



Turkey Hatchery

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

Turkey eggs in incubators on December 1, 2013, in the United States totaled 26.4 million, down 1 percent from December 1, 2012. Eggs in incubators were up 2 percent from the November 1, 2013 total of 25.9 million eggs.

Poults Hatched During November Down 10 Percent from Last Year

Turkey poults hatched during November 2013, in the United States totaled 21.2 million, down 10 percent from November 2012. Poults hatched were down 7 percent from the October 2013 total of 22.9 million poults.

Net Poults Placed During November Down 14 Percent from Last Year

The 19.9 million net poults placed during November 2013 in the United States were down 14 percent from the number placed during the same month a year earlier. Net placements were down 5 percent from the October 2013 total of 20.9 million.

Eggs in Incubators and Poults Hatched by Month – United States: 2012-2014

[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
	2012-2013	2013-2014		2012-2013	2013-2014	
	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(percent)	(1,000 poults)	(1,000 poults)	(percent)
September	26,366	25,459	97	21,429	20,897	98
October	27,015	26,376	98	23,292	22,882	98
November	27,622	25,945	94	23,677	21,197	90
December	26,700	26,383	99	22,020		
January	27,887			24,106		
February	27,923			22,212		
March	26,318			21,698		
April	27,501			23,000		
May	26,346			22,098		
June	26,482			21,168		
July	27,461			23,629		
August	27,640			22,829		

Net Poultry Placements by Month – United States: 2012-2014

[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
	2012-2013	2013-2014		2012-2013	2013-2014	
	(1,000 poults)	(1,000 poults)	(percent)	(1,000 poults)	(1,000 poults)	(percent)
September	20,848	19,548	94	20,848	19,548	94
October	23,067	20,861	90	43,915	40,409	92
November	23,159	19,862	86	67,074	60,271	90
December	21,417			88,491		
January	23,542			112,033		
February	21,589			133,622		
March	21,182			154,804		
April	22,147			176,951		
May	21,688			198,639		
June	20,992			219,631		
July	23,741			243,372		
August	22,562			265,934		

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, New Mexico, 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 1.8 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 26.4 million eggs by more than 1.8 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 3.1 percent.

Reliability of December 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	1.8	3.1	354	0	1,861	12	11
Poults hatched	0.8	1.4	107	0	649	13	7
Net poult placements	1.7	2.9	292	7	1,195	16	8

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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