

# Poultry Slaughter

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

Poultry certified wholesome during March 2008 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 3.51 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the amount certified in March 2007. The February 2008 revised certified total at 3.47 billion pounds, was up 10 percent from February 2007. The February revision represented an increase of 19.0 million pounds from last month's preliminary pounds certified.

The preliminary total live weight of poultry inspected during March 2008 was 4.73 billion pounds, up 1 percent from 4.67 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 4.03 billion pounds, up 1 percent from March 2007. Mature chickens, at 72.4 million pounds, were up 14 percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 613 million pounds, up slightly from a year ago. Ducks totaled 13.9 million pounds, down 13 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during March 2008 averaged 5.56 pounds per bird, up 2 percent from March 2007. The average live weight of mature chickens was 5.66 pounds per bird, down 3 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during March 2008 averaged 29.4 pounds per bird, up 2 percent from March 2007.

Ante-mortem condemnations during March 2008 totaled 15.5 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.33 percent of the live weight inspected, as compared with 0.33 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 48.9 million pounds, were 1.37 percent of quantities inspected, as compared with 1.37 percent a year earlier.

March 2008 contained 21 weekdays and 5 Saturdays, while March 2007 had 22 weekdays and 5 Saturdays.

**Poultry Slaughter: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight by Type,  
United States, March, 2007-2008 <sup>1</sup>**

Commodity	Mar 2007	Feb 2008	Mar 2008	Pct of		January to Date		Pct of 2007
				Mar 2007	Feb 2008	2007	2008	
	<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	729,455	713,136	725,872	100	102	2,147,855	2,224,900	104
Mature	10,914	11,801	12,784	117	108	31,563	37,554	119
Light	4,992	5,356	6,319	127	118	14,001	18,007	129
Heavy	5,922	6,445	6,465	109	100	17,562	19,547	111
Total	740,369	724,937	738,656	100	102	2,179,418	2,262,454	104
Turkeys								
Young	21,145	21,416	20,713	98	97	61,117	64,709	106
Old	135	122	173	128	142	436	413	95
Total	21,280	21,538	20,886	98	97	61,553	65,122	106
Ducks	2,382	2,005	2,041	86	102	7,043	6,201	88
	<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	3,976,573	3,949,417	4,034,060	101	102	11,731,694	12,358,831	105
Mature	63,426	69,556	72,383	114	104	185,290	215,285	116
Light	16,252	17,710	20,681	127	117	45,765	58,990	129
Heavy	47,174	51,846	51,702	110	100	139,525	156,295	112
Total	4,039,999	4,018,973	4,106,443	102	102	11,916,984	12,574,116	106
Turkeys								
Young	606,959	634,709	608,525	100	96	1,775,689	1,929,568	109
Old	3,536	3,290	4,527	128	138	11,482	10,868	95
Total	610,495	637,999	613,052	100	96	1,787,171	1,940,436	109
Ducks	15,939	13,601	13,853	87	102	47,401	42,053	89
Other Poultry <sup>2</sup>	156	155	149	96	96	502	490	98
Total Poultry	4,666,589	4,670,728	4,733,497	101	101	13,752,058	14,557,095	106
	<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	5.45	5.54	5.56	102	100	5.46	5.55	102
Mature	5.81	5.89	5.66	97	96	5.87	5.73	98
Light	3.26	3.31	3.27	100	99	3.27	3.28	100
Heavy	7.97	8.04	8.00	100	100	7.94	8.00	101
Total	5.46	5.54	5.56	102	100	5.47	5.56	102
Turkeys								
Young	28.70	29.64	29.38	102	99	29.05	29.82	103
Old	26.19	26.97	26.17	100	97	26.33	26.31	100
Total	28.69	29.62	29.35	102	99	29.03	29.80	103
Ducks	6.69	6.78	6.79	101	100	6.73	6.78	101

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

<sup>2</sup> Includes geese, guineas, ostriches, emus, rheas, and squab.

**Poultry Slaughter: Chilled and Frozen, Pounds Certified by Type,  
United States, March, 2007-2008 <sup>1</sup>**

Commodity	Mar 2007	Feb 2008	Mar 2008	Pct of		January to Date		Pct of 2007
				Mar 2007	Feb 2008	2007	2008	
	<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	2,648,285	2,629,709	2,683,637	101	102	7,825,100	8,247,818	105
Mature	39,129	42,173	44,178	113	105	114,525	130,820	114
Light	8,197	8,429	9,876	120	117	23,243	28,296	122
Heavy	30,932	33,744	34,302	111	102	91,282	102,524	112
Total	2,687,414	2,671,882	2,727,815	102	102	7,939,625	8,378,638	106
Turkeys								
Young	290,230	301,175	289,486	100	96	812,424	899,316	111
Old	2,452	2,206	2,737	112	124	7,596	6,839	90
Total	292,682	303,381	292,223	100	96	820,020	906,155	111
Ducks	5,271	4,484	4,760	90	106	15,865	14,212	90
Other Poultry <sup>2</sup>	79	82	81	103	99	235	253	108
Total Poultry	2,985,446	2,979,829	3,024,879	101	102	8,775,745	9,299,258	106
Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	277,772	280,768	283,515	102	101	799,469	859,955	108
Mature	336	1,525	1,390	414	91	741	4,183	565
Light		1,127	1,135		101		3,193	
Heavy	336	398	255	76	64	741	990	134
Total	278,108	282,293	284,905	102	101	800,210	864,138	108
Turkeys								
Young	188,968	202,836	193,543	102	95	591,989	632,367	107
Old	246	242	684	278	283	1,072	1,291	120
Total	189,214	203,078	194,227	103	96	593,061	633,658	107
Ducks	6,158	5,230	5,201	84	99	18,011	15,918	88
Other Poultry <sup>2</sup>	23	21	21	91	100	70	77	110
Total Poultry	473,503	490,622	484,354	102	99	1,411,352	1,513,791	107
Chilled and Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	2,926,057	2,910,477	2,967,152	101	102	8,624,569	9,107,773	106
Mature	39,465	43,698	45,568	115	104	115,266	135,003	117
Light	8,197	9,556	11,011	134	115	23,243	31,489	135
Heavy	31,268	34,142	34,557	111	101	92,023	103,514	112
Total	2,965,522	2,954,175	3,012,720	102	102	8,739,835	9,242,776	106
Turkeys								
Young	479,198	504,011	483,029	101	96	1,404,413	1,531,683	109
Old	2,698	2,448	3,421	127	140	8,668	8,130	94
Total	481,896	506,459	486,450	101	96	1,413,081	1,539,813	109
Ducks	11,429	9,714	9,961	87	103	33,876	30,130	89
Other Poultry <sup>2</sup>	102	103	102	100	99	305	330	108
Total Poultry	3,458,949	3,470,451	3,509,233	101	101	10,187,097	10,813,049	106

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

<sup>2</sup> Includes geese, guineas, and squab.

**Poultry Slaughter: Ante-Mortem Condemnations by Type,  
United States, March, 2007-2008 <sup>1</sup>**

Commodity	Mar 2007	Feb 2008	Mar 2008	Percent of		January to Date		Percent of 2007
				Mar 2007	Feb 2008	2007	2008	
	<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	12,475	13,483	12,579	101	93	40,668	42,313	104
Mature	886	1,362	1,109	125	81	2,804	3,915	140
Light	319	516	399	125	77	1,048	1,310	125
Heavy	567	846	710	125	84	1,756	2,605	148
Total	13,361	14,845	13,688	102	92	43,472	46,228	106
Turkeys								
Young	1,877	1,855	1,731	92	93	5,850	5,694	97
Old	37	46	42	114	91	185	138	75
Total	1,914	1,901	1,773	93	93	6,035	5,832	97
Ducks	30	47	22	73	47	97	99	102
Total Poultry	15,305	16,793	15,483	101	92	49,604	52,159	105
	<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	0.31	0.34	0.31	100	91	0.35	0.34	97
Mature	1.40	1.96	1.53	109	78	1.51	1.82	121
Light	1.96	2.91	1.93	98	66	2.29	2.22	97
Heavy	1.20	1.63	1.37	114	84	1.26	1.67	133
Total	0.33	0.37	0.33	100	89	0.36	0.37	103
Turkeys								
Young	0.31	0.29	0.28	90	97	0.33	0.30	91
Old	1.05	1.40	0.93	89	66	1.61	1.27	79
Total	0.31	0.30	0.29	94	97	0.34	0.30	88
Ducks	0.19	0.35	0.16	84	46	0.20	0.24	120
Total Poultry	0.33	0.36	0.33	100	92	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, March, 2007-2008 <sup>1</sup>**

Commodity	Mar 2007	Feb 2008	Mar 2008	Percent of		January to Date		Percent of 2007
				Mar 2007	Feb 2008	2007	2008	
	<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	35,863	35,292	36,590	102	104	106,123	109,666	103
Mature	2,843	3,077	3,352	118	109	8,631	9,823	114
Light	1,184	964	1,376	116	143	3,562	3,589	101
Heavy	1,659	2,113	1,976	119	94	5,069	6,234	123
Total	38,706	38,369	39,942	103	104	114,754	119,489	104
Turkeys								
Young	8,865	8,846	8,435	95	95	26,126	26,667	102
Old	190	188	235	124	125	706	599	85
Total	9,055	9,034	8,670	96	96	26,832	27,266	102
Ducks	315	249	265	84	106	1,015	800	79
Other Poultry	2	1	2	100	200	6	5	83
Total Poultry	48,078	47,653	48,879	102	103	142,607	147,560	103
	<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	1.21	1.20	1.22	101	102	1.22	1.19	98
Mature	6.72	6.58	6.85	102	104	6.97	6.78	97
Light	12.62	9.16	11.11	88	121	13.29	10.23	77
Heavy	5.04	5.83	5.41	107	93	5.22	5.68	109
Total	1.29	1.28	1.31	102	102	1.30	1.28	98
Turkeys								
Young	1.82	1.72	1.72	94	100	1.83	1.71	94
Old	6.58	7.13	6.43	98	90	7.53	6.86	91
Total	1.84	1.75	1.75	95	100	1.86	1.74	93
Ducks	2.68	2.50	2.59	97	104	2.91	2.59	89
Other Poultry	1.92	0.96	1.92	100	200	1.93	1.49	77
Total Poultry	1.37	1.35	1.37	100	101	1.38	1.35	98

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

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

**Poultry Slaughter: Number Condemned Post-Mortem by Cause, by Type,  
United States, February 2008-March 2008**

Commodity	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	February	March	February	March	February	March
	<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>
Chickens						
Young			5,873	5,384	1,024,422	1,010,098
Mature			2,024	2,231	170,959	212,222
Light			1,756	2,012	127,071	171,068
Heavy			268	219	43,888	41,154
Total			7,897	7,615	1,195,381	1,222,320
Turkeys						
Young			32	74	71,374	66,134
Old			2		2,653	3,295
Total			34	74	74,027	69,429
Commodity	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	February	March	February	March	February	March
	<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>
Chickens						
Young	1,163,228	1,355,033	3,881	3,397	72,309	73,731
Mature	24,786	37,937	508	476	63,192	83,249
Light	21,650	34,854	262	301	55,689	76,255
Heavy	3,136	3,083	246	175	7,503	6,994
Total	1,188,014	1,392,970	4,389	3,873	135,501	156,980
Turkeys						
Young	12,655	10,024	4,528	4,074	184	334
Old	210	484		7	106	258
Total	12,865	10,508	4,528	4,081	290	592
Commodity	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	February	March	February	March	February	March
	<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>
Chickens						
Young	18,268	18,541	115,975	97,361	140,037	143,442
Mature	9,956	11,853	4,469	4,192	81,748	101,035
Light	9,377	11,342	1,586	2,212	68,943	91,343
Heavy	579	511	2,883	1,980	12,805	9,692
Total	28,224	30,394	120,444	101,553	221,785	244,477
Turkeys						
Young	351	377	3,005	2,130	3,335	2,826
Old	7	6	13	21	31	78
Total	358	383	3,018	2,151	3,366	2,904
Commodity	Overscald		Other		Total	
	February	March	February	March	February	March
	<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>
Chickens						
Young	35,901	39,782	971,656	918,835	3,551,550	3,665,604
Mature	562	852	137,498	138,056	495,702	592,103
Light	421	720	54,240	67,338	340,995	457,445
Heavy	141	132	83,258	70,718	154,707	134,658
Total	36,463	40,634	1,109,154	1,056,891	4,047,252	4,257,707
Turkeys						
Young	1,229	1,609	14,547	13,224	111,240	100,806
Old	8	11	302	983	3,332	5,143
Total	1,237	1,620	14,849	14,207	114,572	105,949

**Young Chickens Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight,  
by State and United States, February 2008-March 2008**

State	Number Slaughtered		Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	February	March	February	March	February	March
	<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	87,950	89,267	482,833	485,983	5.49	5.44
AR	92,496	93,756	501,926	508,228	5.43	5.42
DE	24,028	23,822	157,035	157,636	6.54	6.62
GA	105,034	106,576	546,921	564,813	5.21	5.30
KY	19,454	23,116	106,504	123,015	5.47	5.32
LA	15,409	15,392	90,685	88,223	5.89	5.73
MD	12,070	11,653	56,521	54,603	4.68	4.69
MS	62,896	63,659	360,836	367,690	5.74	5.78
MO	31,206	31,577	143,442	148,590	4.60	4.71
NY	1,530	1,523	8,050	7,949	5.26	5.22
NC	58,502	59,821	407,912	418,359	6.97	6.99
OH	4,107	4,243	23,738	24,293	5.78	5.72
PA	9,819	9,971	56,030	57,156	5.71	5.73
SC	23,803	24,214	151,376	154,630	6.36	6.39
TN	22,617	22,305	116,071	112,956	5.13	5.06
TX	53,556	53,696	286,834	287,576	5.36	5.36
VA	24,580	25,118	124,804	130,471	5.08	5.19
US <sup>1</sup>	713,136	725,872	3,949,417	4,034,060	5.54	5.56

<sup>1</sup> Published States do not add to US total to avoid disclosure.

**Young Chickens Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations  
by State and United States, February 2008-March 2008**

State	Total Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified <sup>1</sup>		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
	February	March	Carcass and Parts		Percent <sup>2</sup>	
			February	March	February	March
	<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	354,613	361,463	3,513	3,386	0.98	0.93
AR	359,946	361,399	4,254	4,360	1.17	1.19
DE	113,153	113,205	2,120	2,108	1.84	1.83
GA	403,823	411,498	5,623	5,657	1.37	1.36
KY	76,287	88,662	808	1,690	1.05	1.87
LA	67,073	65,295	439	359	0.65	0.55
MD	40,357	38,999	933	986	2.26	2.47
MS	274,177	278,787	2,781	2,952	1.00	1.05
MO	105,537	109,145	1,252	1,245	1.17	1.13
NY	4,883	4,880	143	115	2.85	2.30
NC	310,886	318,952	4,730	4,439	1.50	1.37
OH	17,421	17,747	369	372	2.07	2.05
PA	38,497	39,203	726	738	1.85	1.85
SC	113,553	115,584	1,374	1,753	1.20	1.49
TN	83,535	81,299	899	1,026	1.06	1.25
TX	219,304	219,584	1,819	1,782	0.82	0.81
VA	86,900	90,738	615	654	0.70	0.72
US <sup>3</sup>	2,910,477	2,967,152	35,292	36,590	1.20	1.22

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

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

<sup>3</sup> Published States do not add to US total to avoid disclosure.

**Young Chickens Slaughtered: Number Condemned Post-Mortem by Cause, by Type,  
by State and United States, February 2008-March 2008**

State	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	February	March	February	March	February	March
	<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>
AL			*	*	73,914	70,168
AR			431	429	145,916	138,496
DE			*	1,479	88,602	83,846
GA			342	330	95,365	89,074
KY			*	*	28,879	36,259
LA			*	*	13,987	11,299
MD			278	223	37,801	38,930
MS			*	*	40,865	39,001
MO			*	289	76,857	75,908
NY			*	*	*	*
NC			368	*	97,444	87,452
OH					7,013	7,562
PA			321	298	19,594	21,607
SC			*	*	9,886	9,301
TN			51	117	37,399	41,059
TX			*	*	44,393	40,305
VA			*	83	26,330	25,343
US <sup>1</sup>			5,873	5,384	1,024,422	1,010,098
State	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	February	March	February	March	February	March
	<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>
AL	80,557	68,214	409	383	*	*
AR	46,119	48,046	1,290	1,235	2,075	1,835
DE	59,083	64,684	*	157	*	*
GA	422,933	*	144	*	8,931	10,015
KY	35,082	*	*	*	*	*
LA	4,041	4,508	86	*	267	199
MD	*	*	*	*	*	*
MS	54,651	64,643	74	88	851	842
MO	19,501	17,143	155	*	1,304	1,202
NY	*	*	143	85	*	*
NC	97,960	84,152	189	*	13,308	13,145
OH	*	*	*	*	*	*
PA	14,840	15,579	*	*	261	281
SC	*	*	*	*	*	*
TN	*	*	134	*	656	576
TX	18,453	15,974	93	*	834	827
VA	17,718	19,081	22	*	*	*
US <sup>1</sup>	1,163,228	1,355,033	3,881	3,397	72,309	73,731

See footnote(s) at end of table.

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**Young Chickens Slaughtered: Number Condemned Post-Mortem by Cause, by Type,  
by State and United States, February 2008-March 2008 (continued)**

State	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	February	March	February	March	February	March
	<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>
AL	1,925	1,979	9,988	7,329	13,531	14,699
AR	3,226	2,977	13,301	10,586	18,507	18,738
DE	1,079	1,164	4,365	4,295	6,280	5,783
GA	1,646	1,658	25,499	21,469	14,807	15,746
KY	100	*	*	3,161	3,167	4,324
LA	*	141	*	2,220	*	*
MD	1,214	1,444	2,809	3,260	*	*
MS	*	*	3,109	2,468	3,844	3,572
MO	713	787	4,014	2,572	8,016	8,232
NY	903	808	*	*	3,720	3,202
NC	1,589	1,554	17,222	15,960	10,895	9,046
OH	*	*	1,362	1,311	*	306
PA	814	679	1,610	1,154	2,527	2,783
SC	641	*	*	*	1,371	1,476
TN	623	757	1,716	2,025	2,317	2,849
TX	475	505	4,237	3,687	6,025	6,135
VA	748	757	2,146	1,781	3,116	2,634
US <sup>1</sup>	18,268	18,541	115,975	97,361	140,037	143,442
State	Overscald		Other		Total	
	February	March	February	March	February	March
	<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>
AL	5,608	9,030	128,209	125,989	319,428	302,810
AR	1,450	3,633	82,434	84,114	314,749	310,089
DE	1,561	1,341	*	*	225,478	228,700
GA	4,648	3,078	111,746	87,264	686,061	644,603
KY	213	*	17,196	28,893	95,912	*
LA	*	70	*	*	33,204	23,946
MD	1,216	536	*	*	*	*
MS	*	687	68,710	72,293	174,023	185,054
MO	*	*	95,133	82,557	206,096	189,153
NY	371	217	8,309	*	26,819	21,214
NC	10,431	7,306	137,619	90,691	387,025	309,638
OH	*	*	*	*	*	*
PA	*	*	*	*	66,233	72,501
SC	*	620	34,047	34,735	*	*
TN	*	*	3,975	4,385	88,796	131,926
TX	*	3,957	38,459	38,429	114,191	110,056
VA	1,369	1,433	*	23,840	74,232	79,838
US <sup>1</sup>	35,901	39,782	971,656	918,835	3,551,550	3,665,604

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

<sup>1</sup> Published States do not add to US total to avoid disclosure.

**Young Turkeys Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight, by State and United States, February 2008-March 2008**

State	Number Slaughtered		Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	February	March	February	March	February	March
	<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	3,253	2,756	62,779	55,113	19.30	20.00
MN	2,963	2,988	82,950	82,854	28.00	27.73
MO	1,419	1,367	46,196	45,224	32.57	33.07
US <sup>1</sup>	21,416	20,713	634,709	608,525	29.64	29.38

<sup>1</sup> Published States do not add to US total to avoid disclosure.

**Young Turkeys Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations, by State and United States, February 2008-March 2008**

State	Total Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified <sup>1</sup>		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
			Carcass and Parts		Percent <sup>2</sup>	
	February	March	February	March	February	March
	<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	52,719	46,462	653	604	1.22	1.28
MN	66,239	66,207	1,329	1,329	1.97	1.97
MO	36,229	35,312	825	902	2.23	2.49
US <sup>3</sup>	504,011	483,029	8,846	8,435	1.72	1.72

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

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

<sup>3</sup> Published States do not add to US total to avoid disclosure.

**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.

**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.

## 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 2007. 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 and those published States that are confidential (denoted by an \*) are included in the "US" category.

### 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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