



Broiler Hatchery

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Broiler-Type Eggs Set Down 5 Percent

Commercial hatcheries in the 19 State weekly program set 198 million eggs in incubators during the week ending March 10, 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 5 Percent

Broiler growers in the 19 State weekly program placed 163 million chicks for meat production during the week ending March 10, 2012. Placements were down 5 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from January 1, 2012 through March 10, 2012 were 1.62 billion, down 4 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Broiler-Type Eggs Set – 19 Selected States: 2012

State	Week ending					
	February 4, 2012	February 11, 2012	February 18, 2012	February 25, 2012	March 3, 2012	March 10, 2012
	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)
Alabama	26,946	27,085	27,624	28,000	27,581	27,476
Arkansas	19,931	20,091	19,499	20,142	20,493	20,665
Delaware	3,265	3,188	3,191	3,190	3,191	3,303
Florida	1,352	1,352	1,243	1,353	1,350	1,350
Georgia	31,616	31,983	32,222	32,143	32,150	32,374
Kentucky	7,483	7,751	7,571	6,483	7,855	7,841
Louisiana	3,440	3,470	3,424	3,379	3,470	3,440
Maryland	6,874	7,484	7,067	7,204	7,212	7,674
Mississippi	17,623	17,832	17,663	17,814	17,799	17,682
Missouri	7,784	7,817	7,807	7,672	7,840	7,648
North Carolina	20,207	20,310	20,336	20,325	20,397	20,342
Oklahoma	6,841	6,923	6,768	6,688	6,930	6,930
Pennsylvania	3,649	3,539	3,497	3,714	3,763	3,639
South Carolina	5,318	5,282	5,404	5,296	5,291	5,472
Texas	14,420	15,035	15,011	14,705	14,732	14,994
Virginia	5,985	6,199	5,963	6,168	6,118	6,207
California, Tennessee, and West Virginia	10,428	10,140	10,373	11,100	11,030	10,992
19 State total	193,162	195,481	194,663	195,376	197,202	198,029
Previous year total	205,787	204,337	207,150	206,633	208,530	207,787
Percent of previous year	94	96	94	95	95	95

Broiler-Type Chicks Placed – 19 Selected States: 2012

State	Week ending					
	February 4, 2012	February 11, 2012	February 18, 2012	February 25, 2012	March 3, 2012	March 10, 2012
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)
Alabama	19,955	19,445	21,845	18,833	18,749	19,390
Arkansas	20,438	18,219	19,111	19,144	19,498	18,611
Delaware	4,016	4,433	4,404	3,440	4,117	3,910
Florida	1,149	1,048	1,062	1,073	1,454	1,174
Georgia	26,053	27,384	25,271	27,877	27,520	28,332
Kentucky	6,181	6,544	6,008	5,662	6,562	6,595
Louisiana	3,023	3,062	3,068	3,092	3,091	3,022
Maryland	5,849	6,490	5,959	6,751	5,778	6,441
Mississippi	14,721	15,172	15,227	15,317	15,599	15,428
Missouri	4,934	5,755	5,674	4,613	5,566	6,020
North Carolina	15,699	15,648	15,418	15,820	15,856	15,816
Oklahoma	3,220	4,755	4,003	5,026	4,125	4,014
Pennsylvania	3,211	3,107	3,159	3,045	2,894	2,917
South Carolina	4,956	4,798	4,971	4,197	4,523	4,230
Texas	11,576	12,119	11,949	11,972	12,466	12,321
Virginia	5,164	4,607	4,096	4,547	5,368	4,581
California, Tennessee, and West Virginia	10,622	9,442	10,057	10,137	10,165	9,900
19 State total	160,767	162,028	161,282	160,546	163,331	162,702
Previous year total	168,151	167,953	167,473	168,805	167,792	170,434
Percent of previous year	96	96	96	95	97	95

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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