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Poultry Slaughter

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

Poultry certified wholesome during April 2007 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 3.38 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the amount certified in April 2006. The March 2007 revised certified total at 3.44 billion pounds, was down 7 percent from March 2006. The March revision represented an increase of 10 thousand pounds from last month's preliminary pounds certified.

The preliminary total live weight of poultry inspected during April 2007 was 4.59 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 4.42 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 3.93 billion pounds, up 4 percent from April 2006. Mature chickens, at 61.7 million pounds, were down 4 percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 584 million pounds, up 7 percent from a year ago. Ducks totaled 15.4 million pounds, down 4 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during April 2007 averaged 5.50 pounds per bird, up 1 percent from April 2006. The average live weight of mature chickens was 5.86 pounds per bird, down 3 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during April 2007 averaged 28.6 pounds per bird, up 1 percent from April 2006.

Ante-mortem condemnations during April 2007 totaled 14.7 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.32 percent of the live weight inspected, compared with 0.32 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 45.1 million pounds, were 1.32 percent of quantities inspected, compared with 1.36 percent a year earlier.

April 2007 contained 21 weekdays and 4 Saturdays, while April 2006 had 20 weekdays and 5 Saturdays.

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

Commodity	Apr 2006	Mar 2007	Apr 2007	Pct of		January to Date		Pct of 2006
				Apr 2006	Mar 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	694,231	726,260	713,870	103	98	2,894,910	2,857,695	99
Mature	10,698	10,914	10,522	98	96	44,990	41,992	93
Light	4,647	4,992	4,745	102	95	20,200	18,693	93
Heavy	6,051	5,922	5,777	95	98	24,790	23,299	94
Total	704,929	737,174	724,392	103	98	2,939,900	2,899,687	99
Turkeys								
Young	19,141	21,104	20,330	106	96	76,827	81,380	106
Old	240	148	132	55	89	762	607	80
Total	19,381	21,252	20,462	106	96	77,589	81,987	106
Ducks	2,289	2,382	2,283	100	96	9,304	9,298	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	3,787,424	3,960,780	3,928,135	104	99	15,811,715	15,637,713	99
Mature	64,476	63,433	61,672	96	97	265,441	246,529	93
Light	15,512	16,244	15,562	100	96	67,372	61,121	91
Heavy	48,964	47,189	46,110	94	98	198,069	185,408	94
Total	3,851,900	4,024,213	3,989,807	104	99	16,077,156	15,884,242	99
Turkeys								
Young	542,249	605,867	580,784	107	96	2,242,412	2,355,401	105
Old	6,117	3,798	3,548	58	93	20,163	16,168	80
Total	548,366	609,665	584,332	107	96	2,262,575	2,371,569	105
Ducks	15,967	15,939	15,361	96	96	63,540	62,571	98
Other Poultry ²	293	292	315	108	108	1,161	1,224	105
Total Poultry	4,416,526	4,650,109	4,589,815	104	99	18,404,432	18,319,606	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	5.46	5.45	5.50	101	101	5.46	5.47	100
Mature	6.03	5.81	5.86	97	101	5.90	5.87	99
Light	3.34	3.25	3.28	98	101	3.34	3.27	98
Heavy	8.09	7.97	7.98	99	100	7.99	7.96	100
Total	5.46	5.46	5.51	101	101	5.47	5.48	100
Turkeys								
Young	28.33	28.71	28.57	101	100	29.19	28.94	99
Old	25.49	25.66	26.88	105	105	26.46	26.64	101
Total	28.29	28.69	28.56	101	100	29.16	28.93	99
Ducks	6.98	6.69	6.73	96	101	6.83	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, April, 2006-2007 ¹**

Commodity	Apr 2006	Mar 2007	Apr 2007	Pct of		January to Date		Pct of 2006
				Apr 2006	Mar 2007	2006	2007	
				<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>			
Chilled				<i>Pct</i>	<i>Pct</i>			<i>Pct</i>
Chickens								
Young	2,558,446	2,619,863	2,579,078	101	98	10,661,912	10,336,654	97
Mature	40,128	39,116	38,058	95	97	164,815	152,283	92
Light	7,876	8,187	8,004	102	98	34,509	31,125	90
Heavy	32,252	30,929	30,054	93	97	130,306	121,158	93
Total	2,598,574	2,658,979	2,617,136	101	98	10,826,727	10,488,937	97
Turkeys								
Young	240,667	286,781	260,212	108	91	996,939	1,070,851	107
Old	3,874	2,654	2,237	58	84	12,686	10,729	85
Total	244,541	289,435	262,449	107	91	1,009,625	1,081,580	107
Ducks	6,043	5,273	5,271	87	100	23,301	21,101	91
Other Poultry ²	151	157	167	111	106	608	653	107
Total Poultry	2,849,309	2,953,844	2,885,023	101	98	11,860,261	11,592,271	98
Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	261,734	283,023	285,032	109	101	1,095,786	1,101,368	101
Mature	312	344	539	173	157	1,433	1,288	90
Light	57					99		
Heavy	255	344	539	211	157	1,334	1,288	97
Total	262,046	283,367	285,571	109	101	1,097,219	1,102,656	100
Turkeys								
Young	189,663	191,995	199,379	105	104	777,514	789,219	102
Old	806	246	429	53	174	2,566	1,501	58
Total	190,469	192,241	199,808	105	104	780,080	790,720	101
Ducks	5,395	6,155	5,761	107	94	22,146	23,668	107
Other Poultry ²	29	21	33	114	157	99	101	102
Total Poultry	457,939	481,784	491,173	107	102	1,899,544	1,917,145	101
Total Chilled and Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	2,820,180	2,902,886	2,864,110	102	99	11,757,698	11,438,022	97
Mature	40,440	39,460	38,597	95	98	166,248	153,571	92
Light	7,933	8,187	8,004	101	98	34,608	31,125	90
Heavy	32,507	31,273	30,593	94	98	131,640	122,446	93
Total	2,860,620	2,942,346	2,902,707	101	99	11,923,946	11,591,593	97
Turkeys								
Young	430,330	478,776	459,591	107	96	1,774,453	1,860,070	105
Old	4,680	2,900	2,666	57	92	15,252	12,230	80
Total	435,010	481,676	462,257	106	96	1,789,705	1,872,300	105
Ducks	11,438	11,428	11,032	96	97	45,447	44,769	99
Other Poultry ²	180	178	200	111	112	707	754	107
Total Poultry	3,307,248	3,435,628	3,376,196	102	98	13,759,805	13,509,416	98

¹ Ready-to-cook weights.

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

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

Commodity	Apr 2006	Mar 2007	Apr 2007	Percent of		January to Date		Percent of 2006
				Apr 2006	Mar 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	11,425	12,402	12,120	106	98	50,131	52,576	105
Mature	865	886	779	90	88	3,069	3,575	116
Light	295	319	215	73	67	947	1,256	133
Heavy	570	567	564	99	99	2,122	2,319	109
Total	12,290	13,288	12,899	105	97	53,200	56,151	106
Turkeys								
Young	1,593	1,874	1,683	106	90	6,857	7,526	110
Old	83	38	62	75	163	231	252	109
Total	1,676	1,912	1,745	104	91	7,088	7,778	110
Ducks	27	30	30	111	100	115	126	110
Total Poultry	13,993	15,230	14,674	105	96	60,403	64,055	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	0.30	0.31	0.31	103	100	0.32	0.34	106
Mature	1.34	1.40	1.26	94	90	1.16	1.45	125
Light	1.90	1.96	1.38	73	70	1.41	2.05	145
Heavy	1.16	1.20	1.22	105	102	1.07	1.25	117
Total	0.32	0.33	0.32	100	97	0.33	0.35	106
Turkeys								
Young	0.29	0.31	0.29	100	94	0.31	0.32	103
Old	1.36	1.00	1.75	129	175	1.15	1.56	136
Total	0.31	0.31	0.30	97	97	0.31	0.33	106
Ducks	0.17	0.19	0.20	118	105	0.18	0.20	111
Total Poultry	0.32	0.33	0.32	100	97	0.33	0.35	106

¹ Federally inspected only.

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

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

Commodity	Apr 2006	Mar 2007	Apr 2007	Percent of		January to Date		Percent of 2006
				Apr 2006	Mar 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	34,190	35,736	33,054	97	92	145,703	138,943	95
Mature	2,785	2,803	2,843	102	101	11,604	11,417	98
Light	1,273	1,184	1,152	90	97	5,312	4,709	89
Heavy	1,512	1,619	1,691	112	104	6,292	6,708	107
Total	36,975	38,539	35,897	97	93	157,307	150,360	96
Turkeys								
Young	8,078	8,902	8,737	108	98	34,062	34,829	102
Old	294	199	178	61	89	990	914	92
Total	8,372	9,101	8,915	106	98	35,052	35,743	102
Ducks	396	315	330	83	105	1,636	1,339	82
Other Poultry	3	3	4	133	133	12	14	117
Total Poultry	45,746	47,958	45,146	99	94	194,007	187,456	97
	<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	1.20	1.22	1.14	95	94	1.22	1.20	98
Mature	6.44	6.63	6.86	106	103	6.52	6.92	106
Light	13.83	12.63	12.58	91	100	13.31	13.14	99
Heavy	4.44	4.92	5.24	118	106	4.56	5.19	114
Total	1.28	1.29	1.22	96	94	1.30	1.28	98
Turkeys								
Young	1.84	1.83	1.87	101	102	1.88	1.84	98
Old	5.91	6.42	6.26	106	97	6.10	6.95	114
Total	1.89	1.85	1.89	100	102	1.92	1.87	98
Ducks	3.35	2.68	2.90	87	108	3.47	2.90	84
Other Poultry	1.64	1.66	1.96	120	118	1.67	1.82	109
Total Poultry	1.36	1.38	1.32	97	96	1.39	1.37	98

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, March 2007-April 2007**

State	Number Slaughtered		Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	March	April	March	April	March	April
	<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	85,195	84,723	467,352	468,996	5.49	5.54
AR	93,131	91,349	485,345	477,175	5.21	5.22
DE	25,127	24,656	166,508	166,755	6.63	6.76
GA	107,320	105,144	563,822	557,873	5.25	5.31
KY	24,697	24,211	133,513	136,228	5.41	5.63
LA	15,406	15,631	89,601	90,970	5.82	5.82
MD	11,117	11,002	53,437	52,593	4.81	4.78
MS	64,758	64,002	354,671	350,828	5.48	5.48
MO	34,954	33,943	160,425	159,884	4.59	4.71
NC	58,743	55,975	399,853	382,835	6.81	6.84
OH	3,974	3,964	22,032	22,196	5.54	5.60
PA	10,297	9,308	55,658	51,734	5.41	5.56
SC	23,996	23,035	148,016	145,437	6.17	6.31
TN	22,721	21,645	114,364	109,869	5.03	5.08
TX	52,286	51,785	269,908	273,497	5.16	5.28
VA	25,935	24,215	133,419	125,042	5.14	5.16
Oth Sts	66,603	69,282	342,856	356,223	5.15	5.14
US	726,260	713,870	3,960,780	3,928,135	5.45	5.50

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

State	Total Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified ¹		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
	March	April	Carcass and Parts		Percent ²	
			March	April	March	April
	<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	345,054	343,178	3,765	3,577	1.08	1.03
AR	348,198	342,651	4,675	4,236	1.32	1.22
DE	119,863	119,811	2,064	1,912	1.69	1.57
GA	418,044	410,671	4,689	4,028	1.11	0.97
KY	95,768	100,409	1,085	1,244	1.12	1.22
LA	65,875	66,805	422	339	0.64	0.50
MD	38,907	38,272	608	554	1.54	1.43
MS	252,614	238,597	3,015	2,695	1.18	1.12
MO	117,746	117,798	1,470	1,279	1.23	1.07
NC	305,191	291,033	4,166	3,879	1.35	1.32
OH	16,215	16,427	394	300	2.37	1.79
PA	37,770	34,786	1,059	979	2.73	2.74
SC	108,866	106,944	943	1,000	0.86	0.93
TN	82,329	79,287	1,051	945	1.26	1.18
TX	206,858	208,946	2,284	2,219	1.09	1.05
VA	93,218	87,428	821	724	0.87	0.82
Oth Sts	250,370	261,067	3,225	3,144	1.27	1.19
US	2,902,886	2,864,110	35,736	33,054	1.22	1.14

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, March 2007-April 2007**

State	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	March	April	March	April	March	April
	<i>Number of Head</i>					
Young						
AL			*	*	77,757	76,751
AR			*	497	169,236	141,283
DE			1,812	1,345	92,679	81,298
GA			471	429	90,311	82,907
KY			*	*	44,907	40,726
LA			33	35	14,754	10,566
MD			*	*	*	20,172
MS			*	*	46,114	38,745
MO			437	380	88,016	79,637
NC			*	*	90,355	76,875
OH			*	*	11,116	9,093
PA			30	44	24,519	20,894
SC			*	*	*	*
TN			84	48	51,141	47,387
TX			57	66	53,129	55,391
VA			*	*	30,601	28,630
Oth Sts			3,262	3,927	234,134	219,829
US			6,186	6,771	1,118,769	1,030,184
Mature						
Light			1,764	2,378	148,334	160,829
Heavy			429	300	39,388	40,395
US			2,193	2,678	187,722	201,224
State	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	March	April	March	April	March	April
	<i>Number of Head</i>					
Young						
AL	89,099	63,330	763	758	*	*
AR	46,630	36,320	1,688	1,545	3,028	2,436
DE	48,767	45,790	*	*	8,773	*
GA	243,246	125,810	246	454	7,285	6,976
KY	*	*	*	*	*	*
LA	7,783	4,892	*	*	370	244
MD	*	*	43	25	*	*
MS	*	33,989	165	*	989	724
MO	17,637	14,087	294	265	1,752	1,424
NC	61,647	46,174	*	156	*	*
OH	*	*	*	*	132	181
PA	18,429	14,382	*	*	441	251
SC	*	*	46	73	*	*
TN	30,325	19,285	*	*	579	478
TX	24,066	19,776	*	*	1,164	888
VA	17,597	13,928	29	25	*	*
Oth Sts	176,154	96,754	2,224	1,744	39,888	38,446
US	781,380	534,517	5,498	5,045	64,401	52,048
Mature						
Light	21,580	32,261	180	187	70,462	62,400
Heavy	2,150	1,800	58	70	6,108	5,684
US	23,730	34,061	238	257	76,570	68,084

* 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, March 2007-April 2007**

State	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	March	April	March	April	March	April
	<i>Number of Head</i>					
Young						
AL	1,968	2,245	7,478	8,309	8,300	9,612
AR	4,484	4,032	11,573	11,635	23,544	29,552
DE	1,705	1,945	4,521	4,791	6,821	6,673
GA	2,057	1,810	25,974	25,193	11,725	12,008
KY	169	198	4,793	4,184	*	4,838
LA	201	187	2,380	2,393	737	902
MD	*	*	1,929	1,799	*	*
MS	1,391	1,354	4,073	4,089	5,321	5,412
MO	1,125	1,067	3,627	*	12,919	9,608
NC	2,160	1,906	20,785	18,079	14,977	13,992
OH	121	93	1,763	1,147	378	418
PA	696	563	2,267	1,727	4,451	4,182
SC	427	*	2,894	2,869	1,700	1,248
TN	621	564	3,535	4,471	4,158	4,142
TX	562	669	4,199	4,060	7,093	8,341
VA	1,133	838	3,210	2,841	3,832	4,113
Oth Sts	3,193	3,620	13,622	15,798	38,922	30,111
US	22,013	21,091	118,623	113,385	144,878	145,152
Mature						
Light	13,656	14,924	2,835	2,069	88,826	86,341
Heavy	837	736	6,781	6,588	8,974	10,185
US	14,493	15,660	9,616	8,657	97,800	96,526
State	Overscald		Other		Total ¹	
	March	April	March	April	March	April
	<i>Number of Head</i>					
Young						
AL	5,763	10,219	150,490	132,832	345,930	307,830
AR	*	7,878	87,191	96,634	364,108	331,812
DE	*	1,435	39,317	35,391	210,421	186,826
GA	6,201	8,053	119,490	103,930	507,006	367,570
KY	*	*	*	*	*	*
LA	*	54	*	*	29,025	20,976
MD	265	*	*	*	*	*
MS	682	761	97,569	86,911	221,220	172,325
MO	177	*	89,438	76,561	215,422	187,598
NC	10,244	9,011	79,128	77,500	296,977	256,102
OH	*	*	*	*	*	*
PA	*	*	11,073	9,046	62,898	51,658
SC	3,830	*	36,269	*	70,720	70,340
TN	*	*	13,486	7,843	106,189	85,706
TX	*	*	38,263	43,011	130,435	134,230
VA	*	434	16,571	16,986	79,646	70,135
Oth Sts	36,018	13,133	244,470	285,419	707,686	688,127
US	63,180	50,978	1,022,755	972,064	3,347,683	2,931,235
Mature						
Light	486	238	82,618	62,971	430,741	424,598
Heavy	661	2,344	91,989	87,561	157,375	155,663
US	1,147	2,582	174,607	150,532	588,116	580,261

* 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, March 2007-April 2007

State	Number Slaughtered		Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	March	April	March	April	March	April
	<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	2,933	2,775	56,639	55,478	19.31	19.99
MN	2,836	2,760	79,420	75,329	28.00	27.30
MO	1,360	1,348	42,205	42,769	31.04	31.73
Oth Sts	13,975	13,447	427,603	407,208	30.60	30.28
US	21,104	20,330	605,867	580,784	28.71	28.57

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

State	Total Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified ¹		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
			Carcass and Parts		Percent ²	
	March	April	March	April	March	April
	<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	46,197	44,701	1,078	879	2.28	1.93
MN	63,149	60,005	1,409	1,451	2.18	2.36
MO	33,181	33,604	723	719	2.13	2.09
Oth Sts	336,249	321,281	5,692	5,688	1.66	1.74
US	478,776	459,591	8,902	8,737	1.83	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, March 2007-April 2007

Cause	Young		Old	
	March	April	March	April
	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>
Tuberculosis				
Leukosis	17	35		
Septicaemia	69,534	65,915	1,699	1,185
Airsacculitis	11,817	9,966	374	362
Synovitis	4,172	4,107	15	1
Tumors	58	101	159	171
Bruises	392	380	10	32
Cadaver	2,403	2,296	28	23
Contamination	2,867	2,758	57	83
Overscald	1,825	1,380	39	2
Other	25,367	27,461	813	829
Total	118,452	114,399	3,194	2,688

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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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	(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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