

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
POULTRY PROGRAMS, MARKET NEWS BRANCH
60 FORSYTH STREET, SW SUITE 6M80
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303

OFFICE: 404-562-5850 **FAX:** 404-562-5875 **JOHNNY FREEMAN:** 404-562-5870
INTERNET: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/marketnews.htm> **RECORDING:** 404-562-5856

January 2, 2004

ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION
FOR WEEK ENDING 03-Jan-04 (THOUSAND HEAD)

	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK
	01/03/04	12/27/03
BRO-FRY	133,187	116,078
LT HENS	1,143	820
HVY HENS	930	698

U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN CANADA

WEEK ENDING 20-Dec-03 (THOUSAND HEAD)

LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL
------------	------------	-------

HEAD

HEAD SLTR COMPARISONS

LAST WEEK	Due to Holiday observances in Canada, we do not
SAME WEEK YR AGO	currently anticipate releasing the data for
TO-DATE/2003	week ending Dec. 20 until the week of Jan. 5, 2004.
TO-DATE/2002	

SOURCE: AGRICULTURE CANADA, POULTRY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

TOTAL U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN THE U.S. AND CANADA

LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL
------------	------------	-------

HEAD

HEAD SLTR COMPARISONS

LAST WEEK	Due to Holiday observances in Canada, we do not
SAME WEEK YR AGO	currently anticipate releasing the data for
TO-DATE/2003	week ending Dec. 20 until the week of Jan. 5, 2004.
TO-DATE/2002	

LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION

WEEK ENDING 27-Dec-03 (THOUSAND HEAD)

	YOUNG	LIGHT	HEAVY	TOTAL
	CHICKENS	HENS	HENS	HENS
HEAD	113,075	918	808	1,726
AVG WT	5.22	3.39	8.24	5.66
HEAD SLTR COMPARISONS				
LAST WEEK	154,431	1,340	1,509	2,849
SAME WK YR AGO	107,976	967	678	1,645
AVG WT	5.10	3.23	7.94	5.17
TO-DATE/2003	7,932,277	72,895	72,119	145,014
TO-DATE/2002	7,986,625	89,440	72,815	162,255

(A) The estimated number of fryers available for marketing based on the 2-week revised average chick placements 6 to 7 weeks earlier was 145.8 million head. Estimated U.S. slaughter for this period 114.4 million head or 31.4 million head more than or 78% of estimated fryers available.

**YOUNG CHICKENS SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION,
CLASSIFIED BY LIVE WEIGHT, WEEK ENDING 20-Dec-2003**

(A) FAST FOOD/FOOD SERVICE (B) RETAIL (C) DEBONING
4.20 LBS & DOWN 4.21-5.25 LBS 5.26 LBS & UP
-----THOUSANDS-----

Head	14,351	12,189	25,303
Avg Weight	3.64	4.60	6.19
% of total /1	28%	24%	49%
COMPARISONS			
Last week	25,306	29,485	42,058
Avg Weight	3.69	4.46	6.49
% of total /1	26%	30%	43%
Same week, yr ago /2	19,631	20,191	31,672
Avg Weight	3.87	4.69	6.05
% of total /1	27%	28%	44%
To date/2003	1,180,466	1,221,823	2,242,222
To date/2002	1,289,474	1,137,281	2,084,283

/1 MAY NOT TOTAL TO 100% DUE TO ROUNDING

/2 COMPARABLE WEEK

- (A) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the fast food and food service industries. May also include Cornish hens.
- (B) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the retail industry.
- (C) This weight class generally denotes chickens used in further processing. May also include heavy roasters sold in retail channels.

**LIVE TURKEYS SLAUGHTERED WEEK ENDING 26-Dec-03
(THOUSAND HEAD)**

	YOUNG (B) HENS	TOMS	YOUNG BREEDERS	OLD BREEDERS	TOTAL
HEAD	901	1,212	1	1	2,115
AVG WT	15.02	37.60	35.67	51.50	27.99
HEAD SLTR COMPARISONS					
LAST WEEK	2,490	2,747	13	1	5,251
SAME WK YR AGO	1,122	1,667	17	4	2,810
AVG WT	15.11	38.24	26.12	33.23	28.93
TO-DATE/2003	98,120	141,249	3,139	607	243,115
TO-DATE/2002	96,225	142,925	2,737	665	242,552

SOURCE: USDA/AMS POULTRY PROGRAMS, MARKET NEWS BRANCH.
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (404) 562-5850.