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Ready-to-Cook Weight Up 2 Percent from Last Year

Poultry certified wholesome during December 2008 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 3.47 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the amount certified in December 2007. The November 2008 revised certified total at 3.22 billion pounds, was down 10 percent from November 2007. The November revision represented an increase of 1.39 million pounds from last month's preliminary pounds certified.

The preliminary total live weight of poultry inspected during December 2008 was 4.64 billion pounds, up 1 percent from 4.58 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 3.94 billion pounds, up slightly from December 2007. Mature chickens, at 63.8 million pounds, were up 5 percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 617 million pounds, up 6 percent from a year ago. Ducks totaled 14.7 million pounds, down 2 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during December 2008 averaged 5.56 pounds per bird, down 1 percent from December 2007. The average live weight of mature chickens was 5.56 pounds per bird, down 2 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during December 2008 averaged 29.6 pounds per bird, up 2 percent from December 2007.

Ante-mortem condemnations during December 2008 totaled 14.4 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.31 percent of the live weight inspected, as compared with 0.33 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 41.0 million pounds, were 1.17 percent of quantities inspected, as compared with 1.21 percent a year earlier.

December 2008 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays, while December 2007 had 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

Special Note

Beginning with the February 25, 2009 monthly release of the *Poultry Slaughter* report, young chicken post-mortem State level data by cause for Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Tennessee will be discontinued. Young chicken post-mortem State level data by cause will continue to be published for the nine remaining states.

**Poultry Slaughter: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight by Type,
United States, December, 2007-2008 ¹**

Commodity	Dec 2007	Nov 2008	Dec 2008	Pct of		January to Date		Pct of 2007
				Dec 2007	Nov 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	702,172	639,120	709,846	101	111	8,898,486	8,915,326	100
Mature	10,756	10,574	11,476	107	109	132,549	154,056	116
Light	5,339	4,439	5,527	104	125	56,692	69,672	123
Heavy	5,417	6,135	5,949	110	97	75,857	84,384	111
Total	712,928	649,694	721,322	101	111	9,031,035	9,069,382	100
Turkeys								
Young	19,806	22,923	20,697	104	90	262,791	269,545	103
Old	196	125	170	87	136	2,178	2,080	96
Total	20,002	23,048	20,867	104	91	264,969	271,625	103
Ducks	2,206	1,794	2,196	100	122	27,311	24,165	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	3,927,040	3,584,405	3,943,655	100	110	49,043,355	49,752,736	101
Mature	60,871	61,577	63,823	105	104	795,192	891,494	112
Light	17,580	14,428	17,807	101	123	186,920	227,052	121
Heavy	43,291	47,149	46,016	106	98	608,272	664,442	109
Total	3,987,911	3,645,982	4,007,478	100	110	49,838,547	50,644,230	102
Turkeys								
Young	574,643	633,769	612,777	107	97	7,451,852	7,806,864	105
Old	5,338	3,315	4,632	87	140	57,092	55,319	97
Total	579,981	637,084	617,409	106	97	7,508,944	7,862,183	105
Ducks	15,034	12,026	14,744	98	123	183,932	161,990	88
Other Poultry ²	211	483	204	97	42	3,691	4,261	115
Total Poultry	4,583,137	4,295,575	4,639,835	101	108	57,535,114	58,672,664	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	5.59	5.61	5.56	99	99	5.51	5.58	101
Mature	5.66	5.82	5.56	98	96	6.00	5.79	97
Light	3.29	3.25	3.22	98	99	3.30	3.26	99
Heavy	7.99	7.69	7.74	97	101	8.02	7.87	98
Total	5.59	5.61	5.56	99	99	5.52	5.58	101
Turkeys								
Young	29.01	27.65	29.61	102	107	28.36	28.96	102
Old	27.23	26.52	27.25	100	103	26.21	26.60	101
Total	29.00	27.64	29.59	102	107	28.34	28.94	102
Ducks	6.82	6.70	6.71	98	100	6.73	6.70	100

¹ Federally inspected only.

² Includes geese, guineas, ostriches, emus, rheas, and squab.

**Poultry Slaughter: Chilled and Frozen, Pounds Certified by Type,
United States, December, 2007-2008 ¹**

Commodity	Dec 2007	Nov 2008	Dec 2008	Pct of		January to Date		Pct of 2007
				Dec 2007	Nov 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	2,623,674	2,408,928	2,667,653	102	111	32,725,174	33,380,766	102
Mature	37,249	38,426	39,435	106	103	492,066	549,305	112
Light	8,496	7,245	9,100	107	126	95,442	112,231	118
Heavy	28,753	31,181	30,335	106	97	396,624	437,074	110
Total	2,660,923	2,447,354	2,707,088	102	111	33,217,240	33,930,071	102
Turkeys								
Young	263,716	322,431	308,612	117	96	3,388,548	3,706,244	109
Old	3,136	1,845	2,591	83	140	33,094	30,705	93
Total	266,852	324,276	311,203	117	96	3,421,642	3,736,949	109
Ducks	5,386	3,177	3,839	71	121	64,574	46,281	72
Other								
Poultry ²	95	79	104	109	132	1,056	1,098	104
Total								
Poultry	2,933,256	2,774,886	3,022,234	103	109	36,704,512	37,714,399	103
Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	275,132	256,460	264,061	96	103	3,400,587	3,482,809	102
Mature	1,028	173	276	27	160	6,276	10,115	161
Light	962		8	1		1,545	6,207	402
Heavy	66	173	268	406	155	4,731	3,908	83
Total	276,160	256,633	264,337	96	103	3,406,863	3,492,924	103
Turkeys								
Young	193,620	185,467	178,845	92	96	2,525,925	2,515,216	100
Old	897	697	953	106	137	10,013	11,077	111
Total	194,517	186,164	179,798	92	97	2,535,938	2,526,293	100
Ducks	5,386	5,424	6,685	124	123	67,064	70,083	105
Other								
Poultry ²	48	203	31	65	15	1,113	1,445	130
Total								
Poultry	476,111	448,424	450,851	95	101	6,010,978	6,090,745	101
Chilled and Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	2,898,806	2,665,388	2,931,714	101	110	36,125,761	36,863,575	102
Mature	38,277	38,599	39,711	104	103	498,342	559,420	112
Light	9,458	7,245	9,108	96	126	96,987	118,438	122
Heavy	28,819	31,354	30,603	106	98	401,355	440,982	110
Total	2,937,083	2,703,987	2,971,425	101	110	36,624,103	37,422,995	102
Turkeys								
Young	457,336	507,898	487,457	107	96	5,914,473	6,221,460	105
Old	4,033	2,542	3,544	88	139	43,107	41,782	97
Total	461,369	510,440	491,001	106	96	5,957,580	6,263,242	105
Ducks	10,772	8,601	10,524	98	122	131,638	116,364	88
Other								
Poultry ²	143	282	135	94	48	2,169	2,543	117
Total								
Poultry	3,409,367	3,223,310	3,473,085	102	108	42,715,490	43,805,144	103

¹ Ready-to-cook weights.

² Includes geese, guineas, and squab.

**Poultry Slaughter: Ante-Mortem Condemnations by Type,
United States, December, 2007-2008¹**

Commodity	Dec 2007	Nov 2008	Dec 2008	Percent of		January to Date		Percent of 2007
				Dec 2007	Nov 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	12,651	9,399	11,562	91	123	167,093	153,952	92
Mature	952	746	1,159	122	155	14,441	14,699	102
Light	296	166	289	98	174	4,062	4,230	104
Heavy	656	580	870	133	150	10,379	10,469	101
Total	13,603	10,145	12,721	94	125	181,534	168,651	93
Turkeys								
Young	1,522	1,342	1,595	105	119	21,600	19,833	92
Old	68	34	51	75	150	719	613	85
Total	1,590	1,376	1,646	104	120	22,319	20,446	92
Ducks	32	45	53	166	118	452	492	109
Other Poultry	1	1				19	13	68
Total Poultry	15,226	11,567	14,420	95	125	204,324	189,602	93
	<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	0.32	0.26	0.29	91	112	0.34	0.31	91
Mature	1.56	1.21	1.82	117	150	1.82	1.65	91
Light	1.68	1.15	1.62	96	141	2.17	1.86	86
Heavy	1.52	1.23	1.89	124	154	1.71	1.58	92
Total	0.34	0.28	0.32	94	114	0.36	0.33	92
Turkeys								
Young	0.26	0.21	0.26	100	124	0.29	0.25	86
Old	1.27	1.03	1.10	87	107	1.26	1.11	88
Total	0.27	0.22	0.27	100	123	0.30	0.26	87
Ducks	0.21	0.37	0.36	171	97	0.25	0.30	120
Other Poultry	0.47	0.21				0.51	0.31	61
Total Poultry	0.33	0.27	0.31	94	115	0.36	0.32	89

¹ Federally inspected only.

² Pounds condemned as a percent of live weight pounds inspected.

**Poultry Slaughter: Post-Mortem Condemnations by Type,
United States, December, 2007-2008¹**

Commodity	Dec 2007	Nov 2008	Dec 2008	Percent of		January to Date		Percent of 2007
				Dec 2007	Nov 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	30,948	25,388	29,589	96	117	391,941	377,944	96
Mature	2,756	2,953	3,024	110	102	36,878	40,638	110
Light	1,061	1,075	1,225	115	114	13,432	14,525	108
Heavy	1,695	1,878	1,799	106	96	23,446	26,113	111
Total	33,704	28,341	32,613	97	115	428,819	418,582	98
Turkeys								
Young	7,564	7,330	7,845	104	107	101,858	100,150	98
Old	269	118	163	61	138	2,981	2,712	91
Total	7,833	7,448	8,008	102	108	104,839	102,862	98
Ducks	280	294	375	134	128	3,867	3,352	87
Other Poultry	2	2	1	50	50	56	25	45
Total Poultry	41,819	36,085	40,997	98	114	537,581	524,821	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 ²								
Chickens								
Young	1.06	0.94	1.00	95	106	1.07	1.01	95
Mature	6.72	7.11	7.08	105	100	6.89	6.77	98
Light	10.09	12.92	11.86	118	92	12.16	10.92	90
Heavy	5.55	5.65	5.55	100	98	5.52	5.59	101
Total	1.13	1.04	1.09	96	105	1.16	1.11	96
Turkeys								
Young	1.63	1.42	1.58	97	111	1.69	1.58	94
Old	6.25	4.44	4.40	70	99	6.47	6.10	94
Total	1.67	1.44	1.60	96	112	1.73	1.62	93
Ducks	2.53	3.31	3.44	136	104	2.85	2.80	98
Other Poultry	1.38	0.70	0.74	53	104	2.52	0.97	39
Total Poultry	1.21	1.11	1.17	96	105	1.24	1.18	95

¹ Federally inspected only.

² Pounds condemned as a percent of pounds certified plus post-mortem condemnations.

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

Commodity	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>
Chickens						
Young			7,224	6,486	744,683	886,408
Mature			1,112	1,586	163,650	196,267
Light			987	1,480	128,744	163,330
Heavy			125	106	34,906	32,937
Total			8,336	8,072	908,333	1,082,675
Turkeys						
Young			59	104	53,673	58,893
Old					1,383	2,179
Total			59	104	55,056	61,072
Commodity	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>
Chickens						
Young	353,019	525,816	4,551	6,897	43,821	51,932
Mature	9,468	11,096	382	257	50,861	60,738
Light	6,688	8,233	251	75	44,557	53,843
Heavy	2,780	2,863	131	182	6,304	6,895
Total	362,487	536,912	4,933	7,154	94,682	112,670
Turkeys						
Young	4,437	4,967	2,323	2,606	196	88
Old	478	379		1	34	47
Total	4,915	5,346	2,323	2,607	230	135
Commodity	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>
Chickens						
Young	12,463	13,639	64,329	83,175	101,099	111,836
Mature	9,689	11,389	2,621	3,375	90,535	99,258
Light	8,588	10,464	1,713	2,061	79,979	89,910
Heavy	1,101	925	908	1,314	10,556	9,348
Total	22,152	25,028	66,950	86,550	191,634	211,094
Turkeys						
Young	450	224	2,588	2,381	2,942	2,648
Old	7	5	44	28	61	181
Total	457	229	2,632	2,409	3,003	2,829
Commodity	Overscald		Other		Total	
	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>
Chickens						
Young	35,833	42,713	635,580	773,356	2,002,602	2,502,258
Mature	996	2,430	184,321	164,184	513,635	550,580
Light	679	1,068	79,507	65,773	351,693	396,237
Heavy	317	1,362	104,814	98,411	161,942	154,343
Total	36,829	45,143	819,901	937,540	2,516,237	3,052,838
Turkeys						
Young	324	810	13,550	10,922	80,542	83,643
Old	1	8	140	164	2,148	2,992
Total	325	818	13,690	11,086	82,690	86,635

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

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	80,209	84,905	434,073	455,590	5.41	5.37
AR	76,858	86,669	430,351	484,516	5.60	5.59
DE	21,327	24,582	150,356	171,259	7.05	6.97
GA	92,865	103,592	494,387	544,997	5.32	5.26
KY	22,110	24,014	122,206	128,853	5.53	5.37
LA	13,397	14,362	80,497	84,156	6.01	5.86
MD	9,426	10,990	47,064	54,006	4.99	4.91
MS	57,448	61,454	336,085	351,086	5.85	5.71
MO	29,600	33,779	139,648	159,595	4.72	4.72
NY	1,367	1,580	7,134	8,225	5.22	5.21
NC	53,174	59,362	372,807	414,205	7.01	6.98
OH	3,810	4,371	22,474	25,097	5.90	5.74
PA	8,877	9,545	51,881	55,292	5.84	5.79
SC	22,481	24,508	144,221	153,996	6.42	6.28
TN	17,710	21,028	91,567	110,049	5.17	5.23
TX	49,817	56,399	267,726	295,533	5.37	5.24
VA	23,357	26,062	111,272	124,366	4.76	4.77
US ¹	639,120	709,846	3,584,405	3,943,655	5.61	5.56

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

¹ 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, November 2008-December 2008**

State	Total Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified ¹		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
			Carcass and Parts		Percent ²	
	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>
AL	328,192	342,396	2,578	2,932	0.78	0.85
AR	310,497	349,969	3,307	3,906	1.05	1.10
DE	108,421	123,462	1,235	1,500	1.13	1.20
GA	370,846	409,534	2,809	3,269	0.75	0.79
KY	89,116	94,617	436	1,007	0.49	1.05
LA	59,908	62,161	303	296	0.50	0.47
MD	33,994	39,112	466	559	1.35	1.41
MS	251,374	266,137	2,602	2,500	1.02	0.93
MO	102,983	117,421	1,121	1,408	1.08	1.18
NY	4,368	4,981	135	103	3.00	2.03
NC	286,779	318,655	3,501	4,295	1.21	1.33
OH	16,493	18,596	334	320	1.98	1.69
PA	36,097	38,284	869	1,027	2.35	2.61
SC	108,428	115,617	856	820	0.78	0.70
TN	66,338	79,694	519	590	0.78	0.73
TX	207,520	227,936	1,647	1,810	0.79	0.79
VA	78,167	86,964	515	640	0.65	0.73
US ³	2,665,388	2,931,714	25,388	29,589	0.94	1.00

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

¹ Ready-to-cook weights.

² Pounds condemned as percent of pounds certified plus post-mortem condemnations.

³ Published States do not add to US total to avoid disclosure.

**Young Chickens Slaughtered: Number Condemned Post-Mortem by Cause,
by State and United States, November 2008-December 2008**

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>
AL			*	*	54,485	57,357
AR			433	373	100,721	126,290
DE			*	*	51,359	61,227
GA			118	109	59,901	66,212
KY			21	*	23,915	27,893
LA			*	*	7,895	7,695
MD			*	*	18,462	19,233
MS			*	*	36,362	32,371
MO			329	300	62,316	86,918
NY			94	*	*	2,660
NC			199	*	75,216	95,325
OH			*	*	7,419	8,663
PA			*	*	12,042	15,984
SC			*	*	*	5,602
TN			*	90	24,209	31,342
TX			61	90	36,313	41,946
VA			63	*	20,890	25,225
US ¹			7,224	6,486	744,683	886,408
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>
AL	53,796	64,139	308	320	*	*
AR	23,253	36,864	1,658	1,996	2,017	2,354
DE	15,926	23,445	*	*	5,891	6,937
GA	75,192	103,186	*	*	*	*
KY	15,775	*	*	*	*	*
LA	1,929	2,264	*	*	141	209
MD	*	*	17	*	*	*
MS	20,671	23,471	239	*	615	621
MO	*	18,208	173	175	1,225	1,686
NY	3,274	2,653	73	71	165	110
NC	35,609	66,806	62	*	8,341	9,683
OH	2,492	2,771	*	5	*	*
PA	5,470	9,147	75	78	204	228
SC	5,601	5,330	*	*	*	*
TN	11,061	12,373	*	*	615	901
TX	10,786	14,074	*	46	546	685
VA	11,271	17,668	*	*	*	*
US ¹	353,019	525,816	4,551	6,897	43,821	51,932

See footnote(s) at end of table.

--continued

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

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>
AL	1,311	1,524	4,781	5,401	8,288	9,059
AR	1,598	1,654	8,181	12,339	10,466	10,202
DE	760	738	2,776	3,219	3,016	3,735
GA	861	1,112	14,802	17,334	8,879	10,044
KY	*	*	2,245	3,518	2,925	3,078
LA	109	*	1,784	2,161	689	612
MD	*	*	754	1,031	*	*
MS	*	*	1,890	2,085	*	*
MO	524	644	1,757	2,433	6,680	6,404
NY	406	531	*	*	1,809	1,804
NC	1,385	1,358	9,903	11,967	7,046	7,191
OH	104	119	1,663	2,069	314	342
PA	*	321	520	*	3,122	3,276
SC	328	346	*	*	1,076	757
TN	*	*	827	1,301	*	1,831
TX	284	345	2,507	3,715	*	5,537
VA	733	761	1,459	1,655	2,465	2,571
US ¹	12,463	13,639	64,329	83,175	101,099	111,836

State	Overscald		Other		Total	
	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>
AL	4,769	3,767	86,834	103,231	217,337	248,426
AR	1,274	1,767	49,044	61,875	198,645	255,714
DE	729	1,350	12,247	20,767	94,795	122,734
GA	3,568	3,367	56,426	70,615	227,331	281,639
KY	*	*	*	*	55,403	*
LA	*	*	1,577	864	14,200	14,032
MD	603	*	*	*	*	*
MS	*	*	54,307	52,546	121,525	118,639
MO	*	74	70,321	91,033	155,962	207,875
NY	*	*	*	*	18,397	19,202
NC	11,305	11,179	79,033	113,162	228,099	317,101
OH	*	*	*	*	*	*
PA	*	*	*	26,007	47,697	57,068
SC	*	*	34,686	32,938	51,714	49,112
TN	503	639	*	*	41,822	51,950
TX	*	776	39,329	48,975	96,793	116,189
VA	*	996	*	20,609	58,352	72,599
US ¹	35,833	42,713	635,580	773,356	2,002,602	2,502,258

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

¹ 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, November 2008-December 2008

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	3,195	3,136	65,074	61,129	20.37	19.49
MN	3,350	2,923	88,844	84,769	26.52	29.00
MO	*	*	*	*	*	*
US ¹	22,923	20,697	633,769	612,777	27.65	29.61

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

¹ 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, November 2008-December 2008

State	Total Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified ¹		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
			Carcass and Parts		Percent ²	
	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	55,197	50,528	661	726	1.18	1.42
MN	71,378	67,736	1,322	1,318	1.82	1.91
MO	*	*	*	*	*	*
US ³	507,898	487,457	7,330	7,845	1.42	1.58

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

¹ Ready-to-cook weights.

² Pounds condemned as percent of pounds certified plus post-mortem condemnations.

³ 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.

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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