



# Poultry Slaughter

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## Ready-to-Cook Weight Up 7 Percent

Poultry certified wholesome during September (ready-to-cook weight), totaled 3.01 billion pounds, up 7 percent from the amount certified in September 1998. Updated totals for August 1999 show that 3.04 billion pounds were certified.

The preliminary total live weight of poultry inspected during September 1999 was 4.07 billion pounds, up 7 percent from a year ago. Inspections included 3.39 billion pounds of young chickens, up 7 percent; 74.6 million pounds of mature chickens, up 6 percent; 581 million pounds of turkeys, up 6 percent; and 13.2 million pounds of ducks, down 3 percent from September 1998.

Young chickens slaughtered during September 1999 averaged 4.97 pounds per bird, up 3 percent from September 1998. The average live weight of mature chickens was 5.45 pounds per bird, up 5 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during September 1999 averaged 25.1 pounds per bird, up 5 percent from September 1998.

Ante-mortem condemnations during September 1999 totaled 16.0 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.39 percent of the live weight inspected, compared with 0.47 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 62.1 million pounds (N.Y. dressed weight), were 1.70 percent of quantities inspected, compared with 1.88 percent a year earlier.

September 1999 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays, the same as September 1998.

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

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature 2/	Total		
	1,000 Head				
Number Inspected					
Aug 1999	708,119	14,211	722,331	1,988	-----
Sep 1998	656,130	13,501	669,631	2,051	-----
Sep 1999	682,349	13,680	696,029	1,994	-----
Jan-Sep 1998	5,887,748	129,225	6,016,973	17,448	-----
Jan-Sep 1999	6,128,838	134,002	6,262,840	17,313	-----
	1,000 Pounds				
Live Weight					
Aug 1999	3,412,248	77,169	3,489,417	12,694	1,898
Sep 1998	3,176,068	70,349	3,246,417	13,557	1,955
Sep 1999	3,394,530	74,571	3,469,102	13,167	1,915
Jan-Sep 1998	28,375,654	658,640	29,034,294	114,897	10,862
Jan-Sep 1999	30,468,037	694,063	31,162,100	114,072	10,141
	Pounds				
Average Live Weight					
Aug 1999	4.82	5.43	4.83	6.38	-----
Sep 1998	4.84	5.21	4.85	6.61	-----
Sep 1999	4.97	5.45	4.98	6.60	-----
Jan-Sep 1998	4.82	5.10	4.83	6.58	-----
Jan-Sep 1999	4.97	5.18	4.98	6.59	-----

See footnotes at end of table.

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

		Turkeys			Total	
		Fryer- Roasters	Young 3/	Old	Total Turkeys	Total Poultry
		1,000 Head				
Number Inspected						
Aug 1999	---	23,842	235	24,077	-----	
Sep 1998	---	22,833	213	23,047	-----	
Sep 1999	---	22,949	185	23,133	-----	
Jan-Sep 1998	40	200,275	1,448	201,763	-----	
Jan-Sep 1999	56	193,797	1,409	195,261	-----	
		1,000 Pounds				
Live Weight						
Aug 1999	---	589,965	6,020	595,984	4,099,994	
Sep 1998	---	543,748	5,342	549,089	3,811,018	
Sep 1999	---	576,284	4,875	581,159	4,065,344	
Jan-Sep 1998	356	4,949,882	37,754	4,987,992	34,148,046	
Jan-Sep 1999	491	4,924,015	37,240	4,961,746	36,248,060	
		Pounds				
Average Live Weight						
Aug 1999	---	24.74	25.57	24.75	-----	
Sep 1998	---	23.81	25.05	23.83	-----	
Sep 1999	---	25.11	26.40	25.12	-----	
Jan-Sep 1998	8.96	24.72	26.07	24.72	-----	
Jan-Sep 1999	8.85	25.41	26.44	25.41	-----	

- 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 1998: 5,469, September 1999: 6,231.  
3/ Of the Young Turkeys inspected, the number reported in thousands as young breeders was: September 1998: 56, September 1999: 62.

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

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature	Total		
1,000 Pounds					
Aug 1999					
Chilled	2,299,426	43,528	2,342,954	3,395	425
Frozen	216,967	3,173	220,139	5,506	655
Total	2,516,392	46,700	2,563,093	8,901	1,081
Sep 1998					
Chilled	2,108,020	39,213	2,147,233	3,341	476
Frozen	214,054	2,942	216,996	6,083	660
Total	2,322,074	42,155	2,364,229	9,425	1,136
Sep 1999					
Chilled	2,290,490	42,188	2,332,677	3,550	353
Frozen	206,817	3,121	209,938	5,555	766
Total	2,497,307	45,309	2,542,616	9,105	1,119
Jan-Sep 1998					
Chilled	18,919,784	363,580	19,283,364	28,127	3,637
Frozen	1,858,211	32,188	1,890,399	53,720	2,498
Total	20,777,995	395,768	21,173,763	81,846	6,135
Jan-Sep 1999					
Chilled	20,432,177	388,106	20,820,283	30,799	3,029
Frozen	1,941,512	30,105	1,971,617	49,121	2,801
Total	22,373,688	418,211	22,791,900	79,921	5,830

See footnotes at end of table.

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

		Turkeys			Total
		Fryer- Roasters	Young	Old	Total Poultry
		1,000 Pounds			
Aug 1999					
Chilled	---	205,236	2,596	207,832	2,554,606
Frozen	---	259,074	1,877	260,951	487,251
Total	---	464,310	4,473	468,783	3,041,857
Sep 1998					
Chilled	---	192,616	2,712	195,328	2,346,378
Frozen	---	232,727	1,463	234,190	457,930
Total	---	425,344	4,174	429,518	2,804,308
Sep 1999					
Chilled	---	202,042	1,905	203,947	2,540,527
Frozen	---	249,287	1,660	250,947	467,207
Total	---	451,329	3,564	454,894	3,007,733
Jan-Sep 1998					
Chilled	30	1,823,694	20,083	1,843,808	21,158,935
Frozen	215	2,060,917	8,601	2,069,733	4,016,350
Total	245	3,884,612	28,684	3,913,541	25,175,285
Jan-Sep 1999					
Chilled	35	1,752,792	18,000	1,770,827	22,624,938
Frozen	313	2,122,985	9,758	2,133,056	4,156,595
Total	348	3,875,777	27,758	3,903,883	26,781,533

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 1999 with Comparisons 1/

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature	Total		
1,000 Pounds					
Ante-Mortem (Live Weight)					
Aug 1999	17,244	1,935	19,179	26	8
Sep 1998	15,155	1,243	16,398	20	6
Sep 1999	13,551	952	14,503	44	8
Jan-Sep 1998	126,134	12,868	139,003	132	43
Jan-Sep 1999	135,127	13,375	148,501	188	55
Percent 2/					
Sep 1998	0.48	1.77	0.51	0.15	0.32
Sep 1999	0.40	1.28	0.42	0.34	0.43
1,000 Pounds					
Post-Mortem (N.Y. Dressed Weight)					
Aug 1999	49,242	4,702	53,943	275	16
Sep 1998	48,669	4,242	52,911	285	15
Sep 1999	45,503	4,237	49,739	262	27
Jan-Sep 1998	451,059	38,369	489,428	2,386	105
Jan-Sep 1999	455,444	42,589	498,033	2,565	92
Percent 3/					
Sep 1998	1.70	6.70	1.81	2.33	0.83
Sep 1999	1.49	6.31	1.59	2.21	1.56

See footnotes at end of table.

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

		Turkeys				
					Total	
		Fryer-		Total	Poultry	
		Roasters	Young	Old	Turkeys	
		1,000 Pounds				
Ante-Mortem						
(Live Weight)						
	Aug 1999	---	1,701	55	1,756	20,969
	Sep 1998	---	1,636	40	1,676	18,101
	Sep 1999	---	1,419	27	1,447	16,003
	Jan-Sep 1998	1	14,716	340	15,057	154,235
	Jan-Sep 1999	1	13,867	378	14,246	162,991
Percent 2/						
	Sep 1998	---	0.30	0.75	0.31	0.47
	Sep 1999	---	0.25	0.56	0.25	0.39
		1,000 Pounds				
Post-Mortem						
(N.Y. Dressed Weight)						
	Aug 1999	---	12,242	326	12,568	66,802
	Sep 1998	---	11,045	225	11,269	64,480
	Sep 1999	---	11,773	302	12,074	62,102
	Jan-Sep 1998	7	98,691	2,363	101,061	592,981
	Jan-Sep 1999	5	98,834	2,539	101,378	602,069
Percent 3/						
	Sep 1998	---	2.26	4.68	2.28	1.88
	Sep 1999	---	2.27	6.87	2.31	1.70

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, September 1998-1999

State	Number Inspected		Live Weight Inspected		Average Live Weight Inspected 1/				
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999			
	-----	1,000	-----	1,000	Pounds	----	---	Pounds	---
AL	71,150	81,300	354,228	421,210	4.98	5.18			
AR	94,588	99,220	450,115	479,313	4.76	4.83			
DE	23,019	23,475	126,524	135,905	5.50	5.79			
FL	10,547	10,093	55,394	53,429	5.25	5.29			
GA	97,958	96,617	473,513	482,888	4.83	5.00			
LA	14,497	13,572	65,168	59,403	4.50	4.38			
MD	17,941	17,390	85,171	85,674	4.75	4.93			
MS	56,303	58,426	271,658	293,022	4.82	5.02			
MO	29,138	30,242	125,782	136,242	4.32	4.51			
NC	54,026	48,754	291,931	273,142	5.40	5.60			
PA	8,943	9,276	45,861	49,265	5.13	5.31			
SC	17,862	16,631	84,271	79,715	4.72	4.79			
TN	15,291	18,580	72,280	86,231	4.73	4.64			
TX	42,508	46,241	189,175	212,529	4.45	4.60			
VA	28,915	31,376	134,863	151,592	4.66	4.83			
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---			
US	656,130	682,349	3,176,068	3,394,530	4.84	4.97			

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

Young Chickens Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations,  
Selected States and United States, September 1998-1999

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
			N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----		-----		-- Percent --	
AL	261,879	308,475	7,278	7,753	2.28	2.05
AR	326,234	351,374	5,969	5,643	1.47	1.31
DE	91,816	98,683	1,877	2,251	1.65	1.84
FL	38,019	37,635	1,089	1,088	2.18	2.26
GA	347,536	350,637	7,316	6,224	1.72	1.43
LA	45,268	41,849	1,412	1,157	2.41	2.16
MD	60,196	60,597	1,107	1,242	1.44	1.61
MS	202,388	225,504	3,516	2,833	1.44	1.07
MO	90,948	100,904	1,207	1,449	1.07	1.18
NC	217,071	206,134	4,467	3,837	1.70	1.56
PA	32,207	34,704	1,130	1,100	2.74	2.48
SC	61,510	57,725	1,807	1,089	2.38	1.52
TN	52,286	63,438	869	807	1.34	1.04
TX	145,848	165,827	1,998	2,368	1.17	1.24
VA	94,996	105,686	1,592	1,262	1.31	0.93
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	2,322,074	2,497,307	48,669	45,503	1.70	1.49

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 1999

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
Number						
AL	---	1,584	206,496	278,047	2,690	10,760
AR	---	2,414	271,932	89,343	13,430	4,827
DE	---	1,774	134,251	39,906	---	---
FL	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	1,954	152,300	179,578	1,073	8,804
LA	---	139	37,137	42,439	---	1,056
MD	---	2,672	102,182	23,125	---	6,846
MS	---	928	118,798	38,259	1,357	2,077
MO	---	2,646	71,379	28,157	2,167	1,781
NC	---	---	136,242	58,390	---	42,900
PA	---	---	33,802	15,952	285	---
SC	---	876	28,692	43,651	---	---
TN	---	---	51,151	19,171	580	---
TX	---	---	104,894	26,492	795	2,256
VA	---	---	76,556	20,866	57	---
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	---	36,352	1,858,787	977,594	34,102	134,742
Number						
	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
AL	13,283	59,124	73,258	15,775	198,041	859,058
AR	11,483	34,474	47,878	4,192	108,701	588,674
DE	3,430	16,370	16,464	9,896	43,627	265,718
FL	2,496	2,673	9,451	---	---	14,620
GA	14,270	53,521	57,242	9,978	290,048	768,768
LA	1,136	5,003	7,546	---	17,628	112,084
MD	2,124	16,513	---	1,655	21,535	176,652
MS	5,701	25,963	33,443	1,587	105,408	333,521
MO	2,399	12,756	19,829	---	---	141,114
NC	7,273	31,577	35,483	9,300	92,014	413,179
PA	2,397	4,874	---	207	33,680	91,197
SC	4,235	10,875	12,130	5,570	36,675	142,704
TN	2,347	7,853	13,823	3,045	28,682	126,652
TX	2,268	14,511	17,925	834	13,671	183,646
VA	2,142	13,332	7,753	2,715	52,058	175,479
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	83,738	344,287	480,741	74,955	1,352,961	5,378,259

Mature Chickens Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight,  
Selected States and United States, September 1998-1999

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	13,501	13,680	70,349	74,571	5.21	5.45

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

Mature Chickens Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations,  
Selected States and United States, September 1998-1999

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
	1998	1999	N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----				-- Percent --	
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	42,155	45,309	4,242	4,237	6.70	6.31

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 1999

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
	Number					
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	---	7,433	265,483	13,309	1,118	115,239

  

State	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
	Number					
CA	---	---	717	---	---	717
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	41,715	53,267	222,799	2,877	50,655	773,895

Young Turkeys (Mature) Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight, Selected States and United States, September 1998-1999

State	Number Inspected		Live Weight Inspected		Average Live Weight Inspected 1/	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	----- 1,000 -----		---- 1,000 Pounds ----		--- Pounds ---	
AR	2,040	2,205	34,749	40,067	17.03	18.17
CA	1,508	1,915	34,451	50,402	22.85	26.32
IA	1,274	1,466	34,229	42,261	26.87	28.84
MN	3,931	3,993	85,096	94,804	21.65	23.74
MO	1,823	2,082	47,036	56,864	25.80	27.32
NC	2,854	2,572	68,284	61,287	23.93	23.83
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	3,062	3,147	65,425	69,692	21.36	22.15
US	22,833	22,949	543,748	576,284	23.81	25.11

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

Young Turkeys (Mature) Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemns, Selected States and United States, September 1998-1999

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemns			
	1998	1999	N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----				-- Percent --	
AR	28,279	31,560	533	680	1.70	1.89
CA	27,875	40,022	746	820	2.41	1.81
IA	26,210	32,732	746	1,028	2.42	2.70
MN	67,213	75,326	2,271	2,472	2.97	2.90
MO	36,815	43,803	997	1,343	2.35	2.62
NC	53,435	48,515	1,285	1,301	2.09	2.36
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	49,500	52,994	944	999	1.60	1.59
US	425,344	451,329	11,045	11,773	2.26	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, September 1999

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
	Number					
AR	---	---	6,617	822	---	---
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---
IA	---	---	6,902	3,416	---	---
MN	---	---	16,636	5,170	1,729	15
MO	---	---	23,222	6,036	---	---
NC	---	---	5,440	---	---	20
PA	---	---	5,624	2,859	---	---
VA	---	18	4,235	257	---	---
US	---	100	103,525	25,203	6,744	487

  

State	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
	Number					
AR	---	398	---	---	---	7,837
CA	26	---	---	---	---	26
IA	88	---	989	---	---	11,395
MN	187	1,266	1,180	---	1,719	27,902
MO	61	---	618	---	1,553	31,490
NC	---	1,602	---	---	1,231	8,293
PA	79	---	579	---	---	9,141
VA	---	2,358	312	---	1,676	8,856
US	772	10,447	9,268	1,525	13,841	171,912



## 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 6, 1999.

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