



Poultry Slaughter

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Ready-to-Cook Weight Up 3 Percent

Poultry certified wholesome during March (ready-to-cook weight), totaled 3.21 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the amount certified in March 1999. Updated totals for February 2000 show that 2.95 billion pounds were certified.

The preliminary total live weight of poultry inspected during March 2000 was 4.33 billion pounds, up 3 percent from a year ago. Inspections included 3.63 billion pounds of young chickens, 2 percent above last year; 81.7 million pounds of mature chickens, up slightly; 597 million pounds of turkeys, up 9 percent; and 13.4 million pounds of ducks, up 1 percent from March 1999.

Young chickens slaughtered during March 2000 averaged 4.99 pounds per bird, down 1 percent from 5.03 pounds per bird in March 1999. The average live weight of mature chickens was 5.20 pounds per bird, up 3 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during March 2000 averaged 26.4 pounds per bird, up 4 percent from March 1999.

Ante-mortem condemnations during March 2000 totaled 15.3 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.35 percent of the live weight inspected, compared with 0.40 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 74.9 million pounds (N.Y. dressed weight), were 1.92 percent of quantities inspected, compared with 1.97 percent a year earlier.

March 2000 contained 23 weekdays and four Saturdays, the same as March 1999.

Poultry Slaughter: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight
by Type, United States, March 2000 with Comparisons 1/

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature 2/	Total		

	1,000 Head				
Number Inspected					
Feb 2000	672,862	13,595	686,457	1,873	-----
Mar 1999	706,124	16,160	722,284	1,995	-----
Mar 2000	728,175	15,709	743,885	2,011	-----
Jan-Mar 1999	1,988,214	44,820	2,033,034	5,763	-----
Jan-Mar 2000	2,056,659	43,060	2,099,719	5,986	-----

	1,000 Pounds				
Live Weight					
Feb 2000	3,380,693	69,443	3,450,137	12,441	931
Mar 1999	3,554,707	81,487	3,636,193	13,368	924
Mar 2000	3,634,585	81,749	3,716,334	13,442	1,087
Jan-Mar 1999	9,961,212	226,247	10,187,459	38,630	2,376
Jan-Mar 2000	10,320,441	221,327	10,541,768	39,903	2,923

	Pounds				
Average Live Weight					
Feb 2000	5.02	5.11	5.03	6.64	-----
Mar 1999	5.03	5.04	5.03	6.70	-----
Mar 2000	4.99	5.20	5.00	6.69	-----
Jan-Mar 1999	5.01	5.05	5.01	6.70	-----
Jan-Mar 2000	5.02	5.14	5.02	6.67	-----

See footnotes at end of table.

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Poultry Slaughter: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight
by Type, United States, March 2000 with Comparisons 1/ (continued)

		Turkeys			Total
		Fryer-	Young 3/	Old	Total
		Roasters	Young	Old	Turkeys
		1,000 Head			Poultry
Number Inspected					
Feb 2000	---	20,148	123	20,272	-----
Mar 1999	---	21,552	141	21,692	-----
Mar 2000	10	22,443	170	22,623	-----
Jan-Mar 1999	---	59,248	378	59,627	-----
Jan-Mar 2000	34	61,606	438	62,079	-----
Live Weight		1,000 Pounds			
Feb 2000	---	523,407	3,232	526,639	3,990,148
Mar 1999	---	545,901	3,801	549,701	4,200,187
Mar 2000	76	592,797	4,567	597,440	4,328,303
Jan-Mar 1999	---	1,521,194	10,200	1,531,394	11,759,858
Jan-Mar 2000	271	1,621,855	11,649	1,633,775	12,218,369
Average Live Weight		Pounds			
Feb 2000	---	25.98	26.26	25.98	-----
Mar 1999	---	25.33	27.04	25.34	-----
Mar 2000	7.81	26.41	26.93	26.41	-----
Jan-Mar 1999	---	25.67	26.97	25.68	-----
Jan-Mar 2000	8.01	26.33	26.58	26.32	-----

- 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 1999: 6,050, March 2000: 6,338.
3/ Of the Young Turkeys inspected, the number reported in thousands as young breeders was: March 1999: 89, March 2000: 129.

Poultry Slaughter: Chilled and Frozen, Pounds Certified by Type,
United States, March 2000 with Comparisons 1/

		Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
		Young	Mature	Total		
		1,000 Pounds				
Feb 2000						
Chilled	:	2,268,966	39,416	2,308,382	3,655	272
Frozen	:	218,534	2,628	221,162	5,246	297
Total	:	2,487,500	42,045	2,529,544	8,900	569
Mar 1999						
Chilled	:	2,376,829	46,460	2,423,289	3,703	333
Frozen	:	230,532	3,130	233,662	5,662	201
Total	:	2,607,361	49,591	2,656,951	9,365	534
Mar 2000						
Chilled	:	2,441,865	45,137	2,487,002	3,610	344
Frozen	:	236,721	3,181	239,902	6,051	340
Total	:	2,678,586	48,318	2,726,903	9,661	684
Jan-Mar 1999						
Chilled	:	6,663,421	126,644	6,790,065	10,679	906
Frozen	:	633,457	10,074	643,531	16,316	446
Total	:	7,296,878	136,718	7,433,596	26,995	1,352
Jan-Mar 2000						
Chilled	:	6,928,507	123,187	7,051,694	11,015	895
Frozen	:	663,732	9,210	672,943	17,497	918
Total	:	7,592,239	132,398	7,724,637	28,512	1,813

See footnotes at end of table.

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Poultry Slaughter: Chilled and Frozen, Pounds Certified by Type,
 United States, March 2000 with Comparisons 1/ (continued)

		Turkeys			Total
		Fryer-	Young	Old	Poultry
		Roasters		Turkeys	
		1,000 Pounds			
Feb 2000					
Chilled	---	200,113	2,077	202,190	2,514,498
Frozen	---	212,319	355	212,674	439,379
Total	---	412,432	2,431	414,863	2,953,877
Mar 1999					
Chilled	---	204,514	2,091	206,605	2,633,930
Frozen	---	224,287	779	225,065	464,591
Total	---	428,801	2,869	431,670	3,098,521
Mar 2000					
Chilled	56	231,998	1,989	234,043	2,724,999
Frozen	5	234,048	1,479	235,532	481,824
Total	61	466,046	3,468	469,575	3,206,823
Jan-Mar 1999					
Chilled	---	568,893	5,559	574,453	7,376,103
Frozen	---	629,790	2,064	631,854	1,292,147
Total	---	1,198,683	7,624	1,206,306	8,668,250
Jan-Mar 2000					
Chilled	199	627,886	6,222	634,308	7,697,912
Frozen	17	647,478	2,513	650,008	1,341,365
Total	217	1,275,364	8,735	1,284,315	9,039,277

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 2000 with Comparisons 1/

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature	Total		
----- 1,000 Pounds -----					
Ante-Mortem (Live Weight)					
Feb 2000	12,779	998	13,777	21	3
Mar 1999	14,360	995	15,355	18	6
Mar 2000	12,818	965	13,783	20	3
Jan-Mar 1999	43,311	3,067	46,378	49	14
Jan-Mar 2000	41,072	2,985	44,057	60	8
Percent 2/					
Mar 1999	0.40	1.22	0.42	0.13	0.68
Mar 2000	0.35	1.18	0.37	0.15	0.31
----- 1,000 Pounds -----					
Post-Mortem (N.Y. Dressed Weight)					
Feb 2000	54,354	4,713	59,067	285	10
Mar 1999	58,179	4,919	63,098	313	7
Mar 2000	55,641	5,618	61,259	282	12
Jan-Mar 1999	161,995	13,880	175,875	897	16
Jan-Mar 2000	158,738	14,659	173,397	890	30
Percent 3/					
Mar 1999	1.82	6.71	1.93	2.60	0.79
Mar 2000	1.70	7.64	1.83	2.33	1.21

See footnotes at end of table.

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Poultry Slaughter: Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem Condemnations
by Type, United States, March 2000 with Comparisons 1/ (continued)

		Turkeys			
					Total
		Fryer-			Poultry
		Roasters	Young	Old	Turkeys
		1,000 Pounds			
Ante-Mortem (Live Weight)					
Feb 2000	---	1,450	25	1,475	15,276
Mar 1999	---	1,307	38	1,345	16,723
Mar 2000	---	1,491	34	1,525	15,332
Jan-Mar 1999	---	4,179	102	4,281	50,723
Jan-Mar 2000	16	4,341	123	4,480	48,605
Percent 2/					
Mar 1999	---	0.24	1.00	0.24	0.40
Mar 2000	0.14	0.25	0.74	0.26	0.35
Post-Mortem (N.Y. Dressed Weight)					
Feb 2000	---	11,803	202	12,005	71,367
Mar 1999	---	10,995	236	11,231	74,648
Mar 2000	1	13,006	301	13,308	74,861
Jan-Mar 1999	---	30,897	698	31,596	208,383
Jan-Mar 2000	5	35,392	731	36,128	210,446
Percent 3/					
Mar 1999	---	2.24	6.89	2.27	1.97
Mar 2000	1.51	2.44	7.31	2.48	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, March 1999-2000

State	Number Inspected		Live Weight Inspected		Average Live Weight Inspected 1/		
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	
	-----	1,000	-----	1,000 Pounds	----	Pounds	----
AL	79,877	84,878	405,464	429,758	5.08	5.06	
AR	105,663	103,487	516,553	499,372	4.89	4.83	
DE	23,190	25,100	135,489	142,077	5.84	5.66	
FL	11,271	11,248	60,504	61,279	5.37	5.45	
GA	102,421	101,120	508,574	507,679	4.97	5.02	
LA	14,857	17,311	65,607	75,371	4.42	4.35	
MD	17,639	18,081	84,578	86,942	4.80	4.81	
MS	62,141	61,390	319,616	312,214	5.14	5.09	
MO	31,239	31,758	141,250	143,392	4.52	4.52	
NC	56,719	57,203	328,361	331,027	5.79	5.79	
PA	9,659	9,754	51,244	51,644	5.31	5.29	
SC	20,032	19,831	95,312	101,197	4.76	5.10	
TN	17,429	19,649	87,295	92,032	5.01	4.68	
TX	45,932	50,095	219,111	238,785	4.77	4.77	
VA	30,363	30,916	147,935	150,252	4.87	4.86	
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---	
US	706,124	728,175	3,554,707	3,634,585	5.03	4.99	

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

Young Chickens Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations,
Selected States and United States, March 1999-2000

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
			N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----				-- Percent --	
AL	303,904	312,643	8,782	10,361	2.41	2.68
AR	375,021	362,569	7,356	6,845	1.58	1.52
DE	98,989	102,979	3,112	2,731	2.55	2.14
FL	43,228	43,182	1,114	1,123	2.05	2.04
GA	375,339	374,485	8,748	8,779	1.91	1.92
LA	45,686	53,625	1,593	770	2.70	1.14
MD	60,502	60,696	1,370	1,248	1.80	1.60
MS	236,014	243,274	4,380	3,176	1.52	1.13
MO	103,731	105,765	1,636	1,965	1.29	1.52
NC	245,788	250,773	6,153	5,015	2.08	1.68
PA	35,506	36,237	1,365	1,342	2.96	2.89
SC	70,342	73,607	1,752	1,993	2.04	2.19
TN	63,848	67,151	947	754	1.21	0.91
TX	163,873	182,281	2,605	2,797	1.32	1.30
VA	103,144	104,926	1,878	1,574	1.41	1.16
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	2,607,361	2,678,586	58,179	55,641	1.82	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, March 2000

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
Number						
AL	---	3,198	217,669	531,777	3,541	16,370
AR	---	4,563	360,423	171,519	---	6,276
DE	---	6,401	134,095	92,459	69	---
FL	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	1,971	151,035	602,886	838	11,596
LA	---	---	27,039	19,753	117	508
MD	---	11,711	85,927	43,489	56	11,799
MS	---	930	92,059	53,949	---	2,361
MO	---	3,868	118,368	71,019	3,286	1,942
NC	---	4,841	159,137	109,096	175	---
PA	---	3,598	45,806	50,303	---	---
SC	---	---	41,741	121,535	165	---
TN	---	503	44,575	23,483	489	1,303
TX	---	---	173,940	57,235	755	2,564
VA	---	---	76,206	61,033	---	---
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	---	97,620	2,115,410	2,103,397	32,586	167,164
Number						
	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
AL	10,756	44,566	54,180	27,266	244,396	1,153,719
AR	11,008	39,625	46,426	2,794	148,002	790,636
DE	2,438	9,315	11,624	---	55,773	312,174
FL	1,821	---	7,518	---	---	9,339
GA	11,531	42,204	38,687	11,837	250,960	1,123,545
LA	965	5,005	6,420	---	9,736	69,543
MD	1,954	16,344	---	1,331	21,957	194,568
MS	4,464	17,466	15,336	1,768	93,935	282,268
MO	2,312	12,134	15,171	760	76,650	305,510
NC	7,736	49,035	40,118	6,224	132,749	509,111
PA	1,982	4,667	---	156	35,295	141,807
SC	4,559	11,977	---	4,369	69,750	254,096
TN	2,545	9,773	---	1,063	23,601	107,335
TX	1,755	15,275	16,968	---	22,227	290,719
VA	1,812	9,245	---	2,592	21,034	171,922
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	73,509	326,143	398,972	78,043	1,343,331	6,736,175

Mature Chickens Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight,
Selected States and United States, March 1999-2000

State	Number Inspected		Live Weight Inspected		Average Live Weight Inspected 1/		
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	
	-----	1,000	-----	1,000 Pounds	----	Pounds	---
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	16,160	15,709	81,487	81,749	5.04	5.20	

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

Mature Chickens Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations,
Selected States and United States, March 1999-2000

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
	1999	2000	N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	-----		1,000 Pounds		-- Percent --	
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	49,590	48,318	4,919	5,618	6.71	7.64

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 2000

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
CA	---	---	---	14	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	7	7,851	394,476	21,174	1,351	145,060

State	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
CA	---	35	---	---	---	49
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	64,717	47,221	256,936	1,360	83,675	1,023,828

Young Turkeys (Mature) Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight, Selected States and United States, March 1999-2000

State	Number Inspected		Live Weight Inspected		Average Live Weight Inspected 1/	
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
	----- 1,000 -----		---- 1,000 Pounds ----		--- Pounds ---	
AR	2,300	2,297	43,172	41,859	18.77	18.22
CA	1,365	1,549	30,826	39,933	22.59	25.78
IA	1,369	1,298	41,563	42,326	30.35	32.61
MN	2,971	3,449	73,436	88,038	24.72	25.53
MO	1,973	2,276	55,617	63,336	28.19	27.83
NC	2,719	2,888	66,011	75,167	24.28	26.02
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	3,307	3,166	72,276	70,421	21.86	22.25
US	21,552	22,443	545,901	592,797	25.33	26.41

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

Young Turkeys (Mature) Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemns, Selected States and United States, March 1999-2000

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemns			
	1999	2000	N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----				-- Percent --	
AR	35,382	34,651	627	771	1.61	2.05
CA	25,046	31,771	420	603	1.51	1.68
IA	32,293	32,772	1,160	1,211	3.10	3.18
MN	58,132	68,959	1,819	2,865	2.75	3.62
MO	44,382	49,430	1,238	1,269	2.47	2.23
NC	50,833	59,492	1,064	1,621	1.79	2.40
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	56,810	55,040	1,057	1,101	1.63	1.74
US	428,801	466,046	10,995	13,006	2.24	2.44

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, March 2000

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
	Number					
AR	---	---	5,288	671	---	---
CA	---	---	8,578	---	---	---
IA	---	---	---	3,493	---	---
MN	---	18	22,381	16,801	2,076	14
MO	---	---	18,067	5,494	---	---
NC	---	---	5,929	---	---	---
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	---	---	4,515	246	---	---
US	---	352	100,319	36,928	7,030	91

State	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
	Number					
AR	27	244	1,110	---	---	7,340
CA	---	---	---	185	---	8,763
IA	91	---	724	---	---	4,308
MN	---	1,016	1,136	---	1,404	44,846
MO	91	285	923	---	---	24,860
NC	180	1,071	---	---	1,423	8,603
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	85	---	287	---	1,933	7,066
US	1,801	7,865	10,580	2,895	13,379	181,240

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 2, 2000.

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