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## Ready-to-Cook Weight Up 6 Percent from Last Year

Poultry certified wholesome during December 2007 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 3.39 billion pounds, up 6 percent from the amount certified in December 2006. The November 2007 revised certified total at 3.59 billion pounds, was up 4 percent from November 2006. The November revision represented an increase of 15.9 million pounds from last month's preliminary pounds certified.

The preliminary total live weight of poultry inspected during December 2007 was 4.57 billion pounds, up 5 percent from 4.34 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 3.92 billion pounds, up 5 percent from December 2006. Mature chickens, at 61.1 million pounds, were up 4 percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 577 million pounds, up 7 percent from a year ago. Ducks totaled 15.0 million pounds, down 7 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during December 2007 averaged 5.59 pounds per bird, up 2 percent from December 2006. The average live weight of mature chickens was 5.67 pounds per bird, down 5 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during December 2007 averaged 29.1 pounds per bird, up 3 percent from December 2006.

Ante-mortem condemnations during December 2007 totaled 15.2 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.33 percent of the live weight inspected, as compared with 0.35 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 41.9 million pounds, were 1.22 percent of quantities inspected, as compared with 1.29 percent a year earlier.

December 2007 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays, while December 2006 had 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

### *Special Note*

Due to a policy change, the *Poultry Slaughter* annual report, which will be released at 8:30a.m. ET on February 28, 2008, will now contain two years of revisions. This change will align the *Poultry Slaughter* annual report with the *Livestock Slaughter* annual report which already contains two years of revisions.

**Poultry Slaughter: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight by Type,  
United States, December, 2006-2007<sup>1</sup>**

Commodity	Dec 2006	Nov 2007	Dec 2007	Pct of		January to Date		Pct of 2006
				Dec 2006	Nov 2007	2006	2007	
	<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	679,262	725,835	700,055	103	96	8,837,755	8,886,989	101
Mature	9,865	10,714	10,787	109	101	131,161	132,425	101
Light	4,167	4,502	5,339	128	119	53,996	56,589	105
Heavy	5,698	6,212	5,448	96	88	77,165	75,836	98
Total	689,127	736,549	710,842	103	97	8,968,916	9,019,414	101
Turkeys								
Young	19,091	23,657	19,670	103	83	252,734	262,008	104
Old	198	207	195	98	94	2,589	2,231	86
Total	19,289	23,864	19,865	103	83	255,323	264,239	103
Ducks	2,405	2,322	2,206	92	95	28,081	27,290	97
	<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	3,724,613	4,091,805	3,916,368	105	96	48,332,637	48,972,179	101
Mature	58,910	64,654	61,114	104	95	802,821	794,706	99
Light	13,616	15,088	17,580	129	117	180,012	186,533	104
Heavy	45,294	49,566	43,534	96	88	622,809	608,173	98
Total	3,783,523	4,156,459	3,977,482	105	96	49,135,458	49,766,885	101
Turkeys								
Young	536,539	654,198	571,890	107	87	7,118,232	7,431,677	104
Old	5,367	5,527	5,338	99	97	68,175	58,388	86
Total	541,906	659,725	577,228	107	87	7,186,407	7,490,065	104
Ducks	16,176	15,740	15,031	93	95	188,702	183,776	97
Other Poultry <sup>2</sup>	311	394	345	111	88	6,250	5,765	92
Total Poultry	4,341,916	4,832,318	4,570,086	105	95	56,516,817	57,446,491	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	5.48	5.64	5.59	102	99	5.47	5.51	101
Mature	5.97	6.03	5.67	95	94	6.12	6.00	98
Light	3.27	3.35	3.29	101	98	3.33	3.30	99
Heavy	7.95	7.98	7.99	101	100	8.07	8.02	99
Total	5.49	5.64	5.60	102	99	5.48	5.52	101
Turkeys								
Young	28.10	27.65	29.07	103	105	28.16	28.36	101
Old	27.11	26.70	27.37	101	103	26.33	26.17	99
Total	28.09	27.65	29.06	103	105	28.15	28.35	101
Ducks	6.73	6.78	6.81	101	100	6.72	6.73	100

<sup>1</sup> Federally inspected only.

<sup>2</sup> Includes geese, guineas, ostriches, emus, rheas, squab, and any other voluntary poultry.

**Poultry Slaughter: Chilled and Frozen, Pounds Certified by Type,  
United States, December, 2006-2007<sup>1</sup>**

Commodity	Dec 2006	Nov 2007	Dec 2007	Pct of		January to Date		Pct of 2006
				Dec 2006	Nov 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	2,473,843	2,724,786	2,601,629	105	95	32,340,260	32,476,029	100
Mature	36,688	40,303	37,410	102	93	500,105	491,811	98
Light	6,950	7,652	8,495	122	111	91,733	95,214	104
Heavy	29,738	32,651	28,915	97	89	408,372	396,597	97
Total	2,510,531	2,765,089	2,639,039	105	95	32,840,365	32,967,840	100
Turkeys								
Young	243,582	320,227	264,378	109	83	3,177,684	3,372,905	106
Old	3,289	2,889	3,137	95	109	41,906	34,137	81
Total	246,871	323,116	267,515	108	83	3,219,590	3,407,042	106
Ducks	5,554	5,509	5,382	97	98	66,850	64,508	96
Other Poultry <sup>2</sup>	183	173	156	85	90	1,973	2,069	105
Total Poultry	2,763,139	3,093,887	2,912,092	105	94	36,128,778	36,441,459	101
Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	251,576	285,052	281,710	112	99	3,411,712	3,472,489	102
Mature	140	869	1,042	744	120	4,403	6,366	145
Light		672	976		145	181	1,712	946
Heavy	140	197	66	47	34	4,222	4,654	110
Total	251,716	285,921	282,752	112	99	3,416,115	3,478,855	102
Turkeys								
Young	179,882	200,057	190,322	106	95	2,456,504	2,518,743	103
Old	826	1,344	898	109	67	10,125	9,995	99
Total	180,708	201,401	191,220	106	95	2,466,629	2,528,738	103
Ducks	6,001	5,735	5,388	90	94	68,193	67,014	98
Other Poultry <sup>2</sup>	23	73	63	274	86	1,577	1,332	84
Total Poultry	438,448	493,130	479,423	109	97	5,952,514	6,075,939	102
Chilled and Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	2,725,419	3,009,838	2,883,339	106	96	35,751,972	35,948,518	101
Mature	36,828	41,172	38,452	104	93	504,508	498,177	99
Light	6,950	8,324	9,471	136	114	91,914	96,926	105
Heavy	29,878	32,848	28,981	97	88	412,594	401,251	97
Total	2,762,247	3,051,010	2,921,791	106	96	36,256,480	36,446,695	101
Turkeys								
Young	423,464	520,284	454,700	107	87	5,634,188	5,891,648	105
Old	4,115	4,233	4,035	98	95	52,031	44,132	85
Total	427,579	524,517	458,735	107	87	5,686,219	5,935,780	104
Ducks	11,555	11,244	10,770	93	96	135,043	131,522	97
Other Poultry <sup>2</sup>	206	246	219	106	89	3,550	3,401	96
Total Poultry	3,201,587	3,587,017	3,391,515	106	95	42,081,292	42,517,398	101

<sup>1</sup> Ready-to-cook weights.

<sup>2</sup> Includes geese, guineas, squab, and any other voluntary poultry.

**Poultry Slaughter: Ante-Mortem Condemnations by Type,  
United States, December, 2006-2007<sup>1</sup>**

Commodity	Dec 2006	Nov 2007	Dec 2007	Percent of		January to Date		Percent of 2006
				Dec 2006	Nov 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>
Live Weight								
Chickens								
Young	12,758	11,962	12,620	99	106	167,755	168,416	100
Mature	709	882	952	134	108	11,836	14,411	122
Light	171	216	296	173	137	3,479	4,034	116
Heavy	538	666	656	122	98	8,357	10,377	124
Total	13,467	12,844	13,572	101	106	179,591	182,827	102
Turkeys								
Young	1,496	1,441	1,513	101	105	20,654	21,640	105
Old	43	32	68	158	213	749	725	97
Total	1,539	1,473	1,581	103	107	21,403	22,365	104
Ducks	47	30	32	68	107	468	451	96
Other Poultry		2	1		50	10	22	220
Total Poultry	15,053	14,349	15,186	101	106	201,472	205,665	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 <sup>2</sup>								
Chickens								
Young	0.34	0.29	0.32	94	110	0.35	0.34	97
Mature	1.20	1.36	1.56	130	115	1.47	1.81	123
Light	1.26	1.43	1.68	133	117	1.93	2.16	112
Heavy	1.19	1.34	1.51	127	113	1.34	1.71	128
Total	0.36	0.31	0.34	94	110	0.37	0.37	100
Turkeys								
Young	0.28	0.22	0.26	93	118	0.29	0.29	100
Old	0.80	0.58	1.27	159	219	1.10	1.24	113
Total	0.28	0.22	0.27	96	123	0.30	0.30	100
Ducks	0.29	0.19	0.21	72	111	0.25	0.25	100
Other Poultry		0.51	0.29		57	0.16	0.38	238
Total Poultry	0.35	0.30	0.33	94	110	0.36	0.36	100

<sup>1</sup> Federally inspected only.

<sup>2</sup> Pounds condemned as a percent of live weight pounds inspected.

**Poultry Slaughter: Post-Mortem Condemnations by Type,  
United States, December, 2006-2007<sup>1</sup>**

Commodity	Dec 2006	Nov 2007	Dec 2007	Percent of		January to Date		Percent of 2006
				Dec 2006	Nov 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	31,222	30,366	31,000	99	102	406,995	393,080	97
Mature	2,707	2,913	2,756	102	95	35,125	36,808	105
Light	1,098	1,030	1,061	97	103	14,546	13,422	92
Heavy	1,609	1,883	1,695	105	90	20,579	23,386	114
Total	33,929	33,279	33,756	99	101	442,120	429,888	97
Turkeys								
Young	7,338	8,045	7,553	103	94	102,472	101,839	99
Old	192	231	269	140	116	2,802	3,011	107
Total	7,530	8,276	7,822	104	95	105,274	104,850	100
Ducks	378	351	280	74	80	4,553	3,862	85
Other Poultry	4	4	3	75	75	76	77	101
Total Poultry	41,841	41,910	41,861	100	100	552,023	538,677	98
	<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 <sup>2</sup>								
Chickens								
Young	1.13	1.00	1.06	94	106	1.13	1.08	96
Mature	6.85	6.61	6.69	98	101	6.51	6.88	106
Light	13.64	11.01	10.07	74	91	13.66	12.16	89
Heavy	5.11	5.42	5.53	108	102	4.75	5.51	116
Total	1.21	1.08	1.14	94	106	1.20	1.17	97
Turkeys								
Young	1.70	1.52	1.63	96	107	1.79	1.70	95
Old	4.46	5.17	6.25	140	121	5.11	6.39	125
Total	1.73	1.55	1.68	97	108	1.82	1.74	95
Ducks	3.17	3.03	2.53	80	84	3.26	2.85	87
Other Poultry	1.90	1.60	1.35	71	84	2.10	2.21	106
Total Poultry	1.29	1.15	1.22	95	106	1.29	1.25	97

<sup>1</sup> Federally inspected only.

<sup>2</sup> 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, November 2007-December 2007**

State	Number Slaughtered		Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	November	December	November	December	November	December
	<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	89,135	85,529	501,869	474,959	5.63	5.55
AR	91,914	87,017	505,645	471,506	5.50	5.42
DE	24,418	24,134	167,851	163,290	6.87	6.77
GA	107,067	103,150	576,330	543,837	5.38	5.27
KY	24,008	22,982	132,343	123,471	5.51	5.37
LA	16,317	15,557	97,838	91,950	6.00	5.91
MD	12,682	12,185	61,255	58,251	4.83	4.78
MS	62,342	61,510	356,376	348,734	5.72	5.67
MO	33,492	31,265	160,211	148,073	4.78	4.74
NC	59,203	56,022	417,030	398,597	7.04	7.11
OH	4,146	3,707	23,741	21,236	5.73	5.73
PA	9,527	9,412	55,275	55,391	5.80	5.88
SC	24,830	24,748	159,606	161,155	6.43	6.51
TN	21,966	20,824	114,465	107,138	5.21	5.14
TX	53,145	50,949	284,933	269,897	5.36	5.30
VA	25,002	24,733	130,949	130,794	5.24	5.29
Oth Sts	66,641	66,331	346,088	348,089	5.19	5.25
US	725,835	700,055	4,091,805	3,916,368	5.64	5.59

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

State	Total Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified <sup>1</sup>		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
	November	December	Carcass and Parts		Percent <sup>2</sup>	
			November	December	November	December
	<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	366,660	349,054	3,458	3,518	0.93	1.00
AR	364,600	342,503	4,351	3,944	1.18	1.14
DE	120,838	117,309	1,683	1,909	1.37	1.60
GA	429,337	404,492	3,523	3,582	0.81	0.88
KY	95,862	90,119	712	966	0.74	1.06
LA	71,828	67,795	426	396	0.59	0.58
MD	44,685	42,534	597	625	1.32	1.45
MS	261,482	256,451	2,368	2,332	0.90	0.90
MO	117,754	108,138	1,194	1,235	1.00	1.13
NC	319,133	303,862	4,031	4,151	1.25	1.35
OH	17,296	15,524	304	313	1.73	1.98
PA	37,797	37,743	615	759	1.60	1.97
SC	117,492	119,266	946	1,013	0.80	0.84
TN	82,621	77,274	802	712	0.96	0.91
TX	217,292	205,145	1,944	1,733	0.89	0.84
VA	91,910	91,964	599	668	0.65	0.72
Oth Sts	253,251	254,166	2,813	3,144	1.10	1.22
US	3,009,838	2,883,339	30,366	31,000	1.00	1.06

<sup>1</sup> Ready-to-cook weights.

<sup>2</sup> 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, November 2007-December 2007**

State	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	November	December	November	December	November	December
	<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			*	*	86,817	77,147
AR			482	600	127,742	146,428
DE			*	*	77,484	83,168
GA			303	323	81,947	78,333
KY			*	*	30,876	34,866
LA			*	*	12,383	11,513
MD			*	155	31,233	32,005
MS			*	*	32,986	31,092
MO			738	283	66,901	76,850
NC			353	336	86,438	91,839
OH				*	7,046	6,559
PA			78	37	17,024	20,858
SC			*	*	8,144	7,409
TN			*	49	41,117	35,405
TX			60	52	40,167	44,175
VA			*	*	23,146	24,308
Oth Sts			2,698	2,655	180,628	196,875
US			4,712	4,490	952,079	998,830
Mature						
Light			1,263	1,573	129,665	150,021
Heavy			513	176	31,260	32,073
US			1,776	1,749	160,925	182,094
State	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	November	December	November	December	November	December
	<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	61,998	65,123	428	417	*	*
AR	25,040	37,456	1,411	1,568	1,898	1,956
DE	23,766	44,208	49	75	*	*
GA	81,569	92,835	202	145	6,934	8,556
KY	*	*	*	*	*	*
LA	2,953	3,436	*	*	238	227
MD	22,574	34,329	*	57	*	*
MS	21,130	21,702	148	*	792	875
MO	12,229	16,468	236	269	1,489	1,416
NC	39,948	67,775	87	*	9,661	9,129
OH	1,721	2,026	*	*	96	102
PA	9,878	13,988	*	*	241	236
SC	5,920	12,025	*	16	*	*
TN	21,081	15,986	125	*	565	688
TX	10,257	14,756	*	*	951	973
VA	8,686	12,757	17	*	*	*
Oth Sts	37,499	74,613	1,411	2,189	34,196	34,679
US	386,249	529,483	4,114	4,736	57,061	58,837
Mature						
Light	26,592	24,540	158	262	53,600	57,008
Heavy	1,066	3,439	111	68	6,401	5,765
US	27,658	27,979	269	330	60,001	62,773

\* 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, November 2007-December 2007**

State	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	November	December	November	December	November	December
	<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	1,925	1,842	10,598	8,336	14,990	12,070
AR	3,610	4,103	13,352	13,967	19,168	25,294
DE	1,394	1,137	3,970	4,204	5,711	6,069
GA	1,520	1,536	26,612	26,288	12,745	11,909
KY	129	143	3,619	3,674	3,645	4,060
LA	*	*	1,672	2,138	*	914
MD	1,182	1,111	2,957	3,213	*	*
MS	*	1,102	3,192	3,290	3,558	3,314
MO	958	1,063	4,342	4,050	9,028	9,859
NC	1,648	1,613	20,935	22,888	15,764	15,471
OH	*	*	*	*	403	274
PA	549	639	1,300	1,589	2,131	2,358
SC	740	751	1,864	1,520	1,549	*
TN	638	594	1,829	1,429	2,594	2,140
TX	479	483	4,971	5,617	5,538	4,764
VA	780	787	2,319	2,023	3,231	2,727
Oth Sts	3,949	2,753	13,235	15,016	39,964	47,054
US	19,501	19,657	116,767	119,242	140,019	148,277
Mature						
Light	10,653	14,072	1,611	2,119	78,902	81,079
Heavy	790	437	3,463	2,456	11,533	8,883
US	11,443	14,509	5,074	4,575	90,435	89,962
State	Overscald		Other		Total <sup>1</sup>	
	November	December	November	December	November	December
	<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	6,537	8,851	120,895	136,948	309,236	315,135
AR	2,822	3,120	99,685	87,233	295,210	321,725
DE	*	*	*	*	150,609	196,156
GA	4,902	4,155	71,337	91,446	288,071	315,526
KY	349	323	*	*	74,597	111,163
LA	43	*	*	*	35,579	33,201
MD	*	511	*	*	*	*
MS	*	1,103	47,283	47,442	111,222	110,257
MO	278	343	62,316	73,404	158,515	184,005
NC	6,543	*	60,578	78,726	241,955	298,563
OH	*	*	*	*	*	*
PA	*	*	*	*	52,643	71,126
SC	1,586	1,307	41,239	49,151	62,080	75,812
TN	*	*	2,836	2,812	72,166	60,346
TX	*	*	46,832	35,009	111,261	107,620
VA	1,528	559	15,586	19,051	58,950	65,736
Oth Sts	17,890	24,643	222,433	272,181	491,906	555,499
US	42,478	44,915	791,020	893,403	2,514,000	2,821,870
Mature						
Light	797	375	68,058	62,135	371,299	393,184
Heavy	354	98	75,054	61,365	130,545	114,760
US	1,151	473	143,112	123,500	501,844	507,944

\* Included in "Other States" to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> 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, November 2007-December 2007**

State	Number Slaughtered		Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	November	December	November	December	November	December
	<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	3,271	2,735	62,596	53,414	19.14	19.53
MN	3,290	2,853	88,862	79,060	27.01	27.71
MO	1,319	1,260	41,375	39,920	31.37	31.68
Oth Sts	15,777	12,822	461,365	399,496	29.24	31.16
US	23,657	19,670	654,198	571,890	27.65	29.07

**Young Turkeys Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem  
Condemnations, by State and United States, November 2007-December 2007**

State	Total Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified <sup>1</sup>		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
			Carcass and Parts		Percent <sup>2</sup>	
	November	December	November	December	November	December
	<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	51,205	44,193	756	628	1.45	1.40
MN	70,997	62,890	1,483	1,447	2.05	2.25
MO	32,779	31,534	624	649	1.87	2.02
Oth Sts	365,303	316,083	5,182	4,829	1.40	1.50
US	520,284	454,700	8,045	7,553	1.52	1.63

<sup>1</sup> Ready-to-cook weights.

<sup>2</sup> Pounds condemned as percent of pounds certified plus post-mortem condemnations.

**Turkeys Slaughtered: Number Condemned Post-Mortem by Cause, by Type,  
United States, November 2007-December 2007**

Cause	Young		Old	
	November	December	November	December
	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>	<i>Number of Head</i>
Tuberculosis				
Leukosis	34	40		
Septicaemia	65,944	62,147	2,561	3,480
Airsacculitis	6,216	9,382	501	458
Synovitis	2,794	2,512	32	9
Tumors	159	244	138	114
Bruises	431	300	4	10
Cadaver	3,472	2,357	59	55
Contamination	3,640	3,300	75	62
Overscald	1,958	1,116	3	10
Other	25,597	13,994	1,049	1,887
Total	110,245	95,392	4,422	6,085

## 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 slaughtered in 35 States, young turkeys in 26 States.

**Revision Policy:** Data for the previous month and year-to-date totals are subject to revision the following month after the initial monthly estimates are published. Final data are published in the annual summary released in February and include any revisions made to current year's and previous year's published data. Revisions are generally the result of late reports or corrections received by FSIS from plants and are usually less than one-half of 1 percent. No revisions will be made to the previous year's data after publication of the annual summary in February.

**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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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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