



Poultry Slaughter

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Ready-to-Cook Weight Down 5 Percent

Poultry certified wholesome during December (ready-to-cook weight), totaled 2.80 billion pounds, down 5 percent from the amount certified in December 1999. Updated totals for November 2000 show that 3.09 billion pounds were certified.

The preliminary total live weight of poultry inspected during December 2000 was 3.77 billion pounds, down 6 percent from a year ago. Inspections included 3.18 billion pounds of young chickens, 5 percent below last year; 57.4 million pounds of mature chickens, down 24 percent; 512 million pounds of turkeys, down 6 percent; and 14.9 million pounds of ducks, up 1 percent from December 1999.

Young chickens slaughtered during December 2000 averaged 5.06 pounds per bird, up slightly from December 1999. The average live weight of mature chickens was 5.15 pounds per bird, nearly the same as a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during December 2000 averaged 26.0 pounds per bird, up 1 percent from December 1999.

Ante-mortem condemnations during December 2000 totaled 21.5 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.57 percent of the live weight inspected, compared with 0.39 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 55.2 million pounds (N.Y. dressed weight), were 1.63 percent of quantities inspected, compared with 1.74 percent a year earlier.

December 2000 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and five Saturdays. December 1999 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays.

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

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature 2/	Total		

	1,000 Head				
Number Inspected					
Nov 2000	662,206	12,757	674,963	2,192	-----
Dec 1999	664,778	14,675	679,453	2,196	-----
Dec 2000	629,032	11,152	640,184	2,245	-----
Jan-Dec 1999	8,111,654	175,560	8,287,215	23,327	-----
Jan-Dec 2000	8,259,181	165,027	8,424,208	24,494	-----

	1,000 Pounds				
Live Weight					
Nov 2000	3,357,617	68,754	3,426,370	14,371	1,103
Dec 1999	3,349,720	75,487	3,425,206	14,671	891
Dec 2000	3,181,425	57,394	3,238,819	14,870	788
Jan-Dec 1999	40,444,167	913,707	41,357,874	154,035	14,066
Jan-Dec 2000	41,284,082	876,685	42,160,767	161,749	14,231

	Pounds				
Average Live Weight					
Nov 2000	5.07	5.39	5.08	6.56	-----
Dec 1999	5.04	5.14	5.04	6.68	-----
Dec 2000	5.06	5.15	5.06	6.62	-----
Jan-Dec 1999	4.99	5.20	4.99	6.60	-----
Jan-Dec 2000	5.00	5.31	5.00	6.60	-----

See footnotes at end of table.

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

		Turkeys			Total	
		Fryer- Roasters	Young 3/	Old	Total Turkeys	Total Poultry
		1,000 Head				
Number Inspected						
	Nov 2000	---	24,354	205	24,558	-----
	Dec 1999	---	21,049	226	21,274	-----
	Dec 2000	---	19,402	306	19,708	-----
	Jan-Dec 1999	56	263,242	1,951	265,250	-----
	Jan-Dec 2000	81	265,599	2,347	268,026	-----
		1,000 Pounds				
Live Weight						
	Nov 2000	---	606,638	5,405	612,043	4,053,888
	Dec 1999	---	541,630	6,156	547,786	3,988,553
	Dec 2000	---	504,168	8,241	512,409	3,766,887
	Jan-Dec 1999	506	6,682,518	51,815	6,734,840	48,260,815
	Jan-Dec 2000	657	6,797,585	61,711	6,859,953	49,196,700
		Pounds				
Average Live Weight						
	Nov 2000	---	24.91	26.42	24.92	-----
	Dec 1999	---	25.73	27.27	25.75	-----
	Dec 2000	---	25.99	26.95	26.00	-----
	Jan-Dec 1999	9.00	25.39	26.55	25.39	-----
	Jan-Dec 2000	8.13	25.59	26.30	25.59	-----

- 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: December 1999: 5,966, December 2000: 4,419.
3/ Of the Young Turkeys inspected, the number reported in thousands as young breeders was: December 1999: 70, December 2000: 55.

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

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature	Total		
	1,000 Pounds				
Nov 2000					
Chilled	2,341,657	40,193	2,381,850	4,072	249
Frozen	211,921	1,500	213,421	6,213	434
Total	2,553,578	41,693	2,595,271	10,285	683
Dec 1999					
Chilled	2,255,477	43,941	2,299,418	4,275	296
Frozen	210,517	2,283	212,801	5,983	246
Total	2,465,994	46,225	2,512,219	10,258	542
Dec 2000					
Chilled	2,162,103	33,282	2,195,385	4,455	212
Frozen	187,239	1,528	188,767	6,093	290
Total	2,349,342	34,810	2,384,152	10,548	502
Jan-Dec 1999					
Chilled	27,154,732	513,805	27,668,538	42,599	4,052
Frozen	2,586,648	38,536	2,625,184	65,549	4,130
Total	29,741,380	552,342	30,293,722	108,147	8,183
Jan-Dec 2000					
Chilled	27,884,313	494,964	28,379,278	45,348	3,508
Frozen	2,602,240	34,377	2,636,617	70,629	5,201
Total	30,486,554	529,342	31,015,895	115,977	8,709

See footnotes at end of table.

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

		Turkeys			Total
		Fryer-	Young	Old	Poultry
		Roasters		Turkeys	
		1,000 Pounds			
Nov 2000					
Chilled	---	254,523	2,767	257,290	2,643,461
Frozen	---	223,721	1,319	225,040	445,108
Total	---	478,244	4,086	482,330	3,088,569
Dec 1999					
Chilled	---	215,887	3,044	218,931	2,522,920
Frozen	---	209,483	1,587	211,069	430,099
Total	---	425,370	4,631	430,000	2,953,018
Dec 2000					
Chilled	---	200,357	4,788	205,145	2,405,197
Frozen	---	195,116	2,127	197,243	392,393
Total	---	395,473	6,915	402,388	2,797,589
Jan-Dec 1999					
Chilled	46	2,440,786	24,616	2,465,448	30,180,636
Frozen	313	2,816,656	14,099	2,831,069	5,525,932
Total	359	5,257,442	38,715	5,296,516	35,706,568
Jan-Dec 2000					
Chilled	219	2,594,141	31,656	2,626,016	31,054,150
Frozen	276	2,759,303	15,604	2,775,183	5,487,630
Total	495	5,353,444	47,260	5,401,199	36,541,780

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

Poultry Slaughter: Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem Condemnations
by Type, United States, December 2000 with Comparisons 1/

	Chickens			Ducks	Other Poultry
	Young	Mature	Total		
1,000 Pounds					
Ante-Mortem (Live Weight)					
Nov 2000	12,792	838	13,630	28	6
Dec 1999	13,121	883	14,004	18	1
Dec 2000	18,504	1,189	19,693	24	5
Jan-Dec 1999	170,911	15,792	186,703	242	78
Jan-Dec 2000	171,245	15,237	186,482	279	59
Percent 2/					
Dec 1999	0.39	1.17	0.41	0.12	0.12
Dec 2000	0.58	2.07	0.61	0.16	0.58
1,000 Pounds					
Post-Mortem (N.Y. Dressed Weight)					
Nov 2000	43,310	3,684	46,994	422	9
Dec 1999	46,312	4,721	51,033	337	7
Dec 2000	40,962	2,881	43,842	416	7
Jan-Dec 1999	589,959	56,054	646,013	3,457	154
Jan-Dec 2000	540,687	52,346	593,033	3,866	142
Percent 3/					
Dec 1999	1.54	6.95	1.66	2.56	0.93
Dec 2000	1.43	5.58	1.50	3.11	1.04

See footnotes at end of table.

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

		Turkeys			
		Fryer- Roasters	Young	Old	Total Poultry
		1,000 Pounds			
Ante-Mortem (Live Weight)					
Nov 2000	---	1,514	20	1,534	15,198
Dec 1999	---	1,287	75	1,362	15,385
Dec 2000	---	1,697	34	1,731	21,453
Jan-Dec 1999	1	17,701	512	18,213	205,236
Jan-Dec 2000	17	19,321	503	19,841	206,661
Percent 2/					
Dec 1999	---	0.24	1.22	0.25	0.39
Dec 2000	---	0.34	0.42	0.34	0.57
Post-Mortem (N.Y. Dressed Weight)					
		1,000 Pounds			
Nov 2000	---	11,421	295	11,716	59,140
Dec 1999	---	10,823	366	11,189	62,567
Dec 2000	---	10,558	422	10,981	55,247
Jan-Dec 1999	5	131,965	3,459	135,428	785,052
Jan-Dec 2000	9	137,597	3,681	141,287	738,327
Percent 3/					
Dec 1999	---	2.22	6.60	2.27	1.74
Dec 2000	---	2.33	5.70	2.38	1.63

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, December 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	76,919	74,040	391,025	372,648	5.08	5.03	
AR	93,745	87,908	452,409	434,847	4.83	4.95	
DE	21,026	19,815	126,041	114,504	5.99	5.78	
FL	10,252	9,680	56,609	53,827	5.52	5.56	
GA	92,261	88,407	462,631	438,307	5.01	4.96	
LA	15,157	13,176	68,088	63,612	4.49	4.83	
MD	16,972	15,093	81,763	71,393	4.82	4.73	
MS	57,706	52,814	291,478	266,575	5.05	5.05	
MO	29,298	27,056	132,777	127,113	4.53	4.70	
NC	55,862	55,028	325,402	319,058	5.83	5.80	
PA	8,887	7,881	46,291	42,010	5.21	5.33	
SC	18,960	16,822	95,575	89,893	5.04	5.34	
TN	17,848	17,641	85,577	83,316	4.79	4.72	
TX	46,384	46,208	221,861	225,199	4.78	4.87	
VA	27,831	27,256	137,582	130,014	4.94	4.77	
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---	
US	664,778	629,032	3,349,720	3,181,425	5.04	5.06	

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

Young Chickens Slaughtered: Pounds Certified and Post-Mortem Condemnations,
Selected States and United States, December 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	284,802	271,814	7,139	5,126	2.03	1.53
AR	329,850	315,162	5,580	5,905	1.37	1.51
DE	91,946	83,285	1,983	2,090	1.75	2.03
FL	41,481	38,322	1,026	867	2.01	1.79
GA	334,406	322,379	7,234	4,831	1.74	1.22
LA	47,606	45,097	784	612	1.28	1.07
MD	56,931	51,246	1,262	966	1.71	1.50
MS	228,286	207,081	2,809	2,371	1.07	0.99
MO	96,519	93,319	1,518	1,472	1.27	1.29
NC	247,758	241,551	4,776	4,615	1.63	1.61
PA	32,522	29,346	1,378	1,137	3.31	3.01
SC	69,531	63,388	1,708	1,610	1.99	1.99
TN	62,206	62,284	725	689	0.94	0.92
TX	170,684	175,705	2,498	3,756	1.25	1.85
VA	96,567	94,431	1,270	1,178	1.03	1.01
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	2,465,994	2,349,342	46,312	40,962	1.54	1.43

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, December 2000

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
Number						
AL	---	1,387	169,391	124,432	1,438	10,925
AR	---	3,145	276,520	129,413	4,932	7,934
DE	---	5,756	113,140	48,067	---	---
FL	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	1,090	119,791	148,105	946	14,756
LA	---	---	20,103	---	90	672
MD	---	7,274	60,485	31,331	---	---
MS	---	1,167	78,379	31,854	419	1,918
MO	---	---	90,245	38,203	1,978	---
NC	---	2,191	145,920	128,163	196	38,265
PA	---	1,704	42,091	31,880	303	---
SC	---	---	---	---	---	---
TN	---	---	49,100	20,748	318	1,078
TX	---	1,151	179,631	59,141	639	3,452
VA	---	942	---	31,261	56	---
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	---	40,857	1,796,774	961,157	16,340	138,582
Number						
	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
AL	7,639	45,761	40,415	7,614	108,489	517,491
AR	8,243	50,290	41,386	2,729	87,786	612,378
DE	3,381	12,560	12,975	1,657	33,800	231,336
FL	1,552	4,113	3,786	---	---	9,451
GA	8,546	39,158	31,616	9,508	149,793	523,309
LA	800	2,877	3,779	---	4,401	32,722
MD	---	11,230	---	---	20,016	130,336
MS	2,894	14,174	11,572	660	75,173	218,210
MO	2,440	25,542	14,966	1,529	28,752	203,655
NC	6,840	45,503	32,806	5,144	94,283	499,311
PA	1,365	7,450	6,281	---	41,210	132,284
SC	1,880	---	8,645	---	18,056	28,581
TN	2,920	12,344	8,687	1,217	18,023	114,435
TX	1,738	15,842	13,238	---	13,125	287,957
VA	1,642	8,666	---	803	17,678	61,048
WA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	57,357	337,948	307,784	44,192	808,189	4,509,180

Mature Chickens Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight,
Selected States and United States, December 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	14,675	11,152	75,487	57,394	5.14	5.15	

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

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

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemnations				
	1999	2000	N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/		
	-----	1,000 Pounds	-----	----	--	Percent	--
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	46,225	34,810	4,721	2,881	6.95	5.58	

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, December 2000

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
	Number					
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	---	2,833	245,033	8,753	1,758	99,045

State	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
	Number					
CA	---	---	---	---	---	---
GA	---	---	---	---	---	---
US	26,300	27,987	162,149	2,483	54,331	630,672

Young Turkeys (Mature) Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight, Selected States and United States, December 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	1,993	1,802	35,745	31,292	17.94	17.37
CA	1,715	1,199	41,852	27,951	24.40	23.31
IA	1,151	1,241	35,106	37,534	30.50	30.26
MN	3,269	2,946	82,361	73,911	25.19	25.09
MO	1,946	1,713	52,178	44,732	26.81	26.11
NC	2,437	2,617	61,511	68,533	25.25	26.19
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	3,041	2,811	65,274	60,384	21.47	21.48
US	21,049	19,402	541,630	504,168	25.73	25.99

1/ Average weight based on unrounded data.

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

State	Total Certified 1/		Post-Mortem Condemnations			
	1999	2000	N.Y. Dressed Weight		Percent 2/	
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----				-- Percent --	
AR	29,069	27,265	656	562	2.04	2.00
CA	33,092	23,367	609	461	1.62	1.83
IA	27,260	29,461	924	933	2.92	2.76
MN	64,019	56,378	2,459	2,157	3.32	3.24
MO	41,175	34,036	893	1,024	1.90	2.54
NC	47,941	53,909	1,235	1,433	2.23	2.32
PA	---	---	---	---	---	---
VA	51,145	46,097	918	711	1.56	1.31
US	425,370	395,473	10,823	10,558	2.22	2.33

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, December 2000

State	Tuber- culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	Airsac- culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
Number						
AR	---	---	6,272	---	---	---
CA	---	---	---	46	---	---
IA	---	---	---	1,657	---	9
MN	---	---	18,143	3,225	---	---
MO	---	---	15,773	---	---	---
NC	---	---	---	---	---	5
PA	---	---	---	704	35	---
VA	---	---	5,461	223	---	---
US	---	588	90,779	13,074	3,956	152
Number						
State	Bruises	Cadaver	Contam- ination	Overscald	Other	Total
AR	---	468	---	---	---	6,740
CA	---	---	104	---	---	150
IA	59	---	---	---	---	1,725
MN	169	1,290	1,279	---	1,455	25,561
MO	59	---	671	---	---	16,503
NC	156	2,077	4,098	---	1,303	7,639
PA	---	---	---	---	---	739
VA	---	---	260	---	---	5,944
US	946	34,947	10,475	3,291	10,802	169,010

Old Turkeys (Breeders) Slaughtered: Number Condemned Post-Mortem by Cause,
 United States, December 2000

		Tuber-			Airsac-		
State		culosis	Leukosis	Septicemia	culitis	Synovitis	Tumors
		Number					
US	---	14	5,763	1,095	34	146	
		Bruises	Cadaver	Contam-	Overscald	Other	Total
		Number					
US		32	258	314	43	1,279	8,978

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 March 2, 2001.

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