

**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

December 24, 2004

**ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION  
 FOR WEEK ENDING 18-Dec-04 (THOUSAND HEAD)**

	CURRENT WEEK 12/25/04	PREVIOUS WEEK 12/18/04
BRO-FRY	128,618	170,324
LT HENS	1,188	1,441
HVY HENS	1,163	1,455

**U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN CANADA**

	WEEK ENDING 18-Dec-04 (THOUSAND HEAD)		
	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL
HEAD	292	0	292
HEAD SLTR COMPARISONS			
LAST WEEK	333	11	344
SAME WEEK YR AGO	192	4	196
TO-DATE/2004	12,316	148	12,464
TO-DATE/2003	10,776	148	10,924

SOURCE: AGRICULTURE CANADA, POULTRY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION  
 Total U. S. fowl slaughter in the U. S. and Canada

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL
HEAD	1,791	1,462	3,253
HEAD SLTR COMPARISONS			
LAST WEEK	1,867	1,414	3,281
SAME WEEK YR AGO	1,532	1,513	3,045
TO-DATE/2004	80,727	68,195	148,922
TO-DATE/2003	81,574	70,332	151,906

**LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION  
 WEEK ENDING 18-Dec-04 (THOUSAND HEAD)**

	YOUNG CHICKENS	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
Head	159,224	1,499	1,462	2,961
Avg Wt	5.22	3.26	7.87	5.54
Head sltr comparisons				
Last week	159,818	1,534	1,403	2,937
Same wk yr ago	154,431	1,340	1,509	2,849
Avg Wt	5.34	3.72	7.84	5.90
To-date/2004	7,829,779	68,411	68,047	136,458
To-date/2003	7,692,409	70,798	70,184	140,982

(A) The estimated number of fryers available for marketing based on the 2-week revised average chick placements 6 to 7 weeks earlier was 154.3 million head. Estimated U.S. slaughter for this period 161.2 million head or 6.9 million more than estimated available.

YOUNG CHICKENS SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION,  
CLASSIFIED BY LIVE WEIGHT, WEEK ENDING 11-Dec-04

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

Head	28,244	18,354	47,661
Avg Weight	3.62	4.64	6.37
% of total /1	30%	19%	51%
Last week	24,347	20,460	51,282
Avg Weight	3.68	4.74	6.50
% of total /1	25%	21%	53%
Same week, yr ago /2	25,306	29,485	42,058
Avg Weight	3.69	4.46	6.49
% of total /1	26%	30%	43%
To date/2004	1,272,719	1,030,592	2,256,025
To date/2003	1,146,873	1,191,604	2,178,265

/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 18-Dec-04  
(THOUSAND HEAD)

	YOUNG (B) HENS	TOMS	YOUNG BREEDERS	OLD BREEDERS	TOTAL
Head	1,727	2,477	26	0	4,230
Avg Wt	15.41	38.26	24.19	0.00	28.84
Head sltr comparisons					
Last week	1,850	2,571	46	1	4,468
Same wk yr ago	2,490	2,747	13	1	5,251
Avg Wt	15.62	35.44	24.33	52.41	26.02
To-date/2004	87,237	128,098	2,537	353	218,225
To-date/2003	95,954	138,050	3,120	597	237,721

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