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Eggs in Incubators on December 1 Down 10 Percent from Last Year

Turkey eggs in incubators on December 1, 2008, in the United States totaled 27.3 million, down 10 percent from December 1, 2007. Eggs in incubators were down 1 percent from the November 1, 2008 total of 27.5 million eggs. Regional changes from the previous year were: East North Central down 11 percent, West North Central down 7 percent, North and South Atlantic down 8 percent, and South Central and West down 22 percent.

Poults Hatched During November Down 14 Percent from Last Year

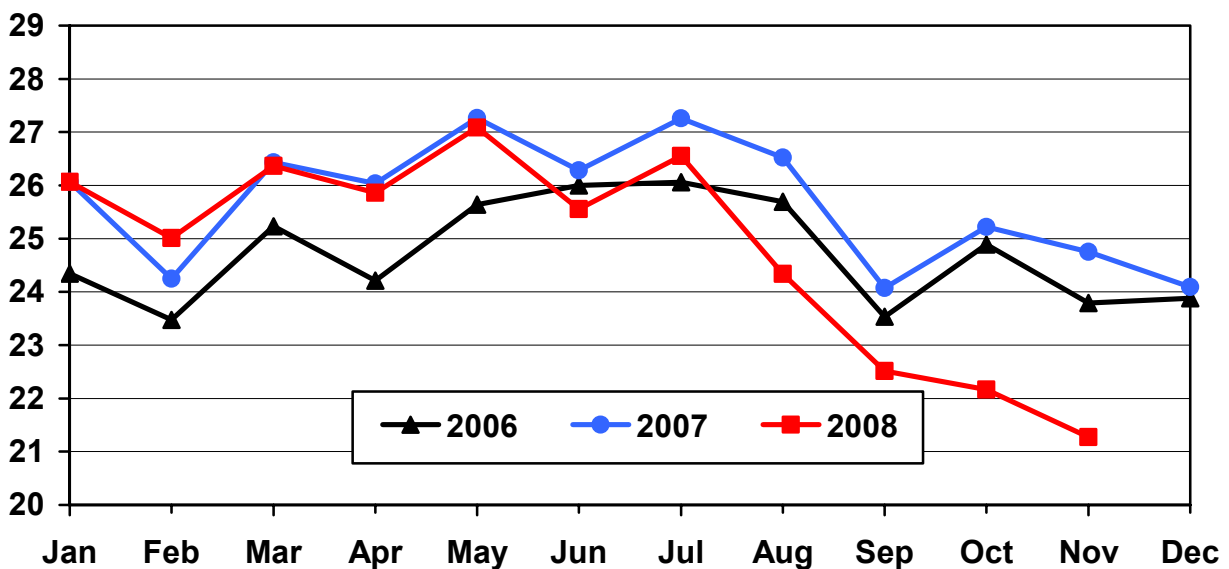
Turkey poults hatched during November 2008, in the United States totaled 22.1 million, down 14 percent from November 2007. Poults hatched were down 5 percent from October 2008 total of 23.3 million poults. Regional changes from the previous year were: East North Central down 12 percent, West North Central down 12 percent, North and South Atlantic down 9 percent, and South Central and West down 38 percent.

Net Poults Placed During November Down 14 Percent from Last Year

The 21.3 million net poults placed during November 2008 in the United States were down 14 percent from the number placed during the same month a year earlier. Net placements were down 4 percent from the October 2008 total of 22.2 million.

U.S. Turkey Net Poult Placements

Million Poults



Eggs in Incubators: First of Month by Region and United States, December 2008

Region	Dec 1 2007	Nov 1 2008	Dec 1 2008	Percent of Previous Year	Percent of Previous Month
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
E N Central	4,574	4,276	4,088	89	96
W N Central	11,460	10,607	10,695	93	101
N & S Atlantic ¹	10,160	10,225	9,368	92	92
S Central & West ¹	4,037	2,382	3,161	78	133
US	30,231	27,490	27,312	90	99

¹ Regions combined to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

Poults Hatched: Entire Month by Region and United States, November 2008

Region	Nov 2007	Oct 2008	Nov 2008	Percent of Previous Year	Percent of Previous Month
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
E N Central	4,037	3,619	3,549	88	98
W N Central	10,107	9,438	8,881	88	94
N & S Atlantic ¹	8,533	8,211	7,734	91	94
S Central & West ¹	3,084	2,006	1,919	62	96
US	25,761	23,274	22,083	86	95

¹ Regions combined to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

Net Poult Placements: By Month, United States, 2007-2009 ¹

Month	Total All Breeds		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative Total		Percent of Previous Year
	2007-08	2008-09		2007-08	2008-09	
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Sep	24,073	22,515	94	24,073	22,515	94
Oct ²	25,222	22,165	88	49,295	44,680	91
Nov	24,755	21,272	86	74,050	65,952	89
Dec	24,091			98,141		
Jan	26,067			124,208		
Feb	25,011			149,219		
Mar	26,369			175,588		
Apr	25,863			201,451		
May	27,084			228,535		
Jun	25,557			254,092		
Jul	26,551			280,643		
Aug	24,337			304,980		

¹ Includes imports and excludes exports.

² Revised 2008 data only.

Regional Listing:

North Atlantic: CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT.
 East North Central: IL, IN, MI, OH, WI.
 West North Central: IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD.
 South Atlantic: DE, FL, GA, MD, NC, SC, VA, WV.
 South Central: AL, AR, KY, LA, MS, OK, TN, TX.
 West: AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NM, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY.

Reliability of Turkey Hatchery Estimates

Survey Procedures: Data for turkey hatchery estimates are collected from all known turkey hatcheries. Individual NASS field offices maintain a list of all known turkey hatcheries and use known sources of hatcheries to update their lists. Approximately 40 hatcheries are contacted each month. All known turkey hatcheries are mailed a questionnaire as close to the first of the month as possible and given adequate time to respond via mail, fax, or electronic data reporting (EDR). Those that do not respond are contacted by phone. Care is exercised to ensure that all hatcheries are accounted for in the estimate.

Estimating Procedures: Sound statistical methodology is employed to derive the estimates from reported data. 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 were 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, regional, and U.S. totals. Only regional and U.S. level estimates are published due to the limited number of hatcheries involved. The Net Poultry Placement data includes imported poults and excludes exported poults.

Cumulative net poults placements beginning on September 1 and ending on August 31 are shown in the monthly "**Turkey Hatchery**" report. This time period corresponds with the placements of poults which will reach maturity and be available for slaughter during the calendar year.

States reporting turkey hatcheries are: Arkansas, California, Florida, Indiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Revision Policy: Revisions are generally the result of late or corrected data. Revisions to the previous month are published in the monthly "**Turkey Hatchery**" report, while annual revisions are published in the "**Hatchery Production - Annual Summary**" report in April.

Reliability: Turkey hatchery estimates are based on a census of all known operating hatcheries and therefore, have no sampling error. However, 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.

To assist in evaluating the reliability of the estimates in this report, the "Root Mean Square Error" is shown for selected items in the following table. The "Root Mean Square Error" is a statistical measure based on past performance and is computed using the differences between first and final estimates. The "Root Mean Square Error" for turkey eggs in incubators over the past 24 months is 1.1 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 27.3 million eggs by more than 1.1 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 2.0 percent.

Reliability of U.S. December 1 Turkey Hatchery Estimates ¹

Item	Root Mean Square Error	90 Percent Confidence Level		Difference Between First and Latest Estimates			Number of Months	
				Average	Smallest	Largest	First Above Latest	First Below Latest
							Number	Number
Eggs In Incubators	Percent 1.1	Percent 2.0	1,000 536	1,000 194	1,000 0	1,000 1,022	Number 8	Number 13

¹ Based on data for the past 24 months.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information.

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Census of Aquaculture, Egg Products, Mink..... (202) 720-0585

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