

# Poultry Slaughter



USDA  
Washington, D.C.

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## Ready-to-Cook Weight Up 1 Percent

Poultry Certified Wholesome during December (ready-to-cook weight), totaled 2.85 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the amount certified in December 1997. Updated totals for November 1998 show that 2.70 billion pounds were certified.

The preliminary total Live Weight of Poultry Inspected during December 1998 was 3.88 billion pounds. Inspections included 3.24 billion pounds of young chickens, 75.6 million pounds of mature chickens, 548 million pounds of turkeys, and 13.6 million pounds of ducks.

Young chickens slaughtered during December 1998 averaged 4.98 pounds per bird, up 2 percent from last year. The average live weight of mature chickens was 4.99 pounds per bird, 3 percent above a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during December 1998 averaged 24.9 pounds per bird, up slightly from December 1997.

Ante-mortem condemnations during December 1998 totaled 20.6 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.53 percent of the live weight inspected, compared with 0.37 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 64.4 million pounds (N.Y. dressed weight), were 1.84 percent of quantities inspected, compared with 1.83 percent a year earlier.

December 1998 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays, the same as December 1997.

Poultry Slaughter: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight  
by Type, United States, December 1998 with Comparisons 1/

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature 2/	Total		
-----					
: 1,000 Head					
Number Inspected					
Nov 1998	600,633	11,135	611,768	1,931	-----
Dec 1997	647,883	13,621	661,504	2,042	-----
Dec 1998	651,561	15,154	666,715	2,029	-----
Jan-Dec 1997	7,735,903	167,635	7,903,539	21,978	-----
Jan-Dec 1998	7,826,045	169,348	7,995,393	23,463	-----
: 1,000 Pounds					
Live Weight					
Nov 1998	2,998,583	60,230	3,058,813	12,676	880
Dec 1997	3,148,429	65,728	3,214,157	13,592	1,038
Dec 1998	3,244,007	75,556	3,319,564	13,585	631
Jan-Dec 1997	37,207,401	839,202	38,046,603	146,534	17,733
Jan-Dec 1998	37,999,433	865,166	38,864,599	154,687	14,302
: Pounds					
Average Live Weight					
Nov 1998	4.99	5.41	5.00	6.57	-----
Dec 1997	4.86	4.83	4.86	6.66	-----
Dec 1998	4.98	4.99	4.98	6.69	-----
Jan-Dec 1997	4.81	5.01	4.81	6.67	-----
Jan-Dec 1998	4.86	5.11	4.86	6.59	-----

See footnotes at end of table.

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Poultry Slaughter: Chilled and Frozen, Pounds Certified by Type,  
United States, December 1998 with Comparisons 1/

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature	Total		
	1,000 Pounds				
Nov 1998					
Chilled	1,986,155	35,270	2,021,425	3,634	248
Frozen	205,518	1,614	207,131	5,248	270
Total	2,191,673	36,884	2,228,556	8,881	517
Dec 1997					
Chilled	2,079,478	38,133	2,117,611	3,736	393
Frozen	226,131	2,432	228,563	5,911	254
Total	2,305,609	40,565	2,346,175	9,646	647
Dec 1998					
Chilled	2,153,885	42,258	2,196,142	4,185	229
Frozen	205,881	3,551	209,433	5,430	130
Total	2,359,766	45,809	2,405,575	9,615	359
Jan-Dec 1997					
Chilled	24,797,531	481,501	25,279,032	36,948	5,654
Frozen	2,473,210	27,745	2,500,955	67,466	4,480
Total	27,270,741	509,247	27,779,987	104,414	10,133
Jan-Dec 1998					
Chilled	25,327,144	481,014	25,808,158	39,356	4,616
Frozen	2,495,785	42,371	2,538,156	70,677	3,554
Total	27,822,929	523,385	28,346,315	110,033	8,171

See footnotes at end of table.

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Poultry Slaughter: Chilled and Frozen, Pounds Certified by Type,  
 United States, December 1998 with Comparisons 1/ (continued)

		Turkeys				Total
		Fryer-	Young	Old	Total	Poultry
		Roasters			Turkeys	
		1,000 Pounds				
Nov 1998	:					
Chilled	:	14	249,193	1,558	250,765	2,276,071
Frozen	:	---	210,306	554	210,860	423,509
Total	:	14	459,499	2,112	461,625	2,699,580
Dec 1997	:					
Chilled	:	---	236,488	1,383	237,871	2,359,611
Frozen	:	---	221,438	1,135	222,573	457,301
Total	:	---	457,926	2,518	460,444	2,816,911
Dec 1998	:					
Chilled	:	209	212,853	1,603	214,665	2,415,221
Frozen	:	---	214,813	1,043	215,856	430,849
Total	:	209	427,666	2,645	430,521	2,846,070
Jan-Dec 1997	:					
Chilled	:	86	2,643,868	22,073	2,666,027	27,987,661
Frozen	:	395	2,798,967	12,524	2,811,887	5,384,788
Total	:	482	5,442,835	34,597	5,477,914	33,372,449
Jan-Dec 1998	:					
Chilled	:	257	2,499,357	25,636	2,525,249	28,377,380
Frozen	:	215	2,742,876	11,691	2,754,781	5,367,168
Total	:	472	5,242,232	37,326	5,280,030	33,744,549

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

Poultry Slaughter: Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem Condemnations  
by Type, United States, December 1998 with Comparisons 1/

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature	Total		
	1,000 Pounds				
Ante-Mortem (Live Weight)					
Nov 1998	11,233	690	11,924	15	1
Dec 1997	11,553	973	12,526	13	6
Dec 1998	17,870	1,170	19,041	23	1
Jan-Dec 1997	130,531	13,893	144,424	149	94
Jan-Dec 1998	167,222	15,482	182,705	188	53
Percent 2/					
Dec 1997	0.37	1.48	0.39	0.09	0.62
Dec 1998	0.55	1.55	0.57	0.17	0.22
	1,000 Pounds				
Post-Mortem (N.Y. Dressed Weight)					
Nov 1998	48,502	3,595	52,097	300	12
Dec 1997	47,400	3,658	51,058	295	10
Dec 1998	49,228	4,517	53,744	293	5
Jan-Dec 1997	571,738	51,506	623,244	2,954	177
Jan-Dec 1998	599,333	50,758	650,091	3,272	152
Percent 3/					
Dec 1997	1.67	6.18	1.77	2.41	1.02
Dec 1998	1.69	6.64	1.80	2.40	0.96

See footnotes at end of table.

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Poultry Slaughter: Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem Condemnations  
by Type, United States, December 1998 with Comparisons 1/ (continued)

		Turkeys			Total
		Fryer-	Young	Old	Poultry
		Roasters		Turkeys	
		1,000 Pounds			
Ante-Mortem					
(Live Weight)					
Nov 1998	---	1,087	15	1,103	13,042
Dec 1997	---	1,412	23	1,435	13,980
Dec 1998	2	1,474	29	1,504	20,569
Jan-Dec 1997	2	20,052	313	20,367	165,033
Jan-Dec 1998	3	18,516	413	18,932	201,878
Percent 2/					
Dec 1997	---	0.24	0.68	0.25	0.37
Dec 1998	0.77	0.27	0.82	0.27	0.53
Post-Mortem					
(N.Y. Dressed Weight)					
Nov 1998	---	10,496	146	10,642	63,051
Dec 1997	---	11,105	224	11,328	62,691
Dec 1998	14	10,130	207	10,350	64,394
Jan-Dec 1997	21	136,311	2,540	138,872	765,246
Jan-Dec 1998	22	130,540	2,982	133,543	787,058
Percent 3/					
Dec 1997	---	2.12	7.49	2.15	1.83
Dec 1998	5.44	2.07	6.60	2.10	1.84

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, December 1997-98

State	Number Inspected		Live Weight Inspected		Average Live Weight Inspected 1/	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	-----	1,000	-----	1,000	Pounds	----
					Pounds	----
AL	74,600	70,952	358,151	352,988	4.80	4.98
AR	97,626	96,835	466,274	472,434	4.78	4.88
CA	19,852	21,673	104,546	112,139	5.27	5.17
DE	21,677	22,294	122,934	128,882	5.67	5.78
FL	11,720	11,008	55,602	59,684	4.74	5.42
GA	91,992	96,751	451,588	475,484	4.91	4.91
LA	12,649	12,977	58,389	58,304	4.62	4.49
MD	17,552	16,776	85,275	80,987	4.86	4.83
MS	57,372	57,797	272,572	284,805	4.75	4.93
MO	28,972	29,363	125,407	132,589	4.33	4.52
NC	50,394	53,065	278,104	301,282	5.52	5.68
PA	9,305	8,474	47,263	43,428	5.08	5.13
SC	18,912	15,891	89,432	76,700	4.73	4.83
TN	13,044	16,307	60,547	82,309	4.64	5.05
TX	42,689	43,511	194,919	203,837	4.57	4.68
VA	29,049	29,084	140,522	142,843	4.84	4.91
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	647,883	651,561	3,148,429	3,244,007	4.86	4.98

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

Young Chickens Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations,  
Selected States and United States, December 1997-98

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
	1997	1998	N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----		-----		-- Percent --	
AL	267,131	262,721	7,446	6,120	2.31	1.93
AR	338,165	337,432	5,579	5,820	1.33	1.37
CA	74,574	79,301	1,540	1,491	1.64	1.48
DE	87,625	93,624	2,308	2,593	2.09	2.24
FL	39,319	41,321	1,111	2,101	2.22	3.91
GA	335,376	348,200	6,504	7,344	1.60	1.72
LA	41,377	41,440	931	1,133	1.77	2.16
MD	60,250	57,147	1,255	1,303	1.64	1.79
MS	208,414	206,945	3,350	4,088	1.37	1.59
MO	91,553	95,792	1,706	1,649	1.51	1.38
NC	203,658	224,335	4,677	4,536	1.87	1.67
PA	33,100	30,756	1,278	1,376	3.00	3.52
SC	67,139	55,254	1,667	1,272	2.07	1.84
TN	43,796	59,746	582	878	1.07	1.19
TX	147,131	155,174	2,456	2,226	1.40	1.21
VA	98,337	100,997	1,565	1,568	1.24	1.22
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	2,305,609	2,359,766	47,400	49,228	1.67	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, December 1998

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
Number						
AL	---	---	178,258	190,799	1,547	19,364
AR	---	3,983	329,269	129,682	7,800	6,529
CA	---	7,525	118,298	6,243	1,105	4,526
DE	---	8,850	117,190	79,147	73	---
FL	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	3,198	167,865	309,486	1,789	13,633
LA	---	226	35,717	38,788	91	2,119
MD	---	5,314	95,803	55,524	---	9,168
MS	---	4,244	130,860	207,539	2,023	7,180
MO	---	4,958	83,780	23,834	2,083	2,175
NC	---	7,352	146,944	86,681	1,450	67,523
PA	---	---	36,987	51,230	228	---
SC	---	1,007	31,763	58,520	---	3,998
TN	---	---	54,175	15,747	---	---
TX	---	---	134,406	50,413	527	3,181
VA	---	---	82,987	40,626	---	---
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	---	70,069	1,972,501	1,422,652	34,634	197,436

  

State	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
Number						
AL	13,236	33,932	63,630	13,504	209,468	723,738
AR	11,383	37,250	47,383	13,926	103,214	690,419
CA	447	7,233	2,852	624	21,204	170,057
DE	2,781	11,597	17,306	---	63,972	300,916
FL	1,666	2,149	7,004	---	---	10,819
GA	13,780	47,699	68,946	11,530	347,148	985,074
LA	1,884	9,590	---	---	14,834	103,249
MD	1,913	13,604	---	3,629	32,619	217,574
MS	5,878	31,861	29,909	6,459	220,957	646,910
MO	2,915	15,955	17,393	---	31,907	185,000
NC	8,264	49,560	53,390	4,449	107,356	532,969
PA	1,830	2,467	---	266	38,024	131,032
SC	3,183	---	17,351	6,231	37,959	160,012
TN	2,731	7,962	---	---	18,314	98,929
TX	1,499	16,006	12,837	1,237	8,499	228,605
VA	2,473	8,123	11,007	---	60,597	205,813
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	82,896	343,757	503,670	81,273	1,496,120	6,205,008

Mature Chickens Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight,  
Selected States and United States, December 1997-98

State	Number Inspected		Live Weight Inspected		Average Live Weight Inspected 1/		
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	
	-----	1,000	-----	1,000 Pounds	----	Pounds	---
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	13,621	15,154	65,728	75,556	4.83	4.99	

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

Mature Chickens Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations,  
Selected States and United States, December 1997-98

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
	1997	1998	N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	-----		1,000 Pounds		-- Percent --	
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	40,565	45,809	3,658	4,517	6.18	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, December 1998

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
	Number					
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	---	8,698	354,955	19,370	851	147,130

  

	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
	Number					
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	33,207	36,736	177,750	1,885	48,904	829,486

Young Turkeys (Mature) Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight, Selected States and United States, December 1997-98

State	Number Inspected		Live Weight Inspected		Average Live Weight Inspected 1/		
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	
	-----	1,000	-----	1,000 Pounds	----	Pounds	---
AR	2,097	1,871	36,655	32,053	17.48	17.13	
CA	1,981	1,681	47,734	40,396	24.09	24.02	
IA	1,163	1,060	31,379	31,245	26.98	29.48	
MN	3,435	3,679	75,946	83,679	22.11	22.74	
MO	2,027	1,766	55,297	49,497	27.28	28.04	
NC	3,598	2,749	91,974	67,240	25.56	24.46	
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---	
VA	2,720	3,236	51,589	69,771	18.96	21.56	
US	23,472	21,864	580,854	544,079	24.75	24.88	

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

Young Turkeys (Mature) Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations, Selected States and United States, December 1997-98

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
	1997	1998	N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	-----		1,000 Pounds		-- Percent --	
AR	28,898	25,427	455	524	1.38	1.82
CA	37,795	32,384	748	556	1.74	1.53
IA	24,321	23,934	747	658	2.64	2.34
MN	59,870	66,694	2,125	2,199	3.11	2.92
MO	43,279	39,774	1,203	991	2.42	2.23
NC	73,994	53,137	1,441	1,065	1.74	1.76
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	40,385	54,067	757	971	1.63	1.55
US	457,926	427,666	11,105	10,130	2.12	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, December 1998

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
	Number					
AR	---	---	4,673	---	---	---
CA	---	---	9,313	140	---	---
IA	---	---	4,367	1,521	---	9
MN	---	---	16,114	2,272	---	---
MO	---	---	14,518	---	---	---
NC	---	---	5,423	---	---	---
PA	---	---	---	645	---	---
VA	---	12	3,942	---	---	---
US	---	134	83,603	11,508	4,760	162

  

State	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
	Number					
AR	---	---	---	---	---	4,673
CA	15	---	---	---	---	9,468
IA	50	---	459	---	---	6,406
MN	153	1,089	1,394	---	1,641	22,663
MO	---	341	---	---	1,894	16,753
NC	---	---	---	---	823	6,246
PA	---	---	---	---	663	1,308
VA	19	1,351	209	---	1,399	6,932
US	910	9,144	9,599	2,878	44,122	166,820

Old Turkeys (Breeders) Slaughtered: Number Condemed Post-Mortem by Cause,  
United States, December 1998

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
	Number					
US	---	22	3,312	578	19	35
	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
	Number					
US	---	157	68	7	1,327	5,525

## 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 March 2, 1999.

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