



Poultry Slaughter

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Ready-to-Cook Weight Up 4 Percent

Poultry certified wholesome during April (ready-to-cook weight), totaled 3.01 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the amount certified in April 1998. Updated totals for March 1999 show that 3.09 billion pounds were certified.

The preliminary total live weight of poultry inspected during April 1999 was 4.07 billion pounds. Inspections included 3.42 billion pounds of young chickens, 79.2 million pounds of mature chickens, 556 million pounds of turkeys, and 12.4 million pounds of ducks.

Young chickens slaughtered during April 1999 averaged 5.01 pounds per bird, up 2 percent from 1998. The average live weight of mature chickens was 5.07 pounds per bird, up 4 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during April 1999 averaged 25.4 pounds per bird, down slightly from April 1998.

Ante-mortem condemnations during April 1999 totaled 15.7 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.39 percent of the live weight inspected, compared with 0.35 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 69.3 million pounds (N.Y. dressed weight), were 1.89 percent of quantities inspected, compared with 1.96 percent a year earlier.

April 1999 contained 22 weekdays and four Saturdays, the same as April 1998.

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

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature 2/	Total		

	1,000 Head				
Number Inspected					
Mar 1999	704,388	16,122	720,510	1,995	-----
Apr 1998	660,982	16,448	677,430	1,895	-----
Apr 1999	682,551	15,611	698,162	1,906	-----
Jan-Apr 1998	2,590,401	56,924	2,647,325	7,526	-----
Jan-Apr 1999	2,668,648	60,393	2,729,042	7,670	-----

	1,000 Pounds				
Live Weight					
Mar 1999	3,543,812	81,204	3,625,016	13,368	921
Apr 1998	3,258,011	80,287	3,338,298	12,657	1,088
Apr 1999	3,421,604	79,176	3,500,780	12,385	836
Jan-Apr 1998	12,618,836	285,478	12,904,314	50,258	4,280
Jan-Apr 1999	13,370,234	305,141	13,675,374	51,014	3,207

	Pounds				
Average Live Weight					
Mar 1999	5.03	5.04	5.03	6.70	-----
Apr 1998	4.93	4.88	4.93	6.68	-----
Apr 1999	5.01	5.07	5.01	6.50	-----
Jan-Apr 1998	4.87	5.02	4.87	6.68	-----
Jan-Apr 1999	5.01	5.05	5.01	6.65	-----

See footnotes at end of table.

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

		Turkeys			Total
		Fryer-	Young 3/	Old	Total
		Roasters	Young	Old	Turkeys
		1,000 Head			Poultry
Number Inspected					
Mar 1999	---	21,505	141	21,645	-----
Apr 1998	---	22,144	147	22,291	-----
Apr 1999	---	21,723	175	21,898	-----
Jan-Apr 1998	---	86,740	607	87,347	-----
Jan-Apr 1999	---	80,925	553	81,478	-----
		1,000 Pounds			
Live Weight					
Mar 1999	---	545,092	3,801	548,893	4,188,198
Apr 1998	---	562,575	3,865	566,440	3,918,482
Apr 1999	---	551,340	4,693	556,033	4,070,034
Jan-Apr 1998	---	2,187,538	16,480	2,204,018	15,162,871
Jan-Apr 1999	---	2,071,725	14,893	2,086,618	15,816,214
		Pounds			
Average Live Weight					
Mar 1999	---	25.35	27.04	25.36	-----
Apr 1998	---	25.41	26.34	25.41	-----
Apr 1999	---	25.38	26.83	25.39	-----
Jan-Apr 1998	---	25.22	27.14	25.23	-----
Jan-Apr 1999	---	25.60	26.93	25.61	-----

- 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 1998: 5,644, April 1999: 5,649.
3/ Of the Young Turkeys inspected, the number reported in thousands as young breeders was: April 1998: 55, April 1999: 69.

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

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature	Total		
	1,000 Pounds				
Mar 1999					
Chilled	2,369,759	46,280	2,416,039	3,703	331
Frozen	228,521	3,130	231,651	5,662	201
Total	2,598,280	49,410	2,647,690	9,365	532
Apr 1998					
Chilled	2,166,543	43,994	2,210,537	3,168	394
Frozen	216,633	4,099	220,732	5,941	203
Total	2,383,176	48,093	2,431,269	9,109	597
Apr 1999					
Chilled	2,288,005	44,020	2,332,024	3,368	275
Frozen	225,198	3,220	228,418	5,355	211
Total	2,513,203	47,240	2,560,443	8,723	486
Jan-Apr 1998					
Chilled	8,384,457	157,830	8,542,287	12,402	1,549
Frozen	844,713	13,713	858,426	23,363	863
Total	9,229,170	171,543	9,400,712	35,765	2,411
Jan-Apr 1999					
Chilled	8,943,176	170,484	9,113,659	14,048	1,178
Frozen	856,643	13,294	869,938	21,671	657
Total	9,799,819	183,778	9,983,597	35,718	1,835

See footnotes at end of table.

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

		Turkeys			Total Poultry
		Fryer- Roasters	Young	Old	Total Turkeys
		1,000 Pounds			
Mar 1999					
Chilled	---	204,514	2,091	206,605	2,626,679
Frozen	---	223,643	779	224,422	461,935
Total	---	428,157	2,869	431,027	3,088,614
Apr 1998					
Chilled	---	214,439	1,973	216,413	2,430,511
Frozen	---	229,544	938	230,482	457,359
Total	---	443,984	2,911	446,895	2,887,870
Apr 1999					
Chilled	---	199,662	2,581	202,243	2,537,911
Frozen	---	234,976	934	235,910	469,894
Total	---	434,639	3,515	438,154	3,007,806
Jan-Apr 1998					
Chilled	---	832,780	8,368	841,149	9,397,386
Frozen	---	887,219	4,067	891,285	1,773,936
Total	---	1,719,999	12,435	1,732,434	11,171,322
Jan-Apr 1999					
Chilled	---	768,556	8,141	776,696	9,905,581
Frozen	---	864,122	2,998	867,120	1,759,386
Total	---	1,632,678	11,139	1,643,816	11,664,966

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 1999 with Comparisons 1/

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature	Total		
----- 1,000 Pounds					
Ante-Mortem (Live Weight)					
Mar 1999	14,265	983	15,248	18	6
Apr 1998	11,117	1,108	12,224	11	4
Apr 1999	12,599	1,732	14,331	15	6
Jan-Apr 1998	49,183	4,116	53,299	45	9
Jan-Apr 1999	55,806	4,788	60,594	65	20
Percent 2/					
Apr 1998	0.34	1.38	0.37	0.08	0.34
Apr 1999	0.37	2.19	0.41	0.12	0.70
----- 1,000 Pounds					
Post-Mortem (N.Y. Dressed Weight)					
Mar 1999	57,725	4,900	62,625	313	7
Apr 1998	53,153	4,534	57,687	249	12
Apr 1999	52,407	5,028	57,435	311	7
Jan-Apr 1998	206,524	17,162	223,686	1,033	40
Jan-Apr 1999	213,944	18,890	232,834	1,208	22
Percent 3/					
Apr 1998	1.81	6.27	1.92	2.19	1.27
Apr 1999	1.70	7.06	1.82	2.79	0.88

See footnotes at end of table.

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Young Chickens Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight,
Selected States and United States, April 1998-99

State	Number Inspected		Live Weight Inspected		Average Live Weight Inspected 1/		
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	
	-----	1,000	-----	1,000 Pounds	----	Pounds	----
AL	70,646	76,435	357,255	386,514	5.06	5.06	
AR	99,324	101,204	488,678	489,882	4.92	4.84	
DE	22,658	22,587	126,295	131,674	5.57	5.83	
FL	11,431	10,718	54,465	56,514	4.76	5.27	
GA	95,803	98,791	479,584	492,536	5.01	4.99	
LA	12,548	13,737	57,474	61,317	4.58	4.46	
MD	17,706	17,820	84,800	86,507	4.79	4.85	
MS	59,878	57,792	283,688	291,497	4.74	5.04	
MO	30,685	31,928	135,006	145,900	4.40	4.57	
NC	53,418	53,998	295,153	315,618	5.53	5.84	
PA	9,128	9,104	46,323	48,248	5.08	5.30	
SC	18,710	18,105	90,190	87,431	4.82	4.83	
TN	14,561	17,562	68,952	84,425	4.74	4.81	
TX	43,280	46,305	198,118	218,738	4.58	4.72	
VA	29,556	30,924	143,523	154,680	4.86	5.00	
US	660,982	682,551	3,258,011	3,421,604	4.93	5.01	

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

Young Chickens Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations,
Selected States and United States, April 1998-99

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
			N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----		-----		-- Percent --	
AL	263,700	290,398	7,143	8,893	2.22	2.56
AR	351,468	356,156	6,042	6,139	1.37	1.39
DE	91,466	95,761	2,467	2,817	2.17	2.38
FL	39,129	39,435	1,061	1,048	2.16	2.06
GA	356,329	362,498	10,412	7,413	2.41	1.67
LA	40,947	43,185	999	1,142	1.93	2.07
MD	60,038	61,569	1,169	1,382	1.53	1.78
MS	214,139	218,605	3,988	3,102	1.56	1.18
MO	98,589	105,906	1,764	1,644	1.45	1.25
NC	221,451	235,875	4,951	5,473	1.86	1.93
PA	31,907	34,444	1,400	1,284	3.36	2.96
SC	60,077	64,412	1,721	1,721	2.12	2.19
TN	50,800	62,841	782	927	1.26	1.22
TX	149,467	165,619	2,597	2,708	1.46	1.38
VA	100,322	107,885	1,746	1,787	1.35	1.28
US	2,383,176	2,513,203	53,153	52,407	1.81	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, April 1999

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
Number						
AL	---	1,959	221,287	559,141	1,577	15,403
AR	---	4,395	337,835	144,498	11,860	6,397
DE	---	12,467	119,366	88,807	96	---
FL	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	150,986	323,200	2,020	11,179
LA	---	204	35,237	41,026	---	1,508
MD	---	10,212	113,846	60,096	82	11,523
MS	---	3,419	137,537	59,964	1,243	3,112
MO	---	3,509	105,671	37,301	3,713	1,824
NC	---	---	176,575	107,822	206	48,703
PA	---	---	45,162	49,457	183	---
SC	---	1,834	38,158	87,524	48	4,989
TN	---	1,379	62,305	18,162	---	---
TX	---	---	138,237	82,072	1,082	2,634
VA	---	---	83,627	69,714	---	---
US	---	163,723	2,102,965	1,799,840	39,774	166,028
Number						
	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
AL	10,524	37,472	60,695	16,418	237,888	1,162,364
AR	11,879	32,441	48,925	4,094	128,824	731,148
DE	2,670	11,488	17,140	5,795	71,051	328,880
FL	1,766	3,061	6,661	---	---	11,488
GA	---	42,828	60,333	12,467	402,634	1,005,647
LA	1,439	6,964	7,055	---	12,433	105,866
MD	1,773	9,767	---	1,562	33,056	241,917
MS	5,477	29,804	25,101	1,994	112,224	379,875
MO	2,472	10,935	17,795	---	40,926	224,146
NC	7,114	46,535	49,730	6,917	139,758	583,360
PA	2,272	3,745	---	343	32,065	133,227
SC	3,848	21,515	8,967	3,744	51,885	222,512
TN	2,730	8,615	---	1,097	20,607	114,895
TX	1,868	14,052	20,804	2,454	14,069	277,272
VA	2,534	7,972	8,742	3,388	75,453	251,430
US	788,297	317,853	457,322	70,731	1,525,383	7,431,916

Mature Chickens Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight,
Selected States and United States, April 1998-99

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	16,448	15,611	80,287	79,176	4.88	5.07

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

Mature Chickens Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations,
Selected States and United States, April 1998-99

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
	1998	1999	N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----				-- Percent --	
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	48,093	47,240	4,534	5,028	6.27	7.06

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 1999

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
	Number					
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	---	10,016	443,507	19,054	768	175,831

	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
	Number					
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	50,083	49,787	233,696	1,250	73,557	1,057,549

Young Turkeys (Mature) Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight, Selected States and United States, April 1998-99

State	Number Inspected		Live Weight Inspected		Average Live Weight Inspected 1/	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	----- 1,000 -----		---- 1,000 Pounds ----		--- Pounds ---	
AR	2,236	2,398	39,883	44,470	17.84	18.55
CA	1,373	1,248	32,149	29,844	23.41	23.90
IA	1,110	1,475	31,373	43,036	28.27	29.17
MN	3,374	3,123	78,207	80,450	23.18	25.76
MO	2,200	2,104	61,156	58,747	27.80	27.92
NC	3,389	2,803	94,319	65,488	27.83	23.36
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	2,732	3,223	54,950	70,066	20.11	21.74
US	22,144	21,723	562,575	551,340	25.41	25.38

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

Young Turkeys (Mature) Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemns, Selected States and United States, April 1998-99

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemns			
	1998	1999	N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----				-- Percent --	
AR	33,074	36,642	637	628	1.77	1.57
CA	25,833	24,053	497	395	1.72	1.47
IA	24,377	33,301	809	1,128	2.87	2.91
MN	62,169	63,091	2,012	1,992	2.86	2.75
MO	48,138	46,560	1,496	1,269	2.72	2.40
NC	74,963	51,838	1,509	1,110	1.78	1.88
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	42,665	54,278	753	913	1.52	1.45
US	443,984	434,639	11,043	11,243	2.18	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, April 1999

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
Number						
AR	---	---	4,811	386	---	---
CA	---	---	5,999	46	---	---
IA	---	---	6,678	3,266	---	---
MN	---	---	12,950	---	---	16
MO	---	---	17,036	---	---	---
NC	---	---	5,780	---	---	4
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	---	---	3,705	250	---	10
US	---	1,487	83,851	19,997	6,761	86

State	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
Number						
AR	50	953	---	---	1,613	7,813
CA	24	---	130	10	284	6,493
IA	---	---	---	---	---	9,944
MN	---	925	756	---	1,262	15,909
MO	---	---	467	215	1,737	19,455
NC	127	---	---	---	1,389	7,300
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	---	1,314	201	---	1,245	6,725
US	1,738	8,563	7,026	2,721	11,566	143,796

Old Turkeys (Breeders) Slaughtered: Number Condemned Post-Mortem by Cause,
United States, April 1999

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
			Number			
US	---	---	4,518	775	---	116
State	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
			Number			
US	11	151	398	---	964	6,933

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 6, 1999.

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