

Poultry Slaughter



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Washington, D.C.

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Ready-to-Cook Weight Up 4 Percent

Poultry Certified Wholesome during May (ready-to-cook weight), totaled 2.81 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the amount certified in May 1995. Updated totals for April 1996 show that 2.71 billion pounds were certified. The January through May cumulative total of pounds certified, at 13.6 billion pounds, was up 8 percent from the same period the previous year.

The preliminary total Live Weight of Poultry Inspected during May 1996 was 3.81 billion pounds. Inspections included 3.11 billion pounds of young chickens, 69.8 million pounds of mature chickens, 614 million pounds of turkeys, and 11.6 million pounds of ducks.

Young chickens slaughtered during May 1996 averaged 4.75 pounds per bird, up 2 percent from the average live weight a year ago. The average live weight of mature chickens was up 1 percent from 5.07 pounds per bird the previous year to 5.10 pounds. Turkeys slaughtered during May 1996 averaged 24.1 pounds per bird, up 1 percent from May 1995.

Ante-mortem condemnations during May 1996 totaled 13.2 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.35 percent of the live weight inspected, compared with 0.33 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 63.4 million pounds (N.Y. dressed weight), were 1.85 percent of quantities inspected, compared with 1.89 percent a year earlier.

May 1996 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays, the same as May 1995. Each weekday represents approximately 5 percent of the month's total.

Poultry Slaughter: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight
by Type, United States, May 1996 with Comparisons 1/

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature 2/	Total		

	1,000 Head				
Number Inspected					
Apr 1996	631,470	14,332	645,803	1,621	-----
May 1995	654,542	14,720	669,262	1,708	-----
May 1996	655,214	13,697	668,911	1,724	-----
Jan-May 1995	3,037,882	71,306	3,109,188	7,829	-----
Jan-May 1996	3,166,746	68,775	3,235,522	8,155	-----

	1,000 Pounds				
Live Weight					
Apr 1996	3,034,819	73,395	3,108,214	10,962	604
May 1995	3,046,176	74,622	3,120,799	11,521	424
May 1996	3,111,026	69,794	3,180,820	11,558	902
Jan-May 1995	14,155,788	354,410	14,510,198	52,647	1,851
Jan-May 1996	15,187,139	355,836	15,542,976	54,769	3,282

	Pounds				
Average Live Weight					
Apr 1996	4.81	5.12	4.81	6.76	-----
May 1995	4.65	5.07	4.66	6.75	-----
May 1996	4.75	5.10	4.76	6.70	-----
Jan-May 1995	4.66	4.97	4.67	6.72	-----
Jan-May 1996	4.80	5.17	4.80	6.72	-----

See footnotes at end of table.

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Poultry Slaughter: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight
by Type, United States, May 1996 with Comparisons 1/ (continued)

	Turkeys				Total Poultry
	Fryer- Roasters	Young 3/	Old	Total Turkeys	
	1,000 Head				
Number Inspected					
Apr 1996	24	22,992	255	23,270	-----
May 1995	5	23,447	97	23,550	-----
May 1996	21	25,345	103	25,469	-----
Jan-May 1995	64	106,579	613	107,256	-----
Jan-May 1996	89	114,857	784	115,730	-----
	1,000 Pounds				
Live Weight					
Apr 1996	201	552,762	7,382	560,345	3,680,125
May 1995	47	559,433	2,600	562,080	3,694,824
May 1996	178	610,666	2,847	613,692	3,806,971
Jan-May 1995	614	2,535,498	15,418	2,551,530	17,116,226
Jan-May 1996	803	2,762,037	21,185	2,784,025	18,385,052
	Pounds				
Average Live Weight					
Apr 1996	8.53	24.04	28.98	24.08	-----
May 1995	9.74	23.86	26.71	23.87	-----
May 1996	8.52	24.09	27.72	24.10	-----
Jan-May 1995	9.56	23.79	25.17	23.79	-----
Jan-May 1996	9.03	24.05	27.03	24.06	-----

- 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 1995: 5,314, May 1996: 5,266.
3/ Of the Young Turkeys inspected, the number reported in thousands as young breeders was: May 1995: 37, May 1996: 86.

Poultry Slaughter: Chilled and Frozen, Pounds Certified by Type,
United States, May 1996 with Comparisons 1/

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature	Total		
1,000 Pounds					
Apr 1996					
Chilled	2,038,955	42,897	2,081,852	2,895	160
Frozen	176,847	1,786	178,634	5,042	188
Total	2,215,803	44,683	2,260,486	7,937	348
May 1995					
Chilled	2,027,490	42,664	2,070,154	2,566	50
Frozen	184,159	2,345	186,504	5,740	210
Total	2,211,649	45,009	2,256,658	8,306	261
May 1996					
Chilled	2,097,005	40,352	2,137,357	3,031	230
Frozen	176,815	2,287	179,103	5,384	261
Total	2,273,821	42,640	2,316,460	8,415	491
Jan-May 1995					
Chilled	9,393,404	204,515	9,597,919	12,243	273
Frozen	877,432	10,875	888,307	25,581	878
Total	10,270,836	215,391	10,486,226	37,824	1,151
Jan-May 1996					
Chilled	10,177,923	206,257	10,384,179	14,913	825
Frozen	920,900	9,943	930,842	24,670	1,052
Total	11,098,822	216,199	11,315,022	39,583	1,877

See footnotes at end of table.

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Poultry Slaughter: Chilled and Frozen, Pounds Certified by Type,
 United States, May 1996 with Comparisons 1/ (continued)

	Turkeys				Total Poultry
	Fryer- Roasters	Young	Old	Total Turkeys	
1,000 Pounds					
Apr 1996					
Chilled	1	206,681	4,847	211,529	2,296,436
Frozen	157	228,630	685	229,471	413,335
Total	158	435,310	5,532	441,000	2,709,771
May 1995					
Chilled	---	214,376	1,259	215,635	2,288,405
Frozen	35	227,069	677	227,780	420,235
Total	35	441,445	1,935	443,415	2,708,640
May 1996					
Chilled	2	227,676	1,431	229,109	2,369,727
Frozen	138	255,276	699	256,113	440,862
Total	139	482,953	2,131	485,223	2,810,589
Jan-May 1995					
Chilled	---	1,007,736	8,218	1,015,953	10,626,388
Frozen	456	991,620	3,420	995,496	1,910,263
Total	456	1,999,356	11,638	2,011,449	12,536,651
Jan-May 1996					
Chilled	3	1,064,263	11,853	1,076,119	11,476,037
Frozen	630	1,115,244	4,081	1,119,956	2,076,520
Total	633	2,179,507	15,934	2,196,075	13,552,557

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 1996 with Comparisons 1/

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature	Total		
1,000 Pounds					
Ante-Mortem (Live Weight)					
Apr 1996	10,498	988	11,486	6	4
May 1995	9,669	1,177	10,846	9	2
May 1996	10,439	1,153	11,593	9	6
Jan-May 1995	49,915	5,156	55,071	53	8
Jan-May 1996	61,119	5,604	66,723	39	18
Percent 2/					
May 1995	0.32	1.58	0.35	0.07	0.35
May 1996	0.34	1.65	0.36	0.07	0.66
1,000 Pounds					
Post-Mortem (N.Y. Dressed Weight)					
Apr 1996	48,152	4,072	52,224	162	5
May 1995	48,906	3,654	52,560	187	5
May 1996	47,714	3,803	51,516	176	9
Jan-May 1995	228,131	16,998	245,129	862	25
Jan-May 1996	246,210	20,189	266,400	816	39
Percent 3/					
May 1995	1.78	5.44	1.87	1.80	1.27
May 1996	1.70	6.05	1.80	1.69	1.15

See footnotes at end of table.

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Poultry Slaughter: Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem Condemnations
by Type, United States, May 1996 with Comparisons 1/ (continued)

		Turkeys			Total	
		Fryer- Roasters	Young	Old	Total Turkeys	Poultry
		1,000 Pounds				
Ante-Mortem (Live Weight)						
Apr 1996	---	1,356	44	1,400	12,896	
May 1995	---	1,178	41	1,219	12,075	
May 1996	2	1,602	25	1,629	13,236	
Jan-May 1995	4	5,923	138	6,065	61,197	
Jan-May 1996	4	8,115	222	8,342	75,122	
Percent 2/						
May 1995	0.28	0.21	1.56	0.22	0.33	
May 1996	1.04	0.26	0.89	0.27	0.35	
Post-Mortem (N.Y. Dressed Weight)						
Apr 1996	3	10,500	438	10,942	63,333	
May 1995	1	9,734	212	9,947	62,699	
May 1996	4	11,494	202	11,699	63,401	
Jan-May 1995	7	48,376	1,189	49,572	295,588	
Jan-May 1996	11	56,008	1,372	57,392	324,647	
Percent 3/						
May 1995	1.81	1.93	9.07	1.97	1.89	
May 1996	2.42	2.09	7.87	2.12	1.85	

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 1995-96

State	Number Inspected		Live Weight Inspected		Average Live Weight Inspected 1/	
	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996
	-----	1,000	-----	1,000 Pounds	---	Pounds
AL	80,697	75,563	374,768	359,802	4.64	4.76
AR	101,258	99,137	453,253	468,535	4.48	4.73
CA	21,143	22,101	105,465	115,152	4.99	5.21
DE	25,241	24,027	136,779	130,223	5.42	5.42
FL	13,177	11,010	57,173	48,865	4.34	4.44
GA	87,426	89,943	419,665	436,247	4.80	4.85
LA	12,277	14,667	56,405	67,401	4.59	4.60
MD	18,815	17,845	87,789	84,313	4.67	4.72
MS	53,849	56,467	245,383	256,244	4.56	4.54
MO	23,886	29,693	99,582	125,629	4.17	4.23
NC	56,337	55,225	287,707	284,631	5.11	5.15
PA	8,571	8,788	43,111	44,355	5.03	5.05
SC	20,372	20,496	85,532	92,027	4.20	4.49
TN	14,581	15,044	65,556	66,071	4.50	4.39
TX	38,984	38,940	171,376	172,547	4.40	4.43
VA	32,799	32,404	152,715	155,674	4.66	4.80
WA	3,494	3,232	17,283	16,858	4.95	5.22
US	654,542	655,214	3,046,176	3,111,026	4.65	4.75

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

Young Chickens Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations,
Selected States and United States, May 1995-96

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
			N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----		-- Percent --			
AL	278,219	265,004	8,458	7,131	2.51	2.20
AR	322,056	336,916	5,558	6,187	1.36	1.47
CA	75,514	83,738	2,719	1,531	2.86	1.48
DE	98,870	94,201	2,499	2,592	2.03	2.21
FL	41,007	36,079	533	743	1.04	1.69
GA	311,813	324,097	6,952	6,422	1.84	1.64
LA	40,827	48,551	880	1,008	1.73	1.66
MD	61,448	59,727	1,540	1,628	1.95	2.15
MS	185,270	193,702	2,898	2,561	1.31	1.11
MO	72,177	91,311	1,414	1,790	1.58	1.58
NC	203,121	210,738	4,588	3,847	1.77	1.50
PA	30,360	31,307	950	1,403	2.45	3.52
SC	63,299	65,613	1,409	1,429	1.83	1.72
TN	46,786	48,166	801	637	1.36	1.07
TX	129,914	131,776	2,022	1,910	1.31	1.23
VA	103,455	106,448	2,112	3,690	1.54	2.63
WA	12,897	12,488	401	464	2.58	3.06
US	2,211,649	2,273,821	48,906	47,714	1.78	1.70

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 1996

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
Number						
AL	---	9,952	222,388	212,064	5,002	17,331
AR	---	7,399	309,387	182,807	11,733	8,100
CA	---	---	87,957	7,650	1,704	---
DE	---	69,510	128,985	102,537	---	---
FL	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	185,697	261,554	2,756	16,110
LA	---	917	49,696	26,978	593	3,039
MD	---	55,742	108,043	45,070	---	10,916
MS	---	5,618	98,367	32,043	1,012	18,356
MO	---	6,125	96,303	40,584	2,456	2,061
NC	---	22,146	123,112	57,335	114	44,640
PA	---	5,261	44,453	37,868	455	3,463
SC	---	1,869	31,490	---	---	4,428
TN	---	---	54,395	9,575	---	---
TX	---	1,048	111,301	40,963	648	2,646
VA	---	---	84,558	46,513	226	---
WA	---	---	27,519	---	237	1,391
US	---	252,441	1,963,330	1,247,814	43,018	189,132
Number						
	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
AL	15,098	26,497	88,979	9,208	264,510	871,029
AR	15,631	27,553	79,415	2,540	123,506	768,071
CA	780	8,806	4,215	---	35,352	146,464
DE	4,166	13,523	17,272	3,570	36,583	376,146
FL	---	2,499	7,613	---	---	10,112
GA	16,690	37,995	63,972	12,663	215,640	813,077
LA	2,471	2,804	16,574	47	---	103,119
MD	2,052	---	---	---	36,907	258,730
MS	5,876	18,732	26,807	2,478	104,398	313,687
MO	3,141	14,862	22,387	1,686	27,230	216,835
NC	6,923	26,866	80,604	3,733	177,952	543,425
PA	3,638	2,561	---	278	33,598	131,575
SC	4,078	20,541	18,427	2,051	53,965	136,849
TN	2,502	4,960	---	475	26,795	98,702
TX	1,425	7,612	13,242	2,117	5,709	186,711
VA	3,571	7,116	26,262	2,211	---	170,457
WA	519	972	832	1,264	19,486	52,220
US	97,367	253,418	575,518	51,409	1,412,358	6,085,805

Mature Chickens Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight,
Selected States and United States, May 1995-96

State	Number Inspected		Live Weight Inspected		Average Live Weight Inspected 1/	
	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996
	----- 1,000 -----		----- 1,000 Pounds -----		----- Pounds -----	
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	14,720	13,697	74,622	69,794	5.07	5.10

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

Mature Chickens Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations,
Selected States and United States, May 1995-96

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
	1995	1996	N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----		-----		----- Percent -----	
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	45,009	42,640	3,654	3,803	5.44	6.05

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, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight, Selected States and United States, May 1995-96

State	Number Inspected		Live Weight Inspected		Average Live Weight Inspected 1/	
	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996
	----- 1,000 -----		---- 1,000 Pounds ----		--- Pounds ---	
AR	2,251	2,377	46,798	46,124	20.79	19.41
CA	1,616	1,798	34,648	38,289	21.43	21.29
IA	1,219	1,164	37,908	33,431	31.10	28.71
MN	3,128	3,702	68,100	81,050	21.77	21.89
MO	1,717	2,018	44,474	54,743	25.91	27.12
NC	4,213	4,380	101,074	110,615	23.99	25.26
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	3,238	3,484	61,351	67,177	18.95	19.28
US	23,447	25,345	559,433	610,666	23.86	24.09

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

Young Turkeys (Mature) Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemns, Selected States and United States, May 1995-96

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemns			
	1995	1996	N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----				-- Percent --	
AR	38,787	37,870	916	1,041	2.18	2.51
CA	28,120	31,199	513	484	1.64	1.40
IA	29,689	25,706	872	801	2.56	2.66
MN	54,382	64,336	1,312	2,008	2.14	2.75
MO	34,831	43,087	832	1,419	2.08	2.88
NC	79,111	87,139	1,371	1,622	1.51	1.63
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	48,318	52,697	774	853	1.40	1.41
US	441,445	482,953	9,734	11,494	1.93	2.09

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 Condemed Post-Mortem by Cause,
Selected States and United States, May 1996

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
	Number					
AR	---	---	7,199	418	---	---
CA	---	---	6,119	63	---	32
IA	---	---	---	3,746	---	---
MN	---	---	14,584	---	1,714	---
MO	---	---	27,622	3,710	---	---
NC	---	5	6,118	764	---	4
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	---	---	5,909	451	---	---
US	---	129	102,497	18,858	9,316	157

State	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
	Number					
AR	---	---	1,263	---	1,256	10,136
CA	---	---	---	---	---	6,214
IA	---	---	---	---	---	3,746
MN	305	1,420	1,589	390	---	20,002
MO	133	---	735	322	939	33,461
NC	---	1,874	1,364	508	1,502	12,139
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	27	909	221	---	---	7,517
US	1,375	8,059	8,597	2,520	14,345	165,853

Old Turkeys (Brooders) Slaughtered: Number Condemned Post-Mortem by Cause,
 United States, May 1996

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
	Number					
US	---	---	3,315	193	---	78
	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
	Number					
US	8	98	97	---	964	4,753

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 August 5, 1996.

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