



Broiler Hatchery

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Broiler-Type Eggs Set Down 4 Percent

Commercial hatcheries in the 19 State weekly program set 199 million eggs in incubators during the week ending April 7, 2012. This was down 4 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 165 million chicks for meat production during the week ending April 7, 2012. Placements were down 4 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from January 1, 2012 through April 7, 2012 were 2.27 billion, down 4 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Broiler-Type Eggs Set – 19 Selected States: 2012

State	Week ending					
	March 3, 2012	March 10, 2012	March 17, 2012	March 24, 2012	March 31, 2012	April 7, 2012
	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)
Alabama	27,989	27,476	28,269	28,251	27,319	27,989
Arkansas	20,977	21,148	20,142	20,771	21,178	21,240
Delaware	3,191	3,303	3,415	3,388	3,517	3,506
Florida	1,350	1,350	1,351	1,348	1,350	1,349
Georgia	32,150	32,374	32,307	31,890	32,796	32,564
Kentucky	7,733	7,794	7,723	7,538	7,683	7,709
Louisiana	3,470	3,440	3,470	3,440	3,500	3,500
Maryland	7,212	7,674	7,678	7,192	7,000	7,128
Mississippi	17,799	17,682	17,784	17,907	17,907	17,878
Missouri	7,840	7,648	7,482	7,657	7,464	7,701
North Carolina	20,397	20,342	19,969	20,031	20,077	20,381
Oklahoma	6,930	6,930	6,365	6,728	6,930	6,910
Pennsylvania	3,763	3,838	3,859	3,771	3,576	3,785
South Carolina	5,291	5,472	5,118	5,448	5,385	5,488
Texas	14,764	15,026	15,075	14,941	14,933	14,972
Virginia	5,947	6,207	6,137	6,047	6,311	6,415
California, Tennessee, and West Virginia	10,884	11,035	11,413	10,526	10,783	10,668
19 State total	197,687	198,739	197,557	196,874	197,709	199,183
Previous year total	208,530	207,787	208,563	209,382	208,037	208,503
Percent of previous year	95	96	95	94	95	96

Broiler-Type Chicks Placed – 19 Selected States: 2012

State	Week ending					
	March 3, 2012	March 10, 2012	March 17, 2012	March 24, 2012	March 31, 2012	April 7, 2012
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)
Alabama	18,749	19,382	20,106	19,610	20,335	20,595
Arkansas	19,498	18,611	19,004	20,043	20,359	18,964
Delaware	4,117	3,910	3,901	3,943	3,724	4,760
Florida	1,454	1,174	1,407	1,217	1,016	1,233
Georgia	27,520	28,332	27,862	27,284	27,233	28,079
Kentucky	6,562	6,595	4,894	6,594	6,214	5,964
Louisiana	3,091	3,022	2,983	3,032	3,025	3,356
Maryland	5,778	6,441	6,110	5,927	7,020	5,488
Mississippi	15,599	15,328	15,447	15,207	15,136	15,282
Missouri	5,566	6,020	5,325	5,245	5,548	5,413
North Carolina	15,856	15,816	16,753	16,294	16,080	16,127
Oklahoma	4,125	4,014	4,605	4,533	3,813	4,123
Pennsylvania	2,894	2,870	3,117	3,113	3,144	3,244
South Carolina	4,523	4,230	3,646	4,696	4,218	4,096
Texas	12,466	12,347	12,223	12,143	12,524	12,235
Virginia	5,368	4,739	4,784	5,365	4,735	4,592
California, Tennessee, and West Virginia	10,181	9,883	10,845	10,359	10,859	11,778
19 State total	163,347	162,714	163,012	164,605	164,983	165,329
Previous year total	167,792	170,434	170,587	173,852	172,812	172,733
Percent of previous year	97	95	96	95	95	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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