

Poultry Slaughter



USDA
Washington, D.C.

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For information on "Poultry Slaughter" call John Lange (202) 720-058 or Mike Barker (202)720-3243, office hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

Ready-to-Cook Weight Up 8 Percent

Poultry certified wholesome during March (ready-to-cook weight), totaled 3.06 billion pounds, up 8 percent from the amount certified in March 1998. Updated totals for February 1998 show that 2.67 billion pounds were certified.

The preliminary total live weight of poultry inspected during March 1999 was 4.15 billion pounds. Inspections included 3.50 billion pounds of young chickens, 81.3 million pounds of mature chickens, 548 million pounds of turkeys, and 13.3 million pounds of ducks.

Young chickens slaughtered during March 1999 averaged 5.03 pounds per bird, up 3 percent from 1998. The average live weight of mature chickens was 5.04 pounds per bird, down 1 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during March 1999 averaged 25.4 pounds per bird, up 1 percent from March 1998.

Ante-mortem condemnations during March 1999 totaled 16.4 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.39 percent of the live weight inspected, compared with 0.42 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 72.8 million pounds (N.Y. dressed weight), were 1.95 percent of quantities inspected, compared with 2.05 percent a year earlier.

March 1999 contained 23 weekdays and four Saturdays, while March 1998 contained 22 weekdays and four Saturdays.

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

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature 2/	Total		

	1,000 Head				
Number Inspected					
Feb 1999	615,952	13,425	629,377	1,841	-----
Mar 1998	653,139	13,014	666,154	1,887	-----
Mar 1999	696,453	16,144	712,597	1,989	-----
Jan-Mar 1998	1,929,419	40,476	1,969,895	5,631	-----
Jan-Mar 1999	1,975,982	44,804	2,020,786	5,758	-----

	1,000 Pounds				
Live Weight					
Feb 1999	3,076,610	69,253	3,145,863	12,292	631
Mar 1998	3,197,296	66,330	3,263,626	12,575	1,070
Mar 1999	3,502,651	81,342	3,583,993	13,325	919
Jan-Mar 1998	9,360,824	205,192	9,566,016	37,602	3,192
Jan-Mar 1999	9,896,838	226,102	10,122,940	38,586	2,369

	Pounds				
Average Live Weight					
Feb 1999	4.99	5.16	5.00	6.68	-----
Mar 1998	4.90	5.10	4.90	6.66	-----
Mar 1999	5.03	5.04	5.03	6.70	-----
Jan-Mar 1998	4.85	5.07	4.86	6.68	-----
Jan-Mar 1999	5.01	5.05	5.01	6.70	-----

See footnotes at end of table.

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Poultry Slaughter: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight
by Type, United States, March 1999 with Comparisons 1/ (continued)

		Turkeys			Total	
		Fryer- Roasters	Young 3/	Old	Total Turkeys	Total Poultry
		1,000 Head				
Number Inspected						
	Feb 1999	---	17,788	140	17,928	-----
	Mar 1998	---	22,320	136	22,456	-----
	Mar 1999	---	21,424	140	21,564	-----
	Jan-Mar 1998	---	64,596	460	65,056	-----
	Jan-Mar 1999	---	58,987	378	59,365	-----
		1,000 Pounds				
Live Weight						
	Feb 1999	---	454,734	3,759	458,493	3,617,279
	Mar 1998	---	559,013	4,009	563,022	3,840,293
	Mar 1999	---	544,451	3,789	548,241	4,146,477
	Jan-Mar 1998	---	1,624,963	12,615	1,637,579	11,244,388
	Jan-Mar 1999	---	1,518,161	10,189	1,528,350	11,692,244
		Pounds				
Average Live Weight						
	Feb 1999	---	25.56	26.82	25.57	-----
	Mar 1998	---	25.05	29.40	25.07	-----
	Mar 1999	---	25.41	27.05	25.42	-----
	Jan-Mar 1998	---	25.16	27.40	25.17	-----
	Jan-Mar 1999	---	25.74	26.98	25.74	-----

- 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: March 1998: 5,073, March 1999: 6,027.
3/ Of the Young Turkeys inspected, the number reported in thousands as young breeders was: March 1998: 116, March 1999: 89.

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

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature	Total		
	1,000 Pounds				
Feb 1999					
Chilled	2,059,489	37,747	2,097,236	3,611	230
Frozen	194,003	3,822	197,825	4,904	123
Total	2,253,492	41,569	2,295,060	8,514	353
Mar 1998					
Chilled	2,115,387	37,317	2,152,703	3,051	370
Frozen	217,191	2,894	220,085	5,870	211
Total	2,332,577	40,211	2,372,789	8,921	582
Mar 1999					
Chilled	2,339,982	46,379	2,386,361	3,701	330
Frozen	227,216	3,130	230,347	5,628	201
Total	2,567,199	49,509	2,616,708	9,329	531
Jan-Mar 1998					
Chilled	6,217,914	113,836	6,331,750	9,234	1,155
Frozen	628,080	9,614	637,694	17,421	659
Total	6,845,994	123,450	6,969,444	26,656	1,814
Jan-Mar 1999					
Chilled	6,616,179	126,563	6,742,742	10,677	901
Frozen	629,570	10,074	639,644	16,282	446
Total	7,245,750	136,637	7,382,387	26,959	1,347

See footnotes at end of table.

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

		Turkeys			Total Poultry
		Fryer- Roasters	Young	Old	Total Turkeys
		1,000 Pounds			
Feb 1999					
Chilled	---	166,382	2,002	168,385	2,269,461
Frozen	---	193,203	803	194,006	396,858
Total	---	359,585	2,806	362,391	2,666,319
Mar 1998					
Chilled	---	214,576	2,357	216,933	2,373,059
Frozen	---	223,193	801	223,994	450,160
Total	---	437,769	3,158	440,927	2,823,219
Mar 1999					
Chilled	---	204,008	2,091	206,099	2,596,491
Frozen	---	222,825	772	223,597	459,773
Total	---	426,834	2,862	429,696	3,056,264
Jan-Mar 1998					
Chilled	---	618,341	6,395	624,736	6,966,875
Frozen	---	657,675	3,128	660,803	1,316,578
Total	---	1,276,015	9,524	1,285,539	8,283,452
Jan-Mar 1999					
Chilled	---	569,820	5,559	575,380	7,329,700
Frozen	---	625,524	2,057	627,581	1,283,954
Total	---	1,195,344	7,617	1,202,961	8,613,654

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

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

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature	Total		
----- 1,000 Pounds -----					
Ante-Mortem (Live Weight)					
Feb 1999	12,660	849	13,509	13	4
Mar 1998	13,392	774	14,165	11	1
Mar 1999	13,991	983	14,974	18	6
Jan-Mar 1998	38,066	3,008	41,075	34	6
Jan-Mar 1999	42,861	3,056	45,917	49	14
----- Percent 2/ -----					
Mar 1998	0.42	1.17	0.43	0.08	0.13
Mar 1999	0.40	1.21	0.42	0.13	0.69
----- 1,000 Pounds -----					
Post-Mortem (N.Y. Dressed Weight)					
Feb 1999	48,316	4,305	52,621	294	5
Mar 1998	53,817	4,389	58,206	266	9
Mar 1999	56,384	4,890	61,273	312	7
Jan-Mar 1998	153,371	12,628	165,999	784	27
Jan-Mar 1999	159,841	13,852	173,693	897	16
----- Percent 3/ -----					
Mar 1998	1.87	7.35	1.98	2.35	0.95
Mar 1999	1.79	6.68	1.90	2.60	0.79

See footnotes at end of table.

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

		Turkeys			
		Fryer- Roasters	Young	Old	Total Poultry
		1,000 Pounds			
Ante-Mortem (Live Weight)					
Feb 1999	---	1,126	35	1,161	14,688
Mar 1998	---	1,756	31	1,787	15,964
Mar 1999	---	1,323	38	1,361	16,359
Jan-Mar 1998	---	4,719	99	4,818	45,932
Jan-Mar 1999	---	4,193	102	4,295	50,275
Percent 2/					
Mar 1998	---	0.31	0.77	0.32	0.42
Mar 1999	---	0.24	0.99	0.25	0.39
Post-Mortem (N.Y. Dressed Weight)					
Feb 1999	---	9,292	227	9,519	62,438
Mar 1998	---	12,044	243	12,287	70,768
Mar 1999	---	11,021	234	11,256	72,848
Jan-Mar 1998	---	34,754	900	35,654	202,465
Jan-Mar 1999	---	30,896	697	31,593	206,198
Percent 3/					
Mar 1998	---	2.39	6.73	2.42	2.05
Mar 1999	---	2.25	6.87	2.28	1.95

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, March 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	69,588	78,881	350,228	402,580	5.03	5.10	
AR	100,684	105,663	485,183	516,553	4.82	4.89	
CA	20,217	22,339	103,725	119,748	5.13	5.36	
DE	22,751	23,190	126,746	135,489	5.57	5.84	
FL	11,044	11,252	53,042	60,473	4.80	5.37	
GA	94,959	102,103	473,409	505,627	4.99	4.95	
LA	11,712	14,187	53,859	62,389	4.60	4.40	
MD	17,637	17,733	82,857	85,014	4.70	4.79	
MS	57,310	62,019	275,920	318,298	4.81	5.13	
MO	28,291	30,663	119,167	138,960	4.21	4.53	
NC	52,661	52,036	290,517	298,889	5.52	5.74	
PA	9,505	9,484	48,628	50,392	5.12	5.31	
SC	19,367	18,386	90,048	88,952	4.65	4.84	
TN	15,105	17,429	68,115	87,295	4.51	5.01	
TX	41,850	45,932	196,722	219,111	4.70	4.77	
VA	28,774	30,363	138,777	147,935	4.82	4.87	
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---	
US	653,139	696,453	3,197,296	3,502,651	4.90	5.03	

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

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

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
			N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----		-----		-- Percent --	
AL	254,144	300,828	7,867	8,850	2.50	2.44
AR	345,874	375,021	6,327	7,356	1.45	1.58
CA	73,347	87,909	1,669	1,581	1.79	1.47
DE	92,033	98,989	2,630	3,112	2.31	2.55
FL	37,975	43,197	1,147	1,115	2.40	2.05
GA	351,279	372,175	8,105	8,689	1.90	1.91
LA	37,585	43,628	971	1,485	2.00	2.64
MD	60,071	60,825	1,284	1,373	1.72	1.79
MS	211,479	233,673	5,047	3,996	2.03	1.39
MO	87,147	102,167	1,468	1,623	1.37	1.30
NC	215,567	224,850	5,081	5,039	1.94	1.87
PA	32,988	34,937	1,363	1,330	3.11	2.93
SC	66,085	65,608	2,026	1,696	2.50	2.12
TN	49,257	63,848	716	947	1.17	1.21
TX	148,660	163,873	2,661	2,605	1.50	1.32
VA	96,417	103,144	1,850	1,878	1.48	1.41
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	2,332,577	2,567,199	53,817	56,384	1.87	1.79

1/ Ready-to-cook weights.

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

Young Chickens Slaughtered: Number Condemned Post-Mortem by Cause,
Selected States and United States, March 1999

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
Number						
AL	---	2,246	227,282	503,595	2,300	18,692
AR	---	4,068	374,856	183,660	8,684	7,136
CA	---	7,734	122,142	6,199	1,579	4,932
DE	---	11,979	118,500	123,684	110	---
FL	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	23,739	181,067	459,521	---	12,304
LA	---	---	44,257	---	160	2,056
MD	---	7,819	111,761	65,227	102	12,087
MS	---	3,338	162,434	123,995	1,938	4,401
MO	---	3,969	103,624	50,853	3,136	2,119
NC	---	---	175,507	121,107	---	62,343
PA	---	---	46,446	44,881	222	---
SC	---	2,770	35,581	72,835	38	---
TN	---	339	61,039	23,310	---	---
TX	---	---	148,332	89,169	1,209	2,821
VA	---	---	90,174	95,975	112	---
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	---	134,056	2,261,631	2,124,483	35,198	197,892
Number						
State	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
AL	10,466	40,099	61,834	16,767	304,731	1,188,012
AR	12,308	41,864	55,173	4,328	154,900	846,977
CA	796	6,325	2,890	---	27,294	179,891
DE	2,781	11,762	16,902	3,799	64,860	354,377
FL	1,605	3,698	7,426	161	---	12,890
GA	13,667	46,279	64,987	9,549	510,289	1,321,402
LA	1,720	8,207	---	---	18,687	75,087
MD	2,007	8,698	---	1,456	35,735	244,892
MS	5,745	36,655	31,306	753	148,809	519,374
MO	2,590	15,597	18,175	712	34,592	235,367
NC	6,804	38,585	41,653	6,903	127,727	580,629
PA	2,353	3,567	---	---	37,351	134,820
SC	4,698	18,878	9,133	3,012	72,089	219,034
TN	2,899	9,240	---	1,753	25,138	123,718
TX	1,838	13,503	18,473	---	14,114	289,459
VA	2,342	9,950	9,115	1,714	72,702	282,084
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	80,886	339,315	477,661	58,553	1,807,263	7,516,938

Mature Chickens Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight,
Selected States and United States, March 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	13,014	16,144	66,330	81,342	5.10	5.04

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

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

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
	1998	1999	N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----				-- Percent --	
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	40,211	49,509	4,389	4,890	7.35	6.68

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, March 1999

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	---	6,619	382,244	17,678	821	166,055

	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	36,301	48,526	221,261	2,144	68,324	949,973

Young Turkeys (Mature) Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight, Selected States and United States, March 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	2,321	2,312	42,100	43,586	18.14	18.85
CA	1,590	1,365	36,228	30,826	22.78	22.59
IA	1,087	1,369	29,117	41,563	26.78	30.35
MN	3,251	2,924	78,595	72,627	24.17	24.84
MO	2,046	1,945	55,925	54,636	27.33	28.09
NC	3,691	2,629	95,198	64,736	25.79	24.62
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	22,320	21,424	559,013	544,451	25.05	25.41

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

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

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemns			
	1998	1999	N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----				-- Percent --	
AR	34,815	35,714	693	636	1.83	1.62
CA	28,372	25,046	476	420	1.46	1.51
IA	22,549	32,293	714	1,160	2.72	3.10
MN	61,221	57,489	2,246	1,805	3.18	2.76
MO	43,888	43,633	1,275	1,218	2.53	2.48
NC	75,901	49,610	1,898	1,050	2.22	1.80
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	437,769	426,834	12,044	11,021	2.39	2.25

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, March 1999

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors	
							Number
AR	---	---	5,074	390	---	---	
CA	---	8	7,236	47	---	---	
IA	---	---	---	3,763	---	---	
MN	---	---	14,070	4,023	---	---	
MO	---	---	18,358	---	---	---	
NC	---	---	5,346	---	---	---	
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---	
VA	---	---	5,027	246	---	---	
US	---	46	93,316	18,266	5,999	106	
							Number
State	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total	
AR	38	---	---	---	---	5,502	
CA	---	---	317	33	---	7,641	
IA	79	---	690	---	---	4,532	
MN	---	578	774	---	1,565	21,010	
MO	---	---	525	---	1,680	20,563	
NC	111	1,606	---	---	681	7,744	
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---	
VA	43	---	222	---	1,524	7,062	
US	1,026	8,554	8,822	1,877	10,576	148,588	

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 June 3, 1999.

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