



Broiler Hatchery

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Broiler-Type Eggs Set Down 5 Percent

Commercial hatcheries in the 19 State weekly program set 195 million eggs in incubators during the week ending January 28, 2012. This was down 5 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 85 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

Broiler-Type Chicks Placed Down 4 Percent

Broiler growers in the 19 State weekly program placed 161 million chicks for meat production during the week ending January 28, 2012. Placements were down 4 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from January 1, 2012 through January 28, 2012 were 647 million, down 4 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Broiler-Type Eggs Set – 19 Selected States: 2011 and 2012

State	Week ending					
	December 24, 2011	December 31, 2011	January 7, 2012	January 14, 2012	January 21, 2012	January 28, 2012
	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)
Alabama	27,704	27,562	28,078	27,839	28,025	27,963
Arkansas	20,121	20,187	20,082	20,085	20,073	20,235
Delaware	3,126	3,232	3,265	3,261	3,262	3,262
Florida	1,349	1,347	1,351	1,351	1,353	1,352
Georgia	31,736	31,839	31,430	31,386	31,148	31,630
Kentucky	7,648	7,634	7,626	7,571	7,643	7,389
Louisiana	3,333	3,348	3,364	3,379	3,440	3,424
Maryland	7,483	7,447	7,364	7,098	7,669	7,216
Mississippi	18,266	17,763	17,573	17,475	18,111	18,185
Missouri	7,945	7,433	7,853	7,623	7,677	7,668
North Carolina	20,094	19,927	19,760	20,010	19,988	19,952
Oklahoma	6,710	6,268	6,585	6,787	6,721	6,609
Pennsylvania	3,769	3,812	3,662	3,875	3,849	3,785
South Carolina	5,362	5,164	5,250	5,348	5,363	5,156
Texas	14,054	13,887	14,316	13,652	14,249	14,322
Virginia	6,041	5,909	5,694	5,939	6,231	5,698
California, Tennessee, and West Virginia	11,126	10,709	10,208	10,454	9,659	10,694
19 State total	195,867	193,468	193,461	193,133	194,461	194,540
Previous year total	205,240	203,224	205,419	205,099	204,116	203,933
Percent of previous year	95	95	94	94	95	95

Broiler-Type Chicks Placed – 19 Selected States: 2011 and 2012

State	Week ending					
	December 24, 2011	December 31, 2011	January 7, 2012	January 14, 2012	January 21, 2012	January 28, 2012
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)
Alabama	20,588	20,811	20,132	19,898	20,265	20,287
Arkansas	19,333	20,378	19,296	18,012	18,621	19,924
Delaware	3,355	4,385	3,952	4,547	3,901	4,607
Florida	964	1,160	1,160	1,160	953	1,136
Georgia	27,617	26,917	26,997	27,346	26,950	26,830
Kentucky	6,015	6,378	6,098	6,021	5,990	6,540
Louisiana	2,972	2,943	2,987	2,992	2,995	3,010
Maryland	6,667	5,968	5,474	6,060	6,386	5,337
Mississippi	15,590	15,407	15,542	15,594	15,053	15,216
Missouri	5,734	5,004	5,554	6,087	4,913	5,036
North Carolina	15,729	15,635	15,439	15,738	15,698	16,007
Oklahoma	4,264	3,746	4,042	4,693	4,691	3,928
Pennsylvania	3,196	3,134	3,196	3,136	3,179	3,059
South Carolina	4,183	4,115	4,828	4,435	4,221	4,124
Texas	11,667	11,848	11,941	11,772	11,748	11,786
Virginia	4,624	4,710	5,698	4,693	4,844	4,785
California, Tennessee, and West Virginia	10,689	10,339	9,589	10,881	10,619	9,693
19 State total	163,187	162,878	161,925	163,065	161,027	161,305
Previous year total	168,134	168,813	168,417	168,220	167,507	168,493
Percent of previous year	97	96	96	97	96	96

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: Data for broiler hatchery estimates are collected weekly from all chicken hatcheries within the 19 States that hatch at least one million chicks a year. The 19 States account for approximately 97 percent of the broilers produced on an annual basis. Individual NASS field offices maintain a list of all known hatcheries and update their lists on a continual basis. All hatcheries within the 19 States that meet the minimum size criteria are given adequate time to respond to the weekly survey. Those that do not respond are contacted by telephone.

Estimating Procedures: All data are analyzed for unusual values. Data from each operation are compared to their own past operating profile and to trends from similar operations. Data for missing operations are estimated based on similar operations or historical data. NASS field offices prepare these estimates by using a combination of survey indications and historic trends. Individual State estimates are reviewed by the Agricultural Statistics Board for reasonableness. Individual hatchery data are summed to State and 19 State totals.

Revision Policy: Revisions are generally the result of late or corrected data. Revisions made to the previous five-week's data during the current week are published in this report. Final estimates are published in the annual *Hatchery Production Summary* released in April.

Reliability: Estimates are subject to errors such as omission, duplication, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. While these errors cannot be measured directly, they are minimized through strict quality controls in the data collection process and a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov

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