
MS	49,436	*	112	165	925	989
MO	16,792	17,637	470	294	1,882	1,752
NC	66,482	61,647	69	*	*	*
OH	2,601	*	7	*	150	132
PA	15,417	18,429	*	*	337	441
SC	*	*	*	46	*	*
TN	23,111	30,325	*	*	605	579
TX	28,257	24,066	85	*	1,119	1,164
VA	22,732	17,597	*	29	*	*
Oth Sts	98,444	176,154	1,763	2,224	37,046	39,888
US	793,138	781,380	6,024	5,498	66,582	64,401
Mature						
Light	27,294	21,580	223	180	61,149	70,462
Heavy	2,094	2,150	59	58	5,239	6,108
US	29,388	23,730	282	238	66,388	76,570

* 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, February 2007-March 2007**

State	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	February	March	February	March	February	March
	<i>Number of Head</i>					
Young						
AL	1,812	1,968	7,792	7,478	7,912	8,300
AR	4,008	4,484	14,762	11,573	23,548	23,544
DE	1,288	1,705	5,090	4,521	5,538	6,821
GA	1,910	2,057	32,141	25,974	12,227	11,725
KY	210	169	4,323	4,793	4,550	*
LA	192	201	2,460	2,380	948	737
MD	*	*	2,998	1,929	*	*
MS	1,566	1,391	4,643	4,073	4,154	5,321
MO	881	1,125	5,832	3,627	8,962	12,919
NC	1,801	2,160	18,576	20,785	14,881	14,977
OH	*	121	2,177	1,763	301	378
PA	825	696	2,071	2,267	5,328	4,451
SC	*	427	2,282	2,894	*	1,700
TN	498	621	3,863	3,535	3,142	4,158
TX	595	562	6,513	4,199	6,130	7,093
VA	968	1,133	3,117	3,210	3,920	3,832
Oth Sts	3,700	3,193	14,794	13,622	30,452	38,922
US	20,254	22,013	133,434	118,623	131,993	144,878
Mature						
Light	12,951	13,656	2,496	2,835	73,846	88,826
Heavy	842	837	5,517	6,781	9,317	8,974
US	13,793	14,493	8,013	9,616	83,163	97,800
State	Overscald		Other		Total ¹	
	February	March	February	March	February	March
	<i>Number of Head</i>					
Young						
AL	9,591	5,763	164,102	150,490	394,389	345,930
AR	*	*	102,683	87,191	400,440	364,108
DE	*	*	*	39,317	220,389	210,421
GA	8,105	6,201	114,288	119,490	484,035	507,006
KY	*	*	47,360	*	117,244	*
LA	39	*	1,571	*	26,323	29,025
MD	*	265	*	*	*	*
MS	*	682	93,672	97,569	207,531	221,220
MO	*	177	65,803	89,438	187,809	215,422
NC	6,895	10,244	69,830	79,128	281,959	296,977
OH	*	*	*	*	*	*
PA	*	*	10,475	11,073	57,324	62,898
SC	2,803	3,830	42,789	36,269	76,400	70,720
TN	*	*	5,360	13,486	84,388	106,189
TX	*	*	51,913	38,263	152,794	130,435
VA	*	*	21,352	16,571	90,373	79,646
Oth Sts	32,666	36,018	228,937	244,470	591,796	707,686
US	60,099	63,180	1,020,135	1,022,755	3,373,194	3,347,683
Mature						
Light	444	486	105,499	82,618	421,420	430,741
Heavy	199	661	87,753	91,989	151,333	157,375
US	643	1,147	193,252	174,607	572,753	588,116

* 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, February 2007-March 2007

State	Number Slaughtered		Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	February	March	February	March	February	March
	<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	2,866	2,933	54,081	56,639	18.87	19.31
MN	2,655	2,836	71,357	79,420	26.87	28.00
MO	1,332	1,360	42,556	42,205	31.94	31.04
Oth Sts	12,528	13,975	391,194	427,603	31.23	30.60
US	19,381	21,104	559,188	605,867	28.85	28.71

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

State	Total Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified ¹		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
			Carcass and Parts		Percent ²	
	February	March	February	March	February	March
	<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	44,375	46,197	871	1,078	1.93	2.28
MN	56,877	63,149	1,328	1,409	2.28	2.18
MO	33,371	33,181	738	723	2.16	2.13
Oth Sts	308,053	336,249	5,501	5,692	1.75	1.66
US	442,676	478,776	8,438	8,902	1.87	1.83

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, February 2007-March 2007

Cause	Young		Old	
	February	March	February	March
	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>
Tuberculosis				
Leukosis	48	17		
Septicaemia	69,384	69,534	1,258	1,699
Airsacculitis	9,273	11,817	267	374
Synovitis	3,934	4,172	4	15
Tumors	80	58	115	159
Bruises	441	392	16	10
Cadaver	2,755	2,403	28	28
Contamination	2,931	2,867	129	57
Overscald	1,418	1,825	3	39
Other	20,941	25,367	2,889	813
Total	111,205	118,452	4,709	3,194

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 2006. 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
Darin Jantzi - Layers, Eggs	(202) 720-3570
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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