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Poultry Slaughter

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

Poultry certified wholesome during May 2007 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 3.73 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the amount certified in May 2006. The April 2007 revised certified total at 3.38 billion pounds, was up 2 percent from April 2006. The April revision represented an increase of 6.83 million pounds from last month's preliminary pounds certified.

The preliminary total live weight of poultry inspected during May 2007 was 5.05 billion pounds, up slightly from 5.03 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 4.33 billion pounds, up slightly from May 2006. Mature chickens, at 71.1 million pounds, were down 2 percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 641 million pounds, up 3 percent from a year ago. Ducks totaled 16.0 million pounds, down 6 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during May 2007 averaged 5.52 pounds per bird, up 1 percent from May 2006. The average live weight of mature chickens was 6.08 pounds per bird, down slightly from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during May 2007 averaged 28.5 pounds per bird, down 1 percent from May 2006.

Ante-mortem condemnations during May 2007 totaled 16.1 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.32 percent of the live weight inspected, as compared with 0.33 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 47.3 million pounds, were 1.25 percent of quantities inspected, compared with 1.31 percent a year earlier.

May 2007 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays, while May 2006 had 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

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

Commodity	May 2006	Apr 2007	May 2007	Pct of		January to Date		Pct of 2006
				May 2006	Apr 2007	2006	2007	
				<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Pct</i>	
Number Slaughtered				<i>Pct</i>	<i>Pct</i>			<i>Pct</i>
Chickens								
Young	786,909	715,399	783,953	100	110	3,681,819	3,643,177	99
Mature	11,845	10,522	11,686	99	111	56,835	53,678	94
Light	4,953	4,745	4,885	99	103	25,153	23,578	94
Heavy	6,892	5,777	6,801	99	118	31,682	30,100	95
Total	798,754	725,921	795,639	100	110	3,738,654	3,696,855	99
Turkeys								
Young	21,659	20,330	22,334	103	110	98,486	103,714	105
Old	129	132	202	157	153	891	809	91
Total	21,788	20,462	22,536	103	110	99,377	104,523	105
Ducks	2,523	2,283	2,377	94	104	11,827	11,675	99
Live Weight	<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	4,316,078	3,937,424	4,325,121	100	110	20,127,793	19,972,123	99
Mature	72,267	61,672	71,075	98	115	337,708	317,604	94
Light	16,369	15,562	15,934	97	102	83,741	77,055	92
Heavy	55,898	46,110	55,141	99	120	253,967	240,549	95
Total	4,388,345	3,999,096	4,396,196	100	110	20,465,501	20,289,727	99
Turkeys								
Young	621,081	580,784	636,211	102	110	2,863,493	2,991,612	104
Old	3,484	3,548	5,262	151	148	23,647	21,430	91
Total	624,565	584,332	641,473	103	110	2,887,140	3,013,042	104
Ducks	17,108	15,361	16,002	94	104	80,648	78,573	97
Other Poultry ²	374	315	372	99	118	1,535	1,596	104
Total Poultry	5,030,392	4,599,104	5,054,043	100	110	23,434,824	23,382,938	100
Avg Live Weight	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pct</i>	<i>Pct</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pct</i>
Chickens								
Young	5.48	5.50	5.52	101	100	5.47	5.48	100
Mature	6.10	5.86	6.08	100	104	5.94	5.92	100
Light	3.30	3.28	3.26	99	99	3.33	3.27	98
Heavy	8.11	7.98	8.11	100	102	8.02	7.99	100
Total	5.49	5.51	5.53	101	100	5.47	5.49	100
Turkeys								
Young	28.68	28.57	28.49	99	100	29.08	28.84	99
Old	27.01	26.88	26.05	96	97	26.54	26.49	100
Total	28.67	28.56	28.46	99	100	29.05	28.83	99
Ducks	6.78	6.73	6.73	99	100	6.82	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, May, 2006-2007**¹

Commodity	May 2006	Apr 2007	May 2007	Pct of		January to Date		Pct of 2006
				May 2006	Apr 2007	2006	2007	
				<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Pct</i>	
Chilled								
Chickens								
Young	2,916,851	2,585,749	2,857,008	98	110	13,578,763	13,200,333	97
Mature	44,981	38,058	43,970	98	116	209,796	196,253	94
Light	8,376	8,004	8,383	100	105	42,885	39,508	92
Heavy	36,605	30,054	35,587	97	118	166,911	156,745	94
Total	2,961,832	2,623,807	2,900,978	98	111	13,788,559	13,396,586	97
Turkeys								
Young	268,458	260,212	282,676	105	109	1,265,397	1,353,527	107
Old	2,439	2,237	3,311	136	148	15,125	14,040	93
Total	270,897	262,449	285,987	106	109	1,280,522	1,367,567	107
Ducks	6,208	5,271	5,403	87	103	29,509	26,504	90
Other Poultry ²	175	167	182	104	109	783	835	107
Total Poultry	3,239,112	2,891,694	3,192,550	99	110	15,099,373	14,791,492	98
Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	293,693	285,196	311,425	106	109	1,389,479	1,412,957	102
Mature	398	539	869	218	161	1,831	2,157	118
Light						99		
Heavy	398	539	869	218	161	1,732	2,157	125
Total	294,091	285,735	312,294	106	109	1,391,310	1,415,114	102
Turkeys								
Young	224,344	199,379	222,872	99	112	1,001,858	1,012,091	101
Old	152	429	670	441	156	2,718	2,171	80
Total	224,496	199,808	223,542	100	112	1,004,576	1,014,262	101
Ducks	6,082	5,761	5,999	99	104	28,228	29,667	105
Other Poultry ²	41	32	39	95	122	140	139	99
Total Poultry	524,710	491,336	541,874	103	110	2,424,254	2,459,182	101
Total Chilled and Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	3,210,544	2,870,945	3,168,433	99	110	14,968,242	14,613,290	98
Mature	45,379	38,597	44,839	99	116	211,627	198,410	94
Light	8,376	8,004	8,383	100	105	42,984	39,508	92
Heavy	37,003	30,593	36,456	99	119	168,643	158,902	94
Total	3,255,923	2,909,542	3,213,272	99	110	15,179,869	14,811,700	98
Turkeys								
Young	492,802	459,591	505,548	103	110	2,267,255	2,365,618	104
Old	2,591	2,666	3,981	154	149	17,843	16,211	91
Total	495,393	462,257	509,529	103	110	2,285,098	2,381,829	104
Ducks	12,290	11,032	11,402	93	103	57,737	56,171	97
Other Poultry ²	216	199	221	102	111	923	974	106
Total Poultry	3,763,822	3,383,030	3,734,424	99	110	17,523,627	17,250,674	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, May, 2006-2007 ¹**

Commodity	May 2006	Apr 2007	May 2007	Percent of		January to Date		Percent of 2006
				May 2006	Apr 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	13,961	12,142	13,277	95	109	64,092	65,875	103
Mature	996	779	1,020	102	131	4,065	4,595	113
Light	283	215	279	99	130	1,230	1,535	125
Heavy	713	564	741	104	131	2,835	3,060	108
Total	14,957	12,921	14,297	96	111	68,157	70,470	103
Turkeys								
Young	1,662	1,683	1,692	102	101	8,519	9,218	108
Old	59	62	74	125	119	290	326	112
Total	1,721	1,745	1,766	103	101	8,809	9,544	108
Ducks	37	30	41	111	137	152	167	110
Other Poultry	1		1	100		1	1	100
Total Poultry	16,716	14,696	16,105	96	110	77,119	80,182	104
	<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	0.31	0.31	97	100	0.32	0.33	103
Mature	1.38	1.26	1.44	104	114	1.20	1.45	121
Light	1.73	1.38	1.75	101	127	1.47	1.99	135
Heavy	1.28	1.22	1.34	105	110	1.12	1.27	113
Total	0.34	0.32	0.33	97	103	0.33	0.35	106
Turkeys								
Young	0.27	0.29	0.27	100	93	0.30	0.31	103
Old	1.69	1.75	1.41	83	81	1.23	1.52	124
Total	0.28	0.30	0.28	100	93	0.31	0.32	103
Ducks	0.22	0.20	0.26	118	130	0.19	0.21	111
Other Poultry	0.27		0.27	100		0.07	0.06	86
Total Poultry	0.33	0.32	0.32	97	100	0.33	0.34	103

¹ Federally inspected only.

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

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

Commodity	May 2006	Apr 2007	May 2007	Percent of		January to Date		Percent of 2006
				May 2006	Apr 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	37,334	33,204	34,852	93	105	183,037	173,945	95
Mature	3,045	2,843	3,141	103	110	14,649	14,558	99
Light	1,321	1,152	1,114	84	97	6,633	5,823	88
Heavy	1,724	1,691	2,027	118	120	8,016	8,735	109
Total	40,379	36,047	37,993	94	105	197,686	188,503	95
Turkeys								
Young	8,936	8,737	8,689	97	99	42,998	43,518	101
Old	196	178	264	135	148	1,186	1,178	99
Total	9,132	8,915	8,953	98	100	44,184	44,696	101
Ducks	399	330	345	86	105	2,035	1,684	83
Other Poultry	5	4	4	80	100	17	18	106
Total Poultry	49,915	45,296	47,295	95	104	243,922	234,901	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	1.15	1.14	1.09	95	95	1.21	1.18	97
Mature	6.29	6.86	6.55	104	95	6.47	6.84	106
Light	13.62	12.58	11.73	86	93	13.37	12.85	96
Heavy	4.45	5.24	5.27	118	101	4.54	5.21	115
Total	1.22	1.22	1.17	95	95	1.29	1.26	98
Turkeys								
Young	1.78	1.87	1.69	95	91	1.86	1.81	97
Old	7.03	6.26	6.22	88	99	6.23	6.77	109
Total	1.81	1.89	1.73	95	91	1.90	1.84	97
Ducks	3.14	2.90	2.94	93	101	3.40	2.91	85
Other Poultry	2.26	1.97	1.78	79	90	1.81	1.81	100
Total Poultry	1.31	1.32	1.25	96	95	1.37	1.34	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, April 2007-May 2007**

State	Number Slaughtered		Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	April	May	April	May	April	May
	<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	84,723	90,400	468,996	502,904	5.54	5.56
AR	91,436	98,644	477,669	521,440	5.22	5.29
DE	24,656	27,393	166,755	181,324	6.76	6.62
GA	105,144	117,016	557,873	620,832	5.31	5.31
KY	24,211	25,378	136,228	142,056	5.63	5.60
LA	15,631	16,856	90,970	98,120	5.82	5.82
MD	11,002	12,329	52,593	57,752	4.78	4.68
MS	64,002	72,385	350,828	400,483	5.48	5.53
MO	33,943	36,612	159,884	175,120	4.71	4.78
NC	56,985	62,567	389,729	426,676	6.84	6.82
OH	3,964	4,309	22,196	23,417	5.60	5.43
PA	9,308	10,198	51,734	57,291	5.56	5.62
SC	23,035	25,424	145,437	161,891	6.31	6.37
TN	21,645	23,899	109,869	123,713	5.08	5.18
TX	51,785	57,313	273,497	300,285	5.28	5.24
VA	24,215	27,574	125,044	143,001	5.16	5.19
Oth Sts	69,714	75,656	358,122	388,816	5.14	5.14
US	715,399	783,953	3,937,424	4,325,121	5.50	5.52

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

State	Total Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified ¹		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
	April	May	Carcass and Parts		Percent ²	
			April	May	April	May
	<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	343,178	368,262	3,583	3,624	1.03	0.97
AR	343,010	375,890	4,239	4,452	1.22	1.17
DE	119,811	130,615	1,912	1,975	1.57	1.49
GA	410,671	456,666	4,028	4,269	0.97	0.93
KY	100,409	104,647	1,244	1,212	1.22	1.14
LA	66,805	71,705	339	347	0.50	0.48
MD	38,272	41,964	553	534	1.42	1.26
MS	238,597	284,650	2,695	3,022	1.12	1.05
MO	117,798	129,144	1,279	1,283	1.07	0.98
NC	296,147	324,726	4,006	4,348	1.33	1.32
OH	16,427	17,290	300	324	1.79	1.84
PA	34,786	38,746	979	1,201	2.74	3.01
SC	106,944	119,069	1,000	967	0.93	0.81
TN	79,287	89,216	945	1,003	1.18	1.11
TX	208,946	231,289	2,219	2,024	1.05	0.87
VA	87,430	100,189	724	805	0.82	0.80
Oth Sts	262,427	284,365	3,159	3,462	1.19	1.20
US	2,870,945	3,168,433	33,204	34,852	1.14	1.09

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, April 2007-May 2007**

State	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	April	May	April	May	April	May
	<i>Number of Head</i>					
Young						
AL			*	188	76,751	84,039
AR			497	*	141,543	147,086
DE			1,345	1,740	81,298	83,651
GA			429	401	85,017	95,900
KY			*	*	40,726	39,245
LA			35	*	10,566	11,082
MD			*	*	20,172	20,002
MS			*	*	38,745	42,311
MO			380	*	79,637	78,865
NC			*	*	78,636	88,839
OH			*	*	9,093	9,781
PA			44	36	20,894	26,025
SC			*	*	*	*
TN			48	75	47,387	50,326
TX			66	*	55,391	48,150
VA			*	*	28,630	31,441
Oth Sts			3,940	4,563	221,238	236,450
US			6,784	7,003	1,035,724	1,093,193
Mature						
Light			2,378	1,712	160,829	154,506
Heavy			300	307	40,395	47,039
US			2,678	2,019	201,224	201,545
State	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	April	May	April	May	April	May
	<i>Number of Head</i>					
Young						
AL	63,330	63,356	758	464	*	3,020
AR	36,363	31,333	1,548	1,655	2,438	2,525
DE	45,790	43,429	*	*	*	*
GA	125,810	113,075	454	205	6,976	6,792
KY	*	*	*	*	*	*
LA	4,892	3,507	*	*	244	295
MD	*	*	25	*	*	*
MS	33,989	28,191	*	*	724	926
MO	14,087	9,770	265	394	1,424	1,612
NC	46,606	47,443	157	112	*	*
OH	*	*	*	*	181	187
PA	14,382	18,089	*	*	251	268
SC	*	*	73	20	*	*
TN	19,285	19,890	*	*	478	*
TX	19,776	17,927	*	*	888	1,138
VA	13,928	13,339	25	26	*	*
Oth Sts	96,890	90,092	1,766	2,121	38,472	42,894
US	535,128	499,441	5,071	4,997	52,076	59,657
Mature						
Light	32,261	28,479	187	263	62,400	61,122
Heavy	1,800	2,335	70	192	5,684	6,778
US	34,061	30,814	257	455	68,084	67,900

* 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, April 2007-May 2007**

State	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	April	May	April	May	April	May
	<i>Number of Head</i>					
Young						
AL	2,245	2,154	8,309	8,882	9,612	10,917
AR	4,032	4,451	11,639	12,082	29,559	29,646
DE	1,945	1,601	4,791	5,292	6,673	7,352
GA	1,810	2,000	25,193	26,754	12,008	11,493
KY	198	*	4,184	3,945	4,838	4,920
LA	187	177	2,393	2,168	902	876
MD	*	*	1,799	*	*	*
MS	1,354	1,390	4,089	3,901	5,412	5,119
MO	1,067	1,243	*	3,981	9,608	10,512
NC	2,043	2,008	18,662	19,930	14,986	17,944
OH	93	*	1,147	1,028	418	372
PA	563	615	1,727	2,605	4,182	3,445
SC	*	597	2,869	2,828	1,248	1,567
TN	564	*	4,471	*	4,142	5,656
TX	669	681	4,060	5,173	8,341	6,968
VA	838	956	2,841	3,422	4,113	4,728
Oth Sts	3,620	4,742	16,103	20,687	30,135	40,336
US	21,228	22,615	114,277	122,678	146,177	161,851
Mature						
Light	14,924	10,523	2,069	1,568	86,341	95,477
Heavy	736	1,136	6,588	6,283	10,185	12,844
US	15,660	11,659	8,657	7,851	96,526	108,321
State	Overscald		Other		Total ¹	
	April	May	April	May	April	May
	<i>Number of Head</i>					
Young						
AL	10,838	12,648	133,360	128,226	308,977	313,894
AR	7,878	*	96,642	99,362	332,139	335,154
DE	1,435	2,999	35,391	39,416	186,826	194,949
GA	8,053	5,078	103,930	105,743	369,680	367,441
KY	*	*	*	*	*	*
LA	54	43	*	1,336	20,976	19,578
MD	*	*	*	*	*	*
MS	761	736	86,911	84,694	172,325	167,607
MO	*	*	76,561	62,760	187,598	170,224
NC	9,781	7,209	79,617	100,385	262,934	297,916
OH	*	*	*	*	*	*
PA	*	*	9,046	25,591	51,658	76,979
SC	*	2,604	*	32,280	70,340	59,695
TN	*	*	7,843	2,948	85,706	90,754
TX	*	1,887	43,011	41,895	134,230	123,999
VA	434	2,173	16,986	18,822	70,135	77,796
Oth Sts	13,135	14,500	286,792	255,464	691,400	724,248
US	52,369	49,877	976,090	998,922	2,944,924	3,020,234
Mature						
Light	238	479	62,971	55,968	424,598	410,097
Heavy	2,344	221	87,561	91,425	155,663	168,560
US	2,582	700	150,532	147,393	580,261	578,657

* 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, April 2007-May 2007

State	Number Slaughtered		Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	April	May	April	May	April	May
	<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	2,775	3,056	55,478	58,526	19.99	19.15
MN	2,760	3,209	75,329	84,410	27.30	26.30
MO	1,348	1,452	42,769	47,162	31.73	32.49
Oth Sts	13,447	14,617	407,208	446,113	30.28	30.52
US	20,330	22,334	580,784	636,211	28.57	28.49

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

State	Total Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified ¹		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
			Carcass and Parts		Percent ²	
	April	May	April	May	April	May
	<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	44,701	48,706	879	777	1.93	1.57
MN	60,005	67,547	1,451	1,485	2.36	2.15
MO	33,604	36,983	719	764	2.09	2.02
Oth Sts	321,281	352,312	5,688	5,663	1.74	1.58
US	459,591	505,548	8,737	8,689	1.87	1.69

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, April 2007-May 2007

Cause	Young		Old	
	April	May	April	May
	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>
Tuberculosis				
Leukosis	35	39		15
Septicaemia	65,915	61,992	1,185	1,830
Airsacculitis	9,966	6,043	362	453
Synovitis	4,107	3,613	1	23
Tumors	101	111	171	255
Bruises	380	380	32	39
Cadaver	2,296	2,223	23	54
Contamination	2,758	2,789	83	118
Overscald	1,380	1,466	2	38
Other	27,461	22,341	829	2,483
Total	114,399	100,997	2,688	5,308

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 slaughter 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.

Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 720-3570
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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