

Poultry Slaughter



USDA
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Ready-to-Cook Weight Up 5 Percent

Poultry Certified Wholesome during September (ready-to-cook weight), totaled 2.75 billion pounds, up 5 percent from the amount certified in September 1996. Updated totals for August 1997 show that 2.77 billion pounds were certified.

The preliminary total Live Weight of Poultry Inspected during September 1997 was 3.73 billion pounds. Inspections included 3.06 billion pounds of young chickens, 66.1 million pounds of mature chickens, 585 million pounds of turkeys, and 12.0 million pounds of ducks.

Young chickens slaughtered during September 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 1 percent from 5.39 pounds per bird the previous year to 5.34 pounds. Turkeys slaughtered during September 1997 averaged 23.1 pounds per bird, down one percent from September 1996.

Ante-mortem condemnations during September 1997 totaled 13.0 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.35 percent of the live weight inspected, unchanged from a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 60.5 million pounds (N.Y. dressed weight), were 1.81 percent of quantities inspected, compared with 1.83 percent a year earlier.

September 1997 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays, while September 1996 contained 21 (including one holiday) weekdays 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, September 1997 with Comparisons 1/

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature 2/	Total		

	1,000 Head				
Number Inspected					
Aug 1997	651,630	12,586	664,216	1,881	-----
Sep 1996	606,694	12,556	619,250	1,759	-----
Sep 1997	635,584	12,366	647,950	1,816	-----
Jan-Sep 1996	5,692,011	117,154	5,809,165	15,056	-----
Jan-Sep 1997	5,803,543	127,485	5,931,029	16,228	-----

	1,000 Pounds				
Live Weight					
Aug 1997	3,044,339	64,342	3,108,681	12,338	5,495
Sep 1996	2,895,500	67,614	2,963,114	11,513	1,983
Sep 1997	3,060,026	66,085	3,126,111	12,040	2,354
Jan-Sep 1996	27,097,219	615,463	27,712,682	100,195	8,103
Jan-Sep 1997	27,826,435	636,954	28,463,389	108,089	16,349

	Pounds				
Average Live Weight					
Aug 1997	4.67	5.11	4.68	6.56	-----
Sep 1996	4.77	5.39	4.79	6.54	-----
Sep 1997	4.81	5.34	4.82	6.63	-----
Jan-Sep 1996	4.76	5.25	4.77	6.65	-----
Jan-Sep 1997	4.79	5.00	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, September 1997 with Comparisons 1/ (continued)

	Turkeys				Total Poultry
	Fryer- Roasters	Young 3/	Old	Total Turkeys	
	1,000 Head				
Number Inspected					
Aug 1997	---	24,727	172	24,899	-----
Sep 1996	13	24,068	185	24,267	-----
Sep 1997	---	25,109	262	25,370	-----
Jan-Sep 1996	153	215,688	1,509	217,350	-----
Jan-Sep 1997	66	213,305	1,312	214,683	-----
	1,000 Pounds				
Live Weight					
Aug 1997	---	575,390	4,306	579,696	3,706,210
Sep 1996	85	560,370	4,561	565,016	3,541,627
Sep 1997	---	579,017	6,356	585,373	3,725,878
Jan-Sep 1996	1,327	5,112,282	39,344	5,152,953	32,973,933
Jan-Sep 1997	640	5,100,689	33,628	5,134,957	33,722,785
	Pounds				
Average Live Weight					
Aug 1997	---	23.27	25.03	23.28	-----
Sep 1996	6.35	23.28	24.60	23.28	-----
Sep 1997	---	23.06	24.28	23.07	-----
Jan-Sep 1996	8.68	23.70	26.07	23.71	-----
Jan-Sep 1997	9.69	23.91	25.64	23.92	-----

- 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: September 1996: 5,755, September 1997: 5,384.
- 3/ Of the Young Turkeys inspected, the number reported in thousands as young breeders was: September 1996: 128, September 1997: 92.

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

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature	Total		
1,000 Pounds					
Aug 1997					
Chilled	2,056,061	35,328	2,091,389	2,996	2,579
Frozen	204,694	2,429	207,124	5,764	1,139
Total	2,260,755	37,758	2,298,513	8,761	3,718
Sep 1996					
Chilled	1,937,749	40,097	1,977,847	2,807	303
Frozen	179,233	1,202	180,435	5,437	829
Total	2,116,982	41,299	2,158,281	8,244	1,132
Sep 1997					
Chilled	2,039,773	37,808	2,077,580	2,747	795
Frozen	200,971	2,658	203,630	5,815	611
Total	2,240,744	40,466	2,281,210	8,562	1,406
Jan-Sep 1996					
Chilled	18,162,078	356,254	18,518,332	25,910	1,853
Frozen	1,646,910	17,832	1,664,742	46,375	2,754
Total	19,808,988	374,086	20,183,074	72,285	4,606
Jan-Sep 1997					
Chilled	18,567,567	364,739	18,932,306	27,255	6,237
Frozen	1,813,841	19,703	1,833,545	49,846	3,566
Total	20,381,408	384,442	20,765,850	77,102	9,804

See footnotes at end of table.

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

	Turkeys				Total Poultry
	Fryer- Roasters	Young	Old	Total Turkeys	
1,000 Pounds					
Aug 1997					
Chilled	---	208,112	1,254	209,365	2,306,330
Frozen	---	244,928	1,983	246,912	460,939
Total	---	453,040	3,237	456,277	2,767,269
Sep 1996					
Chilled	---	202,032	2,232	204,264	2,185,220
Frozen	59	238,897	1,225	240,181	426,882
Total	59	440,928	3,457	444,445	2,612,102
Sep 1997					
Chilled	---	209,277	2,933	212,210	2,293,333
Frozen	---	247,682	1,951	249,633	459,689
Total	---	456,959	4,884	461,843	2,753,022
Jan-Sep 1996					
Chilled	3	1,910,354	20,626	1,930,983	20,477,077
Frozen	1,014	2,121,781	9,024	2,131,818	3,845,689
Total	1,017	4,032,135	29,649	4,062,801	24,322,766
Jan-Sep 1997					
Chilled	73	1,922,699	17,232	1,940,004	20,905,802
Frozen	395	2,100,914	8,261	2,109,571	3,996,528
Total	469	4,023,613	25,493	4,049,575	24,902,331

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

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

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature	Total		
1,000 Pounds					
Ante-Mortem (Live Weight)					
Aug 1997	12,246	1,208	13,455	16	13
Sep 1996	9,328	934	10,262	10	15
Sep 1997	10,608	1,024	11,632	18	6
Jan-Sep 1996	104,953	10,175	115,128	101	49
Jan-Sep 1997	98,743	11,152	109,896	109	59
Percent 2/					
Sep 1996	0.32	1.38	0.35	0.09	0.78
Sep 1997	0.35	1.55	0.37	0.15	0.26
1,000 Pounds					
Post-Mortem (N.Y. Dressed Weight)					
Aug 1997	45,393	4,908	50,301	214	40
Sep 1996	42,850	4,155	47,005	206	20
Sep 1997	44,843	3,946	48,790	213	23
Jan-Sep 1996	419,832	35,417	455,248	1,563	88
Jan-Sep 1997	430,400	39,986	470,386	2,165	145
Percent 3/					
Sep 1996	1.64	6.83	1.76	1.99	1.12
Sep 1997	1.63	6.64	1.73	1.97	1.06

See footnotes at end of table.

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Young Chickens Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight,
Selected States and United States, September 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	69,419	73,089	328,055	352,932	4.73	4.83	
AR	90,872	97,740	428,594	471,671	4.72	4.83	
CA	18,704	19,071	91,547	96,795	4.89	5.08	
DE	22,391	22,659	124,079	128,654	5.54	5.68	
FL	10,526	11,003	46,962	49,645	4.46	4.51	
GA	87,708	91,130	434,991	443,699	4.96	4.87	
LA	12,725	13,572	58,982	59,056	4.64	4.35	
MD	16,619	17,952	80,201	86,389	4.83	4.81	
MS	53,676	57,832	245,703	261,935	4.58	4.53	
MO	27,118	27,811	118,325	119,484	4.36	4.30	
NC	50,806	50,074	269,328	280,077	5.30	5.59	
PA	8,292	9,468	42,011	48,651	5.07	5.14	
SC	19,405	16,110	87,518	74,746	4.51	4.64	
TN	13,529	14,296	60,334	64,862	4.46	4.54	
TX	36,364	40,792	162,337	186,151	4.46	4.56	
VA	27,822	29,424	127,589	141,584	4.59	4.81	
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---	
US	606,694	635,584	2,895,500	3,060,026	4.77	4.81	

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

Young Chickens Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations,
Selected States and United States, September 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	240,727	262,504	6,438	7,967	2.18	2.51
AR	309,872	337,483	5,600	5,730	1.45	1.35
CA	66,678	70,772	1,275	1,420	1.55	1.63
DE	89,389	92,978	1,829	1,785	1.64	1.54
FL	34,878	37,104	708	1,237	1.68	2.77
GA	322,948	329,240	7,246	5,240	1.85	1.31
LA	43,010	42,602	985	1,242	1.86	2.34
MD	56,256	62,139	1,008	1,097	1.40	1.41
MS	184,430	199,246	2,061	2,903	0.93	1.23
MO	86,233	87,206	1,678	1,329	1.58	1.24
NC	199,185	202,904	4,248	4,672	1.75	1.85
PA	29,236	34,143	995	1,149	2.63	2.62
SC	63,092	54,437	1,492	1,409	1.89	2.09
TN	43,880	46,999	670	581	1.23	0.99
TX	122,782	141,725	1,970	2,758	1.35	1.65
VA	88,986	98,105	1,315	1,578	1.14	1.24
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	2,116,982	2,240,744	42,850	44,843	1.64	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, September 1997

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
Number						
AL	---	1,829	198,435	226,166	4,757	8,648
AR	---	4,372	285,729	105,738	8,989	10,013
CA	---	---	---	6,241	1,167	5,568
DE	---	---	104,525	50,466	806	---
FL	---	770	---	---	---	---
GA	---	4,116	140,507	142,599	4,696	11,318
LA	---	---	---	13,625	---	1,919
MD	---	7,678	84,452	18,415	---	7,176
MS	---	2,547	109,013	53,461	3,298	7,639
MO	---	4,718	74,498	17,071	1,822	1,537
NC	---	5,620	147,320	60,234	532	38,866
PA	---	---	31,305	18,115	515	---
SC	---	1,805	21,914	---	79	1,884
TN	---	---	51,664	---	---	---
TX	---	---	113,731	28,553	---	1,906
VA	---	2,599	71,075	23,719	290	---
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	---	62,148	1,753,574	907,469	43,183	138,314
Number						
	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
AL	14,021	38,439	63,409	10,725	377,811	944,240
AR	14,838	30,850	69,012	5,302	125,822	660,665
CA	595	5,922	3,163	937	42,885	66,478
DE	3,486	9,140	16,054	1,700	30,130	216,307
FL	2,168	2,796	7,997	1,257	---	14,988
GA	14,623	39,754	44,002	15,415	199,223	616,253
LA	3,287	---	---	---	---	18,831
MD	1,864	9,481	---	1,394	14,016	144,476
MS	7,685	19,603	28,075	3,233	169,053	403,607
MO	2,296	8,211	19,828	---	34,757	164,738
NC	9,199	25,669	65,345	6,904	188,145	547,834
PA	2,715	3,107	---	---	34,368	90,125
SC	2,809	---	19,499	---	59,754	107,744
TN	2,709	4,884	14,557	842	22,449	97,105
TX	---	17,533	16,697	1,636	15,692	195,748
VA	3,269	10,144	30,354	2,932	90,184	234,566
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	905,498	262,181	492,814	59,106	1,615,328	6,239,615

Mature Chickens Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight,
Selected States and United States, September 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	12,556	12,366	67,614	66,085	5.39	5.34

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

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

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
	1996	1997	N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----				-- Percent --	
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	41,299	40,466	4,155	3,946	6.83	6.64

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, September 1997

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
	Number					
CA	---	26	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	---	3,459	193,147	89,378	541	110,717
	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
	Number					
CA	---	---	---	---	---	26
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	25,591	69,161	182,043	4,727	41,053	719,817

Young Turkeys (Mature) Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight, Selected States and United States, September 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	2,155	2,415	39,763	40,098	18.46	16.60
CA	1,805	1,688	40,127	38,704	22.23	22.92
IA	1,241	1,298	32,453	33,138	26.14	25.52
MN	3,986	4,226	86,200	91,027	21.62	21.54
MO	1,994	2,271	52,111	58,893	26.13	25.93
NC	3,521	3,436	83,641	82,869	23.76	24.12
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	3,167	2,981	59,406	55,466	18.76	18.61
US	24,068	25,109	560,370	579,017	23.28	23.06

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

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

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemns			
	1996	1997	N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----				-- Percent --	
AR	32,503	33,399	613	515	1.71	1.43
CA	30,969	30,950	614	507	1.70	1.46
IA	25,341	25,688	693	640	2.37	2.15
MN	68,139	71,674	2,053	2,522	2.65	3.08
MO	40,680	47,657	1,518	1,325	3.24	2.50
NC	65,262	64,767	1,551	1,396	2.06	1.87
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	46,483	41,575	920	731	1.72	1.46
US	440,928	456,959	10,887	11,198	2.16	2.15

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, September 1997

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
	Number					
AR	---	---	5,871	---	---	---
CA	---	9	6,982	321	---	---
IA	---	---	---	2,300	---	8
MN	---	---	20,244	2,823	1,989	---
MO	---	---	17,786	5,403	229	---
NC	---	---	4,896	---	---	---
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	---	---	4,187	340	---	---
US	---	378	96,334	18,507	7,792	149
	Number					
	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
AR	---	---	---	---	1,022	6,893
CA	---	---	---	---	---	7,312
IA	53	---	560	---	---	2,921
MN	255	1,435	1,674	---	3,153	31,573
MO	83	---	514	---	1,858	25,873
NC	75	1,760	---	---	1,035	7,766
PA	---	---	---	---	389	389
VA	---	736	225	---	2,092	7,580
US	929	7,254	8,666	1,984	14,535	156,528

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 December 3, 1997.

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