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

OFFICE: 404-562-5850 **FAX:** 404-562-5875 ANNIE TERRY: 404-562-5870
INTERNET: http://www.ams.usda.gov/pymarketnews **RECORDING:** 404-562-5856

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ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION
FOR WEEK ENDING 20-Dec-08 (THOUSAND HEAD)

	CURRENT WEEK 12/20/08	PREVIOUS WEEK 12/13/08
Broiler/fryer	158,193	160,436
Light hens	1,513	1,508
Heavy hens	1,305	1,442

U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN CANADA
*****DATA FOR THE WEEKENDING*****
WEEK ENDING 12-Dec-08 (THOUSAND HEAD)

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL
Head	331	0	331
Head sltr Comparisons			
Last Week	258	0	258
Same week yr ago	313	12	325
To-date/2008	15,414	68	15,482
To-date/2007	13,189	59	13,248

SOURCE: AGRICULTURE CANADA, POULTRY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

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

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL
Head	1,681	1,460	3,141
Head sltr Comparisons			
Last Week	1,625	1,573	3,198
Same week yr ago	1,854	1,455	3,309
To-date/2008	83,247	81,133	164,380
To-date/2007	68,698	73,302	142,000

LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION
WEEK ENDING 13-Dec-08 (THOUSAND HEAD)

	YOUNG CHICKENS	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
Head	158,061	1,350	1,460	2,810
Avg Wt	5.45	3.23	7.65	5.53
Head sltr comparisons				
Last week	160,358	1,367	1,573	2,940
Same wk yr ago	168,456	1,541	1,443	2,984
Avg Wt	5.56	3.23	7.99	5.53
To-date/2008	8,134,718	67,833	81,065	148,898
To-date/2007	8,104,734	55,509	73,243	128,752

(A) The estimated number of fryers available for marketing based on the 2-week revised average chick placements 6 to 7 weeks earlier was 147.4 million head. Estimated U.S. slaughter for this period was 160.0 million head, or 12.6 million more than estimated available.

YOUNG CHICKENS SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION,
CLASSIFIED BY LIVE WEIGHT, WEEK ENDING 13-Dec-08

	(A) 4.25 lbs & down	(B) 4.26 - 6.25 lbs	(C) 6.26 - 7.75 lbs	(D) 7.76 lbs & up	Total
Head	40,140	83,742	20,287	13,892	158,061
Avg Live Wgt	3.83	5.41	6.91	8.30	5.45
% of total /1	25%	53%	13%	9%	100%
Last week	37,139	82,088	24,204	16,927	160,358
Avg Live Wgt	3.82	5.44	6.81	8.41	5.59
% of total /1	23%	51%	15%	11%	100%
Year Ago 2/	44,399	82,551	24,891	16,615	168,456
Avg Live Wgt	3.77	5.50	6.98	8.49	5.56
% of total /1	26%	49%	15%	10%	100%
To date/2008	2,076,650	3,937,286	1,224,292	896,490	8,134,718
To date/2007	2,142,079	4,011,482	1,325,179	625,994	8,104,734

/1 May not total to 100% due to rounding.
/2 Comparable week.

Weight Class Description:
(A) This size product is normally marketed bone-in into fast food and food service sectors and may include Cornish hens.
(B) This size product is normally marketed into the retail grocery sector in tray pack or bagged forms.
(C) This size product is normally marketed either into the retail grocery sector in tray pack and IQF form or is further processed and marketed into various sectors.
(D) This size product is normally marketed deboned or as roasters or roasting chicken.

LIVE TURKEYS SLAUGHTERED WEEK ENDING 13-Dec-08
(THOUSAND HEAD)

	YOUNG (B) HENS	TOMS	YOUNG BREEDERS	OLD BREEDERS	TOTAL
Head	2,351	2,763	25	3	5,142
Avg Wt	16.56	41.12	29.34	65.39	29.85
Head sltr comparisons					
Last week	2,099	2,932	26	20	5,077
Same wk yr ago	1,969	2,789	28	5	4,791
Avg Wt	16.31	38.29	25.15	24.48	29.17
To-date/2008	101,546	137,726	1,421	466	241,159
To-date/2007	100,120	133,083	1,241	264	234,708

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