

**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

March 24, 2006

**ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION
 FOR WEEK ENDING 25-Mar-06 (THOUSAND HEAD)**

	CURRENT WEEK 03/25/06	PREVIOUS WEEK 03/18/06
Broiler/fryer	162,318	163,678
Light hens	1,080	1,005
Heavy hens	1,556	1,361

U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN CANADA

	WEEK ENDING 18-Mar-06 (THOUSAND HEAD)		
	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL
Head	249	0	249
Head sltr Comparisons			
Last Week	171	0	171
Same week yr ago	218	0	218
To-date/2006	2,869	7	2,876
To-date/2005	3,350	11	3,361

SOURCE: AGRICULTURE CANADA, POULTRY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

Total U. S. fowl slaughter in the U. S. and Canada

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL
Head	1,250	1,441	2,691
Head sltr Comparisons			
Last Week	1,148	1,580	2,728
Same week yr ago	1,603	1,402	3,005
To-date/2006	16,384	15,664	32,048
To-date/2005	19,270	14,332	33,602

**LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION
 WEEK ENDING 18-March-06 (THOUSAND HEAD)**

	YOUNG CHICKENS	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
Head	162,304	1,001	1,441	2,442
Avg Wt	5.31	3.35	8.09	6.15
Head sltr comparisons				
Last week	160,615	977	1,580	2,557
Same wk yr ago	157,335	1,385	1,402	2,787
Avg Wt	5.20	3.40	8.03	5.73
To-date/2006	1,764,662	13,515	15,657	29,172
To-date/2005	1,726,029	15,920	14,321	30,241

A) The estimated number of fryers available for marketing based on the 2-week revised average chick placements 6 to 7 weeks earlier was 164.3 million head. Estimated U.S. slaughter for this period was 164.3 million head, or 0.0 million less than estimated available.

YOUNG CHICKENS SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION,
CLASSIFIED BY LIVE WEIGHT, WEEK ENDING 11-Mar-06

	(A) FAST FOOD/FOOD SERVICE 4.20 LBS & DOWN	(B) RETAIL 4.21-5.25 LBS	(C) DEBONING 5.26 LBS & UP
	-----THOUSANDS-----		
Head	28,352	24,324	53,330
Avg Weight	3.71	4.79	6.46
% of total /1	27%	23%	50%
Last week	26,554	19,671	52,345
Avg Weight	3.77	4.75	6.37
% of total /1	27%	20%	53%
Same week, yr ago /2	30,595	19,126	47,714
Avg Weight	3.52	4.68	6.40
% of total /1	31%	20%	49%
To date/2006	266,972	183,872	541,105
To date/2005	264,943	211,308	480,527

/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-Mar-06
(THOUSAND HEAD)

	YOUNG (B)		YOUNG	OLD	TOTAL
	HENS	TOMS	BREEDERS	BREEDERS	
Head	1,821	2,645	22	17	4,505
Avg Wt	17.22	38.51	25.66	25.90	29.79
Head sltr comparisons					
Last week	2,001	2,376	34	10	4,421
Same wk yr ago	1,582	2,517	17	1	4,117
Avg Wt	16.12	38.18	21.19	49.75	29.64
To-date/2006	18,564	27,132	241	59	45,996
To-date/2005	16,832	27,537	294	36	44,699

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