



# Poultry Slaughter

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## Ready-to-Cook Weight Up 10 Percent

Poultry certified wholesome during May (ready-to-cook weight), totaled 3.26 billion pounds, up 10 percent from the amount certified in May 1999. Updated totals for April 2000 show that 2.80 billion pounds were certified.

The preliminary total live weight of poultry inspected during May 2000 was 4.41 billion pounds, up 9 percent from a year ago. Inspections included 3.70 billion pounds of young chickens, 9 percent above last year; 79.6 million pounds of mature chickens, up 2 percent; 623 million pounds of turkeys, up 11 percent; and 12.9 million pounds of ducks, up 7 percent from May 1999.

Young chickens slaughtered during May 2000 averaged 4.96 pounds per bird, down 2 percent from 5.04 pounds per bird in May 1999. The average live weight of mature chickens was 5.24 pounds per bird, up 3 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during May 2000 averaged 26.2 pounds per bird, up 2 percent from May 1999.

Ante-mortem condemnations during May 2000 totaled 16.3 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.37 percent of the live weight inspected, compared with 0.38 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 64.6 million pounds (N.Y. dressed weight), were 1.63 percent of quantities inspected, compared with 1.78 percent a year earlier.

May 2000 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays. May 1999 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and five Saturdays.

Poultry Slaughter: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight  
by Type, United States, May 2000 with Comparisons 1/

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature 2/	Total		
-----					
	1,000 Head				
Number Inspected					
Apr 2000	634,259	13,351	647,611	1,839	-----
May 1999	671,953	15,389	687,342	1,801	-----
May 2000	744,446	15,194	759,639	1,949	-----
Jan-May 1999	3,347,099	75,875	3,422,974	9,494	-----
Jan-May 2000	3,437,766	71,605	3,509,371	9,821	-----
-----					
	1,000 Pounds				
Live Weight					
Apr 2000	3,173,054	68,442	3,241,496	12,251	759
May 1999	3,384,721	78,126	3,462,847	12,036	878
May 2000	3,695,707	79,557	3,775,264	12,880	997
Jan-May 1999	16,788,657	383,731	17,172,388	63,259	4,154
Jan-May 2000	17,202,590	369,326	17,571,915	65,371	4,686
-----					
	Pounds				
Average Live Weight					
Apr 2000	5.00	5.13	5.01	6.66	-----
May 1999	5.04	5.08	5.04	6.68	-----
May 2000	4.96	5.24	4.97	6.61	-----
Jan-May 1999	5.02	5.06	5.02	6.66	-----
Jan-May 2000	5.00	5.16	5.01	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, May 2000 with Comparisons 1/ (continued)

		Turkeys				Total
		Fryer-	Young 3/	Old	Total	Poultry
		Roasters		Turkeys		
		1,000 Head				
Number Inspected						
Apr 2000	---	19,889	154	20,043	-----	
May 1999	27	21,675	107	21,809	-----	
May 2000	16	23,652	149	23,817	-----	
Jan-May 1999	27	102,699	660	103,386	-----	
Jan-May 2000	50	105,156	745	105,951	-----	
		1,000 Pounds				
Live Weight						
Apr 2000	---	520,945	4,067	525,013	3,779,518	
May 1999	236	557,661	2,798	560,695	4,036,456	
May 2000	130	619,137	4,049	623,317	4,412,458	
Jan-May 1999	236	2,631,581	17,691	2,649,508	19,889,309	
Jan-May 2000	401	2,762,115	19,851	2,782,367	20,424,339	
		Pounds				
Average Live Weight						
Apr 2000	---	26.19	26.39	26.19	-----	
May 1999	8.72	25.73	26.24	25.71	-----	
May 2000	8.13	26.18	27.09	26.17	-----	
Jan-May 1999	8.72	25.62	26.82	25.63	-----	
Jan-May 2000	8.05	26.27	26.64	26.26	-----	

- 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: May 1999: 5,749, May 2000: 6,251.  
3/ Of the Young Turkeys inspected, the number reported in thousands as young breeders was: May 1999: 32, May 2000: 92.

Poultry Slaughter: Chilled and Frozen, Pounds Certified by Type,  
United States, May 2000 with Comparisons 1/

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature	Total		
	1,000 Pounds				
Apr 2000					
Chilled	2,128,794	38,733	2,167,527	3,463	192
Frozen	204,923	2,559	207,482	5,140	275
Total	2,333,717	41,292	2,375,008	8,603	467
May 1999					
Chilled	2,262,898	43,543	2,306,440	3,266	303
Frozen	213,077	3,547	216,625	5,159	199
Total	2,475,975	47,090	2,523,065	8,425	502
May 2000					
Chilled	2,482,008	44,745	2,526,753	3,632	258
Frozen	232,293	3,309	235,603	5,478	343
Total	2,714,301	48,054	2,762,355	9,110	601
Jan-May 1999					
Chilled	11,232,523	214,303	11,446,826	17,371	1,530
Frozen	1,068,445	16,842	1,085,287	26,923	856
Total	12,300,968	231,145	12,532,113	44,294	2,385
Jan-May 2000					
Chilled	11,548,596	206,665	11,755,262	18,128	1,346
Frozen	1,101,536	15,078	1,116,614	28,356	1,538
Total	12,650,132	221,744	12,871,876	46,484	2,884

See footnotes at end of table.

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Poultry Slaughter: Chilled and Frozen, Pounds Certified by Type,  
United States, May 2000 with Comparisons 1/ (continued)

		Turkeys				
		Fryer- Roasters	Young	Old	Total Turkeys	Total Poultry
1,000 Pounds						
Apr 2000						
Chilled	---	206,227	2,100	208,327	2,379,509	
Frozen	---	207,307	870	208,178	421,074	
Total	---	413,534	2,970	416,505	2,800,583	
May 1999						
Chilled	21	190,684	1,514	192,218	2,502,228	
Frozen	146	247,876	603	248,625	470,608	
Total	166	438,560	2,117	440,843	2,972,835	
May 2000						
Chilled	5	229,296	2,062	231,364	2,762,007	
Frozen	91	259,399	939	260,429	501,852	
Total	96	488,695	3,001	491,792	3,263,859	
Jan-May 1999						
Chilled	21	959,361	9,654	969,036	12,434,763	
Frozen	146	1,113,659	3,601	1,117,406	2,230,471	
Total	166	2,073,020	13,255	2,086,442	14,665,234	
Jan-May 2000						
Chilled	204	1,063,475	10,384	1,074,063	12,848,799	
Frozen	108	1,114,248	4,322	1,118,678	2,265,186	
Total	313	2,177,723	14,706	2,192,742	15,113,985	

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



Poultry Slaughter: Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem Condemnations  
by Type, United States, May 2000 with Comparisons 1/ (continued)

		Turkeys			
					Total
		Fryer-			Poultry
		Roasters	Young	Old	Turkeys
		1,000 Pounds			
Ante-Mortem					
(Live Weight)					
Apr 2000	---	1,168	52	1,220	12,934
May 1999	---	1,319	24	1,343	15,295
May 2000	---	1,751	50	1,801	16,263
Jan-May 1999	---	6,811	162	6,974	81,891
Jan-May 2000	17	7,260	226	7,502	77,857
Percent 2/					
May 1999	0.17	0.24	0.87	0.24	0.38
May 2000	0.32	0.28	1.24	0.29	0.37
Post-Mortem					
(N.Y. Dressed Weight)					
Apr 2000	---	10,701	342	11,044	58,544
May 1999	2	10,539	275	10,816	64,687
May 2000	1	12,118	327	12,447	64,576
Jan-May 1999	2	52,699	1,309	54,011	342,965
Jan-May 2000	6	58,215	1,401	59,622	333,785
Percent 3/					
May 1999	0.96	2.10	10.92	2.14	1.78
May 2000	1.04	2.17	8.98	2.22	1.63

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, May 1999-2000

State	Number Inspected		Live Weight Inspected		Average Live Weight Inspected 1/		
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	
	-----	1,000	-----	1,000 Pounds	----	Pounds	----
AL	76,339	85,757	391,413	431,599	5.13	5.03	
AR	97,169	102,395	476,223	490,073	4.90	4.79	
DE	23,192	23,918	134,360	140,666	5.79	5.88	
FL	10,603	11,454	57,152	60,634	5.39	5.29	
GA	96,449	103,520	483,626	513,348	5.01	4.96	
LA	12,553	16,108	56,704	70,778	4.52	4.39	
MD	17,150	18,800	82,096	88,719	4.79	4.72	
MS	56,084	65,716	282,515	318,682	5.04	4.85	
MO	30,192	32,510	139,445	146,902	4.62	4.52	
NC	53,179	58,768	310,789	341,866	5.84	5.82	
PA	9,033	10,246	48,742	53,842	5.40	5.26	
SC	19,083	20,038	90,552	102,562	4.75	5.12	
TN	17,914	21,382	87,806	97,378	4.90	4.55	
TX	45,829	54,109	215,224	256,901	4.70	4.75	
VA	31,065	32,005	152,219	155,804	4.90	4.87	
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---	
US	671,953	744,445	3,384,721	3,695,707	5.04	4.96	

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

Young Chickens Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations,  
Selected States and United States, May 1999-2000

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
			N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
		----- 1,000 Pounds -----		-- Percent --		
AL	290,436	310,771	7,552	7,397	2.14	1.90
AR	343,639	360,622	6,015	5,500	1.40	1.25
DE	97,632	102,257	2,890	2,501	2.39	1.98
FL	40,134	41,187	944	968	1.84	1.77
GA	357,932	374,674	6,889	6,502	1.58	1.41
LA	39,234	50,134	1,169	602	2.29	0.95
MD	57,689	62,586	1,339	1,228	1.81	1.54
MS	209,482	245,201	2,644	2,454	1.04	0.86
MO	101,592	107,694	1,439	1,840	1.15	1.39
NC	234,024	258,518	4,786	5,023	1.71	1.63
PA	34,689	37,599	1,331	1,200	3.04	2.48
SC	66,604	74,868	1,459	1,937	1.79	2.10
TN	63,630	70,809	867	762	1.10	0.87
TX	162,757	201,243	2,402	3,006	1.24	1.30
VA	105,336	104,756	1,549	1,284	1.13	0.92
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	2,475,975	2,714,301	48,647	46,731	1.60	1.40

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, May 2000

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
Number						
AL	---	6,213	209,202	254,662	3,478	11,661
AR	---	4,176	254,095	97,782	---	4,805
DE	---	6,854	126,956	63,049	---	---
FL	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	2,520	154,199	198,442	785	13,375
LA	---	---	24,472	---	154	429
MD	---	10,008	81,232	33,721	61	9,382
MS	---	1,254	83,964	25,949	505	1,824
MO	---	2,643	95,288	40,321	2,193	2,315
NC	---	5,745	159,214	104,001	658	---
PA	---	---	42,235	24,292	---	---
SC	---	---	41,401	131,654	134	---
TN	---	326	46,322	21,250	489	1,140
TX	---	---	165,292	48,416	956	2,511
VA	---	---	66,834	27,478	---	---
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	---	63,655	1,880,855	1,151,195	29,146	137,663
Number						
	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
AL	10,912	55,954	52,664	18,142	160,127	783,015
AR	9,111	28,590	40,225	3,343	109,910	552,037
DE	2,797	12,113	13,711	---	51,019	276,499
FL	1,714	---	6,545	752	---	9,011
GA	10,993	34,329	32,122	9,949	190,113	646,827
LA	---	5,400	5,396	---	5,455	41,306
MD	2,278	19,969	---	1,135	28,402	186,188
MS	4,084	12,211	10,874	1,583	57,122	199,370
MO	2,477	20,135	20,139	4,137	45,674	235,322
NC	8,426	48,626	38,623	9,921	117,250	492,464
PA	1,957	3,944	11,861	127	38,808	123,224
SC	4,933	14,920	14,483	9,602	54,804	271,931
TN	2,452	16,748	---	1,220	20,715	110,662
TX	1,845	13,304	16,052	3,559	23,740	275,675
VA	1,614	8,920	---	---	16,461	121,307
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	71,619	346,853	369,178	76,097	1,054,450	5,180,711

Mature Chickens Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight,  
Selected States and United States, May 1999-2000

State	Number Inspected		Live Weight Inspected		Average Live Weight Inspected 1/	
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
	----- 1,000 -----		---- 1,000 Pounds ----		--- Pounds ---	
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	15,389	15,194	78,126	79,557	5.08	5.24

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

Mature Chickens Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations,  
Selected States and United States, May 1999-2000

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
	1999	2000	N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----				-- Percent --	
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	47,090	48,054	4,924	5,105	7.00	7.13

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, May 2000

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
	Number					
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	2,682	6,572	350,018	17,588	2,198	141,397
	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
	Number					
CA	---	---	232	---	---	232
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	45,051	52,245	235,231	1,544	75,575	930,101

Young Turkeys (Mature) Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight, Selected States and United States, May 1999-2000

State	Number Inspected		Live Weight Inspected		Average Live Weight Inspected 1/	
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
	----- 1,000 -----		---- 1,000 Pounds ----		--- Pounds ---	
AR	2,105	2,391	39,854	43,361	18.93	18.14
CA	1,348	1,592	33,218	42,104	24.64	26.44
IA	1,416	1,469	42,358	44,557	29.91	30.34
MN	3,575	3,665	87,707	90,741	24.53	24.76
MO	1,974	2,310	57,463	64,519	29.11	27.93
NC	2,718	3,037	67,494	79,918	24.83	26.32
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	3,038	3,189	66,841	70,775	22.00	22.19
US	21,675	23,652	557,661	619,137	25.73	26.18

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

Young Turkeys (Mature) Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemns, Selected States and United States, May 1999-2000

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemns			
	1999	2000	N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----				-- Percent --	
AR	32,413	35,881	581	799	1.62	2.05
CA	27,090	33,519	428	596	1.43	1.57
IA	32,355	34,808	1,010	1,100	2.65	2.74
MN	70,389	72,240	2,176	2,287	2.76	2.80
MO	44,226	51,210	1,205	1,226	2.33	2.11
NC	51,838	62,903	1,198	1,483	1.97	2.06
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	52,237	55,283	924	1,158	1.54	1.82
US	438,560	488,695	10,539	12,118	2.10	2.17

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, May 2000

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
	Number					
AR	---	---	4,020	---	---	---
CA	---	---	8,065	---	---	5
IA	---	---	---	1,765	---	---
MN	---	---	15,454	4,048	---	14
MO	---	---	15,399	1,928	62	---
NC	---	---	4,516	---	---	---
PA	---	---	---	634	55	---
VA	---	---	4,086	352	---	---
US	---	127	80,137	14,309	5,704	68

  

State	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
	Number					
AR	---	227	---	---	2,274	6,521
CA	25	---	---	---	---	8,095
IA	77	---	---	---	---	1,842
MN	252	670	813	---	1,309	22,560
MO	---	---	896	---	---	18,285
NC	88	857	---	---	1,342	6,803
PA	74	---	---	---	---	763
VA	23	1,620	---	---	1,408	7,489
US	977	7,598	10,354	2,350	13,610	135,234

Old Turkeys (Breeders) Slaughtered: Number Condemned Post-Mortem by Cause,  
United States, May 2000

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
			5,970	840	72	35
	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
US	21	150	314	---	771	8,173

## 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.

**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 3:00 p.m. ET on August 4, 2000.

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