



Broiler Hatchery

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Broiler-Type Eggs Set Down 5 Percent

Commercial hatcheries in the 19 State weekly program set 197 million eggs in incubators during the week ending April 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 3 Percent

Broiler growers in the 19 State weekly program placed 167 million chicks for meat production during the week ending April 28, 2012. Placements were down 3 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from January 1, 2012 through April 28, 2012 were 2.77 billion, down 4 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Broiler-Type Eggs Set – 19 Selected States: 2012

State	Week ending					
	March 24, 2012	March 31, 2012	April 7, 2012	April 14, 2012	April 21, 2012	April 28, 2012
	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)
Alabama	28,083	27,426	27,990	27,854	28,393	27,188
Arkansas	20,771	21,178	21,240	21,233	21,168	21,246
Delaware	3,388	3,517	3,506	3,550	3,622	3,470
Florida	1,348	1,350	1,349	1,352	1,347	1,353
Georgia	31,890	32,796	32,564	32,536	32,274	32,356
Kentucky	7,417	7,822	7,759	7,641	7,358	7,394
Louisiana	3,440	3,500	3,500	3,530	3,530	3,440
Maryland	7,192	7,000	7,128	7,393	7,570	7,628
Mississippi	17,907	17,907	17,878	17,717	18,068	17,689
Missouri	7,657	7,464	7,701	7,686	7,711	7,473
North Carolina	20,031	20,223	20,381	20,556	20,434	20,142
Oklahoma	6,728	6,930	6,910	6,688	6,849	6,970
Pennsylvania	3,771	3,576	3,754	3,753	3,795	3,673
South Carolina	5,448	5,385	5,488	5,364	5,483	5,437
Texas	14,941	14,933	14,972	14,816	14,821	14,560
Virginia	5,950	6,311	6,415	6,166	6,399	6,294
California, Tennessee, and West Virginia	10,526	10,783	10,668	11,554	11,262	10,593
19 State total	196,488	198,101	199,203	199,389	200,084	196,906
Previous year total	209,434	207,520	207,969	208,968	209,132	207,087
Percent of previous year	94	95	96	95	96	95

Broiler-Type Chicks Placed – 19 Selected States: 2012

State	Week ending					
	March 24, 2012	March 31, 2012	April 7, 2012	April 14, 2012	April 21, 2012	April 28, 2012
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)
Alabama	19,610	20,335	20,595	20,546	19,877	20,220
Arkansas	20,043	20,144	18,964	19,564	20,389	19,093
Delaware	4,043	3,724	4,760	4,647	4,733	4,190
Florida	1,217	1,016	1,233	1,289	1,202	1,250
Georgia	27,284	27,051	27,899	25,950	27,592	27,377
Kentucky	6,594	6,214	5,964	6,097	6,222	6,390
Louisiana	3,032	3,025	3,356	3,040	3,095	3,084
Maryland	5,927	7,020	5,488	5,915	6,244	6,677
Mississippi	15,207	15,136	15,282	15,444	15,418	15,362
Missouri	5,245	5,548	5,413	5,972	4,892	5,921
North Carolina	16,294	17,064	16,334	16,403	16,421	16,157
Oklahoma	4,533	3,959	4,123	3,662	4,238	4,887
Pennsylvania	3,113	3,144	3,103	2,927	2,892	3,134
South Carolina	4,696	4,218	4,096	4,919	4,754	5,350
Texas	12,143	12,524	12,235	12,723	12,612	12,414
Virginia	5,365	4,735	4,592	4,824	4,457	4,906
California, Tennessee, and West Virginia	10,359	10,859	11,778	10,857	11,146	10,559
19 State total	164,705	165,716	165,215	164,779	166,184	166,971
Previous year total	172,880	171,899	172,098	173,110	172,008	172,624
Percent of previous year	95	96	96	95	97	97

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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