

# Poultry Slaughter



USDA  
Washington, D.C.

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## Ready-to-Cook Weight Up 5 Percent

Poultry Certified Wholesome during April (ready-to-cook weight), totaled 2.82 billion pounds, up 5 percent from the amount certified in April 1996. Updated totals for March 1997 show that 2.60 billion pounds were certified.

The preliminary total Live Weight of Poultry Inspected during April 1997 was 3.83 billion pounds. Inspections included 3.17 billion pounds of young chickens, 74.3 million pounds of mature chickens, 570 million pounds of turkeys, and 12.5 million pounds of ducks.

Young chickens slaughtered during April 1997 averaged 4.87 pounds per bird, up 1 percent from the average live weight a year ago. The average live weight of mature chickens was down 8 percent from 5.08 pounds per bird the previous year to 4.67 pounds. Turkeys slaughtered during April 1997 averaged 24.3 pounds per bird, up one percent from April 1996.

Ante-mortem condemnations during April 1997 totaled 12.5 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.33 percent of the live weight inspected, compared with 0.35 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 66.3 million pounds (N.Y. dressed weight), were 1.92 percent of quantities inspected, compared with 1.91 percent a year earlier.

April 1997 contained 22 weekdays and four Saturdays, the same as April 1996. Each weekday represents approximately 5 percent of the month's total.

Poultry Slaughter: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight  
by Type, United States, April 1997 with Comparisons 1/

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature 2/	Total		
1,000 Head					
Number Inspected					
Mar 1997	608,291	14,044	622,335	1,715	-----
Apr 1996	626,220	14,136	640,356	1,621	-----
Apr 1997	650,130	15,914	666,044	1,834	-----
Jan-Apr 1996	2,506,533	54,882	2,561,415	6,430	-----
Jan-Apr 1997	2,508,830	57,370	2,566,200	7,026	-----
1,000 Pounds					
Live Weight					
Mar 1997	2,942,628	67,324	3,009,952	11,561	1,156
Apr 1996	3,015,292	71,822	3,087,114	10,962	605
Apr 1997	3,167,692	74,323	3,242,015	12,455	1,059
Jan-Apr 1996	12,057,846	284,469	12,342,315	43,211	2,382
Jan-Apr 1997	12,195,176	279,167	12,474,343	47,150	4,462
Pounds					
Average Live Weight					
Mar 1997	4.84	4.79	4.84	6.74	-----
Apr 1996	4.82	5.08	4.82	6.76	-----
Apr 1997	4.87	4.67	4.87	6.79	-----
Jan-Apr 1996	4.81	5.18	4.82	6.72	-----
Jan-Apr 1997	4.86	4.87	4.86	6.71	-----

See footnotes at end of table.

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Poultry Slaughter: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight  
by Type, United States, April 1997 with Comparisons 1/ (continued)

		Turkeys				Total Poultry
		Fryer- Roasters	Young 3/	Old	Total Turkeys	
		1,000 Head				
Number Inspected						
Mar 1997		---	21,334	113	21,447	-----
Apr 1996		24	22,758	255	23,036	-----
Apr 1997		35	23,261	148	23,445	-----
Jan-Apr 1996		68	89,278	681	90,027	-----
Jan-Apr 1997		51	87,931	471	88,453	-----
Live Weight		1,000 Pounds				
Mar 1997		4	507,994	2,908	510,906	3,533,574
Apr 1996		201	546,816	7,382	554,400	3,653,080
Apr 1997		318	565,558	4,095	569,971	3,825,500
Jan-Apr 1996		625	2,145,426	18,338	2,164,389	14,552,297
Jan-Apr 1997		506	2,130,659	12,815	2,143,979	14,669,934
Average Live Weight		Pounds				
Mar 1997		8.87	23.81	25.81	23.82	-----
Apr 1996		8.53	24.03	28.98	24.07	-----
Apr 1997		9.01	24.31	27.62	24.31	-----
Jan-Apr 1996		9.19	24.03	26.92	24.04	-----
Jan-Apr 1997		9.90	24.23	27.24	24.24	-----

- 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: April 1996: 5,339, April 1997: 4,893.  
3/ Of the Young Turkeys inspected, the number reported in thousands as young breeders was: April 1996: 73, April 1997: 111.

Poultry Slaughter: Chilled and Frozen, Pounds Certified by Type,  
United States, April 1997 with Comparisons 1/

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature	Total		
1,000 Pounds					
Mar 1997					
Chilled	1,967,182	39,311	2,006,492	3,063	391
Frozen	183,685	1,337	185,022	5,121	250
Total	2,150,867	40,648	2,191,514	8,184	641
Apr 1996					
Chilled	2,027,759	41,760	2,069,519	2,895	160
Frozen	173,906	1,786	175,692	5,042	188
Total	2,201,664	43,546	2,245,211	7,937	349
Apr 1997					
Chilled	2,118,832	42,917	2,161,748	3,201	350
Frozen	194,964	1,596	196,560	5,662	247
Total	2,313,796	44,512	2,358,308	8,863	597
Jan-Apr 1996					
Chilled	8,070,594	164,768	8,235,361	11,882	596
Frozen	741,142	7,655	748,797	19,286	790
Total	8,811,736	172,423	8,984,159	31,168	1,386
Jan-Apr 1997					
Chilled	8,162,469	161,107	8,323,576	12,628	1,528
Frozen	737,900	6,271	744,171	21,063	926
Total	8,900,369	167,378	9,067,747	33,691	2,453

See footnotes at end of table.

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Poultry Slaughter: Chilled and Frozen, Pounds Certified by Type,  
 United States, April 1997 with Comparisons 1/ (continued)

	Turkeys				Total Poultry
	Fryer- Roasters	Young	Old	Total Turkeys	
	1,000 Pounds				
Mar 1997					
Chilled	3	199,177	1,578	200,758	2,210,705
Frozen	---	200,084	669	200,752	391,145
Total	3	399,261	2,246	401,510	2,601,850
Apr 1996					
Chilled	1	205,112	4,847	209,960	2,282,535
Frozen	157	225,802	685	226,643	407,565
Total	158	430,913	5,532	436,603	2,690,099
Apr 1997					
Chilled	---	211,918	2,407	214,326	2,379,626
Frozen	232	234,675	712	235,619	438,087
Total	233	446,593	3,119	449,945	2,817,713
Jan-Apr 1996					
Chilled	1	835,018	10,422	845,441	9,093,281
Frozen	493	857,140	3,382	861,014	1,629,888
Total	494	1,692,158	13,804	1,706,456	10,723,169
Jan-Apr 1997					
Chilled	70	823,026	7,771	830,867	9,168,599
Frozen	302	852,039	2,047	854,388	1,620,548
Total	372	1,675,066	9,818	1,685,256	10,789,147

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

Poultry Slaughter: Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem Condemnations  
by Type, United States, April 1997 with Comparisons 1/

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature	Total		
1,000 Pounds					
Ante-Mortem (Live Weight)					
Mar 1997	9,403	902	10,304	9	7
Apr 1996	10,423	979	11,402	6	4
Apr 1997	10,201	1,057	11,258	12	3
Jan-Apr 1996	50,607	4,442	55,048	30	12
Jan-Apr 1997	42,487	4,602	47,088	39	19
Percent 2/					
Apr 1996	0.35	1.36	0.37	0.06	0.62
Apr 1997	0.32	1.42	0.35	0.10	0.33
1,000 Pounds					
Post-Mortem (N.Y. Dressed Weight)					
Mar 1997	46,183	4,239	50,422	233	10
Apr 1996	47,878	3,993	51,871	162	5
Apr 1997	50,023	4,670	54,693	242	10
Jan-Apr 1996	198,229	16,308	214,537	640	30
Jan-Apr 1997	197,722	17,146	214,868	980	43
Percent 3/					
Apr 1996	1.76	6.18	1.87	1.64	0.95
Apr 1997	1.75	6.98	1.87	2.16	1.00

See footnotes at end of table.

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Poultry Slaughter: Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem Condemnations  
by Type, United States, April 1997 with Comparisons 1/ (continued)

	Turkeys				Total Poultry
	Fryer- Roasters	Young	Old	Total Turkeys	
1,000 Pounds					
Ante-Mortem (Live Weight)					
Mar 1997	---	1,812	16	1,828	12,148
Apr 1996	---	1,346	44	1,390	12,802
Apr 1997	1	1,242	20	1,263	12,536
Jan-Apr 1996	2	6,504	197	6,703	61,794
Jan-Apr 1997	1	7,870	116	7,987	55,133
Percent 2/					
Apr 1996	0.17	0.25	0.59	0.25	0.35
Apr 1997	0.21	0.22	0.49	0.22	0.33
1,000 Pounds					
Post-Mortem (N.Y. Dressed Weight)					
Mar 1997	---	9,927	154	10,081	60,747
Apr 1996	3	10,368	438	10,810	62,847
Apr 1997	8	11,048	250	11,305	66,250
Jan-Apr 1996	7	44,382	1,171	45,560	260,768
Jan-Apr 1997	15	44,592	697	45,304	261,195
Percent 3/					
Apr 1996	1.83	2.11	6.59	2.17	1.91
Apr 1997	2.83	2.17	6.77	2.20	1.92

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, April 1996-97

State	Number Inspected		Live Weight Inspected		Average Live Weight Inspected 1/	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	-----	1,000	-----	1,000 Pounds	----	Pounds
AL	71,910	68,439	351,434	333,385	4.89	4.87
AR	94,642	99,768	456,572	483,190	4.82	4.84
CA	19,233	20,345	99,301	104,272	5.16	5.13
DE	23,347	24,321	130,234	133,428	5.58	5.49
FL	11,582	11,674	53,422	53,654	4.61	4.60
GA	85,898	95,860	427,771	487,400	4.98	5.08
LA	13,806	11,319	64,102	49,500	4.64	4.37
MD	17,782	18,167	84,243	84,023	4.74	4.63
MS	52,018	61,100	245,146	282,794	4.71	4.63
MO	28,140	28,585	119,301	125,138	4.24	4.38
NC	54,958	51,714	281,033	289,088	5.11	5.59
PA	7,858	9,568	39,914	49,803	5.08	5.21
SC	19,525	18,494	87,678	85,325	4.49	4.61
TN	14,112	15,022	62,284	68,175	4.41	4.54
TX	37,966	41,246	168,569	189,411	4.44	4.59
VA	29,378	30,176	140,171	143,800	4.77	4.77
WA	2,843	1,829	14,521	9,145	5.11	5.00
US	626,220	650,130	3,015,292	3,167,692	4.82	4.87

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.



Young Chickens Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations,  
Selected States and United States, April 1996-97

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemnations				
			N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/		
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	
		1,000 Pounds		Percent			
AL	256,205	247,188	7,161	7,454	2.26	2.48	
AR	327,910	347,667	6,877	6,423	1.67	1.48	
CA	72,766	76,458	1,487	1,533	1.66	1.63	
DE	94,183	95,103	3,074	2,849	2.62	2.37	
FL	38,293	38,191	674	1,002	1.40	2.08	
GA	314,033	358,592	6,607	7,349	1.72	1.68	
LA	46,305	35,625	1,055	898	1.83	2.02	
MD	59,954	59,230	1,661	1,600	2.19	2.12	
MS	185,408	213,919	2,621	2,704	1.19	1.06	
MO	86,410	90,705	1,908	1,768	1.78	1.57	
NC	208,527	213,857	4,089	5,377	1.62	2.07	
PA	28,132	34,946	1,153	1,347	3.21	3.00	
SC	64,850	62,556	1,331	1,436	1.69	1.87	
TN	46,062	49,280	640	804	1.14	1.31	
TX	129,074	142,363	2,048	2,477	1.35	1.45	
VA	97,467	100,029	2,117	1,914	1.68	1.48	
WA	10,573	7,004	421	253	3.22	3.07	
US	2,201,664	2,313,796	47,878	50,023	1.76	1.75	

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, April 1997

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
	Number					
AL	---	7,496	202,325	316,068	5,507	8,821
AR	---	8,871	347,286	145,989	15,128	9,337
CA	---	---	99,546	12,928	1,515	7,456
DE	---	31,804	119,095	159,079	---	---
FL	---	---	---	---	---	2,321
GA	---	2,459	184,209	316,559	1,794	15,500
LA	---	---	---	19,632	---	2,346
MD	---	---	105,267	65,671	44	7,942
MS	---	4,207	105,785	36,638	1,059	7,731
MO	---	10,423	124,477	26,343	2,377	2,454
NC	---	31,967	167,337	123,519	185	33,259
PA	---	---	41,581	45,458	404	---
SC	---	1,701	29,938	77,762	---	3,206
TN	---	---	59,480	19,018	---	---
TX	---	---	140,929	50,765	614	3,295
VA	---	---	93,089	59,188	---	---
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	---	154,730	2,100,636	1,527,983	44,803	143,435
	Number					
	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
AL	11,857	24,656	64,946	6,669	301,336	949,681
AR	14,239	31,540	68,615	5,170	141,661	787,836
CA	729	7,463	2,993	---	---	132,630
DE	3,264	8,712	16,290	4,011	50,341	392,596
FL	1,668	2,689	10,514	---	---	17,192
GA	17,698	44,114	60,202	15,577	232,161	890,273
LA	1,973	---	---	---	---	23,951
MD	2,099	11,512	---	1,046	22,792	216,373
MS	6,126	20,275	28,971	2,243	125,962	338,997
MO	3,219	11,791	21,867	---	41,178	244,129
NC	6,872	31,005	68,855	8,068	225,250	696,317
PA	2,455	3,144	---	2,595	33,597	129,234
SC	3,108	17,927	17,150	2,146	67,843	220,781
TN	2,469	10,566	---	---	36,385	127,918
TX	1,622	10,710	18,208	---	19,759	245,902
VA	3,658	8,154	26,762	911	109,546	301,308
WA	---	565	322	---	---	887
US	90,194	265,065	507,501	57,202	1,653,597	6,545,146

Mature Chickens Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight,  
Selected States and United States, April 1996-97

State	Number Inspected		Live Weight Inspected		Average Live Weight Inspected 1/	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	----- 1,000 -----		---- 1,000 Pounds ----		--- Pounds ---	
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	14,136	15,914	71,821	74,323	5.08	4.67

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

Mature Chickens Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations,  
Selected States and United States, April 1996-97

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
	1996	1997	N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----				-- Percent --	
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	43,546	44,512	3,993	4,670	6.18	6.98

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, April 1997

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
	Number					
CA	---	31	---	---	20	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	---	4,419	304,876	24,292	624	165,604
	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
	Number					
CA	---	55	263	---	---	369
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	39,429	57,401	210,867	5,063	69,489	882,064

Young Turkeys (Mature) Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight, Selected States and United States, April 1996-97

State	Number Inspected		Live Weight Inspected		Average Live Weight Inspected 1/	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	----- 1,000 -----		---- 1,000 Pounds ----		--- Pounds ---	
AR	2,213	2,199	43,523	38,787	19.66	17.64
CA	1,605	1,471	33,491	33,415	20.86	22.72
IA	1,014	1,040	30,484	29,259	30.08	28.13
MN	3,142	3,346	68,475	76,973	21.80	23.01
MO	1,931	2,089	50,719	57,158	26.27	27.36
NC	4,156	3,726	100,295	97,850	24.13	26.26
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	3,190	3,180	62,203	64,386	19.50	20.24
US	22,758	23,261	546,816	565,558	24.03	24.31

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

Young Turkeys (Mature) Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations, Selected States and United States, April 1996-97

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
	1996	1997	N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----				-- Percent --	
AR	35,690	32,019	683	587	1.74	1.68
CA	27,515	27,373	470	456	1.56	1.51
IA	23,790	22,853	839	661	3.06	2.51
MN	53,392	60,196	1,600	2,245	2.60	3.24
MO	39,961	45,521	1,452	1,183	3.18	2.30
NC	78,941	77,612	1,454	1,568	1.61	1.78
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	48,837	50,259	893	1,087	1.60	1.88
US	430,913	446,593	10,368	11,048	2.11	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, April 1997

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors	Number	
AR	---	---	6,545	450	---	---		
CA	---	---	7,072	---	---	---		
IA	---	---	---	4,147	---	---		
MN	---	---	21,113	5,921	1,678	23		
MO	---	---	20,393	---	273	---		
NC	---	---	4,651	---	---	---		
PA	---	---	---	593	---	---		
VA	---	5	---	1,012	---	---		
US	---	598	104,377	20,491	7,094	449		

  

State	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total	Number	
AR	---	477	1,300	---	---	8,772		
CA	16	---	---	---	---	7,088		
IA	---	---	---	---	---	4,147		
MN	---	1,153	2,438	161	2,116	34,603		
MO	111	215	---	10	1,199	22,201		
NC	87	2,293	---	---	958	7,989		
PA	---	---	---	---	---	593		
VA	34	918	261	---	---	2,230		
US	1,060	7,095	10,093	2,304	16,293	169,854		

Old Turkeys (Breeders) Slaughtered: Number Condemned Post-Mortem by Cause,  
United States, April 1997

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
	Number					
US	---	3	3,901	584	---	211
State	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
	Number					
US	14	161	199	164	896	6,133

## 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 July 2, 1997.

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