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Ready-to-Cook Weight Down 12 Percent from Last Year

Poultry certified wholesome during January 2009 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 3.39 billion pounds, down 12 percent from the amount certified in January 2008. The December 2008 revised certified total at 3.47 billion pounds, was up 2 percent from December 2007. The December revision represented an increase of 717 thousand pounds from last month's preliminary pounds certified.

The preliminary total live weight of poultry inspected during January 2009 was 4.53 billion pounds, down 12 percent from 5.16 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 3.86 billion pounds, down 12 percent from January 2008. Mature chickens, at 62.1 million pounds, were down 15 percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 594 million pounds, down 14 percent from a year ago. Ducks totaled 13.0 million pounds, down 11 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during January 2009 averaged 5.56 pounds per bird, down slightly from January 2008. The average live weight of mature chickens was 5.63 pounds per bird, down 1 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during January 2009 averaged 30.5 pounds per bird, up slightly from January 2008.

Ante-mortem condemnations during January 2009 totaled 15.1 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.33 percent of the live weight inspected, as compared with 0.39 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 41.3 million pounds, were 1.20 percent of quantities inspected, as compared with 1.31 percent a year earlier.

January 2009 contained 22 weekdays (including two holiday) and 5 Saturdays, while January 2008 had 23 weekdays (including two holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

Special Note

Beginning with this 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 has been 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, January, 2008-2009 ¹**

Commodity	Jan 2008	Dec 2008	Jan 2009	Pct of		January to Date		Pct of 2008
				Jan 2008	Dec 2008	2008	2009	
	<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	786,973	709,846	694,679	88	98	786,973	694,679	88
Mature	12,970	11,476	11,031	85	96	12,970	11,031	85
Light	6,333	5,527	5,238	83	95	6,333	5,238	83
Heavy	6,637	5,949	5,793	87	97	6,637	5,793	87
Total	799,943	721,322	705,710	88	98	799,943	705,710	88
Turkeys								
Young	22,584	20,732	19,251	85	93	22,584	19,251	85
Old	118	171	203	172	119	118	203	172
Total	22,702	20,903	19,454	86	93	22,702	19,454	86
Ducks	2,155	2,196	1,953	91	89	2,155	1,953	91
	<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	4,380,786	3,943,792	3,863,528	88	98	4,380,786	3,863,528	88
Mature	73,348	63,823	62,095	85	97	73,348	62,095	85
Light	20,601	17,807	16,839	82	95	20,601	16,839	82
Heavy	52,747	46,016	45,256	86	98	52,747	45,256	86
Total	4,454,134	4,007,615	3,925,623	88	98	4,454,134	3,925,623	88
Turkeys								
Young	686,334	613,756	587,982	86	96	686,334	587,982	86
Old	3,039	4,662	5,613	185	120	3,039	5,613	185
Total	689,373	618,418	593,595	86	96	689,373	593,595	86
Ducks	14,599	14,744	12,992	89	88	14,599	12,992	89
Other Poultry ²	175	205	152	87	74	175	152	87
Total Poultry	5,158,281	4,640,982	4,532,362	88	98	5,158,281	4,532,362	88
	<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	5.57	5.56	5.56	100	100	5.57	5.56	100
Mature	5.66	5.56	5.63	99	101	5.66	5.63	99
Light	3.25	3.22	3.21	99	100	3.25	3.21	99
Heavy	7.95	7.74	7.81	98	101	7.95	7.81	98
Total	5.57	5.56	5.56	100	100	5.57	5.56	100
Turkeys								
Young	30.39	29.60	30.54	100	103	30.39	30.54	100
Old	25.75	27.26	27.65	107	101	25.75	27.65	107
Total	30.37	29.59	30.51	100	103	30.37	30.51	100
Ducks	6.77	6.71	6.65	98	99	6.77	6.65	98

¹ Federally inspected only.

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

**Poultry Slaughter: Chilled and Frozen, Pounds Certified by Type,
United States, January, 2008-2009¹**

Commodity	Jan 2008	Dec 2008	Jan 2009	Pct of		January to Date		Pct of 2008
				Jan 2008	Dec 2008	2008	2009	
	<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	2,942,858	2,667,931	2,617,585	89	98	2,942,858	2,617,585	89
Mature	44,471	39,435	37,903	85	96	44,471	37,903	85
Light	9,993	9,100	8,361	84	92	9,993	8,361	84
Heavy	34,478	30,335	29,542	86	97	34,478	29,542	86
Total	2,987,329	2,707,366	2,655,488	89	98	2,987,329	2,655,488	89
Turkeys								
Young	309,812	309,400	289,229	93	93	309,812	289,229	93
Old	1,896	2,613	2,412	127	92	1,896	2,412	127
Total	311,708	312,013	291,641	94	93	311,708	291,641	94
Ducks	4,968	3,839	3,390	68	88	4,968	3,390	68
Other								
Poultry ²	84	104	74	88	71	84	74	88
Total								
Poultry	3,304,089	3,023,322	2,950,593	89	98	3,304,089	2,950,593	89
Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	294,383	263,690	253,040	86	96	294,383	253,040	86
Mature	1,268	276	416	33	151	1,268	416	33
Light	931	8	112	12	1,400	931	112	12
Heavy	337	268	304	90	113	337	304	90
Total	295,651	263,966	253,456	86	96	295,651	253,456	86
Turkeys								
Young	234,355	178,845	176,195	75	99	234,355	176,195	75
Old	355	953	1,899	535	199	355	1,899	535
Total	234,710	179,798	178,094	76	99	234,710	178,094	76
Ducks	5,487	6,685	5,887	107	88	5,487	5,887	107
Other								
Poultry ²	35	31	22	63	71	35	22	63
Total								
Poultry	535,883	450,480	437,459	82	97	535,883	437,459	82
Chilled and Frozen								
Chickens								
Young	3,237,241	2,931,621	2,870,625	89	98	3,237,241	2,870,625	89
Mature	45,739	39,711	38,319	84	96	45,739	38,319	84
Light	10,924	9,108	8,473	78	93	10,924	8,473	78
Heavy	34,815	30,603	29,846	86	98	34,815	29,846	86
Total	3,282,980	2,971,332	2,908,944	89	98	3,282,980	2,908,944	89
Turkeys								
Young	544,167	488,245	465,424	86	95	544,167	465,424	86
Old	2,251	3,566	4,311	192	121	2,251	4,311	192
Total	546,418	491,811	469,735	86	96	546,418	469,735	86
Ducks	10,455	10,524	9,277	89	88	10,455	9,277	89
Other								
Poultry ²	119	135	96	81	71	119	96	81
Total								
Poultry	3,839,972	3,473,802	3,388,052	88	98	3,839,972	3,388,052	88

¹ Ready-to-cook weights.

² Includes geese, guineas, and squab.

**Poultry Slaughter: Ante-Mortem Condemnations by Type,
United States, January, 2008-2009¹**

Commodity	Jan 2008	Dec 2008	Jan 2009	Percent of		January to Date		Percent of 2008
				Jan 2008	Dec 2008	2008	2009	
	<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	16,331	11,563	11,961	73	103	16,331	11,961	73
Mature	1,444	1,159	1,239	86	107	1,444	1,239	86
Light	395	289	375	95	130	395	375	95
Heavy	1,049	870	864	82	99	1,049	864	82
Total	17,775	12,722	13,200	74	104	17,775	13,200	74
Turkeys								
Young	2,107	1,599	1,844	88	115	2,107	1,844	88
Old	50	52	57	114	110	50	57	114
Total	2,157	1,651	1,901	88	115	2,157	1,901	88
Ducks	30	53	45	150	85	30	45	150
Total Poultry	19,962	14,426	15,146	76	105	19,962	15,146	76
	<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	0.37	0.29	0.31	84	107	0.37	0.31	84
Mature	1.97	1.82	2.00	102	110	1.97	2.00	102
Light	1.92	1.62	2.23	116	138	1.92	2.23	116
Heavy	1.99	1.89	1.91	96	101	1.99	1.91	96
Total	0.40	0.32	0.34	85	106	0.40	0.34	85
Turkeys								
Young	0.31	0.26	0.31	100	119	0.31	0.31	100
Old	1.65	1.12	1.02	62	91	1.65	1.02	62
Total	0.31	0.27	0.32	103	119	0.31	0.32	103
Ducks	0.21	0.36	0.35	167	97	0.21	0.35	167
Total Poultry	0.39	0.31	0.33	85	106	0.39	0.33	85

¹ Federally inspected only.

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

**Poultry Slaughter: Post-Mortem Condemnations by Type,
United States, January, 2008-2009 ¹**

Commodity	Jan 2008	Dec 2008	Jan 2009	Percent of		January to Date		Percent of 2008
				Jan 2008	Dec 2008	2008	2009	
	<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	37,861	29,588	29,913	79	101	37,861	29,913	79
Mature	3,394	3,024	3,016	89	100	3,394	3,016	89
Light	1,249	1,225	1,218	98	99	1,249	1,218	98
Heavy	2,145	1,799	1,798	84	100	2,145	1,798	84
Total	41,255	32,612	32,929	80	101	41,255	32,929	80
Turkeys								
Young	9,387	7,854	7,795	83	99	9,387	7,795	83
Old	176	166	184	105	111	176	184	105
Total	9,563	8,020	7,979	83	99	9,563	7,979	83
Ducks	286	375	364	127	97	286	364	127
Other Poultry	1	1	1	100	100	1	1	100
Total Poultry	51,105	41,008	41,273	81	101	51,105	41,273	81
	<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	1.16	1.00	1.03	89	103	1.16	1.03	89
Mature	6.91	7.08	7.30	106	103	6.91	7.30	106
Light	10.26	11.86	12.57	123	106	10.26	12.57	123
Heavy	5.80	5.55	5.68	98	102	5.80	5.68	98
Total	1.24	1.09	1.12	90	103	1.24	1.12	90
Turkeys								
Young	1.70	1.58	1.65	97	104	1.70	1.65	97
Old	7.25	4.45	4.09	56	92	7.25	4.09	56
Total	1.72	1.60	1.67	97	104	1.72	1.67	97
Ducks	2.66	3.44	3.78	142	110	2.66	3.78	142
Other Poultry	0.83	0.74	1.03	124	139	0.83	1.03	124
Total Poultry	1.31	1.17	1.20	92	103	1.31	1.20	92

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, December 2008-January 2009**

Commodity	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	December	January	December	January	December	January
	<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			6,486	10,664	886,408	889,266
Mature			1,586	1,373	196,267	190,619
Light			1,480	1,293	163,330	161,321
Heavy			106	80	32,937	29,298
Total			8,072	12,037	1,082,675	1,079,885
Turkeys						
Young			104	81	58,920	53,528
Old					2,187	2,721
Total			104	81	61,107	56,249
Commodity	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	December	January	December	January	December	January
	<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	525,816	649,595	6,897	16,253	51,932	48,565
Mature	11,096	10,369	257	347	60,738	61,434
Light	8,233	6,791	75	181	53,843	55,714
Heavy	2,863	3,578	182	166	6,895	5,720
Total	536,912	659,964	7,154	16,600	112,670	109,999
Turkeys						
Young	4,968	8,489	2,606	3,032	88	79
Old	379	303	1	1	47	46
Total	5,347	8,792	2,607	3,033	135	125
Commodity	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	December	January	December	January	December	January
	<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	13,639	13,420	83,175	87,718	111,836	117,911
Mature	11,389	13,584	3,375	4,206	99,258	115,682
Light	10,464	12,874	2,061	2,878	89,910	103,748
Heavy	925	710	1,314	1,328	9,348	11,934
Total	25,028	27,004	86,550	91,924	211,094	233,593
Turkeys						
Young	224	197	2,381	2,160	2,648	2,455
Old	5	8	28	64	182	135
Total	229	205	2,409	2,224	2,830	2,590
Commodity	Overscald		Other		Total	
	December	January	December	January	December	January
	<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	42,713	27,717	773,256	805,906	2,502,158	2,667,015
Mature	2,430	1,420	164,184	147,549	550,580	546,583
Light	1,068	240	65,773	58,219	396,237	403,259
Heavy	1,362	1,180	98,411	89,330	154,343	143,324
Total	45,143	29,137	937,440	953,455	3,052,738	3,213,598
Turkeys						
Young	816	511	10,924	11,712	83,679	82,244
Old	8	22	164	262	3,001	3,562
Total	824	533	11,088	11,974	86,680	85,806

**Young Chickens Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight,
by State and United States, December 2008-January 2009**

State	Number Slaughtered		Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	December	January	December	January	December	January
	<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	84,905	83,338	455,722	450,675	5.37	5.41
AR	86,669	81,551	484,516	457,715	5.59	5.61
DE	24,582	24,264	171,259	164,707	6.97	6.79
GA	103,592	101,296	544,997	524,589	5.26	5.18
KY	24,014	20,902	128,853	111,684	5.37	5.34
LA	14,362	14,743	84,156	85,826	5.86	5.82
MD	10,990	10,536	54,006	47,172	4.91	4.48
MS	61,454	59,026	351,086	338,559	5.71	5.74
MO	33,779	32,676	159,595	155,470	4.72	4.76
NY	1,580	1,568	8,225	8,157	5.21	5.20
NC	59,362	61,361	414,205	425,699	6.98	6.94
OH	4,371	4,417	25,097	26,463	5.74	5.99
PA	9,545	9,448	55,292	53,628	5.79	5.68
SC	24,508	23,440	153,996	150,170	6.28	6.41
TN	21,028	20,776	110,049	107,880	5.23	5.19
TX	56,399	55,056	295,533	286,959	5.24	5.21
VA	26,062	26,464	124,366	129,134	4.77	4.88
US ¹	709,846	694,679	3,943,792	3,863,528	5.56	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, December 2008-January 2009**

State	Total Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified ¹		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
	December	January	Carcass and Parts		Percent ²	
			December	January	December	January
	<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	342,560	339,309	2,931	2,980	0.85	0.87
AR	349,968	329,659	3,906	3,766	1.10	1.13
DE	123,463	118,582	1,500	1,487	1.20	1.24
GA	409,533	393,098	3,269	3,568	0.79	0.90
KY	94,613	81,558	1,007	1,544	1.05	1.86
LA	62,160	63,196	296	352	0.47	0.55
MD	39,112	33,949	559	540	1.41	1.57
MS	265,884	256,961	2,500	2,212	0.93	0.85
MO	117,421	114,117	1,408	1,218	1.18	1.06
NY	4,981	4,978	103	115	2.02	2.25
NC	318,655	327,225	4,295	4,150	1.33	1.25
OH	18,596	19,523	320	325	1.69	1.64
PA	38,284	37,318	1,027	868	2.61	2.27
SC	115,617	112,931	820	809	0.70	0.71
TN	79,694	78,147	590	580	0.74	0.74
TX	227,936	222,266	1,810	2,008	0.79	0.90
VA	86,964	89,852	640	734	0.73	0.81
US ³	2,931,621	2,870,625	29,588	29,913	1.00	1.03

* 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, December 2008-January 2009**

State	Tuberculosis		Leukosis		Septicaemia	
	December	January	December	January	December	January
	<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			*	*	57,357	59,025
AR			373	*	126,290	121,988
DE			*	*	61,227	55,764
GA			109	*	66,212	70,935
MS			*	*	32,371	28,425
MO			300	290	86,918	75,130
NC			*	*	95,325	95,225
TX			90	42	41,946	51,422
VA			*	100	25,225	30,470
US ¹			6,486	10,664	886,408	889,266
State	Airsacculitis		Synovitis		Tumors	
	December	January	December	January	December	January
	<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	64,139	72,170	320	548	*	*
AR	36,864	31,724	1,996	2,282	2,354	2,311
DE	23,445	33,054	*	*	6,937	6,850
GA	103,186	99,435	*	391	*	*
MS	23,471	22,316	*	*	621	442
MO	18,208	14,325	175	135	1,686	1,417
NC	66,806	60,274	*	*	9,683	9,679
TX	14,074	27,321	46	44	685	614
VA	17,668	21,273	*	20	*	*
US ¹	525,816	649,595	6,897	16,253	51,932	48,565
State	Bruises		Cadaver		Contamination	
	December	January	December	January	December	January
	<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	1,524	1,413	5,401	6,493	9,059	9,512
AR	1,654	1,870	12,339	10,692	10,202	9,502
DE	738	614	3,219	2,635	2,635	2,642
GA	1,112	989	17,334	17,198	10,044	8,653
MS	*	*	2,085	2,775	*	*
MO	644	588	2,433	3,115	6,404	6,842
NC	1,358	1,290	11,967	13,048	7,191	7,084
TX	345	319	3,715	3,859	5,537	5,881
VA	761	699	1,655	1,770	2,571	2,725
US ¹	13,639	13,420	83,175	87,718	111,836	117,911
State	Overscald		Other		Total	
	December	January	December	January	December	January
	<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	3,767	2,737	103,231	120,196	248,426	275,331
AR	1,767	*	61,875	81,288	255,714	263,657
DE	1,350	*	20,667	24,806	122,634	128,239
GA	3,367	3,662	70,615	104,290	281,639	314,576
MS	*	*	52,546	43,914	118,639	105,942
MO	74	488	91,033	74,708	207,875	177,038
NC	11,179	7,293	113,162	81,599	317,101	277,016
TX	776	569	48,975	58,114	116,189	148,185
VA	996	787	20,609	*	72,599	91,712
US ¹	42,713	27,717	773,256	805,906	2,502,158	2,667,015

* 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, December 2008-January 2009

State	Number Slaughtered		Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	December	January	December	January	December	January
	<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	3,136	2,568	61,129	49,339	19.49	19.21
MN	3,210	2,957	90,567	81,467	28.21	27.55
MO	*	*	*	*	*	*
US ¹	20,732	19,251	613,756	587,982	29.60	30.54

* 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, December 2008-January 2009

State	Total Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified ¹		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
			Carcass and Parts		Percent ²	
	December	January	December	January	December	January
	<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	50,528	40,586	726	683	1.42	1.65
MN	72,223	64,801	1,389	1,287	1.89	1.95
MO	*	*	*	*	*	*
US ³	488,245	465,424	7,854	7,795	1.58	1.65

* 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 2008. 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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Fleming Gibson - Poultry Slaughter, Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised	(202) 690-3237
Sharyn Lavender - Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery, Honey	(202) 720-3244
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Bruce Boess - Catfish Processing, Catfish Production, Trout Production, Census of Aquaculture, Egg Products, Mink.....	(202) 720-4447

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