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Eggs in Incubators on March 1 Down 7 Percent from Last Year

Turkey eggs in incubators on March 1, 2013, in the United States totaled 27.1 million, down 7 percent from March 1, 2012. Eggs in incubators were down 3 percent from the February 1, 2013 total of 27.9 million eggs.

Poults Hatched During February Down 2 Percent from Last Year

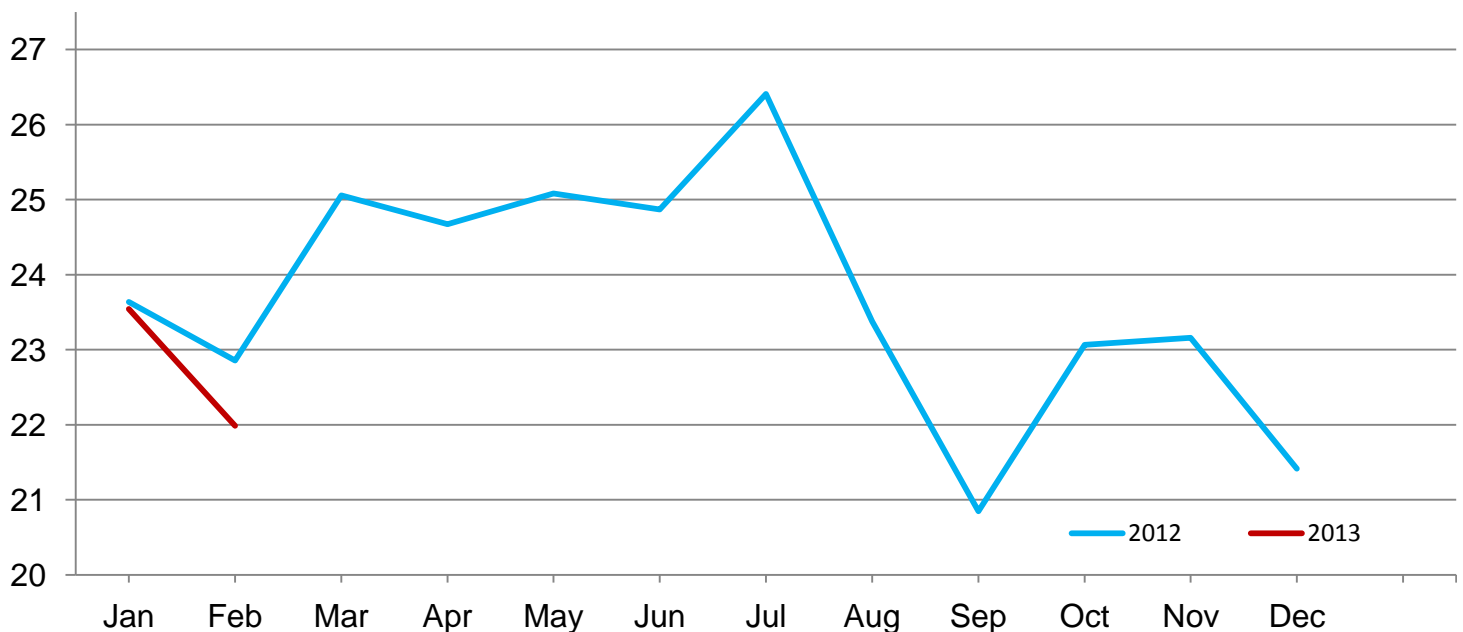
Turkey poults hatched during February 2013, in the United States totaled 22.6 million, down 2 percent from February 2012. Poults hatched were down 6 percent from the January 2013 total of 24.1 million poults.

Net Poults Placed During February Down 4 Percent from Last Year

The 22.0 million net poults placed during February 2013 in the United States were down 4 percent from the number placed during the same month a year earlier. Net placements were down 7 percent from the January 2013 total of 23.5 million.

Net Poult Placements – United States

Million poults



Eggs in Incubators and Poults Hatched by Month – United States: 2011-2013

[Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	Eggs in incubators first of month		Percent of previous year	Poults hatched entire month		Percent of previous year
	2011-2012	2012-2013		2011-2012	2012-2013	
	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(percent)	(1,000 poults)	(1,000 poults)	(percent)
September	28,072	26,366	94	23,157	21,429	93
October	27,170	27,015	99	22,423	23,292	104
November	27,502	27,622	100	22,734	23,677	104
December	28,741	26,700	93	24,812	22,020	89
January	28,308	27,887	99	24,463	24,106	99
February	28,044	27,923	100	23,191	22,646	98
March	29,039	27,068	93	25,234		
April	28,231			24,291		
May	29,648			25,483		
June	30,385			25,021		
July	29,758			26,199		
August	28,891			23,814		

Net Poultry Placements by Month – United States: 2011-2013

[Includes imports and excludes exports. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	Total all breeds		Percent of previous year	Cumulative total		Percent of previous year
	2011-2012	2012-2013		2011-2012	2012-2013	
	(1,000 poults)	(1,000 poults)	(percent)	(1,000 poults)	(1,000 poults)	(percent)
September	22,320	20,848	93	22,320	20,848	93
October	21,407	23,067	108	43,727	43,915	100
November	22,090	23,159	105	65,817	67,074	102
December	23,893	21,417	90	89,710	88,491	99
January	23,636	23,542	100	113,346	112,033	99
February	22,855	21,986	96	136,201	134,019	98
March	25,055			161,256		
April	24,675			185,931		
May	25,082			211,013		
June	24,868			235,881		
July	26,410			262,291		
August	23,378			285,669		

Statistical Methodology

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 hatching 15,000 or more poults annually are mailed a questionnaire as close to the first of the month as possible. Adequate time is given 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 United States totals. Only United States level estimates are published due to the limited number of hatcheries involved. The Net Poult Placement data include imported poults and exclude exported poults.

Cumulative net poult 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, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, 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 on the first day of the month over the past 24 months is 2.0 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 27.1 million eggs by more than 2.0 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 3.3 percent.

Reliability of March Turkey Hatchery Estimates

[Based on data for the past 24 months]

Item	Root mean square error	90 percent confidence level	Difference between first and latest estimate				
			Average	Smallest	Largest	Months	
						Below latest	Above latest
	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(number)	(number)
Eggs in incubators	2.0	3.3	397	2	1,861	14	10
Poults hatched	0.9	1.5	116	0	672	14	9
Net poult placements	2.0	3.3	334	7	1,195	18	6

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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For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@nass.usda.gov.

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