

# Poultry Slaughter



USDA  
Washington, D.C.

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## Ready-to-Cook Weight Up 1 Percent

Poultry certified wholesome during January (ready-to-cook weight), totaled 2.89 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the amount certified in January 1998. Updated totals for December 1998 show that 2.88 billion pounds were certified.

The preliminary total live weight of poultry inspected during January 1999 was 3.92 billion pounds. Inspections included 3.31 billion pounds of young chickens, 75.4 million pounds of mature chickens, 517 million pounds of turkeys, and 13.0 million pounds of ducks.

Young chickens slaughtered during January 1999 averaged 5.01 pounds per bird, up 4 percent from 1998. The average live weight of mature chickens was 4.95 pounds per bird, down 1 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during January 1999 averaged 26.4 pounds per bird, up 4 percent from January 1998.

Ante-mortem condemnations during January 1999 totaled 19.1 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.49 percent of the live weight inspected, compared with 0.43 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 70.6 million pounds (N.Y. dressed weight), were 2.00 percent of quantities inspected, compared with 1.91 percent a year earlier.

January 1999 contained 21 weekdays (including two holidays) and five Saturdays, while January 1998 contained 22 weekdays (including two holidays) and five Saturdays.

Poultry Slaughter: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight  
by Type, United States, January 1999 with Comparisons 1/

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature 2/	Total		
-----					
	1,000 Head				
Number Inspected					
Dec 1998	660,683	15,102	675,785	2,042	-----
Jan 1998	668,891	14,769	683,661	2,026	-----
Jan 1999	661,635	15,218	676,852	1,927	-----
Jan-Jan 1998	668,891	14,769	683,661	2,026	-----
Jan-Jan 1999	661,635	15,218	676,852	1,927	-----
-----					
	1,000 Pounds				
Live Weight					
Dec 1998	3,289,810	75,764	3,365,574	13,694	835
Jan 1998	3,233,705	74,207	3,307,912	13,560	1,157
Jan 1999	3,313,264	75,365	3,388,629	12,969	671
Jan-Jan 1998	3,233,705	74,207	3,307,912	13,560	1,157
Jan-Jan 1999	3,313,264	75,365	3,388,629	12,969	671
-----					
	Pounds				
Average Live Weight					
Dec 1998	4.98	5.02	4.98	6.70	-----
Jan 1998	4.83	5.02	4.84	6.69	-----
Jan 1999	5.01	4.95	5.01	6.73	-----
Jan-Jan 1998	4.83	5.02	4.84	6.69	-----
Jan-Jan 1999	5.01	4.95	5.01	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, January 1999 with Comparisons 1/ (continued)

		Turkeys				Total
		Fryer-	Young 3/	Old	Total	Poultry
		1,000 Head				
Number Inspected						
Dec 1998	33	21,886	139	22,058	-----	
Jan 1998	---	21,608	158	21,766	-----	
Jan 1999	---	19,513	97	19,611	-----	
Jan-Jan 1998	---	21,608	158	21,766	-----	
Jan-Jan 1999	---	19,513	97	19,611	-----	
		1,000 Pounds				
Live Weight						
Dec 1998	280	543,173	3,583	547,036	3,927,139	
Jan 1998	---	547,785	4,267	552,052	3,874,681	
Jan 1999	---	514,570	2,641	517,210	3,919,480	
Jan-Jan 1998	---	547,785	4,267	552,052	3,874,681	
Jan-Jan 1999	---	514,570	2,641	517,210	3,919,480	
		Pounds				
Average Live Weight						
Dec 1998	8.43	24.82	25.83	24.80	-----	
Jan 1998	---	25.35	27.02	25.36	-----	
Jan 1999	---	26.37	27.10	26.37	-----	
Jan-Jan 1998	---	25.35	27.02	25.36	-----	
Jan-Jan 1999	---	26.37	27.10	26.37	-----	

- 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: January 1998: 5,565, January 1999: 5,120.  
3/ Of the Young Turkeys inspected, the number reported in thousands as young breeders was: January 1998: 62, January 1999: 78.

Poultry Slaughter: Chilled and Frozen, Pounds Certified by Type,  
United States, January 1999 with Comparisons 1/

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature	Total		
1,000 Pounds					
Dec 1998					
Chilled	2,180,493	42,358	2,222,851	4,249	326
Frozen	213,640	3,652	217,292	5,409	172
Total	2,394,133	46,010	2,440,143	9,657	498
Jan 1998					
Chilled	2,157,025	40,133	2,197,157	3,422	440
Frozen	211,516	4,131	215,647	6,232	244
Total	2,368,541	44,264	2,412,804	9,654	684
Jan 1999					
Chilled	2,215,782	42,404	2,258,186	3,365	248
Frozen	209,130	3,086	212,216	5,750	122
Total	2,424,912	45,490	2,470,402	9,116	370
Jan-Jan 1998					
Chilled	2,157,025	40,133	2,197,157	3,422	440
Frozen	211,516	4,131	215,647	6,232	244
Total	2,368,541	44,264	2,412,804	9,654	684
Jan-Jan 1999					
Chilled	2,215,782	42,404	2,258,186	3,365	248
Frozen	209,130	3,086	212,216	5,750	122
Total	2,424,912	45,490	2,470,402	9,116	370

See footnotes at end of table.

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Poultry Slaughter: Chilled and Frozen, Pounds Certified by Type,  
 United States, January 1999 with Comparisons 1/ (continued)

		Turkeys				Total Poultry
		Fryer- Roasters	Young	Old	Total Turkeys	
		1,000 Pounds				
Dec 1998	:					
Chilled	:	209	215,620	1,677	217,506	2,444,932
Frozen	:	---	212,534	1,043	213,577	436,449
Total	:	209	428,154	2,720	431,083	2,881,381
Jan 1998	:					
Chilled	:	---	208,394	1,871	210,265	2,411,284
Frozen	:	---	222,149	1,319	223,468	445,591
Total	:	---	430,543	3,190	433,733	2,856,875
Jan 1999	:					
Chilled	:	---	199,455	1,466	200,921	2,462,721
Frozen	:	---	205,799	482	206,281	424,369
Total	:	---	405,254	1,949	407,202	2,887,090
Jan-Jan 1998	:					
Chilled	:	---	208,394	1,871	210,265	2,411,284
Frozen	:	---	222,149	1,319	223,468	445,591
Total	:	---	430,543	3,190	433,733	2,856,875
Jan-Jan 1999	:					
Chilled	:	---	199,455	1,466	200,921	2,462,721
Frozen	:	---	205,799	482	206,281	424,369
Total	:	---	405,254	1,949	407,202	2,887,090

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

Poultry Slaughter: Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem Condemnations  
by Type, United States, January 1999 with Comparisons 1/

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature	Total		
	1,000 Pounds				
Ante-Mortem (Live Weight)					
Dec 1998	18,291	1,143	19,434	23	4
Jan 1998	13,636	1,223	14,859	14	3
Jan 1999	16,091	1,216	17,308	18	2
Jan-Jan 1998	13,636	1,223	14,859	14	3
Jan-Jan 1999	16,091	1,216	17,308	18	2
Percent 2/					
Jan 1998	0.42	1.65	0.45	0.10	0.25
Jan 1999	0.49	1.61	0.51	0.14	0.29
	1,000 Pounds				
Post-Mortem (N.Y. Dressed Weight)					
Dec 1998	50,570	4,563	55,134	311	8
Jan 1998	50,428	4,238	54,666	284	9
Jan 1999	54,939	4,649	59,588	291	4
Jan-Jan 1998	50,428	4,238	54,666	284	9
Jan-Jan 1999	54,939	4,649	59,588	291	4
Percent 3/					
Jan 1998	1.73	6.35	1.84	2.33	0.89
Jan 1999	1.84	6.85	1.95	2.49	0.61

See footnotes at end of table.

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Poultry Slaughter: Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem Condemnations  
by Type, United States, January 1999 with Comparisons 1/ (continued)

		Turkeys			Total
		Fryer-	Young	Old	Poultry
		Roasters		Turkeys	
		1,000 Pounds			
Ante-Mortem					
(Live Weight)					
Dec 1998	2	1,475	29	1,506	20,967
Jan 1998	---	1,590	30	1,620	16,495
Jan 1999	---	1,736	30	1,765	19,093
Jan-Jan 1998	---	1,590	30	1,620	16,495
Jan-Jan 1999	---	1,736	30	1,765	19,093
Percent 2/					
Jan 1998	---	0.29	0.70	0.29	0.43
Jan 1999	---	0.34	1.12	0.34	0.49
Post-Mortem					
(N.Y. Dressed Weight)					
Dec 1998	14	10,148	215	10,376	65,828
Jan 1998	---	11,389	320	11,709	66,669
Jan 1999	---	10,531	236	10,767	70,649
Jan-Jan 1998	---	11,389	320	11,709	66,669
Jan-Jan 1999	---	10,531	236	10,767	70,649
Percent 3/					
Jan 1998	---	2.31	8.34	2.36	1.91
Jan 1999	---	2.27	9.93	2.31	2.00

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, January 1998-99

State	Number Inspected		Live Weight Inspected		Average Live Weight Inspected 1/		
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	
	-----	1,000	-----	1,000 Pounds	----	Pounds	----
AL	77,911	76,150	377,671	391,611	4.85	5.14	
AR	98,003	94,852	472,786	468,406	4.82	4.94	
CA	20,911	22,596	105,726	113,726	5.06	5.03	
DE	24,291	22,517	127,532	130,934	5.25	5.81	
FL	12,189	10,599	57,008	56,760	4.68	5.36	
GA	94,535	92,690	467,573	463,923	4.95	5.01	
LA	12,739	15,154	60,102	69,254	4.72	4.57	
MD	17,577	16,217	82,456	78,411	4.69	4.84	
MS	55,951	59,701	269,106	293,263	4.81	4.91	
MO	29,648	29,942	127,554	136,419	4.30	4.56	
NC	54,506	52,689	297,163	301,513	5.45	5.72	
PA	9,390	8,597	49,123	44,338	5.23	5.16	
SC	19,806	17,682	93,010	85,788	4.70	4.85	
TN	13,574	16,206	61,751	80,801	4.55	4.99	
TX	42,144	43,717	191,324	204,789	4.54	4.68	
VA	30,795	30,159	145,564	143,001	4.73	4.74	
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---	
US	668,891	661,635	3,233,705	3,313,264	4.83	5.01	

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

Young Chickens Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations,  
Selected States and United States, January 1998-99

State	Total		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
	Certified 1/		N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----		-----		-- Percent --	
AL	276,093	291,765	7,845	7,390	2.31	2.10
AR	339,968	338,043	6,108	6,561	1.44	1.56
CA	76,665	83,543	1,777	1,399	1.87	1.37
DE	92,523	95,305	2,450	3,090	2.13	2.62
FL	39,445	41,626	1,143	1,278	2.23	2.50
GA	348,662	339,766	6,574	9,067	1.56	2.17
LA	42,386	47,283	1,113	1,818	2.06	2.92
MD	58,970	55,547	1,281	1,338	1.73	1.90
MS	202,229	213,881	3,679	4,512	1.52	1.71
MO	93,145	100,815	1,694	1,543	1.48	1.26
NC	222,888	226,966	5,422	5,220	2.03	1.92
PA	34,579	30,317	1,385	1,500	3.13	3.76
SC	67,710	63,120	1,604	1,601	1.92	2.07
TN	44,948	59,192	682	931	1.23	1.28
TX	145,093	155,430	2,389	2,259	1.39	1.23
VA	102,463	101,530	1,681	1,541	1.28	1.20
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	2,368,541	2,424,912	50,428	54,939	1.73	1.84

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, January 1999

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
Number						
AL	---	2,739	218,357	271,357	1,703	18,909
AR	---	4,539	355,517	192,403	6,880	8,196
CA	---	---	115,506	4,959	1,196	5,830
DE	---	18,767	128,288	107,750	143	---
FL	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	165,470	601,598	1,624	13,258
LA	---	252	54,030	72,533	304	3,046
MD	---	---	103,084	66,877	126	10,402
MS	---	5,278	164,572	228,539	2,001	5,701
MO	---	---	97,042	32,427	2,272	2,326
NC	---	7,025	153,333	132,582	---	52,232
PA	---	---	42,081	52,598	244	---
SC	---	1,524	39,083	99,987	101	6,042
TN	---	577	57,199	28,031	---	---
TX	---	---	131,995	55,981	602	3,266
VA	---	2,593	79,597	54,246	120	---
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	---	93,947	2,158,355	2,086,852	32,011	186,105

  

	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
Number						
AL	11,678	40,849	66,493	14,348	257,114	903,547
AR	12,486	44,263	52,499	8,302	119,932	805,017
CA	642	7,608	3,159	---	23,703	162,603
DE	3,329	14,520	17,118	2,318	65,966	358,199
FL	1,535	2,884	6,838	376	---	11,633
GA	13,033	43,716	83,221	9,868	389,350	1,321,138
LA	1,956	9,790	10,130	598	26,303	178,942
MD	2,121	10,023	---	726	28,242	221,601
MS	5,899	28,656	30,241	2,419	222,777	696,083
MO	3,331	---	15,197	517	34,851	187,963
NC	9,469	51,026	49,060	6,912	162,825	624,464
PA	2,263	3,562	---	398	40,175	141,321
SC	4,988	14,215	12,817	6,439	57,520	242,716
TN	2,799	9,331	---	---	17,307	115,244
TX	1,604	13,359	14,588	2,544	9,585	233,524
VA	2,139	17,337	7,886	1,765	60,116	225,799
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	85,281	377,664	499,396	64,342	1,703,637	7,287,590

Mature Chickens Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight,  
Selected States and United States, January 1998-99

State	Number Inspected		Live Weight Inspected		Average Live Weight Inspected 1/	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	----- 1,000 -----		---- 1,000 Pounds ----		--- Pounds ---	
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	14,769	15,218	74,207	75,365	5.02	4.95

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

Mature Chickens Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations,  
Selected States and United States, January 1998-99

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
	1998	1999	N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----				-- Percent --	
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	44,264	45,490	4,238	4,649	6.35	6.85

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, January 1999

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
	Number					
CA	---	---	---	131	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	---	9,229	366,292	16,669	802	148,932

  

	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
	Number					
CA	40	---	---	---	---	171
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	27,036	35,210	182,032	1,461	47,577	835,240

Young Turkeys (Mature) Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight, Selected States and United States, January 1998-99

State	Number Inspected		Live Weight Inspected		Average Live Weight Inspected 1/	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	----- 1,000 -----		---- 1,000 Pounds ----		--- Pounds ---	
AR	2,206	2,074	39,689	36,873	17.99	17.78
CA	1,482	1,227	34,868	29,677	23.53	24.18
IA	1,099	1,027	32,342	33,606	29.44	32.71
MN	3,022	2,840	68,219	69,717	22.57	24.55
MO	1,980	1,924	54,702	55,329	27.63	28.76
NC	3,406	2,449	95,317	65,139	27.98	26.60
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	3,035	3,081	58,424	68,212	19.25	22.14
US	21,608	19,513	547,785	514,570	25.35	26.37

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

Young Turkeys (Mature) Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemns, Selected States and United States, January 1998-99

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemns			
	1998	1999	N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----				-- Percent --	
AR	32,276	30,013	549	549	1.54	1.65
CA	27,677	23,697	810	416	2.58	1.56
IA	25,268	26,090	899	922	3.09	3.05
MN	53,324	55,113	1,938	1,965	3.16	3.13
MO	43,036	43,607	1,354	1,279	2.75	2.57
NC	75,157	51,257	1,599	1,076	1.86	1.84
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	46,377	53,429	948	1,009	1.80	1.64
US	430,543	405,254	11,389	10,531	2.31	2.27

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, January 1999

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
	Number					
AR	---	---	5,452	619	---	---
CA	---	---	6,164	59	---	---
IA	---	---	5,000	2,775	---	---
MN	---	---	15,425	---	---	---
MO	---	---	23,421	---	---	---
NC	---	---	5,129	---	---	---
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	---	---	4,876	427	---	---
US	---	75	91,330	14,734	4,989	147

  

State	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
	Number					
AR	---	---	---	---	---	6,071
CA	---	---	---	---	---	6,223
IA	37	---	577	---	---	8,389
MN	177	816	1,297	---	1,250	18,965
MO	140	857	753	---	1,301	26,472
NC	100	---	---	---	734	5,963
PA	107	---	---	---	---	107
VA	30	1,965	233	---	1,366	8,897
US	955	9,094	8,683	2,772	9,489	142,268

Old Turkeys (Breeders) Slaughtered: Number Condemed Post-Mortem by Cause,  
 United States, January 1999

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
	Number					
US	---	---	4,403	524	---	40
	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
	Number					
US	44	140	173	---	391	5,715

## 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 April 5, 1999.

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