



Broiler Hatchery

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Broiler-Type Eggs Set Down 5 Percent

Commercial hatcheries in the 19 State weekly program set 199 million eggs in incubators during the week ending April 14, 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 164 million chicks for meat production during the week ending April 14, 2012. Placements were down 5 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from January 1, 2012 through April 14, 2012 were 2.44 billion, down 4 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Broiler-Type Eggs Set – 19 Selected States: 2012

State	Week ending					
	March 10, 2012	March 17, 2012	March 24, 2012	March 31, 2012	April 7, 2012	April 14, 2012
	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)
Alabama	27,476	28,269	28,083	27,319	27,989	27,854
Arkansas	21,148	20,142	20,771	21,178	21,240	21,233
Delaware	3,303	3,415	3,388	3,517	3,506	3,550
Florida	1,350	1,351	1,348	1,350	1,349	1,352
Georgia	32,374	32,249	31,890	32,796	32,564	32,536
Kentucky	7,794	7,723	7,429	7,675	7,709	7,626
Louisiana	3,440	3,470	3,440	3,500	3,500	3,500
Maryland	7,674	7,678	7,192	7,000	7,128	7,393
Mississippi	17,682	17,784	17,907	17,907	17,878	17,717
Missouri	7,648	7,482	7,657	7,464	7,701	7,686
North Carolina	20,342	19,969	20,031	20,077	20,381	20,556
Oklahoma	6,930	6,365	6,728	6,930	6,910	6,688
Pennsylvania	3,838	3,859	3,771	3,576	3,754	3,586
South Carolina	5,472	5,118	5,448	5,385	5,488	5,364
Texas	15,026	15,075	14,941	14,933	14,972	14,816
Virginia	6,207	6,137	5,950	6,311	6,415	6,166
California, Tennessee, and West Virginia	11,035	11,413	10,526	10,783	10,668	11,450
19 State total	198,739	197,499	196,500	197,701	199,152	199,073
Previous year total	207,931	208,714	209,434	207,520	207,969	208,968
Percent of previous year	96	95	94	95	96	95

Broiler-Type Chicks Placed – 19 Selected States: 2012

State	Week ending					
	March 10, 2012	March 17, 2012	March 24, 2012	March 31, 2012	April 7, 2012	April 14, 2012
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)
Alabama	19,382	20,106	19,610	20,335	20,595	20,546
Arkansas	18,611	19,004	20,043	20,359	18,964	19,564
Delaware	3,910	3,901	4,043	3,724	4,760	4,647
Florida	1,174	1,407	1,217	1,016	1,233	1,289
Georgia	28,332	27,862	27,284	27,233	28,079	26,180
Kentucky	6,595	4,894	6,594	6,214	5,964	6,185
Louisiana	3,022	2,983	3,032	3,025	3,356	3,059
Maryland	6,441	6,110	5,927	7,020	5,488	5,915
Mississippi	15,328	15,447	15,207	15,136	15,282	15,444
Missouri	6,020	5,325	5,245	5,548	5,413	5,972
North Carolina	15,816	16,753	16,294	16,870	16,127	16,163
Oklahoma	4,014	4,605	4,533	3,813	4,123	3,662
Pennsylvania	2,870	3,117	3,113	3,144	3,103	2,957
South Carolina	4,230	3,646	4,696	4,218	4,096	4,919
Texas	12,347	12,223	12,143	12,524	12,235	12,723
Virginia	4,739	4,784	5,365	4,735	4,592	4,824
California, Tennessee, and West Virginia	9,883	10,845	10,359	10,859	11,778	10,176
19 State total	162,714	163,012	164,705	165,773	165,188	164,225
Previous year total	170,304	170,422	172,880	171,899	172,098	173,110
Percent of previous year	96	96	95	96	96	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

Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 720-3570
Bruce Boess, Head, Poultry and Specialty Commodities Section	(202) 720-4447
Cody Brokmeyer – Poultry Slaughter, Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised	(202) 690-3237
David Colwell – Cold Storage	(202) 720-8784
LaKeya Jones – Catfish Processing, Catfish Production, Trout Production, Census of Aquaculture, Honey, Egg Products, Mink	(202) 720-0585
Kim Linonis – Layers, Eggs	(202) 690-8632
Miste Salmon – Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery	(202) 720-3244

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