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Poultry Slaughter

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Ready-to-Cook Weight Up 5 Percent From Last Year

Poultry certified wholesome during October 2006 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 3.77 billion pounds, up 5 percent from the amount certified in October 2005. September 2006 revised certified total at 3.40 billion pounds, was down 4 percent from September 2005. The September revision represented an increase of 3.26 million pounds from last month's preliminary pounds certified.

The preliminary total live weight of poultry inspected during October 2006 was 5.09 billion pounds, up 6 percent from 4.80 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 4.32 billion pounds, up 5 percent from October 2005. Mature chickens, at 69.7 million pounds, were up 5 percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 684 million pounds, up 12 percent from a year ago. Ducks totaled 15.3 million pounds, down 5 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during October 2006 averaged 5.58 pounds per bird, up 1 percent from October 2005. The average live weight of mature chickens was 6.20 pounds per bird, up 5 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during October 2006 averaged 27.4 pounds per bird, up 2 percent from October 2005.

Ante-mortem condemnations during October 2006 totaled 15.5 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.30 percent of the live weight inspected, as compared with 0.30 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 45.0 million pounds, were 1.18 percent of quantities inspected, compared with 1.22 percent a year earlier.

October 2006 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays, while October 2005 had 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

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**Poultry Slaughter: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight by Type,
United States, October, 2005-2006¹**

Commodity	Oct 2005	Sep 2006	Oct 2006	Pct of		January to Date		Pct of 2005
				Oct 2005	Sep 2006	2005	2006	
	<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	745,843	712,263	774,492	104	109	7,415,742	7,442,471	100
Mature	11,198	9,976	11,246	100	113	123,530	111,017	90
Light	4,998	4,020	4,440	89	110	62,038	46,157	74
Heavy	6,200	5,956	6,806	110	114	61,492	64,860	105
Total	757,041	722,239	785,738	104	109	7,539,272	7,553,488	100
Turkeys								
Young	22,345	20,819	24,730	111	119	204,018	210,365	103
Old	267	213	222	83	104	2,058	2,150	104
Total	22,612	21,032	24,952	110	119	206,076	212,515	103
Ducks	2,369	2,236	2,286	96	102	22,826	23,326	102
	<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	4,103,760	3,931,348	4,323,758	105	110	39,693,527	40,654,379	102
Mature	66,286	62,145	69,720	105	112	702,916	678,606	97
Light	16,589	13,455	14,594	88	108	205,435	153,901	75
Heavy	49,697	48,690	55,126	111	113	497,481	524,705	105
Total	4,170,046	3,993,493	4,393,478	105	110	40,396,443	41,332,985	102
Turkeys								
Young	601,680	578,122	677,821	113	117	5,733,215	5,948,699	104
Old	6,764	5,614	6,000	89	107	53,841	56,498	105
Total	608,444	583,736	683,821	112	117	5,787,056	6,005,197	104
Ducks	16,063	15,020	15,318	95	102	153,454	156,760	102
Other Poultry ²	1,786	1,327	1,539	86	116	6,966	5,532	79
Total Poultry	4,796,339	4,593,576	5,094,156	106	111	46,343,919	47,500,474	102
	<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	5.50	5.52	5.58	101	101	5.35	5.46	102
Mature	5.92	6.23	6.20	105	100	5.69	6.11	107
Light	3.32	3.35	3.29	99	98	3.31	3.33	101
Heavy	8.02	8.17	8.10	101	99	8.09	8.09	100
Total	5.51	5.53	5.59	101	101	5.36	5.47	102
Turkeys								
Young	26.93	27.77	27.41	102	99	28.10	28.28	101
Old	25.43	26.36	27.03	106	103	26.16	26.28	100
Total	26.91	27.75	27.41	102	99	28.08	28.26	101
Ducks	6.78	6.72	6.70	99	100	6.72	6.72	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, October, 2005-2006¹**

Commodity	Oct 2005	Sep 2006	Oct 2006	Pct of		January to Date		Pct of 2005
				Oct 2005	Sep 2006	2005	2006	
				<i>Pct</i>	<i>Pct</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	
Chilled	<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	2,737,105	2,599,385	2,855,970	104	110	26,699,301	27,248,133	102
Mature	41,307	39,441	43,397	105	110	430,698	422,590	98
Light	8,412	6,895	7,305	87	106	105,041	78,354	75
Heavy	32,895	32,546	36,092	110	111	325,657	344,236	106
Total	2,778,412	2,638,826	2,899,367	104	110	27,129,999	27,670,723	102
Turkeys								
Young	285,488	257,420	317,038	111	123	2,568,695	2,636,272	103
Old	4,214	3,168	3,637	86	115	33,051	35,454	107
Total	289,702	260,588	320,675	111	123	2,601,746	2,671,726	103
Ducks	5,590	5,083	5,218	93	103	55,865	56,148	101
Other Poultry ²	230	171	176	77	103	2,118	1,759	83
Total Poultry	3,073,934	2,904,668	3,225,436	105	111	29,789,728	30,400,356	102
Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	307,550	285,476	319,078	104	112	2,806,497	2,876,351	102
Mature	265	267	608	229	228	3,926	3,951	101
Light		23	51		222	8	173	2,163
Heavy	265	244	557	210	228	3,918	3,778	96
Total	307,815	285,743	319,686	104	112	2,810,423	2,880,302	102
Turkeys								
Young	193,596	199,090	218,719	113	110	1,974,305	2,073,914	105
Old	998	1,146	1,003	101	88	7,714	7,632	99
Total	194,594	200,236	219,722	113	110	1,982,019	2,081,546	105
Ducks	5,882	5,577	5,693	97	102	54,250	56,096	103
Other Poultry ²	842	544	703	83	129	2,117	1,476	70
Total Poultry	509,133	492,100	545,804	107	111	4,848,809	5,019,420	104
Total Chilled and Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	3,044,655	2,884,861	3,175,048	104	110	29,505,798	30,124,484	102
Mature	41,572	39,708	44,005	106	111	434,624	426,541	98
Light	8,412	6,918	7,356	87	106	105,049	78,527	75
Heavy	33,160	32,790	36,649	111	112	329,575	348,014	106
Total	3,086,227	2,924,569	3,219,053	104	110	29,940,422	30,551,025	102
Turkeys								
Young	479,084	456,510	535,757	112	117	4,543,000	4,710,186	104
Old	5,212	4,314	4,640	89	108	40,765	43,086	106
Total	484,296	460,824	540,397	112	117	4,583,765	4,753,272	104
Ducks	11,472	10,660	10,911	95	102	110,115	112,244	102
Other Poultry ²	1,072	715	879	82	123	4,235	3,235	76
Total Poultry	3,583,067	3,396,768	3,771,240	105	111	34,638,537	35,419,776	102

¹ Ready-to-cook weights.

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

**Poultry Slaughter: Ante-Mortem Condemnations by Type,
United States, October, 2005-2006¹**

Commodity	Oct 2005	Sep 2006	Oct 2006	Percent of		January to Date		Percent of 2005
				Oct 2005	Sep 2006	2005	2006	
				<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>	
Live Weight								
Chickens								
Young	12,349	11,905	12,743	103	107	141,450	141,976	100
Mature	723	752	917	127	122	10,982	10,312	94
Light	272	214	270	99	126	4,064	3,130	77
Heavy	451	538	647	143	120	6,918	7,182	104
Total	13,072	12,657	13,660	104	108	152,432	152,288	100
Turkeys								
Young	1,379	1,580	1,703	123	108	16,093	17,594	109
Old	58	44	50	86	114	470	652	139
Total	1,437	1,624	1,753	122	108	16,563	18,246	110
Ducks	30	47	42	140	89	330	383	116
Other Poultry	7	4	4	57	100	18	9	50
Total Poultry	14,546	14,332	15,459	106	108	169,343	170,926	101
	<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	0.30	0.29	97	97	0.36	0.35	97
Mature	1.09	1.21	1.32	121	109	1.56	1.52	97
Light	1.65	1.59	1.85	112	116	1.98	2.03	103
Heavy	0.91	1.10	1.17	129	106	1.39	1.37	99
Total	0.31	0.32	0.31	100	97	0.38	0.37	97
Turkeys								
Young	0.23	0.27	0.25	109	93	0.28	0.30	107
Old	0.84	0.78	0.83	99	106	0.87	1.15	132
Total	0.24	0.28	0.26	108	93	0.29	0.30	103
Ducks	0.18	0.31	0.27	150	87	0.22	0.24	109
Other Poultry	0.39	0.30	0.26	67	87	0.26	0.16	62
Total Poultry	0.30	0.31	0.30	100	97	0.37	0.36	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, October, 2005-2006¹**

Commodity	Oct 2005	Sep 2006	Oct 2006	Percent of		January to Date		Percent of 2005
				Oct 2005	Sep 2006	2005	2006	
				<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>	
Carcass and Parts								
Chickens								
Young	32,286	29,317	31,957	99	109	346,434	344,193	99
Mature	3,108	2,752	3,170	102	115	31,125	29,438	95
Light	1,431	1,097	1,240	87	113	15,641	12,355	79
Heavy	1,677	1,655	1,930	115	117	15,484	17,083	110
Total	35,394	32,069	35,127	99	110	377,559	373,631	99
Turkeys								
Young	8,005	8,534	9,274	116	109	85,848	86,730	101
Old	294	208	183	62	88	3,014	2,351	78
Total	8,299	8,742	9,457	114	108	88,862	89,081	100
Ducks	405	363	373	92	103	3,673	3,820	104
Other Poultry	12	9	18	150	200	72	67	93
Total Poultry	44,110	41,183	44,975	102	109	470,166	466,599	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 Weight Condemned²								
Chickens								
Young	1.05	1.01	1.00	95	99	1.16	1.13	97
Mature	6.96	6.48	6.72	97	104	6.68	6.46	97
Light	14.54	13.69	14.43	99	105	12.96	13.59	105
Heavy	4.81	4.80	5.00	104	104	4.49	4.68	104
Total	1.13	1.08	1.08	95	100	1.25	1.21	97
Turkeys								
Young	1.64	1.84	1.70	104	93	1.85	1.81	97
Old	5.34	4.60	3.79	71	82	6.88	5.17	75
Total	1.68	1.86	1.72	102	92	1.90	1.84	97
Ducks	3.41	3.29	3.31	97	100	3.23	3.29	102
Other Poultry	1.11	1.24	2.01	181	161	1.67	2.03	121
Total Poultry	1.22	1.20	1.18	97	98	1.34	1.30	97

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, September-October 2006**

State	Number Slaughtered		Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	September	October	September	October	September	October
	<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	86,931	94,305	472,537	525,564	5.44	5.57
AR	92,499	102,733	498,192	550,985	5.39	5.36
DE	24,662	25,770	165,169	176,118	6.70	6.83
GA	105,768	115,828	552,465	612,448	5.22	5.29
KY	22,178	24,535	122,443	137,986	5.52	5.62
LA	15,224	16,909	87,432	98,652	5.74	5.83
MD	11,391	12,308	54,213	58,934	4.76	4.79
MS	59,590	66,478	346,635	391,488	5.82	5.89
MO	33,425	35,849	157,463	167,136	4.71	4.66
NC	56,174	61,529	382,606	426,754	6.81	6.94
OH	3,795	3,844	20,083	20,578	5.29	5.35
PA	9,551	10,074	54,123	56,673	5.67	5.63
SC	22,143	24,424	137,149	154,093	6.19	6.31
TN	22,000	24,160	113,105	124,832	5.14	5.17
TX	52,434	58,222	277,751	311,813	5.30	5.36
VA	26,062	26,979	136,480	144,552	5.24	5.36
Oth Sts	68,436	70,545	353,502	365,152	5.17	5.18
US	712,263	774,492	3,931,348	4,323,758	5.52	5.58

**Young Chickens Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations
by State and United States, September-October 2006**

State	Total Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified ¹		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
	September	October	Carcass and Parts		Percent ²	
			September	October	September	October
	<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	348,443	387,501	3,364	3,629	0.96	0.93
AR	360,995	399,708	4,420	4,795	1.21	1.19
DE	119,336	127,326	1,501	1,626	1.24	1.26
GA	408,731	451,781	2,930	3,339	0.71	0.73
KY	88,557	99,622	774	1,069	0.87	1.06
LA	63,683	71,680	415	408	0.65	0.57
MD	39,388	42,772	399	500	1.00	1.16
MS	248,654	281,462	2,901	2,981	1.15	1.05
MO	115,098	123,154	1,099	1,084	0.95	0.87
NC	291,218	326,317	3,582	3,719	1.22	1.13
OH	14,731	15,170	222	273	1.48	1.77
PA	37,191	38,671	752	796	1.98	2.02
SC	100,910	114,644	706	774	0.69	0.67
TN	81,507	90,299	718	809	0.87	0.89
TX	212,524	237,482	1,922	2,246	0.90	0.94
VA	95,657	101,155	737	795	0.76	0.78
Oth Sts	258,238	266,304	2,875	3,114	1.10	1.16
US	2,884,861	3,175,048	29,317	31,957	1.01	1.00

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, September-October 2006**

State	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	September	October	September	October	September	October
	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>
Young						
AL			367	130	81,251	87,472
AR			*	590	131,169	143,778
DE			1,917	1,322	80,856	86,291
GA			345	350	73,911	78,562
KY			*	*	32,531	38,682
LA			*	*	14,382	13,821
MD			596	*	21,434	23,118
MS			*	*	56,128	51,419
MO			546	575	63,012	67,716
NC			306	*	92,659	96,040
OH			*		6,244	5,821
PA			100	91	16,813	17,393
SC			186	102	8,663	*
TN			*	173	44,810	49,081
TX			100	*	44,443	53,859
VA			*	*	32,871	31,117
Oth Sts			1,926	3,038	155,433	190,989
US			6,389	6,371	956,610	1,035,159
Mature						
Light			1,130	1,183	137,143	151,365
Heavy			464	481	39,351	53,087
US			1,594	1,664	176,494	204,452
State	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	September	October	September	October	September	October
	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>
Young						
AL	28,122	30,002	750	639	2,935	3,233
AR	19,789	26,769	*	2,349	3,056	3,083
DE	13,547	17,880	*	*	6,942	*
GA	29,560	38,479	381	285	6,990	7,419
KY	*	*	*	*	*	*
LA	3,430	4,164	101	77	397	426
MD	*	*	17	*	*	*
MS	17,750	18,490	115	158	741	771
MO	4,304	5,608	*	193	1,474	1,620
NC	27,068	29,552	*	*	*	7,354
OH	*	*	*	8	63	82
PA	9,238	9,686	*	*	283	433
SC	*	*	51	*	*	663
TN	9,716	12,205	*	102	556	632
TX	10,994	16,858	*	136	1,042	1,224
VA	6,341	7,927	*	25	*	*
Oth Sts	39,332	57,961	6,450	1,725	22,539	21,854
US	219,191	275,581	7,865	5,697	47,018	48,794
Mature						
Light	29,723	43,086	131	147	61,775	52,248
Heavy	1,530	1,985	79	83	6,118	7,075
US	31,253	45,071	210	230	67,893	59,323

* 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, September-October 2006**

State	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	September	October	September	October	September	October
	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>
Young						
AL	2,295	2,094	9,252	8,865	12,039	12,252
AR	4,170	4,076	26,948	22,269	23,766	26,566
DE	1,619	1,372	4,628	4,384	5,957	6,513
GA	1,631	1,602	20,761	24,507	11,978	16,587
KY	*	173	4,517	4,086	5,857	5,978
LA	219	227	3,297	2,810	1,490	1,510
MD	*	*	*	*	*	*
MS	2,038	2,090	3,566	3,762	5,694	5,001
MO	996	992	3,537	3,124	8,401	7,502
NC	1,968	1,958	18,079	19,575	18,403	18,163
OH	*	*	992	739	*	*
PA	504	548	2,456	2,255	5,866	4,810
SC	384	413	3,074	2,580	1,374	1,200
TN	584	718	3,574	4,328	3,734	4,358
TX	682	774	3,289	4,320	7,291	6,280
VA	1,038	1,002	2,859	3,090	4,919	4,216
Oth Sts	3,964	3,582	13,862	16,082	32,864	36,662
US	22,092	21,621	124,691	126,776	149,633	157,598
Mature						
Light	8,619	10,220	3,156	3,201	87,549	90,763
Heavy	648	799	9,891	6,685	9,865	11,832
US	9,267	11,019	13,047	9,886	97,414	102,595
State	Overscald		Other		Total ¹	
	September	October	September	October	September	October
	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>
Young						
AL	10,116	17,177	105,164	111,649	252,291	273,513
AR	9,461	5,892	96,604	94,207	318,763	329,579
DE	*	*	28,838	*	145,964	157,434
GA	7,621	9,471	58,351	76,102	211,529	253,364
KY	*	*	*	*	*	*
LA	*	*	1,427	1,547	24,836	24,683
MD	*	1,084	*	*	*	*
MS	*	*	67,677	73,597	154,568	155,743
MO	636	844	*	59,291	138,391	147,465
NC	8,894	5,489	86,800	70,546	262,722	249,506
OH	*	*	*	*	16,591	*
PA	*	*	10,353	7,807	46,542	43,399
SC	2,865	2,900	23,151	28,216	46,928	52,183
TN	765	593	4,489	5,471	68,452	77,661
TX	*	*	41,268	49,071	111,920	135,193
VA	2,224	*	*	*	70,906	67,913
Oth Sts	14,471	15,587	228,445	238,571	472,706	585,073
US	57,053	59,037	752,567	816,075	2,343,109	2,552,709
Mature						
Light	1,719	2,050	46,103	81,438	377,048	435,701
Heavy	1,649	780	61,309	67,550	130,904	150,357
US	3,368	2,830	107,412	148,988	507,952	586,058

* 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, September-October 2006

State	Number Slaughtered		Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	September	October	September	October	September	October
	<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	2,584	3,154	49,513	60,871	19.16	19.30
MN	3,053	3,396	80,498	88,822	26.37	26.15
MO	1,400	1,663	42,522	50,428	30.37	30.33
Oth Sts	13,782	16,517	405,589	477,700	29.43	28.92
US	20,819	24,730	578,122	677,821	27.77	27.41

Young Turkeys Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations, by State and United States, September-October 2006

State	Total Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified ¹		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
			Carcass and Parts		Percent ²	
	September	October	September	October	September	October
	<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	40,598	48,884	750	947	1.81	1.90
MN	64,486	71,218	1,272	1,353	1.93	1.86
MO	33,330	39,674	821	931	2.40	2.29
Oth Sts	318,096	375,981	5,691	6,043	1.76	1.58
US	456,510	535,757	8,534	9,274	1.84	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, by State and United States, September-October 2006

Cause	Young		Old	
	September	October	September	October
	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>
Tuberculosis				
Leukosis	52	58	2	
Septicaemia	68,430	79,484	2,314	1,817
Airsacculitis	13,747	11,371	408	179
Synovitis	3,808	4,763		1
Tumors	104	149	80	150
Bruises	424	473	19	4
Cadaver	3,858	4,580	90	21
Contamination	3,398	3,850	58	33
Overscald	2,478	1,590	6	5
Other	24,950	22,895	33	214
Total	121,249	129,213	3,010	2,424

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 320 plants slaughtered poultry in the U.S. under Federal Inspection in 2005. Young chickens were killed in 35 states, young turkeys in 24 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 accounted for. 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 for 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, Turkey Hatchery	(202) 690-3237
Darin Jantzi - Turkeys Raised, Catfish Production, Trout Production, Census of Aquaculture	(202) 720-3570
Sharyn Lavender - Layers, Eggs, Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery, Honey	(202) 720-3244

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