



Poultry Slaughter

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Ready-to-Cook Weight Down 4 Percent

Poultry certified wholesome during March 2001 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 3.08 billion pounds, down 4 percent from the amount certified in March 2000. Updated totals for February 2001 show that 2.78 billion pounds were certified.

The preliminary total live weight of poultry inspected during March 2001 was 4.11 billion pounds, down 5 percent from a year ago. Inspections included 3.44 billion pounds of young chickens, 6 percent below last year; 73.6 million pounds of mature chickens, down 10 percent; 582 million pounds of turkeys, down 3 percent; and 14.0 million pounds of ducks, up 2 percent from March 2000.

Young chickens slaughtered during March 2001 averaged 5.02 pounds per bird, up 1 percent from March 2000. The average live weight of mature chickens was 5.15 pounds per bird, down 1 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during March 2001 averaged 26.9 pounds per bird, up 2 percent from March 2000.

Ante-mortem condemnations during March 2001 totaled 17.4 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.42 percent of the live weight inspected, compared with 0.35 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 63.6 million pounds (N.Y. dressed weight), were 1.72 percent of quantities inspected, compared with 1.92 percent a year earlier.

March 2001 contained 22 weekdays and five Saturdays.
March 2000 contained 23 weekdays and four Saturdays.

Poultry Slaughter: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight
by Type, United States, March 2001 with Comparisons 1/

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature 2/	Total		

	1,000 Head				
Number Inspected					
Feb 2001	627,357	12,734	640,092	2,001	-----
Mar 2000	730,560	15,709	746,269	2,057	-----
Mar 2001	685,976	14,296	700,271	2,130	-----
Jan-Mar 2000	2,059,338	43,060	2,102,397	6,032	-----
Jan-Mar 2001	2,023,675	41,029	2,064,704	6,456	-----

	1,000 Pounds				
Live Weight					
Feb 2001	3,145,744	66,369	3,212,113	13,252	811
Mar 2000	3,646,424	81,749	3,728,173	13,779	1,089
Mar 2001	3,440,813	73,575	3,514,388	14,015	722
Jan-Mar 2000	10,335,476	221,327	10,556,803	40,240	3,031
Jan-Mar 2001	10,156,964	212,026	10,368,989	42,673	2,308

	Pounds				
Average Live Weight					
Feb 2001	5.01	5.21	5.02	6.62	-----
Mar 2000	4.99	5.20	5.00	6.70	-----
Mar 2001	5.02	5.15	5.02	6.58	-----
Jan-Mar 2000	5.02	5.14	5.02	6.67	-----
Jan-Mar 2001	5.02	5.17	5.02	6.61	-----

See footnotes at end of table.

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Poultry Slaughter: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight
by Type, United States, March 2001 with Comparisons 1/ (continued)

		Turkeys			Total
		Fryer-	Young 3/	Old	Total Poultry
		Roasters	Young	Old	Turkeys
		1,000 Head			
Number Inspected					
Feb 2001	---	19,043	170	19,213	-----
Mar 2000	10	22,452	173	22,634	-----
Mar 2001	---	21,511	152	21,663	-----
Jan-Mar 2000	34	61,615	442	62,090	-----
Jan-Mar 2001	---	61,603	454	62,058	-----
		1,000 Pounds			
Live Weight					
Feb 2001	---	512,615	4,389	517,004	3,743,180
Mar 2000	76	592,974	4,652	597,703	4,340,744
Mar 2001	---	578,174	4,259	582,433	4,111,557
Jan-Mar 2000	271	1,622,032	11,735	1,634,038	12,234,112
Jan-Mar 2001	---	1,663,057	12,292	1,675,349	12,089,319
		Pounds			
Average Live Weight					
Feb 2001	---	26.92	25.80	26.91	-----
Mar 2000	7.81	26.41	26.91	26.41	-----
Mar 2001	---	26.88	28.01	26.89	-----
Jan-Mar 2000	8.01	26.33	26.57	26.32	-----
Jan-Mar 2001	---	27.00	27.07	27.00	-----

- 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 2000: 6,338, March 2001: 5,618.
3/ Of the Young Turkeys inspected, the number reported in thousands as young breeders was: March 2000: 129, March 2001: 38.

Poultry Slaughter: Chilled and Frozen, Pounds Certified by Type,
United States, March 2001 with Comparisons 1/

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature	Total		
	1,000 Pounds				
Feb 2001					
Chilled	2,117,068	38,889	2,155,957	3,628	141
Frozen	204,899	795	205,694	5,925	278
Total	2,321,967	39,684	2,361,651	9,553	419
Mar 2000					
Chilled	2,449,782	45,137	2,494,919	3,628	345
Frozen	238,092	3,181	241,273	6,292	340
Total	2,687,874	48,318	2,736,192	9,920	684
Mar 2001					
Chilled	2,338,019	43,693	2,381,712	3,864	152
Frozen	226,213	658	226,871	6,341	279
Total	2,564,232	44,352	2,608,583	10,206	430
Jan-Mar 2000					
Chilled	6,938,578	123,187	7,061,766	11,033	944
Frozen	664,790	9,210	674,000	17,738	928
Total	7,603,368	132,398	7,735,766	28,771	1,871
Jan-Mar 2001					
Chilled	6,857,051	124,318	6,981,369	11,721	484
Frozen	650,250	2,392	652,643	19,019	853
Total	7,507,302	126,710	7,634,012	30,740	1,337

See footnotes at end of table.

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Poultry Slaughter: Chilled and Frozen, Pounds Certified by Type,
 United States, March 2001 with Comparisons 1/ (continued)

		Turkeys			Total
		Fryer-	Young	Old	Poultry
		Roasters		Turkeys	
		1,000 Pounds			
Feb 2001					
Chilled	---	200,466	2,784	203,250	2,362,977
Frozen	---	203,960	587	204,547	416,444
Total	---	404,426	3,371	407,797	2,779,421
Mar 2000					
Chilled	56	232,062	1,989	234,108	2,733,000
Frozen	5	234,112	1,479	235,596	483,501
Total	61	466,175	3,468	469,704	3,216,500
Mar 2001					
Chilled	---	231,787	2,498	234,285	2,620,013
Frozen	---	224,903	782	225,686	459,177
Total	---	456,690	3,280	459,970	3,079,190
Jan-Mar 2000					
Chilled	199	627,951	6,222	634,372	7,708,114
Frozen	17	647,542	2,513	650,072	1,342,738
Total	217	1,275,493	8,735	1,284,444	9,050,852
Jan-Mar 2001					
Chilled	---	657,666	7,836	665,501	7,659,076
Frozen	---	658,809	1,686	660,496	1,333,010
Total	---	1,316,475	9,522	1,325,997	8,992,087

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 2001 with Comparisons 1/

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature	Total		
----- 1,000 Pounds					
Ante-Mortem (Live Weight)					
Feb 2001	12,534	1,139	13,673	19	1
Mar 2000	12,851	965	13,816	20	3
Mar 2001	13,635	1,124	14,759	20	3
Jan-Mar 2000	41,129	2,985	44,114	60	8
Jan-Mar 2001	42,768	3,498	46,266	63	8
Percent 2/					
Mar 2000	0.35	1.18	0.37	0.15	0.31
Mar 2001	0.40	1.53	0.42	0.15	0.46
----- 1,000 Pounds					
Post-Mortem (N.Y. Dressed Weight)					
Feb 2001	40,009	3,551	43,560	312	7
Mar 2000	55,919	5,618	61,537	284	12
Mar 2001	45,882	4,080	49,962	305	8
Jan-Mar 2000	158,979	14,659	173,639	893	31
Jan-Mar 2001	132,810	11,381	144,191	1,006	24
Percent 3/					
Mar 2000	1.70	7.64	1.83	2.29	1.20
Mar 2001	1.48	6.16	1.58	2.42	1.27

See footnotes at end of table.

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Poultry Slaughter: Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem Condemnations
by Type, United States, March 2001 with Comparisons 1/ (continued)

		Turkeys			
					Total
		Fryer-			Poultry
		Roasters	Young	Old	Turkeys
		1,000 Pounds			
Ante-Mortem					
(Live Weight)					
Feb 2001	---	1,737	46	1,783	15,475
Mar 2000	---	1,491	35	1,526	15,366
Mar 2001	---	2,603	50	2,653	17,436
Jan-Mar 2000	16	4,341	124	4,481	48,663
Jan-Mar 2001	---	6,378	158	6,536	52,873
Percent 2/					
Mar 2000	0.14	0.25	0.74	0.26	0.35
Mar 2001	---	0.45	1.18	0.46	0.42
Post-Mortem					
(N.Y. Dressed Weight)					
Feb 2001	---	12,107	279	12,387	56,266
Mar 2000	1	13,010	301	13,312	75,145
Mar 2001	---	13,040	305	13,345	63,620
Jan-Mar 2000	5	35,396	731	36,132	210,694
Jan-Mar 2001	---	37,642	825	38,466	183,688
Percent 3/					
Mar 2000	1.51	2.44	7.18	2.47	1.92
Mar 2001	---	2.51	7.94	2.55	1.72

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 2000-2001

State	Number Inspected		Live Weight Inspected		Average Live Weight Inspected 1/				
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001			
	-----	1,000	-----	1,000	Pounds	----	---	Pounds	---
AL	84,417	81,076	428,094	411,342	5.07	5.07			
AR	104,010	98,069	502,100	472,464	4.83	4.82			
DE	25,100	21,569	142,077	122,701	5.66	5.69			
FL	11,248	10,263	61,279	55,850	5.45	5.44			
GA	101,920	95,538	511,352	478,279	5.02	5.01			
LA	17,311	12,704	75,371	54,572	4.35	4.30			
MD	18,081	16,692	86,942	78,653	4.81	4.71			
MS	62,268	60,552	315,650	300,346	5.07	4.96			
MO	31,758	30,534	143,392	137,464	4.52	4.50			
NC	57,814	53,296	334,273	309,009	5.78	5.80			
PA	9,754	9,506	51,644	49,650	5.29	5.22			
SC	19,748	18,175	100,967	96,782	5.11	5.32			
TN	19,649	19,014	92,032	88,673	4.68	4.66			
TX	50,095	51,645	238,785	252,804	4.77	4.90			
VA	30,916	29,324	150,252	144,762	4.86	4.94			
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---			
US	730,560	685,976	3,646,424	3,440,813	4.99	5.02			

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

Young Chickens Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations,
Selected States and United States, March 2000-2001

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
			N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----				-- Percent --	
AL	311,345	302,554	10,343	6,079	2.68	1.64
AR	364,647	342,696	6,880	6,654	1.52	1.56
DE	102,979	88,844	2,731	2,653	2.14	2.40
FL	43,182	40,210	1,123	860	2.04	1.71
GA	377,292	354,222	8,813	6,018	1.91	1.40
LA	53,625	54,902	770	512	1.14	1.04
MD	60,696	55,422	1,248	1,240	1.60	1.75
MS	246,053	228,336	3,246	2,838	1.14	1.05
MO	105,765	97,667	1,965	1,980	1.52	1.60
NC	253,408	231,858	5,068	4,844	1.68	1.74
PA	36,237	34,990	1,342	1,110	2.89	2.48
SC	73,440	69,852	2,088	1,452	2.30	1.67
TN	67,151	64,343	754	723	0.91	0.91
TX	182,281	205,855	2,797	3,065	1.30	1.35
VA	104,926	104,110	1,574	1,595	1.16	1.22
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	2,687,874	2,564,232	55,919	45,882	1.70	1.48

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 2001

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
Number						
AL	---	1,978	231,348	102,417	2,014	17,780
AR	---	8,251	303,702	166,334	5,077	7,532
DE	---	13,593	115,164	74,966	---	---
FL	---	234	---	---	---	---
GA	---	1,114	130,173	205,695	664	20,841
LA	---	---	19,736	---	170	892
MD	---	---	64,052	44,817	214	---
MS	---	849	92,426	38,281	536	3,831
MO	---	3,262	---	80,777	3,844	8,905
NC	---	4,512	148,299	119,200	---	64,793
PA	---	1,484	39,077	28,441	454	---
SC	---	661	18,741	41,905	132	---
TN	---	186	44,892	18,924	475	2,179
TX	---	---	198,079	85,768	857	5,052
VA	---	---	73,899	50,266	---	---
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	---	81,089	2,747,772	1,139,300	20,717	242,777
Number						
	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
AL	8,158	35,226	44,624	9,425	91,178	544,148
AR	8,501	30,837	38,721	3,619	105,074	677,648
DE	2,898	8,649	10,523	---	39,465	265,258
FL	1,144	3,565	3,598	---	16,754	25,295
GA	8,247	47,214	30,050	4,553	188,262	636,813
LA	686	3,528	3,520	70	---	28,602
MD	2,082	---	---	2,653	28,356	142,174
MS	3,860	16,824	10,866	665	74,105	242,243
MO	2,161	15,587	16,410	---	---	130,946
NC	7,190	36,510	27,546	5,897	84,704	498,651
PA	1,771	5,613	8,652	---	37,705	123,197
SC	---	---	7,244	---	14,862	83,545
TN	2,786	8,026	8,568	---	---	86,036
TX	1,992	16,733	16,345	841	23,944	349,611
VA	1,872	8,806	---	---	21,959	156,802
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	59,551	292,474	315,622	43,469	965,468	5,908,239

Mature Chickens Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight,
Selected States and United States, March 2000-2001

State	Number Inspected		Live Weight Inspected		Average Live Weight Inspected 1/	
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
	----- 1,000 -----		---- 1,000 Pounds ----		--- Pounds ---	
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	15,709	14,296	81,749	73,575	5.20	5.15

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

Mature Chickens Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations,
Selected States and United States, March 2000-2001

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
	2000	2001	N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----				-- Percent --	
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	48,318	44,352	5,618	4,080	7.64	6.16

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 2001

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
	Number					
CA	---	---	---	235	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	---	7,633	293,505	13,655	699	130,291

State	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
	Number					
CA	---	---	386	---	---	621
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	32,937	30,510	156,035	2,990	63,366	731,621

Young Turkeys (Mature) Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight, Selected States and United States, March 2000-2001

State	Number Inspected		Live Weight Inspected		Average Live Weight Inspected 1/	
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
	----- 1,000 -----		---- 1,000 Pounds ----		--- Pounds ---	
AR	2,297	2,297	41,859	41,571	18.22	18.10
CA	1,549	1,107	39,933	28,491	25.78	25.75
IA	1,298	1,323	42,326	42,447	32.61	32.07
MN	3,449	3,094	88,038	79,484	25.53	25.69
MO	2,276	2,070	63,336	53,657	27.83	25.92
NC	2,888	2,934	75,167	77,278	26.02	26.34
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	22,452	21,511	592,974	578,173	26.41	26.88

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

Young Turkeys (Mature) Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemns, Selected States and United States, March 2000-2001

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemns			
	2000	2001	N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----				-- Percent --	
AR	34,651	34,678	771	628	2.05	1.68
CA	31,771	24,391	603	604	1.68	2.36
IA	32,772	32,300	1,211	1,316	3.18	3.44
MN	68,959	62,977	2,865	2,637	3.62	3.69
MO	49,430	42,284	1,269	1,269	2.23	2.63
NC	59,492	60,888	1,621	1,484	2.40	2.13
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	466,175	456,690	13,010	13,040	2.44	2.51

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 2001

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
	Number					
AR	---	---	5,448	---	---	---
CA	---	---	---	85	---	---
IA	---	---	7,251	3,742	---	---
MN	---	---	13,460	3,559	---	12
MO	---	---	17,985	---	---	---
NC	---	---	6,342	---	---	---
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	---	12	5,371	202	---	---
US	---	148	92,908	17,092	6,321	126

	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
	Number					
AR	---	403	---	---	---	5,851
CA	---	---	---	79	272	436
IA	89	---	436	---	1,263	12,781
MN	137	951	729	---	968	19,816
MO	---	---	---	---	---	17,985
NC	---	1,478	---	---	1,551	9,371
PA	148	---	---	---	---	148
VA	---	---	---	---	---	5,585
US	1,372	7,482	13,020	2,830	14,591	155,890

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 June 1, 2001.

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