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

Poultry certified wholesome during August 2007 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 3.75 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the amount certified in August 2006. The July 2007 revised certified total at 3.60 billion pounds, was up 7 percent from July 2006. The July revision represented an increase of 4.48 million pounds from last month's preliminary pounds certified.

The preliminary total live weight of poultry inspected during August 2007 was 5.05 billion pounds, up 2 percent from 4.97 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 4.31 billion pounds, up 1 percent from August 2006. Mature chickens, at 76.3 million pounds, were up 4 percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 650 million pounds, up 3 percent from a year ago. Ducks totaled 15.7 million pounds, up 1 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during August 2007 averaged 5.39 pounds per bird, up 1 percent from August 2006. The average live weight of mature chickens was 6.14 pounds per bird, down 3 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during August 2007 averaged 27.4 pounds per bird, up 2 percent from August 2006.

Ante-mortem condemnations during August 2007 totaled 28.4 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.56 percent of the live weight inspected, as compared with 0.48 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 45.8 million pounds, were 1.21 percent of quantities inspected, compared with 1.24 percent a year earlier.

August 2007 contained 23 weekdays and 4 Saturdays, while August 2006 had 23 weekdays and 4 Saturdays.

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

Commodity	Aug 2006	Jul 2007	Aug 2007	Pct of		January to Date		Pct of 2006
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	Aug 2006	Jul 2007	2006	2007	
				<i>Pct</i>	<i>Pct</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Pct</i>
Number Slaughtered								
Chickens								
Young	793,371	757,277	798,867	101	105	5,955,677	5,941,130	100
Mature	11,571	11,435	12,422	107	109	89,913	89,397	99
Light	4,329	4,509	5,017	116	111	37,706	38,140	101
Heavy	7,242	6,926	7,405	102	107	52,207	51,257	98
Total	804,942	768,712	811,289	101	106	6,045,590	6,030,527	100
Turkeys								
Young	23,099	22,403	23,461	102	105	164,828	171,573	104
Old	307	187	264	86	141	1,712	1,430	84
Total	23,406	22,590	23,725	101	105	166,540	173,003	104
Ducks	2,414	2,295	2,373	98	103	18,792	18,482	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	4,250,058	4,143,818	4,308,111	101	104	32,398,326	32,489,906	100
Mature	73,649	70,765	76,252	104	108	547,576	536,746	98
Light	14,459	14,852	16,575	115	112	125,880	125,056	99
Heavy	59,190	55,913	59,677	101	107	421,696	411,690	98
Total	4,323,707	4,214,583	4,384,363	101	104	32,945,902	33,026,652	100
Turkeys								
Young	622,907	632,945	643,300	103	102	4,693,836	4,894,208	104
Old	7,561	4,775	6,632	88	139	44,784	37,298	83
Total	630,468	637,720	649,932	103	102	4,738,620	4,931,506	104
Ducks	15,511	15,385	15,728	101	102	126,338	124,088	98
Other Poultry ²	407	479	561	138	117	2,666	2,948	111
Total Poultry	4,970,093	4,868,167	5,050,584	102	104	37,813,526	38,085,194	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	5.36	5.47	5.39	101	99	5.44	5.47	101
Mature	6.36	6.19	6.14	97	99	6.09	6.00	99
Light	3.34	3.29	3.30	99	100	3.34	3.28	98
Heavy	8.17	8.07	8.06	99	100	8.08	8.03	99
Total	5.37	5.48	5.40	101	99	5.45	5.48	101
Turkeys								
Young	26.97	28.25	27.42	102	97	28.48	28.53	100
Old	24.63	25.53	25.12	102	98	26.16	26.08	100
Total	26.94	28.23	27.39	102	97	28.45	28.51	100
Ducks	6.43	6.70	6.63	103	99	6.72	6.71	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, August, 2006-2007¹**

Commodity	Aug 2006	Jul 2007	Aug 2007	Pct of		January to Date		Pct of 2006
				Aug 2006	Jul 2007	2006	2007	
	<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>
Chilled								
Chickens								
Young	2,832,966	2,748,969	2,862,659	101	104	21,794,378	21,508,438	99
Mature	45,940	44,177	46,560	101	105	340,299	331,276	97
Light	7,346	7,684	8,431	115	110	64,169	64,057	100
Heavy	38,594	36,493	38,129	99	104	276,130	267,219	97
Total	2,878,906	2,793,146	2,909,219	101	104	22,134,677	21,839,714	99
Turkeys								
Young	271,483	275,163	282,664	104	103	2,061,284	2,180,101	106
Old	5,002	2,783	3,359	67	121	28,571	22,866	80
Total	276,485	277,946	286,023	103	103	2,089,855	2,202,967	105
Ducks	5,396	5,258	5,760	107	110	45,693	42,576	93
Other Poultry ²	179	213	190	106	89	1,288	1,398	109
Total Poultry	3,160,966	3,076,563	3,201,192	101	104	24,271,513	24,086,655	99
Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	308,047	294,692	309,172	100	105	2,271,797	2,301,821	101
Mature	342	249	769	225	309	3,076	3,914	127
Light			51			99	64	65
Heavy	342	249	718	210	288	2,977	3,850	129
Total	308,389	294,941	309,941	101	105	2,274,873	2,305,735	101
Turkeys								
Young	222,124	226,815	227,761	103	100	1,657,499	1,695,486	102
Old	756	772	1,639	217	212	5,483	5,261	96
Total	222,880	227,587	229,400	103	101	1,662,982	1,700,747	102
Ducks	5,733	5,727	5,541	97	97	44,926	46,204	103
Other Poultry ²	32	58	138	431	238	228	372	163
Total Poultry	537,034	528,313	545,020	101	103	3,983,009	4,053,058	102
Total Chilled and Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	3,141,013	3,043,661	3,171,831	101	104	24,066,175	23,810,259	99
Mature	46,282	44,426	47,329	102	107	343,375	335,190	98
Light	7,346	7,684	8,482	115	110	64,268	64,121	100
Heavy	38,936	36,742	38,847	100	106	279,107	271,069	97
Total	3,187,295	3,088,087	3,219,160	101	104	24,409,550	24,145,449	99
Turkeys								
Young	493,607	501,978	510,425	103	102	3,718,783	3,875,587	104
Old	5,758	3,555	4,998	87	141	34,054	28,127	83
Total	499,365	505,533	515,423	103	102	3,752,837	3,903,714	104
Ducks	11,129	10,985	11,301	102	103	90,619	88,780	98
Other Poultry ²	211	271	328	155	121	1,516	1,770	117
Total Poultry	3,698,000	3,604,876	3,746,212	101	104	28,254,522	28,139,713	100

¹ Ready-to-cook weights.

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

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

Commodity	Aug 2006	Jul 2007	Aug 2007	Percent of		January to Date		Percent of 2006
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	Aug 2006 <i>Percent</i>	Jul 2007 <i>Percent</i>	2006 <i>1,000 Pounds</i>	2007 <i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Live Weight								
Chickens								
Young	20,027	14,310	23,276	116	163	117,338	117,558	100
Mature	1,805	1,393	2,812	156	202	8,649	10,295	119
Light	578	393	531	92	135	2,646	2,946	111
Heavy	1,227	1,000	2,281	186	228	6,003	7,349	122
Total	21,832	15,703	26,088	119	166	125,987	127,853	101
Turkeys								
Young	2,044	2,103	2,123	104	101	14,315	15,161	106
Old	124	49	94	76	192	558	523	94
Total	2,168	2,152	2,217	102	103	14,873	15,684	105
Ducks	52	48	53	102	110	294	313	106
Other Poultry		1	2		200	1	5	500
Total Poultry	24,052	17,904	28,360	118	158	141,155	143,855	102
	<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	0.47	0.35	0.54	115	154	0.36	0.36	100
Mature	2.45	1.97	3.69	151	187	1.58	1.92	122
Light	4.00	2.65	3.20	80	121	2.10	2.36	112
Heavy	2.07	1.79	3.82	185	213	1.42	1.79	126
Total	0.50	0.37	0.60	120	162	0.38	0.39	103
Turkeys								
Young	0.33	0.33	0.33	100	100	0.30	0.31	103
Old	1.64	1.03	1.42	87	138	1.25	1.40	112
Total	0.34	0.34	0.34	100	100	0.31	0.32	103
Ducks	0.34	0.31	0.34	100	110	0.23	0.25	109
Other Poultry		0.21	0.36		171	0.04	0.17	425
Total Poultry	0.48	0.37	0.56	117	151	0.37	0.38	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, August, 2006-2007 ¹**

Commodity	Aug 2006	Jul 2007	Aug 2007	Percent of		January to Date		Percent of 2006
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	Aug 2006 <i>Percent</i>	Jul 2007 <i>Percent</i>	2006 <i>1,000 Pounds</i>	2007 <i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Carcass and Parts								
Chickens								
Young	33,490	33,063	32,730	98	99	282,966	271,506	96
Mature	3,090	3,224	3,599	116	112	23,522	24,781	105
Light	1,139	1,065	1,144	100	107	10,018	9,240	92
Heavy	1,951	2,159	2,455	126	114	13,504	15,541	115
Total	36,580	36,287	36,329	99	100	306,488	296,287	97
Turkeys								
Young	9,268	8,387	8,830	95	105	68,939	69,010	100
Old	319	302	329	103	109	1,960	2,023	103
Total	9,587	8,689	9,159	96	105	70,899	71,033	100
Ducks	388	321	299	77	93	3,084	2,583	84
Other Poultry	4	5	12	300	240	40	39	98
Total Poultry	46,559	45,302	45,799	98	101	380,511	369,942	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	1.05	1.07	1.02	97	95	1.16	1.13	97
Mature	6.26	6.77	7.07	113	104	6.41	6.88	107
Light	13.42	12.17	11.88	89	98	13.49	12.60	93
Heavy	4.77	5.55	5.94	125	107	4.62	5.42	117
Total	1.13	1.16	1.12	98	96	1.24	1.21	98
Turkeys								
Young	1.84	1.64	1.70	92	103	1.82	1.75	96
Old	5.25	7.83	6.18	118	79	5.44	6.71	123
Total	1.88	1.69	1.75	93	103	1.85	1.79	96
Ducks	3.37	2.84	2.58	77	91	3.29	2.83	86
Other Poultry	1.86	1.81	3.53	190	195	2.57	2.16	84
Total Poultry	1.24	1.24	1.21	97	97	1.33	1.30	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, July 2007-August 2007**

State	Number Slaughtered		Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	July	August	July	August	July	August
	<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	89,280	93,633	490,143	504,414	5.49	5.39
AR	94,259	103,207	502,873	540,334	5.34	5.24
DE	25,756	28,037	171,332	187,486	6.65	6.69
GA	114,859	118,845	603,653	612,935	5.26	5.16
KY	26,312	27,265	144,307	145,277	5.48	5.33
LA	16,848	17,337	94,675	97,900	5.62	5.65
MD	11,968	13,275	56,679	62,336	4.74	4.70
MS	67,185	70,161	365,843	381,035	5.45	5.43
MO	34,749	36,736	162,645	169,053	4.68	4.60
NC	59,793	62,192	403,670	413,924	6.75	6.66
OH	4,058	4,434	22,438	23,804	5.53	5.37
PA	9,899	10,725	55,412	59,715	5.60	5.57
SC	25,233	26,835	155,957	159,813	6.18	5.96
TN	22,915	24,768	116,397	122,582	5.08	4.95
TX	55,138	58,196	287,291	301,879	5.21	5.19
VA	26,489	28,031	136,402	143,849	5.15	5.13
Oth Sts	72,536	75,190	374,101	381,775	5.16	5.08
US	757,277	798,867	4,143,818	4,308,111	5.47	5.39

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

State	Total Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified ¹		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
			Carcass and Parts		Percent ²	
	July	August	July	August	July	August
	<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	359,667	371,928	3,100	3,245	0.85	0.86
AR	364,881	390,237	4,345	4,844	1.18	1.23
DE	123,474	135,029	1,773	1,907	1.42	1.39
GA	448,438	458,548	3,719	3,531	0.82	0.76
KY	105,611	106,274	1,089	942	1.02	0.88
LA	68,986	71,706	320	348	0.46	0.48
MD	41,153	45,294	540	584	1.30	1.27
MS	262,490	278,781	2,794	2,586	1.05	0.92
MO	119,789	123,963	1,758	1,260	1.45	1.01
NC	307,903	315,157	4,340	4,442	1.39	1.39
OH	16,414	17,330	276	308	1.65	1.75
PA	37,661	40,955	1,037	948	2.68	2.26
SC	114,716	117,381	1,196	1,009	1.03	0.85
TN	83,996	88,245	919	969	1.08	1.09
TX	218,800	230,749	1,820	1,896	0.82	0.81
VA	95,406	100,535	777	735	0.81	0.73
Oth Sts	274,276	279,719	3,260	3,176	1.17	1.12
US	3,043,661	3,171,831	33,063	32,730	1.07	1.02

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, July 2007-August 2007**

State	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	July	August	July	August	July	August
	<i>Number of Head</i>					
Young						
AL			111	175	72,676	81,362
AR			*	589	137,819	150,450
DE			1,404	1,655	76,350	88,551
GA			350	390	77,357	77,982
KY			*	*	35,212	34,939
LA			*	*	11,186	13,145
MD			516	*	19,036	24,393
MS			*	*	38,108	37,571
MO			*	*	66,955	67,808
NC			317	*	87,269	91,130
OH			*	*	8,755	8,328
PA			*	58	17,631	21,951
SC			*	*	*	*
TN			*	*	43,756	50,830
TX			*	*	38,726	43,457
VA			*	261	27,561	28,104
Oth Sts			2,263	3,379	207,427	205,491
US			4,961	6,507	965,824	1,025,492
Mature						
Light			1,359	1,515	134,069	163,822
Heavy			214	312	44,643	43,740
US			1,573	1,827	178,712	207,562
State	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	July	August	July	August	July	August
	<i>Number of Head</i>					
Young						
AL	30,709	29,170	445	575	2,896	2,819
AR	19,861	21,495	2,265	3,207	2,342	2,485
DE	26,339	22,326	*	*	*	*
GA	49,737	42,175	335	410	6,024	6,409
KY	*	*	*	*	*	*
LA	2,842	2,890	*	*	265	214
MD	*	*	*	*	*	*
MS	17,586	11,410	114	197	1,155	906
MO	6,505	5,783	279	*	1,395	1,551
NC	29,604	27,019	65	*	10,253	8,724
OH	*	*	6	*	162	180
PA	7,257	8,428	37	55	245	337
SC	*	2,943	*	*	*	*
TN	16,097	16,561	*	*	644	621
TX	8,896	7,972	*	163	1,111	1,142
VA	9,256	7,584	*	*	*	*
Oth Sts	80,764	52,502	2,160	2,333	25,361	27,599
US	305,453	258,258	5,706	6,940	51,853	52,987
Mature						
Light	25,146	32,958	143	193	70,160	71,634
Heavy	1,754	2,186	240	85	6,770	7,468
US	26,900	35,144	383	278	76,930	79,102

* 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, July 2007-August 2007**

State	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	July	August	July	August	July	August
	<i>Number of Head</i>					
Young						
AL	2,045	2,097	9,520	10,738	9,350	11,367
AR	4,407	5,524	14,581	18,374	25,439	26,142
DE	1,869	1,839	6,296	5,911	7,236	7,284
GA	2,436	2,313	25,864	28,136	11,567	12,072
KY	206	231	3,412	3,046	4,917	4,467
LA	211	248	2,797	3,038	*	*
MD	*	*	2,633	*	*	*
MS	1,180	1,247	2,732	3,233	3,721	3,638
MO	854	853	2,376	3,069	9,927	10,451
NC	2,059	2,275	17,204	17,803	16,656	20,147
OH	62	*	*	*	289	519
PA	563	758	1,253	*	2,494	4,254
SC	779	892	*	*	*	*
TN	686	781	2,591	2,454	4,306	4,248
TX	621	764	5,467	5,589	6,167	6,315
VA	1,056	1,100	3,931	3,534	4,033	5,114
Oth Sts	4,251	4,540	16,955	22,525	38,650	39,630
US	23,285	25,462	117,612	127,450	144,752	155,648
Mature						
Light	10,702	12,353	1,337	1,360	87,735	98,909
Heavy	1,085	896	5,253	8,543	9,992	11,502
US	11,787	13,249	6,590	9,903	97,727	110,411
State	Overscald		Other		Total ¹	
	July	August	July	August	July	August
	<i>Number of Head</i>					
Young						
AL	9,147	10,180	111,955	108,145	248,854	256,628
AR	*	4,415	80,464	92,183	292,529	324,864
DE	4,848	5,553	*	33,144	168,216	173,646
GA	7,288	5,473	73,189	83,460	254,147	258,820
KY	558	*	*	*	*	*
LA	29	64	1,838	1,716	20,526	22,632
MD	589	1,086	*	*	*	*
MS	902	*	*	52,364	128,711	113,588
MO	*	507	71,371	78,660	160,718	169,361
NC	8,416	10,867	87,711	119,959	259,554	298,280
OH	*	*	*	*	*	*
PA	*	*	*	*	52,084	65,266
SC	2,947	3,404	40,028	35,131	63,895	57,624
TN	*	2,351	3,470	4,367	72,806	82,410
TX	3,835	*	33,711	37,020	98,646	104,502
VA	1,367	1,895	20,393	16,857	70,380	67,505
Oth Sts	15,568	10,968	366,273	257,155	674,277	640,542
US	55,494	56,763	890,403	920,161	2,565,343	2,635,668
Mature						
Light	297	356	55,538	46,123	386,486	429,223
Heavy	732	2,827	82,880	79,534	153,563	157,093
US	1,029	3,183	138,418	125,657	540,049	586,316

* 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, July 2007-August 2007

State	Number Slaughtered		Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	July	August	July	August	July	August
	<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	2,813	3,002	53,237	56,910	18.93	18.95
MN	3,427	3,545	92,361	91,883	26.95	25.92
MO	1,518	1,570	48,634	47,736	32.04	30.40
Oth Sts	14,645	15,344	438,713	446,771	29.96	29.12
US	22,403	23,461	632,945	643,300	28.25	27.42

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

State	Total Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified ¹		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
			Carcass and Parts		Percent ²	
	July	August	July	August	July	August
	<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	43,954	47,077	587	656	1.32	1.37
MN	73,836	73,330	1,513	1,574	2.01	2.10
MO	38,425	37,590	658	811	1.68	2.11
Oth Sts	345,763	352,428	5,629	5,789	1.60	1.62
US	501,978	510,425	8,387	8,830	1.64	1.70

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, July 2007-August 2007

Cause	Young		Old	
	July	August	July	August
	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>
Tuberculosis				
Leukosis	27	203	2	
Septicaemia	52,594	58,873	2,188	2,388
Airsacculitis	5,474	7,109	383	593
Synovitis	2,419	3,137		
Tumors	212	108	184	214
Bruises	516	450	30	35
Cadaver	2,765	3,124	39	71
Contamination	3,168	3,787	134	113
Overscald	1,707	1,345	6	
Other	20,134	21,190	3,299	1,452
Total	89,016	99,326	6,265	4,866

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
- Sharyn Lavender - Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery, Honey (202) 720-3244
- Kim Linonis - Layers, Eggs (202) 690-8632
- Toby Paterson - Catfish Production, Trout Production, Census of Aquaculture,
Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised (202) 720-0585

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