



# Poultry Slaughter

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## Ready-to-Cook Weight Up 8 Percent

Poultry certified wholesome during May (ready-to-cook weight), totaled 2.95 billion pounds, up 8 percent from the amount certified in May 1998. Updated totals for April 1999 show that 3.02 billion pounds were certified.

The preliminary total live weight of poultry inspected during May 1999 was 4.01 billion pounds. Inspections included 3.36 billion pounds of young chickens, 77.6 million pounds of mature chickens, 559 million pounds of turkeys, and 11.9 million pounds of ducks.

Young chickens slaughtered during May 1999 averaged 5.04 pounds per bird, up 4 percent from May 1998. The average live weight of mature chickens was 5.07 pounds per bird, down 2 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during May 1999 averaged 25.7 pounds per bird, up 3 percent from May 1998.

Ante-mortem condemnations during May 1999 totaled 15.2 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.38 percent of the live weight inspected, unchanged from a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 64.4 million pounds (N.Y. dressed weight), were 1.78 percent of quantities inspected, compared with 1.85 percent a year earlier.

May 1999 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and five Saturdays, the same as May 1998.

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

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature 2/	Total		
-----					
	1,000 Head				
Number Inspected					
Apr 1999	684,939	15,666	700,604	1,929	-----
May 1998	635,698	14,713	650,411	1,867	-----
May 1999	668,120	15,298	683,418	1,781	-----
Jan-May 1998	3,226,099	71,637	3,297,737	9,393	-----
Jan-May 1999	3,340,808	75,746	3,416,554	9,473	-----
-----					
	1,000 Pounds				
Live Weight					
Apr 1999	3,432,314	79,358	3,511,672	12,593	900
May 1998	3,085,643	76,117	3,161,759	12,218	997
May 1999	3,364,490	77,631	3,442,121	11,885	868
Jan-May 1998	15,704,478	361,595	16,066,073	62,477	5,277
Jan-May 1999	16,755,541	382,954	17,138,494	63,108	4,142
-----					
	Pounds				
Average Live Weight					
Apr 1999	5.01	5.07	5.01	6.53	-----
May 1998	4.85	5.17	4.86	6.54	-----
May 1999	5.04	5.07	5.04	6.67	-----
Jan-May 1998	4.87	5.05	4.87	6.65	-----
Jan-May 1999	5.02	5.06	5.02	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 1999 with Comparisons 1/ (continued)

	Turkeys				Total Poultry
	Fryer- Roasters	Young 3/	Old	Total Turkeys	
	1,000 Head				
Number Inspected					
Apr 1999	---	21,775	175	21,950	-----
May 1998	---	21,180	108	21,288	-----
May 1999	27	21,614	107	21,748	-----
Jan-May 1998	---	107,920	715	108,635	-----
Jan-May 1999	27	102,638	660	103,325	-----
Live Weight					
Apr 1999	---	552,727	4,693	557,419	4,082,585
May 1998	---	528,904	2,750	531,654	3,706,629
May 1999	236	555,980	2,798	559,014	4,013,887
Jan-May 1998	---	2,716,442	19,230	2,735,672	18,869,499
Jan-May 1999	236	2,629,900	17,691	2,647,827	19,853,570
Average Live Weight					
Apr 1999	---	25.38	26.83	25.39	-----
May 1998	---	24.97	25.45	24.97	-----
May 1999	8.72	25.72	26.24	25.70	-----
Jan-May 1998	---	25.17	26.89	25.18	-----
Jan-May 1999	8.72	25.62	26.82	25.63	-----

- 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 1998: 5,973, May 1999: 5,733.  
3/ Of the Young Turkeys inspected, the number reported in thousands as young breeders was: May 1998: 89, May 1999: 30.

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

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature	Total		
	1,000 Pounds				
Apr 1999					
Chilled	2,302,918	44,116	2,347,035	3,426	320
Frozen	217,371	3,220	220,591	5,448	211
Total	2,520,290	47,336	2,567,626	8,874	531
May 1998					
Chilled	2,068,562	42,067	2,110,629	3,026	371
Frozen	191,061	4,043	195,105	5,652	142
Total	2,259,623	46,110	2,305,734	8,678	513
May 1999					
Chilled	2,248,583	43,275	2,291,858	3,248	298
Frozen	211,390	3,547	214,938	5,058	199
Total	2,459,973	46,823	2,506,796	8,305	496
Jan-May 1998					
Chilled	10,453,019	199,897	10,652,916	15,428	1,920
Frozen	1,035,774	17,756	1,053,530	29,015	1,004
Total	11,488,793	217,653	11,706,446	44,443	2,924
Jan-May 1999					
Chilled	11,214,342	213,855	11,428,197	17,353	1,522
Frozen	1,060,881	16,842	1,077,722	26,821	856
Total	12,275,223	230,697	12,505,920	44,174	2,377

See footnotes at end of table.

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

		Turkeys			Total
		Fryer-	Young	Old	Poultry
		Roasters		Turkeys	
		1,000 Pounds			
Apr 1999					
Chilled	---	199,784	2,581	202,365	2,553,146
Frozen	---	235,993	934	236,927	463,177
Total	---	435,778	3,515	439,293	3,016,323
May 1998					
Chilled	---	195,582	1,238	196,820	2,310,846
Frozen	---	223,558	780	224,338	425,237
Total	---	419,141	2,018	421,158	2,736,083
May 1999					
Chilled	21	192,170	1,514	193,704	2,489,107
Frozen	146	244,909	603	245,657	465,852
Total	166	437,078	2,117	439,361	2,954,958
Jan-May 1998					
Chilled	---	1,028,362	9,606	1,037,969	11,708,232
Frozen	---	1,110,777	4,847	1,115,624	2,199,173
Total	---	2,139,140	14,453	2,153,592	13,907,406
Jan-May 1999					
Chilled	21	960,847	9,654	970,522	12,417,594
Frozen	146	1,110,692	3,601	1,114,438	2,219,838
Total	166	2,071,539	13,255	2,084,960	14,637,431

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 1999 with Comparisons 1/

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature	Total		
1,000 Pounds					
Ante-Mortem (Live Weight)					
Apr 1999	12,716	1,734	14,450	16	6
May 1998	11,099	1,485	12,584	13	11
May 1999	12,729	1,087	13,816	16	4
Jan-May 1998	60,282	5,601	65,883	58	21
Jan-May 1999	68,751	5,877	74,627	81	24
Percent 2/					
May 1998	0.36	1.95	0.40	0.11	1.13
May 1999	0.38	1.40	0.40	0.13	0.47
1,000 Pounds					
Post-Mortem (N.Y. Dressed Weight)					
Apr 1999	52,818	5,039	57,857	324	7
May 1998	47,607	4,082	51,688	260	8
May 1999	48,383	4,893	53,276	290	8
Jan-May 1998	254,130	21,243	275,374	1,293	48
Jan-May 1999	263,167	23,794	286,961	1,511	32
Percent 3/					
May 1998	1.71	5.96	1.82	2.37	0.92
May 1999	1.60	7.00	1.72	2.71	1.07

See footnotes at end of table.

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Poultry Slaughter: Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem Condemnations  
by Type, United States, May 1999 with Comparisons 1/ (continued)

-----					
: Turkeys :					
:-----: Total					
: Fryer- : : : Total : Poultry					
: Roasters : Young : Old : Turkeys :					
:-----: Total					
: 1,000 Pounds :					
Ante-Mortem :					
(Live Weight) :					
: Apr 1999 : --- 1,314 35 1,349 15,821					
: May 1998 : --- 1,350 21 1,371 13,979					
: May 1999 : --- 1,313 24 1,338 15,174					
: Jan-May 1998 : --- 7,421 145 7,566 73,528					
: Jan-May 1999 : --- 6,806 162 6,968 81,700					
: Percent 2/ :					
: May 1998 : --- 0.26 0.76 0.26 0.38					
: May 1999 : 0.17 0.24 0.87 0.24 0.38					
: Post-Mortem :					
(N.Y. Dressed Weight) :					
: Apr 1999 : --- 11,263 336 11,599 69,787					
: May 1998 : --- 9,395 218 9,613 61,570					
: May 1999 : 2 10,507 275 10,784 64,358					
: Jan-May 1998 : --- 55,191 1,381 56,572 333,287					
: Jan-May 1999 : 2 52,667 1,309 53,979 342,482					
: Percent 3/ :					
: May 1998 : --- 1.97 8.82 2.01 1.85					
: May 1999 : 0.96 2.10 10.92 2.14 1.78					
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- 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 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	67,325	76,395	328,661	391,762	4.88	5.13	
AR	92,346	96,858	447,328	474,763	4.84	4.90	
DE	21,519	23,192	122,600	134,360	5.70	5.79	
FL	11,224	10,603	49,723	57,151	4.43	5.39	
GA	92,024	95,399	447,326	477,598	4.86	5.01	
LA	12,354	12,511	57,057	56,468	4.62	4.51	
MD	17,590	17,150	82,808	82,096	4.71	4.79	
MS	56,754	55,160	272,437	277,586	4.80	5.03	
MO	29,593	30,009	128,975	138,720	4.36	4.62	
NC	50,470	52,569	276,451	306,695	5.48	5.83	
PA	8,855	9,033	44,600	48,742	5.04	5.40	
SC	17,951	18,345	82,242	87,617	4.58	4.78	
TN	15,287	17,914	73,862	87,806	4.83	4.90	
TX	40,856	45,823	185,712	215,192	4.55	4.70	
VA	29,951	31,065	143,056	152,219	4.78	4.90	
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---	
US	635,698	668,120	3,085,643	3,364,490	4.85	5.04	

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.



Young Chickens Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations,  
Selected States and United States, May 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	241,110	290,696	6,831	7,575	2.31	2.15
AR	319,597	342,530	5,566	5,995	1.38	1.40
DE	87,209	97,632	2,403	2,890	2.18	2.39
FL	35,600	40,134	841	944	1.88	1.84
GA	331,928	352,750	6,901	6,799	1.71	1.58
LA	40,499	39,077	882	1,163	1.72	2.29
MD	59,073	57,689	1,109	1,339	1.49	1.81
MS	206,673	205,499	3,948	2,580	1.61	1.03
MO	93,546	101,064	1,447	1,444	1.25	1.16
NC	209,704	231,034	4,741	4,707	1.91	1.71
PA	31,084	34,689	1,354	1,331	3.37	3.04
SC	60,556	64,407	1,486	1,430	2.01	1.81
TN	53,675	63,630	846	867	1.27	1.10
TX	141,520	162,737	2,127	2,402	1.27	1.24
VA	100,435	105,336	1,759	1,549	1.37	1.13
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	2,259,623	2,459,973	47,607	48,383	1.71	1.60

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 1999

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
Number						
AL	---	4,377	221,958	397,077	1,839	12,656
AR	---	---	319,599	146,789	14,197	6,574
DE	---	10,320	122,313	94,875	---	19,603
FL	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	136,066	318,484	936	9,548
LA	---	---	35,574	33,023	270	1,197
MD	---	11,589	105,894	54,175	74	9,256
MS	---	2,204	112,087	36,995	1,250	2,891
MO	---	3,800	90,815	32,103	2,929	1,570
NC	---	---	154,420	83,244	145	48,853
PA	---	---	39,519	36,347	210	---
SC	---	1,102	36,434	65,914	59	---
TN	---	277	56,553	15,833	---	---
TX	---	---	127,603	64,518	1,248	2,408
VA	---	---	72,766	41,417	50	---
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	---	148,259	1,998,640	1,493,276	40,733	152,820
Number						
	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
AL	11,239	35,629	64,820	12,604	224,428	986,627
AR	11,785	31,754	52,801	6,284	139,562	729,345
DE	2,571	15,018	17,880	7,855	70,991	361,426
FL	---	3,069	7,048	---	---	10,117
GA	11,489	36,057	61,828	9,886	337,828	922,122
LA	1,498	---	---	---	13,177	84,739
MD	1,487	12,032	---	1,265	31,589	227,361
MS	4,840	21,231	22,477	2,215	80,446	286,636
MO	2,206	14,579	17,450	1,974	42,921	210,347
NC	7,155	41,237	42,544	6,601	131,920	516,119
PA	2,481	4,071	---	---	31,342	113,970
SC	3,809	17,480	9,821	7,672	37,603	179,894
TN	2,908	9,439	---	1,557	---	86,567
TX	1,926	13,522	16,286	2,048	13,067	242,626
VA	2,274	9,404	6,994	2,188	50,287	185,380
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	77,707	301,224	455,629	72,437	1,400,073	6,140,798

Mature Chickens Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight,  
Selected States and United States, May 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	14,713	15,298	76,117	77,631	5.17	5.07

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

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

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
	1998	1999	N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----				-- Percent --	
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	46,110	46,823	4,082	4,893	5.96	7.00

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 1999

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
Number						
CA	---	---	---	20	10	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	---	8,691	374,106	24,406	895	165,743

  

State	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
Number						
CA	---	---	---	---	---	30
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	43,960	40,987	205,177	1,727	68,006	933,698

Young Turkeys (Mature) Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight, Selected States and United States, May 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	2,072	2,087	36,637	39,438	17.69	18.90
CA	1,193	1,348	27,589	33,218	23.12	24.64
IA	1,184	1,416	32,077	42,358	27.09	29.91
MN	3,319	3,575	74,731	87,707	22.52	24.53
MO	1,991	1,974	55,654	57,463	27.96	29.11
NC	3,000	2,711	80,732	67,392	26.91	24.86
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	2,721	3,038	56,367	66,841	20.72	22.00
US	21,180	21,614	528,904	555,980	24.97	25.72

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

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

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemns			
	1998	1999	N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----				-- Percent --	
AR	30,151	32,081	503	574	1.53	1.62
CA	21,867	27,090	373	428	1.50	1.43
IA	24,973	32,355	710	1,010	2.46	2.65
MN	59,722	70,389	1,665	2,176	2.48	2.76
MO	43,415	44,226	1,069	1,205	2.13	2.33
NC	63,667	51,756	1,191	1,196	1.64	1.97
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	43,816	52,237	723	924	1.43	1.54
US	419,141	437,078	9,395	10,507	1.97	2.10

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 1999

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors	
							Number
AR	---	---	4,455	210	5	---	
CA	---	---	5,016	49	---	---	
IA	---	---	6,295	2,480	---	---	
MN	---	---	17,173	---	---	4	
MO	---	---	13,350	---	---	4	
NC	---	---	4,684	---	---	---	
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---	
VA	---	---	3,763	246	---	---	
US	---	725	81,539	15,867	5,973	92,325	
							Number
	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total	
AR	---	---	---	---	---	4,670	
CA	---	---	150	---	630	5,845	
IA	---	---	752	---	---	9,527	
MN	---	849	988	---	1,601	20,615	
MO	67	366	---	---	1,598	15,385	
NC	108	---	1,703	---	997	7,492	
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---	
VA	---	1,305	212	---	1,270	6,796	
US	950	8,291	7,937	3,276	11,839	228,722	

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

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
			3,424	481		33
	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
US	21	80	219	19	816	5,093

## 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, 1999.

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