

Poultry Slaughter



USDA
Washington, D.C.

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Ready-to-Cook Weight Down 2 Percent

Poultry Certified Wholesome during August (ready-to-cook weight), totaled 2.76 billion pounds, down 2 percent from the amount certified in August 1996. Updated totals for July 1997 show that 2.85 billion pounds were certified.

The preliminary total Live Weight of Poultry Inspected during August 1997 was 3.75 billion pounds. Inspections included 3.09 billion pounds of young chickens, 60.9 million pounds of mature chickens, 579 million pounds of turkeys, and 12.3 million pounds of ducks.

Young chickens slaughtered during August 1997 averaged 4.75 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 5.26 pounds per bird the previous year to 5.04 pounds. Turkeys slaughtered during August 1997 averaged 23.3 pounds per bird, up two percent from August 1996.

Ante-mortem condemnations during August 1997 totaled 15.0 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.40 percent of the live weight inspected, compared with 0.38 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 62.4 million pounds (N.Y. dressed weight), were 1.85 percent of quantities inspected, compared with 1.79 percent a year earlier.

August 1997 contained 21 weekdays and five Saturdays, while August 1996 contained 22 weekdays and five 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, August 1997 with Comparisons 1/

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature 2/	Total		

	1,000 Head				
Number Inspected					
Jul 1997	668,917	14,166	683,083	1,910	-----
Aug 1996	660,370	11,176	671,546	1,810	-----
Aug 1997	651,292	12,067	663,359	1,881	-----
Jan-Aug 1996	5,085,317	104,598	5,189,915	13,297	-----
Jan-Aug 1997	5,167,535	114,600	5,282,135	14,411	-----

	1,000 Pounds				
Live Weight					
Jul 1997	3,128,514	73,294	3,201,807	12,347	1,558
Aug 1996	3,110,728	58,796	3,169,524	11,797	1,070
Aug 1997	3,092,589	60,870	3,153,459	12,338	5,473
Jan-Aug 1996	24,201,719	547,849	24,749,568	88,682	6,120
Jan-Aug 1997	24,812,876	567,398	25,380,275	96,049	13,973

	Pounds				
Average Live Weight					
Jul 1997	4.68	5.17	4.69	6.46	-----
Aug 1996	4.71	5.26	4.72	6.52	-----
Aug 1997	4.75	5.04	4.75	6.56	-----
Jan-Aug 1996	4.76	5.24	4.77	6.67	-----
Jan-Aug 1997	4.80	4.95	4.80	6.66	-----

See footnotes at end of table.

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

	Turkeys				Total Poultry
	Fryer- Roasters	Young	3/ Old	Total Turkeys	
	1,000 Head				
Number Inspected					
Jul 1997	---	26,439	166	26,605	-----
Aug 1996	---	26,510	264	26,774	-----
Aug 1997	---	24,705	163	24,867	-----
Jan-Aug 1996	140	191,620	1,324	193,083	-----
Jan-Aug 1997	66	188,174	1,041	189,281	-----
	1,000 Pounds				
Live Weight					
Jul 1997	---	619,000	3,991	622,990	3,838,703
Aug 1996	---	605,319	6,507	611,825	3,794,216
Aug 1997	---	574,989	4,090	579,078	3,750,349
Jan-Aug 1996	1,242	4,551,911	34,783	4,587,936	29,432,306
Jan-Aug 1997	640	4,521,271	27,056	4,548,967	30,039,264
	Pounds				
Average Live Weight					
Jul 1997	---	23.41	24.05	23.42	-----
Aug 1996	---	22.83	24.62	22.85	-----
Aug 1997	---	23.27	25.12	23.29	-----
Jan-Aug 1996	8.90	23.75	26.28	23.76	-----
Jan-Aug 1997	9.69	24.03	26.00	24.03	-----

- 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: August 1996: 4,566, August 1997: 4,702.
3/ Of the Young Turkeys inspected, the number reported in thousands as young breeders was: August 1996: 117, August 1997: 110.

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

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature	Total		
1,000 Pounds					
Jul 1997					
Chilled	2,084,386	42,211	2,126,596	2,931	509
Frozen	218,295	2,798	221,093	5,864	379
Total	2,302,680	45,008	2,347,689	8,795	888
Aug 1996					
Chilled	2,091,018	33,099	2,124,118	2,890	240
Frozen	186,770	2,174	188,944	5,604	376
Total	2,277,789	35,273	2,313,062	8,494	616
Aug 1997					
Chilled	2,051,393	33,565	2,084,958	2,996	2,567
Frozen	204,781	2,429	207,210	5,764	1,139
Total	2,256,174	35,994	2,292,169	8,761	3,706
Jan-Aug 1996					
Chilled	16,224,329	316,156	16,540,485	23,104	1,550
Frozen	1,467,677	16,630	1,484,307	40,938	1,924
Total	17,692,005	332,787	18,024,792	64,042	3,474
Jan-Aug 1997					
Chilled	16,521,843	325,168	16,847,011	24,508	5,430
Frozen	1,612,957	17,045	1,630,002	44,031	2,955
Total	18,134,800	342,213	18,477,013	68,539	8,385

See footnotes at end of table.

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

		Turkeys			Total	
		Fryer- Roasters	Young	Old	Turkeys	
		1,000 Pounds				Poultry
Jul 1997						
Chilled	---	227,254	1,880	229,134	2,359,170	
Frozen	---	261,501	1,129	262,630	489,966	
Total	---	488,755	3,008	491,763	2,849,136	
Aug 1996						
Chilled	---	214,532	3,568	218,100	2,345,347	
Frozen	---	262,067	1,392	263,459	458,384	
Total	---	476,600	4,959	481,559	2,803,731	
Aug 1997						
Chilled	---	208,112	1,254	209,366	2,299,887	
Frozen	---	244,591	1,850	246,441	460,555	
Total	---	452,703	3,104	455,807	2,760,442	
Jan-Aug 1996						
Chilled	3	1,708,322	18,394	1,726,719	18,291,857	
Frozen	955	1,882,884	7,798	1,891,637	3,418,806	
Total	958	3,591,206	26,192	3,618,356	21,710,664	
Jan-Aug 1997						
Chilled	73	1,713,422	14,299	1,727,794	18,604,743	
Frozen	395	1,852,895	6,177	1,859,468	3,536,456	
Total	469	3,566,317	20,476	3,587,262	22,141,199	

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

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

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature	Total		
1,000 Pounds					
Ante-Mortem (Live Weight)					
Jul 1997	13,051	1,886	14,936	12	9
Aug 1996	11,603	989	12,592	22	7
Aug 1997	12,194	1,141	13,336	16	13
Jan-Aug 1996	95,625	9,242	104,867	90	33
Jan-Aug 1997	88,080	10,062	98,142	90	53
Percent 2/					
Aug 1996	0.37	1.68	0.40	0.19	0.66
Aug 1997	0.39	1.87	0.42	0.13	0.23
1,000 Pounds					
Post-Mortem (N.Y. Dressed Weight)					
Jul 1997	48,209	4,330	52,538	279	17
Aug 1996	45,702	3,481	49,183	189	13
Aug 1997	45,322	4,823	50,145	214	40
Jan-Aug 1996	376,982	31,262	408,244	1,357	68
Jan-Aug 1997	385,490	35,955	421,444	1,951	122
Percent 3/					
Aug 1996	1.63	6.58	1.72	1.78	1.31
Aug 1997	1.63	8.80	1.77	1.93	0.81

See footnotes at end of table.

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

		Turkeys				Total
		Fryer-	Young	Old	Total	Poultry
		Roasters			Turkeys	
		1,000 Pounds				
Ante-Mortem						
(Live Weight)						
Jul 1997	---	2,003	39	2,041	16,999	
Aug 1996	---	1,838	51	1,889	14,510	
Aug 1997	---	1,611	18	1,630	14,993	
Jan-Aug 1996	5	13,762	364	14,132	119,122	
Jan-Aug 1997	1	14,689	224	14,914	113,200	
Percent 2/						
Aug 1996	---	0.30	0.79	0.31	0.38	
Aug 1997	---	0.28	0.44	0.28	0.40	
Post-Mortem						
(N.Y. Dressed Weight)						
Jul 1997	---	12,284	254	12,538	65,372	
Aug 1996	---	11,482	335	11,817	61,201	
Aug 1997	---	11,775	221	11,996	62,395	
Jan-Aug 1996	18	88,630	2,202	90,850	500,519	
Jan-Aug 1997	19	91,109	1,636	92,765	516,282	
Percent 3/						
Aug 1996	---	2.11	5.72	2.15	1.79	
Aug 1997	---	2.28	6.01	2.30	1.85	

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, August 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	75,899	72,326	355,090	339,465	4.68	4.69
AR	98,104	98,152	458,844	452,898	4.68	4.61
CA	20,362	21,604	100,847	111,138	4.95	5.14
DE	24,104	22,481	133,873	120,472	5.55	5.36
FL	12,324	11,046	55,350	48,394	4.49	4.38
GA	96,873	96,233	466,740	457,483	4.82	4.75
LA	14,147	13,352	63,044	60,085	4.46	4.50
MD	17,894	17,727	84,631	80,520	4.73	4.54
MS	59,508	59,571	269,420	263,211	4.53	4.42
MO	28,193	29,170	120,434	117,588	4.27	4.03
NC	54,815	50,153	282,343	268,183	5.15	5.35
PA	9,247	9,324	46,447	46,963	5.02	5.04
SC	19,533	19,168	85,045	85,489	4.35	4.46
TN	15,165	14,140	66,986	116,607	4.42	8.25
TX	39,066	41,016	172,275	181,780	4.41	4.43
VA	31,086	29,328	147,895	134,649	4.76	4.59
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	660,370	651,292	3,110,728	3,092,589	4.71	4.75

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

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

State	Total		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
	Certified 1/		N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----		-- Percent --			
AL	261,055	255,415	7,357	7,509	2.30	2.46
AR	331,117	347,075	6,288	5,792	1.52	1.42
CA	73,798	81,164	1,785	1,763	1.97	1.76
DE	96,156	88,802	2,027	1,820	1.68	1.68
FL	41,881	36,224	941	954	1.89	2.19
GA	347,509	340,832	6,038	6,029	1.44	1.46
LA	46,176	41,673	1,058	1,332	1.87	2.46
MD	60,997	57,382	1,370	968	1.80	1.34
MS	199,025	199,996	2,628	2,920	1.08	1.23
MO	88,127	85,522	1,705	1,542	1.57	1.46
NC	210,217	198,952	4,395	4,312	1.73	1.79
PA	32,649	31,777	1,177	1,077	2.81	2.55
SC	61,539	63,027	1,376	1,421	1.80	1.85
TN	48,333	44,382	732	581	1.21	0.55
TX	131,855	137,954	2,285	2,961	1.47	1.81
VA	103,099	95,388	1,447	1,359	1.09	1.12
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	2,277,789	2,256,174	45,702	45,322	1.63	1.63

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, August 1997

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
Number						
AL	---	3,328	199,711	228,346	5,969	8,933
AR	---	4,545	310,797	106,375	11,720	6,332
CA	---	5,460	---	10,232	1,435	5,691
DE	---	12,388	102,768	51,513	---	---
FL	---	875	---	---	---	---
GA	---	5,826	162,105	157,427	2,738	12,812
LA	---	257	49,893	19,001	---	2,189
MD	---	9,670	89,940	18,060	40	6,581
MS	---	2,182	113,659	55,684	2,785	8,786
MO	---	5,018	86,441	19,823	1,704	1,677
NC	---	6,041	148,633	63,145	176	34,298
PA	---	1,540	27,732	12,795	---	---
SC	---	1,169	27,242	---	181	2,771
TN	---	317	45,308	---	---	---
TX	---	---	136,753	42,821	---	1,890
VA	---	---	64,436	14,279	---	---
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	69	74,129	1,873,666	936,204	44,869	127,470
Number						
	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
AL	14,802	33,450	64,711	10,868	329,348	899,466
AR	16,589	31,835	74,822	6,740	143,692	713,447
CA	657	8,349	3,315	---	50,441	85,580
DE	3,448	10,537	16,197	3,409	33,969	234,229
FL	2,024	2,988	8,425	2,848	---	17,160
GA	19,704	49,336	50,583	13,080	207,413	681,024
LA	3,469	7,784	---	---	---	82,593
MD	2,073	10,029	---	627	13,951	150,971
MS	8,449	22,989	30,657	2,835	175,153	423,179
MO	2,977	11,003	23,114	---	43,419	195,176
NC	8,282	23,853	73,925	8,945	163,720	531,018
PA	2,818	3,918	---	536	33,250	82,589
SC	4,624	19,403	24,708	2,865	55,693	138,656
TN	2,730	4,970	---	1,142	23,880	78,347
TX	2,279	---	18,134	2,160	19,008	223,045
VA	3,495	9,718	29,195	3,407	73,970	198,500
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	105,727	286,048	524,518	64,277	1,566,453	5,603,430

Mature Chickens Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight,
Selected States and United States, August 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	11,176	12,067	58,796	60,870	5.26	5.04

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

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

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
	1996	1997	N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----				-- Percent --	
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	35,273	35,994	3,481	4,823	6.58	8.80

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, August 1997

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
	Number					
CA	---	31	---	55	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	---	5,548	211,853	18,225	593	123,046

State	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
	Number					
CA	---	---	127	---	886	1,099
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	26,839	48,819	176,417	3,009	49,747	664,096

Young Turkeys (Mature) Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight, Selected States and United States, August 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	2,452	2,261	42,254	38,745	17.23	17.14
CA	1,897	1,947	39,877	41,562	21.02	21.35
IA	1,295	1,264	32,675	32,354	25.23	25.59
MN	4,151	4,201	88,616	90,508	21.35	21.55
MO	2,031	2,100	53,120	54,704	26.16	26.05
NC	4,329	3,542	105,290	90,948	24.32	25.67
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	3,521	3,076	67,162	58,779	19.07	19.11
US	26,510	24,705	605,319	574,989	22.83	23.27

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

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

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemns			
	1996	1997	N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----		-----		-- Percent --	
AR	34,590	31,693	597	694	1.57	1.99
CA	32,087	33,405	683	539	1.90	1.44
IA	25,546	25,093	674	727	2.29	2.50
MN	70,221	71,487	1,919	2,955	2.41	3.63
MO	41,477	43,972	1,514	1,105	3.17	2.24
NC	83,051	68,442	1,912	1,552	2.02	1.90
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	52,270	46,956	949	879	1.57	1.66
US	476,600	452,703	11,482	11,775	2.11	2.28

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, August 1997

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
	Number					
AR	---	---	4,718	---	---	---
CA	---	---	7,562	240	---	---
IA	---	---	---	3,077	---	---
MN	---	---	25,392	4,262	1,685	---
MO	---	---	17,080	3,529	128	---
NC	---	---	4,537	---	---	7
PA	---	---	3,375	1,334	---	---
VA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	---	164	99,959	20,836	8,505	58

State	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
	Number					
AR	---	493	---	---	1,008	6,219
CA	---	336	---	---	---	8,138
IA	---	---	548	---	---	3,625
MN	280	1,611	2,117	---	4,256	39,603
MO	67	---	566	---	---	21,370
NC	---	2,215	---	---	1,660	8,419
PA	---	---	---	---	---	4,709
VA	---	717	331	---	2,210	3,258
US	1,033	7,801	9,209	3,484	17,243	168,292

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

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
US	---	---	1,587	898	23	14

State	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
US	---	170	136	7	1,657	4,492

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 p.m. ET on November 4, 1997.

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