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Poultry Slaughter

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

Poultry certified wholesome during July 2007 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 3.60 billion pounds, up 7 percent from the amount certified in July 2006. The June 2007 revised certified total at 3.53 billion pounds, was down 4 percent from June 2006. The June revision represented an increase of 10.1 million pounds from last month's preliminary pounds certified.

The preliminary total live weight of poultry inspected during July 2007 was 4.86 billion pounds, up 8 percent from 4.51 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 4.14 billion pounds, up 7 percent from July 2006. Mature chickens, at 70.8 million pounds, were up 13 percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 638 million pounds, up 10 percent from a year ago. Ducks totaled 15.4 million pounds, up 9 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during July 2007 averaged 5.47 pounds per bird, up 2 percent from July 2006. The average live weight of mature chickens was 6.19 pounds per bird, down 3 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during July 2007 averaged 28.2 pounds per bird, up 2 percent from July 2006.

Ante-mortem condemnations during July 2007 totaled 17.9 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.37 percent of the live weight inspected, as compared with 0.50 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 45.3 million pounds, were 1.24 percent of quantities inspected, compared with 1.25 percent a year earlier.

July 2007 contained 22 weekdays and 4 Saturdays, while July 2006 had 21 weekdays and 5 Saturdays.

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

Commodity	Jul 2006	Jun 2007	Jul 2007	Pct of		January to Date		Pct of 2006
				Jul 2006	Jun 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	717,006	741,444	756,289	105	102	5,162,306	5,141,275	100
Mature	9,842	11,862	11,435	116	96	78,342	76,975	98
Light	3,721	5,036	4,509	121	90	33,377	33,123	99
Heavy	6,121	6,826	6,926	113	101	44,965	43,852	98
Total	726,848	753,306	767,724	106	102	5,240,648	5,218,250	100
Turkeys								
Young	20,538	21,914	22,403	109	102	141,729	148,112	105
Old	276	170	187	68	110	1,405	1,166	83
Total	20,814	22,084	22,590	109	102	143,134	149,278	104
Ducks	2,156	2,177	2,295	106	105	16,378	16,109	98
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	3,857,915	4,063,717	4,137,553	107	102	28,148,268	28,175,530	100
Mature	62,711	72,125	70,765	113	98	473,927	460,494	97
Light	12,622	16,574	14,852	118	90	111,421	108,481	97
Heavy	50,089	55,551	55,913	112	101	362,506	352,013	97
Total	3,920,626	4,135,842	4,208,318	107	102	28,622,195	28,636,024	100
Turkeys								
Young	571,435	623,983	632,945	111	101	4,070,929	4,250,908	104
Old	7,209	4,461	4,775	66	107	37,223	30,666	82
Total	578,644	628,444	637,720	110	101	4,108,152	4,281,574	104
Ducks	14,149	14,650	15,385	109	105	110,827	108,360	98
Other Poultry ²	363	311	479	132	154	2,259	2,387	106
Total Poultry	4,513,782	4,779,247	4,861,902	108	102	32,843,433	33,028,345	101
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	5.38	5.48	5.47	102	100	5.45	5.48	101
Mature	6.37	6.08	6.19	97	102	6.05	5.98	99
Light	3.39	3.29	3.29	97	100	3.34	3.28	98
Heavy	8.18	8.14	8.07	99	99	8.06	8.03	100
Total	5.39	5.49	5.48	102	100	5.46	5.49	101
Turkeys								
Young	27.82	28.47	28.25	102	99	28.72	28.70	100
Old	26.12	26.24	25.53	98	97	26.49	26.30	99
Total	27.80	28.46	28.23	102	99	28.70	28.68	100
Ducks	6.56	6.73	6.70	102	100	6.77	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, July, 2006-2007¹**

Commodity	Jul 2006	Jun 2007	Jul 2007	Pct of		January to Date		Pct of 2006
				Jul 2006	Jun 2007	2006	2007	
				<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Pct</i>	
Chilled								
Chickens								
Young	2,579,958	2,694,928	2,745,439	106	102	18,961,412	18,642,249	98
Mature	38,688	44,286	44,177	114	100	294,359	284,716	97
Light	6,297	8,434	7,684	122	91	56,823	55,626	98
Heavy	32,391	35,852	36,493	113	102	237,536	229,090	96
Total	2,618,646	2,739,214	2,789,616	107	102	19,255,771	18,926,965	98
Turkeys								
Young	250,849	268,140	275,163	110	103	1,789,801	1,897,437	106
Old	4,531	2,684	2,783	61	104	23,569	19,507	83
Total	255,380	270,824	277,946	109	103	1,813,370	1,916,944	106
Ducks	4,978	5,055	5,258	106	104	40,297	36,816	91
Other Poultry ²	168	160	213	127	133	1,109	1,208	109
Total Poultry	2,879,172	3,015,253	3,073,033	107	102	21,110,547	20,881,933	99
Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	278,067	284,835	293,744	106	103	1,963,750	1,991,701	101
Mature	514	739	249	48	34	2,734	3,145	115
Light		13				99	13	13
Heavy	514	726	249	48	34	2,635	3,132	119
Total	278,581	285,574	293,993	106	103	1,966,484	1,994,846	101
Turkeys								
Young	202,687	227,511	226,815	112	100	1,435,375	1,467,725	102
Old	991	679	772	78	114	4,727	3,622	77
Total	203,678	228,190	227,587	112	100	1,440,102	1,471,347	102
Ducks	5,228	5,437	5,727	110	105	39,193	40,663	104
Other Poultry ²	25	37	58	232	157	196	234	119
Total Poultry	487,512	519,238	527,365	108	102	3,445,975	3,507,090	102
Total Chilled and Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	2,858,025	2,979,763	3,039,183	106	102	20,925,162	20,633,950	99
Mature	39,202	45,025	44,426	113	99	297,093	287,861	97
Light	6,297	8,447	7,684	122	91	56,922	55,639	98
Heavy	32,905	36,578	36,742	112	100	240,171	232,222	97
Total	2,897,227	3,024,788	3,083,609	106	102	21,222,255	20,921,811	99
Turkeys								
Young	453,536	495,651	501,978	111	101	3,225,176	3,365,162	104
Old	5,522	3,363	3,555	64	106	28,296	23,129	82
Total	459,058	499,014	505,533	110	101	3,253,472	3,388,291	104
Ducks	10,206	10,492	10,985	108	105	79,490	77,479	97
Other Poultry ²	193	197	271	140	138	1,305	1,442	110
Total Poultry	3,366,684	3,534,491	3,600,398	107	102	24,556,522	24,389,023	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, July, 2006-2007 ¹**

Commodity	Jul 2006	Jun 2007	Jul 2007	Percent of		January to Date		Percent of 2006
				Jul 2006	Jun 2007	2006	2007	
				<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>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Live Weight								
Chickens								
Young	18,944	14,090	14,278	75	101	97,311	94,250	97
Mature	1,585	1,495	1,393	88	93	6,844	7,483	109
Light	444	487	393	89	81	2,068	2,415	117
Heavy	1,141	1,008	1,000	88	99	4,776	5,068	106
Total	20,529	15,585	15,671	76	101	104,155	101,733	98
Turkeys								
Young	2,080	1,708	2,103	101	123	12,271	13,038	106
Old	99	54	49	49	91	434	429	99
Total	2,179	1,762	2,152	99	122	12,705	13,467	106
Ducks	50	46	48	96	104	242	260	107
Other Poultry		1	1		100	1	3	300
Total Poultry	22,758	17,394	17,872	79	103	117,103	115,463	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 Live Weight Condemned ²								
Chickens								
Young	0.49	0.35	0.35	71	100	0.35	0.33	94
Mature	2.53	2.07	1.97	78	95	1.44	1.62	113
Light	3.52	2.94	2.65	75	90	1.86	2.23	120
Heavy	2.28	1.81	1.79	79	99	1.32	1.44	109
Total	0.52	0.38	0.37	71	97	0.36	0.36	100
Turkeys								
Young	0.36	0.27	0.33	92	122	0.30	0.31	103
Old	1.37	1.21	1.03	75	85	1.17	1.40	120
Total	0.38	0.28	0.34	89	121	0.31	0.31	100
Ducks	0.35	0.31	0.31	89	100	0.22	0.24	109
Other Poultry		0.32	0.21		66	0.04	0.13	325
Total Poultry	0.50	0.36	0.37	74	103	0.36	0.35	97

¹ Federally inspected only.

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

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

Commodity	Jul 2006	Jun 2007	Jul 2007	Percent of		January to Date		Percent of 2006
				Jul 2006	Jun 2007	2006	2007	
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Carcass and Parts								
Chickens								
Young	31,519	31,724	33,028	105	104	249,476	238,741	96
Mature	2,602	3,400	3,224	124	95	20,432	21,182	104
Light	1,013	1,208	1,065	105	88	8,879	8,096	91
Heavy	1,589	2,192	2,159	136	98	11,553	13,086	113
Total	34,121	35,124	36,252	106	103	269,908	259,923	96
Turkeys								
Young	7,924	8,228	8,387	106	102	59,671	60,180	101
Old	247	214	302	122	141	1,641	1,694	103
Total	8,171	8,442	8,689	106	103	61,312	61,874	101
Ducks	305	283	321	105	113	2,696	2,284	85
Other Poultry	3	4	5	167	125	36	27	75
Total Poultry	42,600	43,853	45,267	106	103	333,952	324,108	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	1.09	1.05	1.08	99	102	1.18	1.14	97
Mature	6.22	7.02	6.77	109	96	6.43	6.85	107
Light	13.86	12.51	12.17	88	97	13.49	12.70	94
Heavy	4.61	5.65	5.55	120	98	4.59	5.33	116
Total	1.16	1.15	1.16	100	101	1.26	1.23	98
Turkeys								
Young	1.72	1.63	1.64	96	101	1.82	1.76	97
Old	4.28	5.98	7.83	183	131	5.48	6.82	124
Total	1.75	1.66	1.69	97	102	1.85	1.79	97
Ducks	2.90	2.63	2.84	98	108	3.28	2.86	87
Other Poultry	1.53	1.99	1.81	118	91	2.68	1.84	68
Total Poultry	1.25	1.23	1.24	99	101	1.34	1.31	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, June 2007-July 2007**

State	Number Slaughtered		Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	June	July	June	July	June	July
	<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	86,564	89,280	476,108	490,143	5.50	5.49
AR	94,704	93,274	500,099	496,620	5.28	5.32
DE	26,780	25,756	178,094	171,332	6.65	6.65
GA	108,199	114,859	566,821	603,653	5.24	5.26
KY	24,144	26,312	132,927	144,307	5.51	5.48
LA	16,463	16,848	92,227	94,675	5.60	5.62
MD	11,534	11,968	54,288	56,679	4.71	4.74
MS	65,900	67,185	361,969	365,843	5.49	5.45
MO	35,073	34,749	164,768	162,645	4.70	4.68
NC	58,951	59,790	400,402	403,658	6.79	6.75
OH	3,867	4,058	21,249	22,438	5.50	5.53
PA	10,143	9,899	57,029	55,412	5.62	5.60
SC	24,241	25,233	152,964	155,957	6.31	6.18
TN	21,875	22,915	111,888	116,397	5.11	5.08
TX	55,270	55,138	291,414	287,291	5.27	5.21
VA	26,168	26,489	134,319	136,402	5.13	5.15
Oth Sts	71,568	72,536	367,151	374,101	5.13	5.16
US	741,444	756,289	4,063,717	4,137,553	5.48	5.47

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

State	Total Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified ¹		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
	June	July	Carcass and Parts		Percent ²	
			June	July	June	July
	<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	350,385	359,667	3,101	3,100	0.88	0.85
AR	357,707	360,411	4,143	4,310	1.14	1.18
DE	127,476	123,474	1,876	1,773	1.45	1.42
GA	420,423	448,438	3,718	3,719	0.88	0.82
KY	97,167	105,611	1,152	1,089	1.17	1.02
LA	67,212	68,986	346	320	0.51	0.46
MD	39,586	41,153	575	540	1.43	1.30
MS	258,942	262,490	2,676	2,794	1.02	1.05
MO	120,479	119,789	1,220	1,758	1.00	1.45
NC	305,597	307,895	4,026	4,340	1.30	1.39
OH	15,643	16,414	283	276	1.78	1.65
PA	38,590	37,661	1,106	1,037	2.79	2.68
SC	112,601	114,716	963	1,196	0.85	1.03
TN	80,742	83,996	873	919	1.07	1.08
TX	223,839	218,800	1,787	1,820	0.79	0.82
VA	93,924	95,406	759	777	0.80	0.81
Oth Sts	269,450	274,276	3,120	3,260	1.14	1.17
US	2,979,763	3,039,183	31,724	33,028	1.05	1.08

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, June 2007-July 2007**

State	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	June	July	June	July	June	July
	<i>Number of Head</i>					
Young						
AL			*	111	70,190	72,676
AR			642	*	141,242	137,819
DE			2,776	1,404	81,194	76,350
GA			*	350	76,079	77,357
KY			*	*	37,283	35,212
LA			28	*	9,820	11,186
MD			*	516	21,101	19,036
MS			*	*	38,694	38,108
MO			323	*	71,751	66,955
NC			351	317	85,347	87,265
OH				*	7,742	8,755
PA			131	*	19,895	17,631
SC			*	*	*	*
TN			79	*	42,047	43,756
TX			81	*	34,506	38,726
VA			*	*	27,249	27,561
Oth Sts			4,007	2,263	215,838	207,427
US			8,418	4,961	979,978	965,820
Mature						
Light			1,674	1,359	158,255	134,069
Heavy			279	214	45,488	44,643
US			1,953	1,573	203,743	178,712
State	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	June	July	June	July	June	July
	<i>Number of Head</i>					
Young						
AL	38,273	30,709	386	445	*	2,896
AR	26,238	19,861	1,737	2,265	2,675	2,342
DE	36,639	26,339	*	*	*	*
GA	60,142	49,737	*	335	6,061	6,024
KY	*	*	5	*	*	*
LA	2,859	2,842	49	*	232	265
MD	*	*	*	*	*	*
MS	21,847	17,586	99	114	912	1,155
MO	9,747	6,505	*	279	1,388	1,395
NC	43,800	29,603	81	65	9,676	10,253
OH	*	*	*	6	140	162
PA	9,631	7,257	71	37	345	245
SC	*	*	25	*	*	*
TN	15,231	16,097	*	*	641	644
TX	9,056	8,896	*	*	1,093	1,111
VA	10,078	9,256	*	*	*	*
Oth Sts	92,866	80,764	3,159	2,160	28,874	25,361
US	376,407	305,452	5,612	5,706	52,037	51,853
Mature						
Light	28,457	25,146	358	143	74,804	70,160
Heavy	2,146	1,754	241	240	5,995	6,770
US	30,603	26,900	599	383	80,799	76,930

* 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, June 2007-July 2007**

State	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	June	July	June	July	June	July
	<i>Number of Head</i>					
Young						
AL	2,030	2,045	8,324	9,520	9,649	9,350
AR	4,106	4,407	11,377	14,581	28,719	25,439
DE	1,733	1,869	6,105	6,296	7,704	7,236
GA	2,103	2,436	26,573	25,864	11,109	11,567
KY	*	206	3,739	3,412	4,666	4,917
LA	177	211	1,936	2,797	888	*
MD	*	*	1,919	2,633	*	*
MS	1,328	1,180	3,117	2,732	4,152	3,721
MO	982	854	3,348	2,376	8,840	9,927
NC	2,154	2,059	17,014	17,204	15,109	16,656
OH	72	62	1,662	*	331	289
PA	584	563	2,277	1,253	2,877	2,494
SC	696	779	1,743	*	1,725	*
TN	*	686	*	2,591	4,838	4,306
TX	576	621	4,437	5,467	6,474	6,167
VA	957	1,056	3,289	3,931	4,890	4,033
Oth Sts	4,312	4,251	14,235	16,955	36,085	38,650
US	21,810	23,285	111,095	117,612	148,056	144,752
Mature						
Light	15,521	10,702	1,789	1,337	104,322	87,735
Heavy	1,177	1,085	4,956	5,253	11,748	9,992
US	16,698	11,787	6,745	6,590	116,070	97,727
State	Overscald		Other		Total ¹	
	June	July	June	July	June	July
	<i>Number of Head</i>					
Young						
AL	7,904	9,147	107,977	111,955	248,070	248,854
AR	3,096	*	79,156	80,464	298,988	292,529
DE	*	4,848	36,081	*	183,757	168,216
GA	5,393	7,288	77,962	73,189	266,419	254,147
KY	*	558	*	*	*	*
LA	51	29	1,373	1,838	17,413	20,526
MD	*	589	*	*	*	*
MS	*	902	*	*	140,968	128,711
MO	*	*	63,754	71,371	161,413	160,718
NC	8,701	8,416	92,333	87,711	274,566	259,549
OH	*	*	*	*	*	*
PA	*	*	*	*	67,473	52,084
SC	3,477	2,947	34,376	40,028	58,693	63,895
TN	*	*	4,201	3,470	72,831	72,806
TX	*	3,835	43,535	33,711	100,976	98,646
VA	2,129	1,367	18,871	20,393	70,896	70,380
Oth Sts	16,775	15,568	348,089	366,273	696,184	674,277
US	47,526	55,494	907,708	890,403	2,658,647	2,565,338
Mature						
Light	541	297	52,040	55,538	437,761	386,486
Heavy	1,376	732	81,721	82,880	155,127	153,563
US	1,917	1,029	133,761	138,418	592,888	540,049

* 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, June 2007-July 2007

State	Number Slaughtered		Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	June	July	June	July	June	July
	<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	2,981	2,813	60,115	53,237	20.17	18.93
MN	3,198	3,427	83,102	92,361	25.99	26.95
MO	1,442	1,518	46,720	48,634	32.40	32.04
Oth Sts	14,293	14,645	434,046	438,713	30.37	29.96
US	21,914	22,403	623,983	632,945	28.47	28.25

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

State	Total Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified ¹		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
			Carcass and Parts		Percent ²	
	June	July	June	July	June	July
	<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	49,711	43,954	719	587	1.43	1.32
MN	66,484	73,836	1,458	1,513	2.15	2.01
MO	36,931	38,425	694	658	1.84	1.68
Oth Sts	342,525	345,763	5,357	5,629	1.54	1.60
US	495,651	501,978	8,228	8,387	1.63	1.64

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, June 2007-July 2007

Cause	Young		Old	
	June	July	June	July
	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>
Tuberculosis				
Leukosis	28	27		2
Septicaemia	53,427	52,594	2,240	2,188
Airsacculitis	5,391	5,474	373	383
Synovitis	3,352	2,419	10	
Tumors	132	212	126	184
Bruises	394	516	22	30
Cadaver	2,216	2,765	30	39
Contamination	3,435	3,168	103	134
Overscald	2,442	1,707	20	6
Other	23,806	20,134	93	3,299
Total	94,623	89,016	3,017	6,265

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.

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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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