

# Poultry Slaughter



USDA  
Washington, D.C.

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## **Ready-to-Cook Weight Unchanged**

Poultry Certified Wholesome during May (ready-to-cook weight), totaled 2.83 billion pounds, virtually the same as the amount certified in May 1996. Updated totals for April 1997 show that 2.85 billion pounds were certified.

The preliminary total Live Weight of Poultry Inspected during May 1997 was 3.85 billion pounds. Inspections included 3.17 billion pounds of young chickens, 75.2 million pounds of mature chickens, 587 million pounds of turkeys, and 12.6 million pounds of ducks.

Young chickens slaughtered during May 1997 averaged 4.81 pounds per bird, up 1 percent from the average live weight a year ago. The average live weight of mature chickens was down 4 percent from 5.10 pounds per bird the previous year to 4.91 pounds. Turkeys slaughtered during May 1997 averaged 24.6 pounds per bird, up two percent from May 1996.

Ante-mortem condemnations during May 1997 totaled 11.8 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.31 percent of the live weight inspected, compared with 0.34 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 64.3 million pounds (N.Y. dressed weight), were 1.86 percent of quantities inspected, compared with 1.84 percent a year earlier.

May 1997 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and five Saturdays, while May 1996 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays. Each weekday represents approximately 5 percent of the month's total.

Poultry Slaughter: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight  
by Type, United States, May 1997 with Comparisons 1/

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature 2/	Total		
1,000 Head					
Number Inspected					
Apr 1997	660,234	15,945	676,179	1,834	-----
May 1996	663,234	13,697	676,931	1,732	-----
May 1997	659,567	15,312	674,878	1,862	-----
Jan-May 1996	3,169,766	68,579	3,238,346	8,162	-----
Jan-May 1997	3,193,338	72,713	3,266,051	8,888	-----
1,000 Pounds					
Live Weight					
Apr 1997	3,208,563	74,545	3,283,108	12,455	1,074
May 1996	3,148,746	69,794	3,218,539	11,607	912
May 1997	3,171,672	75,185	3,246,857	12,621	1,183
Jan-May 1996	15,206,592	354,263	15,560,855	54,818	3,294
Jan-May 1997	15,464,834	354,575	15,819,408	59,772	5,662
Pounds					
Average Live Weight					
Apr 1997	4.86	4.68	4.86	6.79	-----
May 1996	4.75	5.10	4.75	6.70	-----
May 1997	4.81	4.91	4.81	6.78	-----
Jan-May 1996	4.80	5.17	4.81	6.72	-----
Jan-May 1997	4.84	4.88	4.84	6.73	-----

See footnotes at end of table.

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Poultry Slaughter: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight  
by Type, United States, May 1997 with Comparisons 1/ (continued)

		Turkeys				Total
		Fryer-	Roasters	Young 3/	Old	Turkeys
		1,000 Head				Poultry
Number Inspected						
Apr 1997	35	23,361	148	23,544	-----	
May 1996	21	25,345	103	25,469	-----	
May 1997	14	23,696	140	23,850	-----	
Jan-May 1996	89	114,623	784	115,496	-----	
Jan-May 1997	65	111,727	612	112,404	-----	
		1,000 Pounds				
Live Weight						
Apr 1997	318	567,576	4,095	571,989	3,868,625	
May 1996	178	610,666	2,847	613,692	3,844,750	
May 1997	121	583,048	3,551	586,720	3,847,381	
Jan-May 1996	803	2,756,092	21,185	2,778,080	18,397,047	
Jan-May 1997	627	2,715,725	16,392	2,732,744	18,617,586	
		Pounds				
Average Live Weight						
Apr 1997	9.01	24.30	27.62	24.29	-----	
May 1996	8.52	24.09	27.72	24.10	-----	
May 1997	8.70	24.61	25.40	24.60	-----	
Jan-May 1996	9.03	24.04	27.03	24.05	-----	
Jan-May 1997	9.65	24.31	26.79	24.31	-----	

- 1/ Federally inspected only. Totals may not add due to rounding.  
2/ Of the Mature Chickens inspected, the number reported in thousands as heavy fowl (broiler breeding stock) was: May 1996: 5,266, May 1997: 5,314.  
3/ Of the Young Turkeys inspected, the number reported in thousands as young breeders was: May 1996: 86, May 1997: 101.

Poultry Slaughter: Chilled and Frozen, Pounds Certified by Type,  
United States, May 1997 with Comparisons 1/

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature	Total		
1,000 Pounds					
Apr 1997					
Chilled	2,142,590	42,978	2,185,569	3,201	359
Frozen	200,687	1,686	202,373	5,662	247
Total	2,343,277	44,664	2,387,942	8,863	606
May 1996					
Chilled	2,116,409	40,352	2,156,761	3,031	235
Frozen	182,987	2,287	185,275	5,418	262
Total	2,299,396	42,640	2,342,036	8,449	497
May 1997					
Chilled	2,120,127	43,499	2,163,626	3,081	398
Frozen	193,634	2,302	195,937	5,904	241
Total	2,313,761	45,801	2,359,562	8,986	639
Jan-May 1996					
Chilled	10,187,003	205,120	10,392,123	14,913	831
Frozen	924,129	9,943	934,072	24,704	1,053
Total	11,111,132	215,062	11,326,195	39,617	1,884
Jan-May 1997					
Chilled	10,331,463	204,667	10,536,130	15,709	1,936
Frozen	953,404	8,664	962,068	26,968	1,166
Total	11,284,867	213,332	11,498,198	42,677	3,102

See footnotes at end of table.

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Poultry Slaughter: Chilled and Frozen, Pounds Certified by Type,  
 United States, May 1997 with Comparisons 1/ (continued)

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: Turkeys :					
: Fryer- : : Total :					
: Roasters : Young : Old : Turkeys :					
: Total Poultry					
:-----					
: 1,000 Pounds					
:-----					
Apr 1997	:				
Chilled	:	---	212,316	2,407	214,723
Frozen	:	232	235,718	712	236,662
	:				
Total	:	233	448,034	3,119	451,385
	:				
May 1996	:				
Chilled	:	2	227,676	1,431	229,109
Frozen	:	138	255,276	699	256,113
	:				
Total	:	139	482,953	2,131	485,223
	:				
May 1997	:				
Chilled	:	---	224,607	1,935	226,541
Frozen	:	88	235,293	707	236,087
	:				
Total	:	88	459,899	2,642	462,629
	:				
Jan-May 1996	:				
Chilled	:	3	1,062,694	11,853	1,074,550
Frozen	:	630	1,112,417	4,081	1,117,128
	:				
Total	:	633	2,175,110	15,934	2,191,678
	:				
Jan-May 1997	:				
Chilled	:	70	1,048,031	9,712	1,057,813
Frozen	:	390	1,088,375	2,759	1,091,524
	:				
Total	:	460	2,136,405	12,471	2,149,336
	:				

1/ Ready-to-cook weights. Totals may not add due to rounding.

Poultry Slaughter: Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem Condemnations  
by Type, United States, May 1997 with Comparisons 1/

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature	Total		
1,000 Pounds					
Ante-Mortem (Live Weight)					
Apr 1997	10,308	1,057	11,365	12	3
May 1996	10,454	1,153	11,608	9	6
May 1997	9,493	954	10,447	13	4
Jan-May 1996	61,061	5,595	66,656	39	18
Jan-May 1997	52,261	5,556	57,817	52	23
Percent 2/					
May 1996	0.33	1.65	0.36	0.08	0.65
May 1997	0.30	1.27	0.32	0.10	0.31
1,000 Pounds					
Post-Mortem (N.Y. Dressed Weight)					
Apr 1997	50,409	4,681	55,091	242	10
May 1996	47,993	3,803	51,796	176	9
May 1997	48,300	4,597	52,897	249	11
Jan-May 1996	246,222	20,110	266,333	816	39
Jan-May 1997	246,865	21,754	268,619	1,230	54
Percent 3/					
May 1996	1.69	6.05	1.79	1.69	1.14
May 1997	1.69	6.79	1.81	2.19	0.99

See footnotes at end of table.

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Poultry Slaughter: Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem Condemnations  
by Type, United States, May 1997 with Comparisons 1/ (continued)

	Turkeys				Total Poultry
	Fryer- Roasters	Young	Old	Total Turkeys	
	1,000 Pounds				
Ante-Mortem (Live Weight)					
Apr 1997	1	1,251	20	1,272	12,652
May 1996	2	1,602	25	1,629	13,251
May 1997	---	1,298	29	1,328	11,791
Jan-May 1996	4	8,106	222	8,332	75,045
Jan-May 1997	1	9,177	147	9,324	67,216
Percent 2/					
May 1996	1.04	0.26	0.89	0.27	0.34
May 1997	0.28	0.22	0.83	0.23	0.31
	1,000 Pounds				
Post-Mortem (N.Y. Dressed Weight)					
Apr 1997	8	11,071	250	11,329	66,671
May 1996	4	11,494	202	11,699	63,681
May 1997	4	10,843	252	11,099	64,255
Jan-May 1996	11	55,876	1,372	57,260	324,448
Jan-May 1997	19	55,459	957	56,435	326,337
Percent 3/					
May 1996	2.42	2.09	7.87	2.12	1.84
May 1997	3.31	2.07	7.89	2.10	1.86

1/ Federally inspected only. Totals may not add due to rounding.

2/ Pounds condemned as percent of pounds (live weight) inspected. Percentages based on unrounded data.

3/ Pounds condemned as percent of pounds N.Y. dressed weight of quantity inspected. Percentages based on unrounded data.

Young Chickens Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight,  
Selected States and United States, May 1996-97

State	Number Inspected		Live Weight Inspected		Average Live Weight Inspected 1/	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	----- 1,000 -----		----- 1,000 Pounds -----		----- Pounds -----	
AL	74,777	73,941	355,193	353,241	4.75	4.78
AR	99,137	98,097	468,535	475,634	4.73	4.85
CA	22,101	21,192	115,152	106,350	5.21	5.02
DE	24,027	22,973	130,223	126,828	5.42	5.52
FL	11,010	12,262	48,865	56,192	4.44	4.58
GA	95,582	94,106	462,804	472,293	4.84	5.02
LA	14,667	11,915	67,401	52,808	4.60	4.43
MD	17,845	17,828	84,313	82,969	4.72	4.65
MS	56,467	61,545	256,244	279,495	4.54	4.54
MO	29,693	29,153	125,629	125,887	4.23	4.32
NC	58,174	51,873	299,682	283,526	5.15	5.47
PA	8,788	9,697	44,355	50,185	5.05	5.18
SC	20,662	19,321	92,313	87,350	4.47	4.52
TN	15,094	15,234	66,506	69,102	4.41	4.54
TX	38,940	41,489	172,547	188,157	4.43	4.54
VA	32,404	31,611	155,674	144,254	4.80	4.56
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	663,234	659,567	3,148,746	3,171,672	4.75	4.81

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

Young Chickens Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations,  
Selected States and United States, May 1996-97

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
	1996	1997	N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
			1996	1997	1996	1997
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----				-- Percent --	
AL	261,687	259,127	7,027	7,130	2.20	2.24
AR	336,916	341,777	6,187	5,694	1.47	1.33
CA	83,738	77,899	1,531	1,730	1.48	1.81
DE	94,201	91,638	2,592	2,442	2.21	2.14
FL	36,079	36,379	743	791	1.69	1.56
GA	342,154	347,007	6,729	7,601	1.62	1.79
LA	48,551	37,820	1,008	871	1.66	1.83
MD	59,727	58,531	1,628	1,522	2.15	2.04
MS	193,702	213,504	2,561	2,635	1.11	1.05
MO	91,311	91,343	1,790	1,606	1.58	1.42
NC	221,199	211,070	3,933	5,509	1.46	2.16
PA	31,307	35,218	1,403	1,204	3.52	2.66
SC	65,780	64,718	1,413	1,528	1.70	1.94
TN	48,375	48,897	643	749	1.07	1.20
TX	131,776	142,089	1,910	2,201	1.23	1.30
VA	106,448	99,400	3,690	1,765	2.63	1.36
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	2,299,396	2,313,761	47,993	48,300	1.69	1.69

1/ Ready-to-cook weights.

2/ Pounds condemned as percent of equivalent N.Y. dressed weight of quantity inspected. Percentages based on unrounded data.

Young Chickens Slaughtered: Number Condemned Post-Mortem by Cause,  
Selected States and United States, May 1997

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
	Number					
AL	---	5,631	206,574	257,513	5,355	8,417
AR	---	8,430	305,955	120,605	13,417	8,613
CA	---	---	116,141	16,883	1,616	6,476
DE	---	29,806	110,130	119,469	---	---
FL	---	1,970	---	---	---	---
GA	---	3,316	170,714	225,315	1,658	13,942
LA	---	---	---	14,986	490	2,289
MD	---	24,143	98,301	54,937	35	7,718
MS	---	4,566	94,023	30,612	2,183	9,616
MO	---	6,982	175,655	27,559	1,946	2,246
NC	---	32,541	165,748	104,346	256	38,301
PA	---	2,758	35,945	40,294	405	---
SC	---	---	32,873	83,285	151	3,212
TN	---	---	53,080	15,865	---	---
TX	---	---	120,794	33,983	595	2,612
VA	---	---	86,652	38,202	307	---
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	1,924	158,552	2,055,305	1,238,784	44,064	149,325
	Number					
	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
AL	11,785	26,929	67,336	10,814	280,129	880,483
AR	14,120	31,553	65,391	4,219	99,635	671,938
CA	605	8,012	3,353	885	43,130	197,101
DE	2,833	8,379	15,229	1,425	57,634	344,905
FL	1,692	3,947	7,857	---	---	15,466
GA	17,094	36,782	57,571	13,451	235,451	775,294
LA	---	---	---	---	19,451	37,216
MD	1,952	12,096	---	1,824	22,238	223,244
MS	6,488	19,753	27,908	2,821	120,384	318,354
MO	2,939	11,821	20,898	1,398	30,195	281,639
NC	6,788	28,945	71,701	7,019	217,135	672,780
PA	2,791	3,332	---	---	30,129	115,654
SC	3,882	17,769	23,001	3,253	81,435	248,861
TN	2,685	6,319	---	---	28,226	106,175
TX	1,523	12,818	18,104	1,012	14,056	205,497
VA	3,473	7,472	26,444	928	101,300	264,778
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	89,898	258,938	514,456	61,352	1,570,617	6,143,215

Mature Chickens Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight,  
Selected States and United States, May 1996-97

State	Number Inspected		Live Weight Inspected		Average Live Weight Inspected 1/	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	----- 1,000 -----		---- 1,000 Pounds ----		--- Pounds ---	
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	13,697	15,312	69,794	75,185	5.10	4.91

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

Mature Chickens Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations,  
Selected States and United States, May 1996-97

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
	1996	1997	N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----				-- Percent --	
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	42,640	45,801	3,803	4,597	6.05	6.79

1/ Ready-to-cook weights.

2/ Pounds condemned as percent of equivalent N.Y. dressed weight of quantity inspected. Percentages based on unrounded data.

Mature Chickens Slaughtered: Number Condemned Post-Mortem by Cause,  
Selected States and United States, May 1997

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
	Number					
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	---	4,966	266,603	21,527	571	131,611
	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
	Number					
CA	---	15	---	---	---	15
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	34,331	65,210	211,938	5,638	80,990	823,385

Young Turkeys (Mature) Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight, Selected States and United States, May 1996-97

State	Number Inspected		Live Weight Inspected		Average Live Weight Inspected 1/	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	----- 1,000 -----		---- 1,000 Pounds ----		--- Pounds ---	
AR	2,377	2,324	46,124	42,091	19.41	18.11
CA	1,798	1,575	38,289	35,389	21.29	22.47
IA	1,164	1,130	33,431	31,149	28.71	27.56
MN	3,702	3,643	81,050	83,879	21.89	23.03
MO	2,018	1,967	54,743	55,820	27.12	28.38
NC	4,380	3,761	110,615	99,574	25.26	26.47
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	3,484	2,851	67,177	57,791	19.28	20.27
US	25,345	23,696	610,666	583,048	24.09	24.61

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

Young Turkeys (Mature) Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations, Selected States and United States, May 1996-97

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
	1996	1997	N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----		1996	1997	1996	1997
AR	37,870	34,836	1,041	545	2.51	1.44
CA	31,199	28,379	484	425	1.40	1.33
IA	25,706	24,326	801	654	2.66	2.33
MN	64,336	66,632	2,008	2,129	2.75	2.82
MO	43,087	44,078	1,419	1,217	2.88	2.42
NC	87,139	78,691	1,622	1,621	1.63	1.81
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	52,697	44,149	853	764	1.41	1.47
US	482,953	459,899	11,494	10,843	2.09	2.07

1/ Ready-to-cook weights.

2/ Pounds condemned as percent of equivalent N.Y. dressed weight of quantity inspected. Percentages based on unrounded data.

Young Turkeys (Mature) Slaughtered: Number Condemned Post-Mortem by Cause,  
Selected States and United States, May 1997

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
	Number					
AR	---	---	6,091	---	---	4
CA	---	---	4,992	107	---	13
IA	---	---	---	2,174	---	---
MN	---	---	18,854	3,602	1,412	---
MO	---	---	21,118	2,004	203	---
NC	---	---	4,957	---	---	---
PA	---	---	6,520	---	---	---
VA	---	---	4,986	---	---	---
US	---	744	97,346	14,654	6,599	146

  

State	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
	Number					
AR	---	418	1,553	566	857	9,489
CA	---	527	---	---	561	6,200
IA	---	---	---	---	---	2,174
MN	182	1,371	2,013	---	2,054	29,488
MO	112	239	569	---	998	25,243
NC	71	2,393	---	---	1,001	8,422
PA	156	---	---	---	---	6,676
VA	27	775	163	---	1,698	7,649
US	1,056	7,666	11,775	2,047	12,225	154,258

Old Turkeys (Breeders) Slaughtered: Number Condemned Post-Mortem by Cause,  
United States, May 1997

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
	Number					
US	---	154	3,818	582	---	37
State	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
	Number					
US	8	199	182	---	1,121	6,101

## Poultry Slaughter Estimates

**Data Sources:** Primary data for commercial poultry slaughter estimates are obtained from the Poultry Inspection Form (FSIS 6000-21) completed by inspectors of the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), USDA. This form provides actual counts of birds slaughtered in Federally Inspected (FI) plants. Over 99 percent of the total U.S. slaughter for any species is under FI. The FSIS 6000-21 forms collect number of head slaughtered daily under FI by species and class as well as condemnations and total live and dressed weights. Approximately 350 plants in the U.S. are operated under Federal Inspection. Annual totals of poultry slaughtered under State-administered Non-Federal Inspection (NFI) are published in the April release.

**Revision Policy:** Revisions are generally the result of late reports received by FSIS from plants and are usually less than one-half of 1 percent of the preliminary totals. Revisions for the previous month and year-to-date totals are published in each monthly release. Final data are published in the annual summary released in April and reflect any late reports or corrections which occurred after the monthly revision were published.

**Procedures and Reliability:** Plant inspectors submit forms (FSIS 6000-21) weekly summarizing the plant's activity. When inconsistencies in the data are detected, the reports are returned to the inspectors for correction. Inspectors correct or validate the report and resubmit it. The reports cover weekly activities through Saturday night and reported data are allocated to the appropriate month as it enters the database.

A NASS computer program provides a review of current data with historical data for each plant. An edit provides checks for the detection of errors such as invalid plant information, duplication, and erroneous data. The program also generates a missing reports listing for a telephone follow-up. Data are summarized weekly and accumulated to a monthly total for this release.

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 accounted for each week. Estimates for missing weeks are made only after verifying that the plant was in operation. Adjustments are based on either the previous week's information or a week determined to be similar to the one missing. Late reports replace imputed data as they become available. While there will continue to be a varying degree of incompleteness from month to month, it is expected to have only a minimal impact on the final 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.

Generally, no State data are published if less than three plants operate for a species in a State, or if one plant has 60 percent or more of the total head for that species. These data are included in the U.S. totals.

## Definitions Used To Report Federally Inspected Slaughter

**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.

**Fryer-Roaster Turkeys** - Young immature birds, usually under 16 weeks of age.

**Mature Chickens** - Fowl from breeder and market egg flocks and stags and cocks.

**New York Dressed Weight** - Carcass weight after only feathers and blood are removed. This weight is approximately 90% of live weight.

**Old Turkeys (Breeders)** - Fully matured birds held for egg production, usually over 15 months of age.

**Other Poultry** - Includes all other ready-to-cook products which bear the U.S.D.A. Inspected for Wholesomeness legend.

**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 (Mature)** - Young birds grown to a matured market age, about 5 months.

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The next **"Poultry Slaughter"** report will be released at 3:00 p.m. ET on August 5, 1997.

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