

# Poultry Slaughter



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Washington, D.C.

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Released May 3, 1996, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on "Poultry Slaughter" call Jim Brewster at (202) 720-8784, office hours 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET. For assistance with general agricultural statistics, information about NASS, its products or services, contact the NASS Information Hotline at 1-800-727-9540 or E-mail: [NASS@NASS.USDA.GOV](mailto:NASS@NASS.USDA.GOV).

## Ready-to-Cook Weight Down 2 Percent

Poultry Certified Wholesome during March (ready-to-cook weight), totaled 2.62 billion pounds, down 2 percent from the amount certified in March 1995. Updated totals for February 1996 show that 2.65 billion pounds were certified. The January through March cumulative total of pounds certified, at 8.03 billion pounds, was up 7 percent from the same period the previous year.

The preliminary total Live Weight of Poultry Inspected during March 1996 was 3.57 billion pounds. Inspections included 2.95 billion pounds of young chickens, 72.0 million pounds of mature chickens, 533 million pounds of turkeys, and 10.2 million pounds of ducks.

Young chickens slaughtered during March 1996 averaged 4.79 pounds per bird, up 3 percent from the average live weight a year ago. The average live weight of mature chickens was up 7 percent from 5.01 pounds per bird the previous year to 5.35 pounds. Turkeys slaughtered during March 1996 averaged 23.7 pounds per bird, up slightly from March 1995.

Ante-mortem condemnations during March 1996 totaled 14.6 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.41 percent of the live weight inspected, compared with 0.36 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 63.2 million pounds (N.Y. dressed weight), were 1.97 percent of quantities inspected, compared with 1.94 percent a year earlier.

March 1996 contained 21 weekdays and five Saturdays, while March 1995 contained 23 weekdays and four Saturdays. Each weekday represents approximately 5 percent of the month's total.

Poultry Slaughter: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight  
by Type, United States, March 1996 with Comparisons 1/

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature 2/	Total		
1,000 Head					
Number Inspected					
Feb 1996	618,637	13,349	631,986	1,591	-----
Mar 1995	651,072	14,432	665,504	1,687	-----
Mar 1996	616,703	13,454	630,157	1,514	-----
Jan-Mar 1995	1,819,013	42,196	1,861,209	4,749	-----
Jan-Mar 1996	1,879,461	40,956	1,920,418	4,810	-----
1,000 Pounds					
Live Weight					
Feb 1996	2,969,421	68,246	3,037,667	10,609	535
Mar 1995	3,024,117	72,341	3,096,459	11,355	338
Mar 1996	2,951,897	71,972	3,023,868	10,212	573
Jan-Mar 1995	8,468,016	209,124	8,677,141	31,843	1,062
Jan-Mar 1996	9,038,051	213,338	9,251,389	32,249	1,742
Pounds					
Average Live Weight					
Feb 1996	4.80	5.11	4.81	6.67	-----
Mar 1995	4.64	5.01	4.65	6.73	-----
Mar 1996	4.79	5.35	4.80	6.75	-----
Jan-Mar 1995	4.66	4.96	4.66	6.71	-----
Jan-Mar 1996	4.81	5.21	4.82	6.71	-----

See footnotes at end of table.

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Poultry Slaughter: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight  
by Type, United States, March 1996 with Comparisons 1/ (continued)

	Turkeys				Total Poultry
	Fryer- Roasters	Young 3/	Old	Total Turkeys	
	1,000 Head				
Number Inspected					
Feb 1996	29	22,654	138	22,820	-----
Mar 1995	---	23,204	139	23,343	-----
Mar 1996	16	22,342	116	22,474	-----
Jan-Mar 1995	15	63,438	415	63,867	-----
Jan-Mar 1996	44	66,380	426	66,851	-----
	1,000 Pounds				
Live Weight					
Feb 1996	286	539,728	3,512	543,526	3,592,337
Mar 1995	---	548,215	3,591	551,806	3,659,959
Mar 1996	138	529,387	3,024	532,548	3,567,202
Jan-Mar 1995	149	1,508,023	10,221	1,518,393	10,228,439
Jan-Mar 1996	424	1,594,216	10,955	1,605,595	10,890,975
	Pounds				
Average Live Weight					
Feb 1996	9.88	23.83	25.52	23.82	-----
Mar 1995	---	23.63	25.82	23.64	-----
Mar 1996	8.89	23.69	26.08	23.70	-----
Jan-Mar 1995	10.27	23.77	24.64	23.77	-----
Jan-Mar 1996	9.54	24.02	25.70	24.02	-----

- 1/ Federally inspected only. Totals may not add due to rounding.  
2/ Of the Mature Chickens inspected, the number reported in thousands as heavy fowl (broiler breeding stock) was: March 1995: 5,193, March 1996: 5,930.  
3/ Of the Young Turkeys inspected, the number reported in thousands as young breeders was: March 1995: 58, March 1996: 80.

Poultry Slaughter: Chilled and Frozen, Pounds Certified by Type,  
United States, March 1996 with Comparisons 1/

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature	Total		
1,000 Pounds					
Feb 1996					
Chilled	1,981,174	39,809	2,020,983	3,342	118
Frozen	187,257	1,647	188,905	4,311	194
Total	2,168,431	41,456	2,209,887	7,653	312
Mar 1995					
Chilled	2,003,888	41,652	2,045,541	2,512	31
Frozen	192,835	2,805	195,640	5,695	178
Total	2,196,723	44,457	2,241,181	8,207	209
Mar 1996					
Chilled	1,974,826	41,272	2,016,098	2,663	138
Frozen	177,582	2,065	179,647	4,695	197
Total	2,152,408	43,337	2,195,745	7,358	334
Jan-Mar 1995					
Chilled	5,617,682	121,006	5,738,688	7,384	152
Frozen	528,879	6,638	535,517	15,492	509
Total	6,146,561	127,644	6,274,205	22,876	662
Jan-Mar 1996					
Chilled	6,040,089	123,380	6,163,469	8,987	421
Frozen	567,209	5,869	573,078	14,244	602
Total	6,607,297	129,249	6,736,547	23,231	1,023

See footnotes at end of table.

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Poultry Slaughter: Chilled and Frozen, Pounds Certified by Type,  
United States, March 1996 with Comparisons 1/ (continued)

		Turkeys				
		Fryer- Roasters	Young	Old	Total Turkeys	Total Poultry
		1,000 Pounds				
Feb 1996						
Chilled		---	206,057	1,632	207,689	2,232,132
Frozen		227	220,461	995	221,682	415,092
Total		227	426,518	2,627	429,371	2,647,224
Mar 1995						
Chilled		---	220,625	2,045	222,670	2,270,754
Frozen		---	212,503	669	213,172	414,684
Total		---	433,128	2,714	435,842	2,685,438
Mar 1996						
Chilled		---	211,563	1,634	213,197	2,232,096
Frozen		109	207,329	602	208,040	392,579
Total		109	418,893	2,236	421,237	2,624,675
Jan-Mar 1995						
Chilled		---	605,040	5,448	610,488	6,356,712
Frozen		111	583,249	2,292	585,652	1,137,170
Total		111	1,188,289	7,740	1,196,140	7,493,882
Jan-Mar 1996						
Chilled		---	628,664	5,575	634,238	6,807,115
Frozen		336	629,144	2,697	632,177	1,220,101
Total		336	1,257,807	8,272	1,266,415	8,027,216

1/ Ready-to-cook weights. Totals may not add due to rounding.

Poultry Slaughter: Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem Condemnations  
by Type, United States, March 1996 with Comparisons 1/

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature	Total		
----- 1,000 Pounds					
Ante-Mortem (Live Weight)					
Feb 1996	12,674	1,243	13,917	9	1
Mar 1995	10,916	963	11,879	11	1
Mar 1996	11,833	1,125	12,958	7	3
Jan-Mar 1995	31,755	3,006	34,762	32	5
Jan-Mar 1996	40,155	3,474	43,628	24	9
Percent 2/					
Mar 1995	0.36	1.33	0.38	0.09	0.31
Mar 1996	0.40	1.56	0.43	0.06	0.51
----- 1,000 Pounds					
Post-Mortem (N.Y. Dressed Weight)					
Feb 1996	49,968	4,008	53,976	165	8
Mar 1995	49,189	3,409	52,598	185	4
Mar 1996	47,914	4,275	52,189	154	5
Jan-Mar 1995	137,016	9,910	146,926	533	15
Jan-Mar 1996	150,316	12,331	162,647	479	25
Percent 3/					
Mar 1995	1.81	5.24	1.89	1.81	1.44
Mar 1996	1.80	6.60	1.92	1.68	1.06

See footnotes at end of table.

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Poultry Slaughter: Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem Condemnations  
by Type, United States, March 1996 with Comparisons 1/ (continued)

		Turkeys				
		1,000 Pounds				
		Fryer-	Young	Old	Total	Total
		Roasters			Turkeys	Poultry
Ante-Mortem (Live Weight)						
Feb 1996	2	1,763	57	1,822	15,749	
Mar 1995	---	1,316	43	1,358	13,249	
Mar 1996	---	1,548	40	1,589	14,556	
Jan-Mar 1995	1	3,696	81	3,778	38,577	
Jan-Mar 1996	2	5,152	153	5,307	48,968	
Percent 2/						
Mar 1995	---	0.24	1.19	0.25	0.36	
Mar 1996	0.16	0.29	1.33	0.30	0.41	
		1,000 Pounds				
Post-Mortem (N.Y. Dressed Weight)						
Feb 1996	3	11,392	257	11,651	65,800	
Mar 1995	---	10,746	327	11,074	63,861	
Mar 1996	1	10,629	247	10,877	63,226	
Jan-Mar 1995	2	29,955	775	30,732	178,207	
Jan-Mar 1996	4	33,930	733	34,667	197,817	
Percent 3/						
Mar 1995	---	2.18	10.12	2.23	1.94	
Mar 1996	1.13	2.23	9.06	2.27	1.97	

- 1/ Federally inspected only. Totals may not add due to rounding.  
2/ Pounds condemned as percent of pounds (live weight) inspected. Percentages based on unrounded data.  
3/ Pounds condemned as percent of pounds N.Y. dressed weight of quantity inspected. Percentages based on unrounded data.

Young Chickens Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight,  
Selected States and United States, March 1995-96

State	Number Inspected		Live Weight Inspected		Average Live Weight Inspected 1/		
	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996	
	-----	1,000	-----	1,000 Pounds	----	Pounds	----
AL	81,195	73,117	380,152	353,769	4.68	4.84	
AR	98,450	95,323	434,392	450,981	4.41	4.73	
CA	21,664	18,494	109,859	92,892	5.07	5.02	
DE	25,090	22,771	131,995	126,045	5.26	5.54	
FL	13,089	11,301	57,312	50,358	4.38	4.46	
GA	86,750	86,966	410,871	426,474	4.74	4.90	
LA	14,087	13,014	63,977	61,101	4.54	4.69	
MD	18,713	17,270	88,126	82,188	4.71	4.76	
MS	56,077	51,486	259,190	242,497	4.62	4.71	
MO	22,630	25,850	94,258	108,725	4.17	4.21	
NC	56,665	53,896	286,582	278,148	5.06	5.16	
PA	8,551	7,951	43,918	40,348	5.14	5.07	
SC	20,361	18,803	82,321	82,505	4.04	4.39	
TN	14,059	13,520	61,460	59,937	4.37	4.43	
TX	37,317	37,261	166,740	169,459	4.47	4.55	
VA	32,070	28,452	149,627	135,754	4.67	4.77	
WA	3,008	2,833	15,283	14,823	5.08	5.23	
US	651,072	616,703	3,024,117	2,951,897	4.64	4.79	

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.



Young Chickens Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations,  
Selected States and United States, March 1995-96

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
			N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----				-- Percent --	
AL	276,430	258,700	8,029	7,453	2.35	2.34
AR	306,751	321,692	6,319	7,203	1.62	1.77
CA	80,022	68,002	2,583	1,313	2.61	1.57
DE	95,879	91,373	2,411	2,818	2.03	2.48
FL	41,831	35,837	489	560	0.95	1.24
GA	302,301	315,075	6,458	6,602	1.75	1.72
LA	46,507	44,195	932	1,036	1.62	1.88
MD	61,160	58,233	1,602	1,452	2.02	1.96
MS	195,009	182,417	3,569	2,793	1.53	1.28
MO	67,014	78,646	1,244	1,885	1.47	1.93
NC	211,727	205,097	4,646	4,108	1.80	1.64
PA	31,203	28,346	1,108	1,316	2.80	3.62
SC	61,383	60,976	1,124	1,328	1.52	1.79
TN	43,777	43,930	742	655	1.34	1.21
TX	126,030	129,012	2,246	2,160	1.50	1.42
VA	105,933	94,700	1,887	2,026	1.40	1.66
WA	11,314	11,035	426	405	3.10	3.03
US	2,196,723	2,152,408	49,189	47,914	1.81	1.80

1/ Ready-to-cook weights.

2/ Pounds condemned as percent of equivalent N.Y. dressed weight of quantity inspected. Percentages based on unrounded data.

Young Chickens Slaughtered: Number Condemned Post-Mortem by Cause,  
Selected States and United States, March 1996

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
Number						
AL	---	---	242,403	240,436	6,888	17,896
AR	---	9,231	367,096	235,483	8,757	10,933
CA	---	8,505	78,949	8,172	1,682	12,329
DE	---	70,597	140,494	118,068	---	---
FL	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	5,680	191,260	329,010	1,620	19,302
LA	---	1,138	47,840	28,870	---	4,002
MD	---	31,351	91,468	58,703	---	8,418
MS	---	8,060	110,041	53,256	---	23,265
MO	---	7,445	116,842	60,488	2,100	2,286
NC	---	20,722	145,742	82,402	---	44,396
PA	---	---	47,580	63,126	588	3,268
SC	---	2,073	34,659	82,354	129	5,917
TN	---	---	58,291	15,190	1,130	---
TX	---	1,314	120,018	59,306	520	2,857
VA	---	---	83,419	78,044	586	---
WA	---	---	20,938	---	267	---
US	---	252,843	2,107,578	1,574,151	37,462	207,510

  

State	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
Number						
AL	13,434	37,663	84,497	11,520	247,424	902,161
AR	14,596	30,528	91,159	5,726	141,325	914,834
CA	830	6,758	2,928	---	28,323	148,476
DE	3,982	11,327	17,864	4,797	49,373	416,502
FL	1,121	4,495	8,846	---	---	14,462
GA	15,039	42,768	57,786	5,881	217,957	886,303
LA	2,178	5,729	17,737	387	27,133	135,014
MD	1,700	7,298	---	---	---	198,938
MS	5,995	18,170	32,981	3,083	134,829	389,680
MO	2,835	12,835	19,505	1,014	38,908	264,258
NC	6,272	31,620	52,992	3,590	180,617	568,353
PA	2,468	2,985	---	---	29,903	149,918
SC	3,017	20,230	18,268	773	54,618	222,038
TN	2,107	8,502	11,303	---	28,346	124,869
TX	1,205	8,324	11,715	682	4,071	210,012
VA	3,305	6,554	25,856	1,208	80,425	279,397
WA	426	958	555	---	15,546	38,690
US	87,622	274,953	547,270	44,014	1,409,161	6,542,564

Mature Chickens Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight,  
Selected States and United States, March 1995-96

State	Number Inspected		Live Weight Inspected		Average Live Weight Inspected 1/	
	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996
	----- 1,000 -----		----- 1,000 Pounds -----		----- Pounds -----	
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	14,432	13,454	72,341	71,972	5.01	5.35

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

Mature Chickens Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations,  
Selected States and United States, March 1995-96

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
	N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/			
	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----		----- Percent -----			
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	44,457	43,337	3,409	4,275	5.24	6.60

1/ Ready-to-cook weights.

2/ Pounds condemned as percent of equivalent N.Y. dressed weight of quantity inspected. Percentages based on unrounded data.

Mature Chickens Slaughtered: Number Condemned Post-Mortem by Cause,  
Selected States and United States, March 1996

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
Number						
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	---	5,364	277,167	15,385	706	141,453

  

State	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
Number						
CA	---	---	237	---	---	237
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	32,236	48,976	191,030	2,966	38,537	753,820

Young Turkeys (Mature) Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight, Selected States and United States, March 1995-96

State	Number Inspected		Live Weight Inspected		Average Live Weight Inspected 1/	
	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996
	----- 1,000 -----		---- 1,000 Pounds ----		--- Pounds ---	
AR	2,222	2,281	45,685	45,074	20.56	19.76
CA	1,659	1,557	33,278	32,784	20.06	21.05
IA	1,075	935	32,362	29,203	30.10	31.24
MN	2,841	2,836	61,205	60,955	21.54	21.49
MO	1,735	1,901	43,493	48,548	25.07	25.54
NC	4,665	4,112	108,830	97,455	23.33	23.70
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	3,294	3,196	64,109	61,089	19.46	19.11
US	23,204	22,342	548,215	529,387	23.63	23.69

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

Young Turkeys (Mature) Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations, Selected States and United States, March 1995-96

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
	1995	1996	N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----				-- Percent --	
AR	37,249	37,053	914	824	2.22	2.03
CA	27,299	26,813	454	406	1.52	1.38
IA	25,013	22,612	852	904	2.93	3.44
MN	48,856	47,868	1,384	1,510	2.51	2.75
MO	34,319	38,530	990	1,479	2.53	3.39
NC	85,942	76,901	2,000	1,580	2.04	1.80
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	50,136	48,175	947	791	1.64	1.44
US	433,128	418,893	10,746	10,629	2.18	2.23

1/ Ready-to-cook weights.

2/ Pounds condemned as percent of equivalent N.Y. dressed weight of quantity inspected. Percentages based on unrounded data.

Young Turkeys (Mature) Slaughtered: Number Condemned Post-Mortem by Cause,  
Selected States and United States, March 1996

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
			10,426	---	---	15
AR	---	---	5,876	77	---	---
CA	---	---	---	6,128	---	---
IA	---	---	11,466	4,045	643	---
MN	---	---	---	3,649	---	---
MO	---	---	7,833	681	---	---
NC	---	---	---	---	---	---
PA	---	---	---	761	---	---
VA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	---	328	106,671	26,368	7,336	144

  

State	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
			1,089	---	1,277	12,807
AR	---	---	---	---	---	5,953
CA	32	---	---	---	285	6,445
IA	111	1,095	1,701	321	1,448	20,830
MN	145	295	856	141	---	5,086
MO	---	3,150	1,427	174	1,650	14,915
NC	---	---	---	---	---	---
PA	27	948	215	---	1,216	3,167
VA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	1,380	9,792	8,504	1,517	9,764	171,804

Old Turkeys (Breeders) Slaughtered: Number Condemned Post-Mortem by Cause,  
 United States, March 1996

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
	Number					
US	---	---	5,145	192	---	139
	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
	Number					
US	---	91	100	---	548	6,215

## Poultry Slaughter Estimates

**Data Sources:** Primary data for commercial poultry slaughter estimates are obtained from the Poultry Inspection Form (FSIS 6000-21) completed by inspectors of the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), USDA. This form provides actual counts of birds slaughtered in Federally Inspected (FI) plants. Over 99 percent of the total U.S. slaughter for any species is under FI. The FSIS 6000-21 forms collect number of head slaughtered daily under FI by species and class as well as condemnations and total live and dressed weights. Approximately 350 plants in the U.S. are operated under Federal Inspection. Annual totals of poultry slaughtered under State-administered Non-Federal Inspection (NFI) are published in the April release.

**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 April and reflect any late reports or corrections which occurred after the monthly revision were published.

**Procedures and Reliability:** Plant inspectors submit forms (FSIS 6000-21) weekly summarizing the plant's activity. When inconsistencies in the data are detected, the reports are returned to the inspectors for correction. Inspectors correct or validate the report and resubmit it. The reports cover weekly activities through Saturday night and reported data are allocated to the appropriate month as it enters the database.

A NASS computer program provides a review of current data with historical data for each plant. An edit provides checks for the detection of errors such as invalid plant information, duplication, and erroneous data. The program also generates a missing reports listing for a telephone follow-up. Data are summarized weekly and accumulated to a monthly total for this release.

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 accounted for each week. Estimates for missing weeks are made only after verifying that the plant was in operation. Adjustments are based on either the previous week's information or a week determined to be similar to the one missing. Late reports replace imputed data as they become available. While there will continue to be a varying degree of incompleteness from month to month, it is expected to have only a minimal impact on the final 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.

Generally, no State data are published if less than three plants operate for a species in a State, or if one plant has 60 percent or more of the total head for that species. These data are included in the U.S. totals.



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**Definitions Used To Report Federally Inspected Slaughter**

**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.

**Mature Chickens** - Fowl from breeder and market egg flocks and stags and cocks.

**New York Dressed Weight** - Carcass weight after only feathers and blood are removed. This weight is approximately 90% of live weight.

**Old Turkeys (Breeders)** - Fully matured birds held for egg production, usually over 15 months of age.

**Other Poultry** - Includes all other ready-to-cook products which bear the U.S.D.A. 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 (Mature)** - Young birds grown to a matured market age, about 5 months.

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The next **"Poultry Slaughter"** report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on June 4, 1996.

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