



Broiler Hatchery

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Broiler-Type Eggs Set Up 1 Percent

Commercial hatcheries in the 19 State weekly program set 196 million eggs in incubators during the week ending December 29, 2012. This was up 1 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 2 Percent

Broiler growers in the 19 State weekly program placed 159 million chicks for meat production during the week ending December 29, 2012. Placements were down 2 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from January 1, 2012 through December 29, 2012 were 8.41 billion, down 2 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Broiler-Type Eggs Set – 19 Selected States: 2012

State	Week ending					
	November 24, 2012	December 1, 2012	December 8, 2012	December 15, 2012	December 22, 2012	December 29, 2012
	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)
Alabama	28,045	27,975	27,670	27,607	27,871	27,873
Arkansas	21,532	21,963	20,891	21,845	21,622	21,742
Delaware	3,413	3,415	3,414	3,415	3,414	3,411
Florida	1,353	1,655	1,048	1,350	1,353	1,350
Georgia	32,298	34,317	30,251	32,433	32,432	32,233
Kentucky	7,350	7,364	7,414	7,694	7,679	7,352
Louisiana	3,258	3,258	3,273	3,288	3,304	3,288
Maryland	7,182	7,067	7,117	7,185	7,153	7,066
Mississippi	17,178	17,089	17,377	17,174	16,822	16,719
Missouri	8,013	8,012	7,713	7,881	7,897	7,932
North Carolina	20,043	20,022	19,058	19,992	19,978	19,765
Oklahoma	6,825	7,026	6,809	6,581	6,968	6,936
Pennsylvania	3,701	3,935	3,583	3,812	3,713	3,711
South Carolina	5,657	5,557	5,316	4,675	5,462	5,463
Texas	14,212	14,764	13,761	14,237	14,033	14,048
Virginia	6,455	6,638	6,002	6,476	6,490	6,260
California, Tennessee, and West Virginia	10,372	10,961	9,398	9,694	10,574	10,428
19 State total	196,887	201,018	190,095	195,339	196,765	195,577
Previous year total	194,560	194,178	194,887	194,602	195,380	192,967
Percent of previous year	101	104	98	100	101	101

Broiler-Type Chicks Placed – 19 Selected States: 2012

State	Week ending					
	November 24, 2012	December 1, 2012	December 8, 2012	December 15, 2012	December 22, 2012	December 29, 2012
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)
Alabama	17,883	19,786	21,156	21,449	21,399	21,054
Arkansas	18,987	19,476	19,134	19,857	19,753	19,236
Delaware	4,309	3,550	3,831	4,086	3,817	3,727
Florida	1,162	1,020	1,369	1,311	1,304	725
Georgia	24,958	26,525	25,978	26,268	27,620	25,505
Kentucky	5,875	5,542	6,122	6,315	5,574	5,731
Louisiana	2,664	2,642	2,940	2,912	2,958	2,937
Maryland	5,710	7,060	6,526	6,198	6,137	7,131
Mississippi	12,984	14,757	14,493	14,989	14,871	15,027
Missouri	4,869	5,316	5,768	5,720	5,633	5,589
North Carolina	16,127	16,728	15,865	16,416	15,819	15,556
Oklahoma	3,997	4,204	5,307	4,734	5,334	4,523
Pennsylvania	2,772	2,804	3,084	2,900	3,110	2,970
South Carolina	4,885	3,843	5,064	4,344	4,763	4,128
Texas	11,162	11,832	11,940	11,809	12,416	11,619
Virginia	3,929	3,592	4,264	4,456	4,973	4,021
California, Tennessee, and West Virginia	9,465	10,742	10,661	9,577	11,497	9,301
19 State total	151,738	159,419	163,502	163,341	166,978	158,780
Previous year total	156,853	160,576	162,541	162,116	162,753	162,444
Percent of previous year	97	99	101	101	103	98

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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