



# Poultry Slaughter

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## Ready-to-Cook Weight Down 8 Percent

Poultry certified wholesome during April (ready-to-cook weight), totaled 2.79 billion pounds, down 8 percent from the amount certified in April 1999. Updated totals for March 2000 show that 3.22 billion pounds were certified.

The preliminary total live weight of poultry inspected during April 2000 was 3.76 billion pounds, down 8 percent from a year ago. Inspections included 3.16 billion pounds of young chickens, 8 percent below last year; 68.4 million pounds of mature chickens, down 14 percent; 523 million pounds of turkeys, down 6 percent; and 12.0 million pounds of ducks, down 4 percent from April 1999.

Young chickens slaughtered during April 2000 averaged 5.00 pounds per bird, down slightly from 5.01 pounds per bird in April 1999. The average live weight of mature chickens was 5.13 pounds per bird, up 1 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during April 2000 averaged 26.3 pounds per bird, up 3 percent from April 1999.

Ante-mortem condemnations during April 2000 totaled 12.9 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.34 percent of the live weight inspected, compared with 0.39 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 58.4 million pounds (N.Y. dressed weight), were 1.72 percent of quantities inspected, compared with 1.90 percent a year earlier.

April 2000 contained 20 weekdays and five Saturdays, while April 1999 contained 22 weekdays and four Saturdays.

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

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature 2/	Total		
-----					
	1,000 Head				
Number Inspected					
Mar 2000	730,263	15,709	745,972	2,057	-----
Apr 1999	686,932	15,666	702,597	1,929	-----
Apr 2000	631,861	13,351	645,212	1,812	-----
Jan-Apr 1999	2,675,146	60,486	2,735,632	7,692	-----
Jan-Apr 2000	2,690,928	56,411	2,747,339	7,844	-----
-----					
	1,000 Pounds				
Live Weight					
Mar 2000	3,644,607	81,749	3,726,356	13,779	1,089
Apr 1999	3,442,724	79,358	3,522,083	12,593	900
Apr 2000	3,160,434	68,442	3,228,876	12,049	759
Jan-Apr 1999	13,403,936	305,605	13,709,541	51,223	3,276
Jan-Apr 2000	13,492,659	289,769	13,782,428	52,289	3,684
-----					
	Pounds				
Average Live Weight					
Mar 2000	4.99	5.20	5.00	6.70	-----
Apr 1999	5.01	5.07	5.01	6.53	-----
Apr 2000	5.00	5.13	5.00	6.65	-----
Jan-Apr 1999	5.01	5.05	5.01	6.66	-----
Jan-Apr 2000	5.01	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, April 2000 with Comparisons 1/ (continued)

		Turkeys			Total	
		Fryer- Roasters	Young 3/	Old	Total Turkeys	Total Poultry
		1,000 Head				
Number Inspected						
Mar 2000	10	22,443	173	22,626	-----	
Apr 1999	---	21,775	175	21,950	-----	
Apr 2000	---	19,744	154	19,898	-----	
Jan-Apr 1999	---	81,024	553	81,577	-----	
Jan-Apr 2000	34	81,351	596	81,980	-----	
		1,000 Pounds				
Live Weight						
Mar 2000	76	592,797	4,652	597,526	4,338,750	
Apr 1999	---	552,727	4,693	557,419	4,092,995	
Apr 2000	---	518,740	4,067	522,807	3,764,491	
Jan-Apr 1999	---	2,073,920	14,893	2,088,813	15,852,853	
Jan-Apr 2000	271	2,140,595	15,802	2,156,668	15,995,069	
		Pounds				
Average Live Weight						
Mar 2000	7.81	26.41	26.91	26.41	-----	
Apr 1999	---	25.38	26.83	25.39	-----	
Apr 2000	---	26.27	26.39	26.27	-----	
Jan-Apr 1999	---	25.60	26.93	25.61	-----	
Jan-Apr 2000	8.01	26.31	26.53	26.31	-----	

- 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 1999: 5,649, April 2000: 5,301.  
3/ Of the Young Turkeys inspected, the number reported in thousands as young breeders was: April 1999: 69, April 2000: 39.

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

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature	Total		
	1,000 Pounds				
Mar 2000					
Chilled	2,448,854	45,137	2,493,991	3,628	345
Frozen	237,670	3,181	240,851	6,292	340
Total	2,686,525	48,318	2,734,842	9,920	684
Apr 1999					
Chilled	2,306,204	44,116	2,350,320	3,426	320
Frozen	221,911	3,220	225,131	5,448	211
Total	2,528,115	47,336	2,575,451	8,874	531
Apr 2000					
Chilled	2,126,288	38,733	2,165,021	3,462	192
Frozen	196,650	2,559	199,208	4,982	275
Total	2,322,937	41,292	2,364,229	8,444	467
Jan-Apr 1999					
Chilled	8,969,625	170,761	9,140,386	14,105	1,226
Frozen	855,368	13,294	868,662	21,764	657
Total	9,824,993	184,055	10,009,048	35,869	1,883
Jan-Apr 2000					
Chilled	9,063,078	161,920	9,224,998	14,495	1,088
Frozen	861,407	11,769	873,176	22,721	1,193
Total	9,924,485	173,689	10,098,174	37,215	2,280

See footnotes at end of table.

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

		Turkeys			Total Poultry	
		Fryer- Roasters	Young	Old	Total Turkeys	
		1,000 Pounds				
Mar 2000						
Chilled		56	231,998	1,989	234,043	2,732,007
Frozen		5	234,048	1,479	235,532	483,015
Total		61	466,046	3,468	469,575	3,215,022
Apr 1999						
Chilled		---	199,784	2,581	202,365	2,556,432
Frozen		---	235,993	934	236,927	467,717
Total		---	435,778	3,515	439,293	3,024,149
Apr 2000						
Chilled		---	203,750	2,100	205,850	2,374,525
Frozen		---	208,103	870	208,973	413,439
Total		---	411,853	2,970	414,823	2,787,963
Jan-Apr 1999						
Chilled		---	768,677	8,141	776,818	9,932,535
Frozen		---	865,783	2,998	868,781	1,759,864
Total		---	1,634,460	11,139	1,645,599	11,692,399
Jan-Apr 2000						
Chilled		199	831,637	8,322	840,158	10,080,738
Frozen		17	855,580	3,383	858,981	1,756,070
Total		217	1,687,217	11,705	1,699,139	11,836,808

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 2000 with Comparisons 1/

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature	Total		
----- 1,000 Pounds -----					
Ante-Mortem (Live Weight)					
Mar 2000	12,844	965	13,809	20	3
Apr 1999	12,768	1,734	14,502	16	6
Apr 2000	10,800	840	11,640	18	4
Jan-Apr 1999	56,079	4,801	60,880	65	20
Jan-Apr 2000	51,903	3,825	55,728	78	12
Percent 2/					
Apr 1999	0.37	2.19	0.41	0.12	0.66
Apr 2000	0.34	1.23	0.36	0.15	0.55
----- 1,000 Pounds -----					
Post-Mortem (N.Y. Dressed Weight)					
Mar 2000	55,799	5,618	61,417	284	12
Apr 1999	52,924	5,039	57,964	324	7
Apr 2000	42,302	4,826	47,128	257	9
Jan-Apr 1999	214,919	18,920	233,839	1,221	23
Jan-Apr 2000	201,206	19,486	220,692	1,149	39
Percent 3/					
Apr 1999	1.71	7.06	1.83	2.86	0.92
Apr 2000	1.49	7.84	1.62	2.37	1.29

See footnotes at end of table.

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

		Turkeys			
					Total
		Fryer-			Poultry
		Roasters	Young	Old	Turkeys
		1,000 Pounds			
Ante-Mortem (Live Weight)					
Mar 2000	---	1,491	35	1,526	15,359
Apr 1999	---	1,314	35	1,349	15,873
Apr 2000	---	1,164	52	1,216	12,879
Jan-Apr 1999	---	5,492	138	5,630	66,596
Jan-Apr 2000	16	5,505	176	5,697	61,516
Percent 2/					
Apr 1999	---	0.24	0.76	0.24	0.39
Apr 2000	---	0.22	1.28	0.23	0.34
Post-Mortem (N.Y. Dressed Weight)					
Mar 2000	1	13,006	301	13,308	75,021
Apr 1999	---	11,263	336	11,599	69,894
Apr 2000	---	10,665	342	11,007	58,401
Jan-Apr 1999	---	42,160	1,035	43,195	278,277
Jan-Apr 2000	5	46,057	1,073	47,136	269,016
Percent 3/					
Apr 1999	---	2.26	7.96	2.31	1.90
Apr 2000	---	2.28	9.35	2.34	1.72

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 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	77,279	73,743	392,296	374,775	5.08	5.08	
AR	101,342	91,143	490,227	440,237	4.84	4.83	
DE	22,587	19,277	131,674	113,841	5.83	5.91	
FL	10,718	9,541	56,514	51,844	5.27	5.43	
GA	97,788	90,005	487,596	442,983	4.99	4.92	
LA	14,370	14,494	63,489	63,486	4.42	4.38	
MD	17,820	15,205	86,507	71,850	4.85	4.73	
MS	57,679	52,424	289,061	266,835	5.01	5.09	
MO	31,981	27,898	146,114	125,740	4.57	4.51	
NC	54,619	48,397	320,027	282,391	5.86	5.83	
PA	9,104	7,994	48,248	42,206	5.30	5.28	
SC	19,637	18,281	94,037	92,052	4.79	5.04	
TN	17,562	17,053	84,425	80,392	4.81	4.71	
TX	46,308	44,941	218,752	217,792	4.72	4.85	
VA	30,924	27,311	154,680	134,165	5.00	4.91	
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---	
US	686,932	631,861	3,442,724	3,160,434	5.01	5.00	

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.



Young Chickens Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations,  
Selected States and United States, April 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	294,685	272,380	8,947	6,896	2.53	2.04
AR	356,508	320,719	6,142	5,279	1.39	1.33
DE	95,761	83,427	2,817	2,202	2.38	2.15
FL	39,435	37,310	1,048	852	2.06	1.83
GA	358,847	324,338	7,347	5,708	1.67	1.43
LA	44,909	44,102	1,206	529	2.11	0.93
MD	61,569	51,727	1,382	1,080	1.78	1.67
MS	216,287	207,085	2,997	2,480	1.15	1.03
MO	106,104	92,668	1,660	1,740	1.26	1.54
NC	239,028	213,369	5,611	4,453	1.95	1.75
PA	34,444	29,712	1,284	1,069	2.96	2.81
SC	69,452	67,461	1,849	1,957	2.19	2.36
TN	62,841	58,023	927	696	1.22	0.96
TX	165,628	166,121	2,708	2,360	1.38	1.20
VA	107,885	91,945	1,787	1,100	1.28	0.91
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	2,528,115	2,322,937	52,924	42,302	1.71	1.49

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 2000

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
Number						
AL	---	5,718	186,264	297,865	2,955	13,582
AR	---	3,477	276,322	117,478	---	5,393
DE	---	4,746	108,532	64,025	---	---
FL	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	3,076	126,064	247,869	690	10,406
LA	---	---	21,178	11,480	---	441
MD	---	11,408	74,091	31,726	56	9,264
MS	---	---	77,811	30,918	530	1,857
MO	---	3,187	93,528	53,675	2,121	2,203
NC	---	11,473	142,158	90,604	436	36,510
PA	---	---	38,190	29,267	792	---
SC	---	---	36,668	---	102	---
TN	---	308	42,356	24,768	547	874
TX	---	---	143,299	48,734	654	2,236
VA	---	---	60,573	23,382	36	---
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	---	104,315	1,713,340	1,241,229	25,120	136,549
Number						
	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
AL	9,671	47,606	43,850	14,245	172,820	794,576
AR	9,198	27,299	35,985	1,972	104,350	581,474
DE	2,058	7,858	9,795	---	43,398	240,412
FL	1,475	---	5,462	904	---	7,841
GA	10,188	35,528	29,584	6,971	200,902	671,278
LA	751	4,498	5,152	---	---	43,500
MD	1,608	16,206	---	---	21,203	165,562
MS	3,569	12,466	12,225	789	78,388	218,553
MO	1,819	12,356	13,533	637	58,586	241,645
NC	6,499	43,128	31,980	6,691	118,923	488,402
PA	1,664	3,582	---	---	29,035	102,530
SC	4,921	12,694	15,012	8,110	57,481	134,988
TN	2,156	10,309	13,256	269	24,794	119,637
TX	1,436	14,463	14,652	1,500	13,894	240,868
VA	1,546	8,681	---	1,755	15,076	111,049
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	63,345	295,489	321,368	53,125	1,051,933	5,005,813

Mature Chickens Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight,  
Selected States and United States, April 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	15,666	13,351	79,358	68,442	5.07	5.13

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

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

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
	1999	2000	N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----				-- Percent --	
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	47,336	41,292	5,039	4,826	7.06	7.84

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 2000

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
	Number					
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	---	9,178	323,524	17,088	3,510	126,080

  

State	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
	Number					
CA	---	54	133	---	523	710
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	47,185	51,158	206,063	2,881	62,507	849,174

Young Turkeys (Mature) Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight, Selected States and United States, April 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	2,398	2,123	44,470	38,594	18.55	18.18
CA	1,254	1,438	30,057	37,254	23.98	25.91
IA	1,475	1,208	43,036	38,583	29.17	31.93
MN	3,170	3,065	81,597	77,939	25.74	25.43
MO	2,104	1,958	58,747	55,455	27.92	28.32
NC	2,803	2,410	65,488	64,478	23.36	26.75
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	3,223	2,807	70,066	61,744	21.74	22.00
US	21,775	19,744	552,727	518,740	25.38	26.27

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

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

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemns			
	1999	2000	N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----				-- Percent --	
AR	36,642	31,436	628	693	1.57	2.00
CA	24,254	29,913	395	509	1.46	1.52
IA	33,301	30,042	1,128	1,025	2.91	2.95
MN	64,006	62,008	2,012	2,035	2.74	2.90
MO	46,560	43,514	1,269	1,173	2.40	2.35
NC	51,838	51,098	1,110	1,379	1.88	2.38
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	54,278	48,827	913	883	1.45	1.59
US	435,778	411,853	11,263	10,665	2.26	2.28

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 2000

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
	Number					
AR	---	---	4,258	---	---	---
CA	---	---	6,140	---	---	---
IA	---	---	5,583	1,756	---	---
MN	---	---	15,802	3,525	---	13
MO	---	---	15,404	2,633	---	---
NC	---	---	4,679	---	---	---
PA	---	5	---	849	---	---
VA	---	---	3,754	126	---	---
US	---	63	76,522	15,082	5,863	57
	Number					
	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
AR	---	395	---	375	---	5,028
CA	15	---	---	---	503	6,658
IA	93	---	---	---	---	7,432
MN	374	768	766	---	1,044	22,292
MO	88	789	887	---	---	19,801
NC	113	863	---	---	923	6,578
PA	---	---	500	---	591	1,945
VA	37	1,178	---	---	1,332	6,427
US	1,069	7,533	8,825	2,560	11,008	128,582



## 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 July 7, 2000.

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