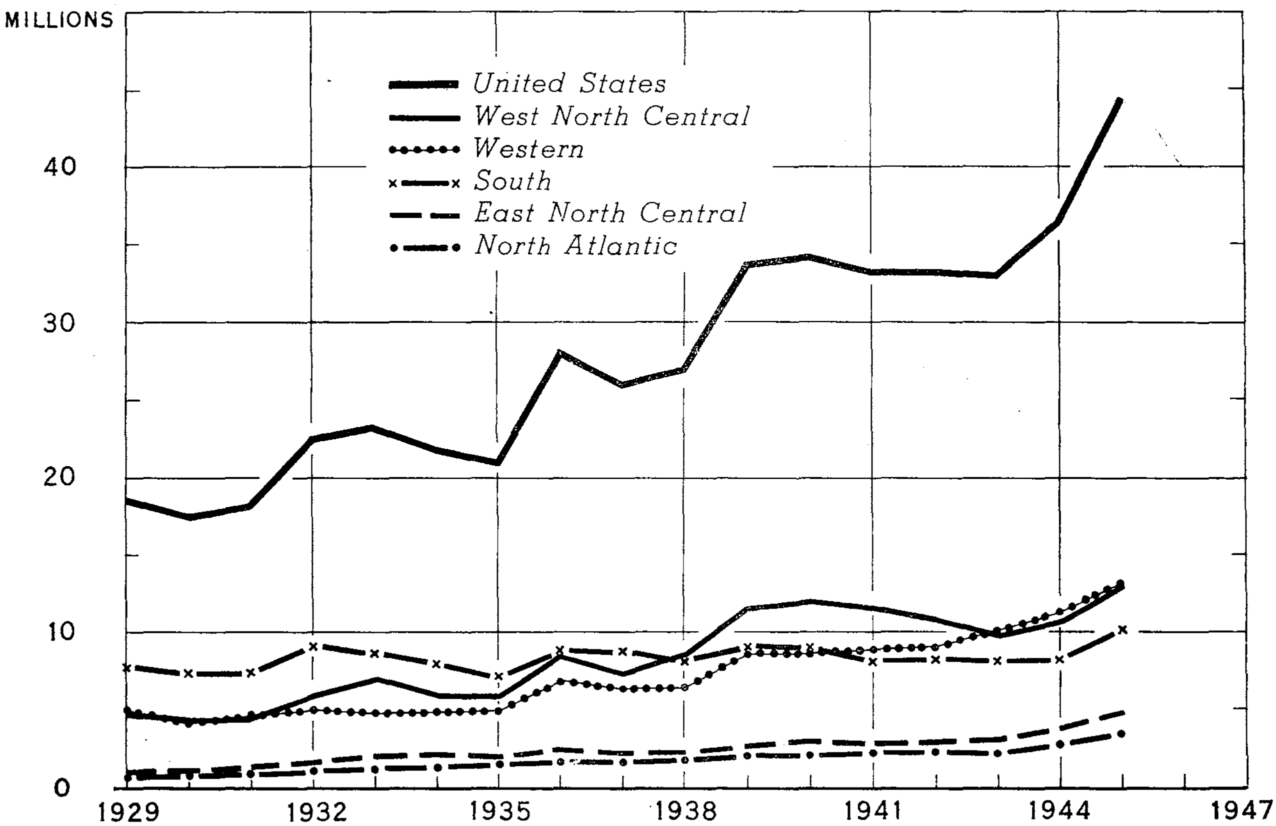
THE Poultry and Egg SITUATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PES - 104 BAE AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 1945

TURKEYS RAISED ON FARMS, UNITED STATES AND REGIONS, 1929-45



DATA FOR 1945 ARE PRELIMINARY

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 45540 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Preliminary estimates of turkeys raised in 1945 indicate a record crop of 44.2 million birds, 22 percent above the previous record in 1944. This large output is a reflection of the strong demand, ample feed supplies, and favorable returns for the past 3 years.

The greatest expansion in turkey production since 1938 has been in the Northeast, in Utah, and in the Pacific Coast States, where large-scale commercial production has become predominant.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

ITEM	UNIT	AVERAGE PERIOD	AVERAGE JUNE	AVERAGE JULY	1944 JUNE	1944 JULY	1945 JUNE	1945 JULY	CURRENT MONTH AS PERCENT OF YEAR EARLIER	CURRENT MONTH AS PERCENT OF AVERAGE
Layers on farms, number	Million	1934-43	277.9	260.5	345.0	338.7	329.5	316.8	94	122
Number of eggs laid per hen	Number	1934-43	14.00	13.13	14.97	13.77	15.60	14.49	105	110
Total farm production of eggs	Mil. doz.	1934-43	338.6	288.1	455.4	388.8	441.2	382.6	98	133
Stocks, eggs, U. S.:[1]										
Shell	1,000 case	1934-43	7,614	7,704	11,335	9,351	6,120	5,921	63	77
Frozen	1,000 case	1934-43	4,574	4,791	9,446	10,361	6,825	6,580	64	137
Total, shell and frozen	1,000 case	1934-43	12,189	12,495	20,781	19,712	12,945	12,501	63	100
Dried whole eggs	Mil. lb.	---	---	---	85.2	96.3	41.2	26.5	28	---
Apparent egg disappearance, civilian:										
Total shell egg equivalent	Mil. doz.	1934-43	280.4	272.6	244.6	327.8	376.4	378.6	115	139
Dried egg production	Mil. lb.	---	---	---	32.7	31.3	9.0	7.9	25	---
Commercial hatchery operations:										
Chicks hatched	Million	1934-43	89.2	32.4	75.0	36.0	182.4	101.3	281	313
Receipts:										
Poultry, dressed, four markets	Mil. lb.	1934-43	23.3	24.4	36.5	39.6	18.8	26.7	67	109
Poultry, live, Chicago	Mil. lb.	1939-43	5.3	5.2	4.8	4.2	2.2	3.1	74	60
Poultry, live, New York	Mil. lb.	1939-43	9.7	9.6	10.8	9.4	4.4	6.5	69	67
Poultry, live, Midwest, per plant	1,000 lb.	1934-43	15.2	16.9	25.1	28.1	9.4	14.9	53	88
Fowl (hens), live, Midwest, per plant	1,000 lb.	1934-43	10.8	9.7	19.4	17.1	5.7	6.9	40	71
Young stock, live, Midwest, per plant	1,000 lb.	1934-43	3.5	6.5	4.5	10.3	2.3	6.4	62	98
Stocks, poultry:[1]										
Broilers	Mil. lb.	1934-43	4.6	6.2	4.3	6.0	2.0	2.0	33	32
Fryers	Mil. lb.	1934-43	2.5	2.4	6.6	7.3	7.1	10.9	149	454
Roasters	Mil. lb.	1934-43	6.9	5.4	12.0	13.5	17.4	21.6	160	400
Fowls (hens)	Mil. lb.	1934-43	11.1	12.6	37.6	41.5	14.1	11.2	27	89
Turkeys	Mil. lb.	1934-43	18.7	14.2	35.3	28.8	27.3	21.0	73	148
Ducks	Mil. lb.	1934-43	4.0	6.4	5.0	7.7	.8	1.5	19	23
Miscellaneous and unclassified	Mil. lb.	1934-43	12.8	13.3	30.0	37.0	28.5	35.8	97	269
Total poultry	Mil. lb.	1934-43	60.1	60.5	130.8	141.7	97.2	103.9	73	172
Prices received by farmers:										
Eggs, per dozen	Cent	1934-43	20.4	21.9	28.1	31.2	35.8	37.9	121	173
Eggs, parity price per dozen	Cent	1934-43	22.7	28.8	31.5	34.0	32.0	35.0	103	122
Eggs, percentage of parity	Percent	1934-43	88	85	89	92	112	108	117	127
Chickens, per pound	Cent	1934-43	16.0	16.0	23.8	24.2	27.5	28.5	118	178
Chickens, parity price per pound	Cent	1934-43	15.2	15.3	19.4	19.4	19.7	19.7	102	129
Chickens, percentage of parity	Percent	1934-43	104	104	123	125	140	145	116	139
Turkeys, per pound	Cent	1939-43	18.0	18.1	30.0	30.1	33.4	33.4	111	185
Turkeys, parity price per pound	Cent	1939-43	19.9	20.0	24.5	24.5	24.9	24.9	102	124
Turkeys, percentage of parity	Percent	1939-43	90	90	122	123	134	134	109	149
All farm commodities (1910-14 = 100)	Index no.	1934-43	118	119	198	192	206	206	107	173
Chickens and eggs (1910-14 = 100)[2]	Index no.	1934-43	123	121	169	173	207	205	118	169
Wholesale prices, Chicago:										
Eggs, standards, per dozen	Cent		---	---	33.6	35.4	3/	3/	---	---
Live heavy hens, per pound	Cent	1939-43	18.1	18.5	23.4	24.7	27.2	26.4	107	143
Live broilers, per pound	Cent	1939-43	21.2	20.5	29.6	27.3	3/	3/	---	---
Live fryers, per pound	Cent	1939-43	22.4	21.4	29.9	27.4	30.8	31.0	113	145
Live roasters, heavy, per pound	Cent	1939-43	25.3	22.8	29.9	28.3	30.8	31.0	110	136
Wholesale prices, New York:										
Dressed broilers, 25-30 pounds per dozen, per pound	Cent	1934-43	26.0	24.1	38.5	37.5	39.5	39.8	106	165
Dressed roasters, 48-54 pounds per dozen, per pound	Cent	1934-43	27.9	27.5	38.5	37.5	39.5	39.8	106	145
Dressed fowls, 48-54 pounds per dozen, per pound	Cent	1934-43	22.8	22.0	34.5	33.5	35.5	34.5	103	157
Cash farm income:										
Total marketings	Mil. dol.	1939-43	871	992	1,505	1,602	1,526			
Poultry and eggs	Mil. dol.	1939-43	112	112	185	180	219			
Price ratios:										
Chicago, broiler-feed	Lb. feed	1939-43	14.8	14.7	13.1	12.2	---	---	---	---
Chicago, light roaster-feed	Lb. feed	1939-43	16.1	15.4	13.2	12.7	---	---	---	---
Farm, egg-feed	Lb. feed	1934-43	10.6	11.3	9.4	10.4	12.4	13.1	126	116
Farm, chicken-feed	Lb. feed	1934-43	8.5	8.4	7.9	8.1	9.5	9.8	121	117
Farm, turkey-feed	Lb. feed	1934-43	8.4	8.3	10.0	10.1	11.6	11.5	114	139
Farm, egg-laying mash	Lb. feed	---	---	---	7.7	8.5	10.1	10.6	125	---
Laying mash, cost per cwt.	Dollar	---	---	---	3.65	3.66	3.55	3.58	98	---
Feed cost per cwt., farm poultry ration	Dollar	1934-43	---	---	---	---	2.88	2.90	---	---
Wholesale food prices (1935-39 = 100)	Index no.	1934-43	103.7	104.1	134.6	133.8	135.9			
Retail food prices (1935-39 = 100)	Index no.	1934-43	106.2	106.2	135.7	137.4	141.1			
Prices paid by farmers including interest and taxes (1910-14 = 100)	Index no.	1934-43	134	134	170	170	173	173	102	129
Retail prices (BLS):										
Roasters, dressed, per pound	Cent	1934-43	34.3	34.2	46.0	45.1	47.3	47.1	104	138
Eggs, strictly fresh, per dozen	Cent	1934-43	34.4	36.9	45.7	52.7	51.0	55.3	105	150
Nonagricultural employees compensation (1935-39 = 100)	Index no.	1934-43	127.0	124.3	266.3	264.3	273.8			

[1] End of month. Frozen eggs converted to case equivalent.

[2] Adjusted for seasonal.

[3] No quotation.

THE POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION

Contents

SUMMARY

Egg prices are expected to decline more than seasonally after November, and to be at or near support levels during most of the winter and spring. Demand will weaken, because of reduced Army requirements for eggs and increased civilian supplies of red meat. Egg production in the first half of 1946 may not be much different from the first half of 1945, when egg prices were at ceilings.

Prices received by farmers for chickens will decline this fall from the all-time peak reached in August. Supplies of chicken meat are increasing seasonally, and because of reduced Army procurement, supplies available to civilians will be greater than last year. However, the demand-supply gap for poultry meat has been wide, and the decline in price this fall probably will not be pronounced.

A record turkey crop is in prospect. Prices received by farmers for turkeys during this marketing season (October through January) are expected to be somewhat lower than last season. Armed force procurement has been reduced materially from last year. War Food Order 106 (turkey set-aside

order) was terminated September 24. Supplies of turkey meat available for civilians this year will be over 4 pounds per capita, compared with 3-1/4 to 3-1/2 pounds during the past 2 years and a pre-war average of 2.6 pounds. Civilian demand for turkey has not been fully met during the past 2 years.

The surrender of Japan affected the egg price situation more immediately than the chicken or turkey price situation. Cancellation by the armed forces of a large part of the outstanding dried egg contracts, together with the prospect for increased civilian meat supplies, resulted in a decline below ceiling levels in wholesale price quotations for eggs, especially on lower grades. Reduction in poultry requirements by the armed forces was followed by termination or suspension of the three chicken set-aside orders. Chicken prices showed moderate declines, and turkey prices remained the same.

Egg production for the last quarter of 1945 will probably continue somewhat below that of the corresponding quarter of 1944. However, in the first few months of 1946 it may run about the same as 1945. The number of potential layers on farms September 1 was 598 million head, slightly more than on September 1, 1944.

-- September 21, 1945.

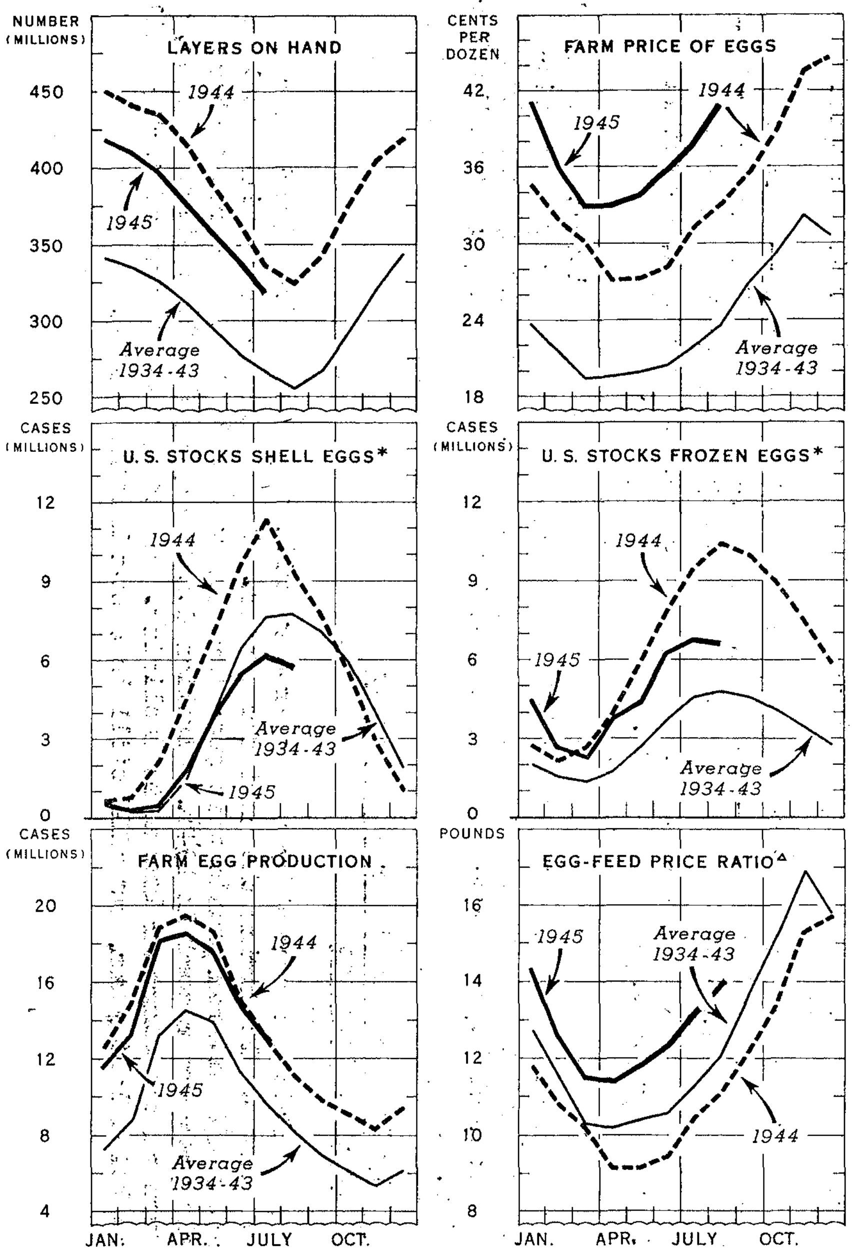
OUTLOOK

Egg Prices to Decline Near Supports Within Next Few Months

Prices received by farmers for eggs will increase less than seasonally through November, and by mid-December probably will be near support levels. Reduced military requirements for eggs following the surrender of Japan and increases in the civilian meat supplies have already adversely affected demand for eggs.

Civilian egg supplies will be larger this fall and winter than in the fall and winter of 1943-44, and demand will be smaller. During December 1943 egg prices declined significantly, and in January 1944 Government price

THE EGG SITUATION



*1st OF THE MONTH △BASED ON FARM PRICES

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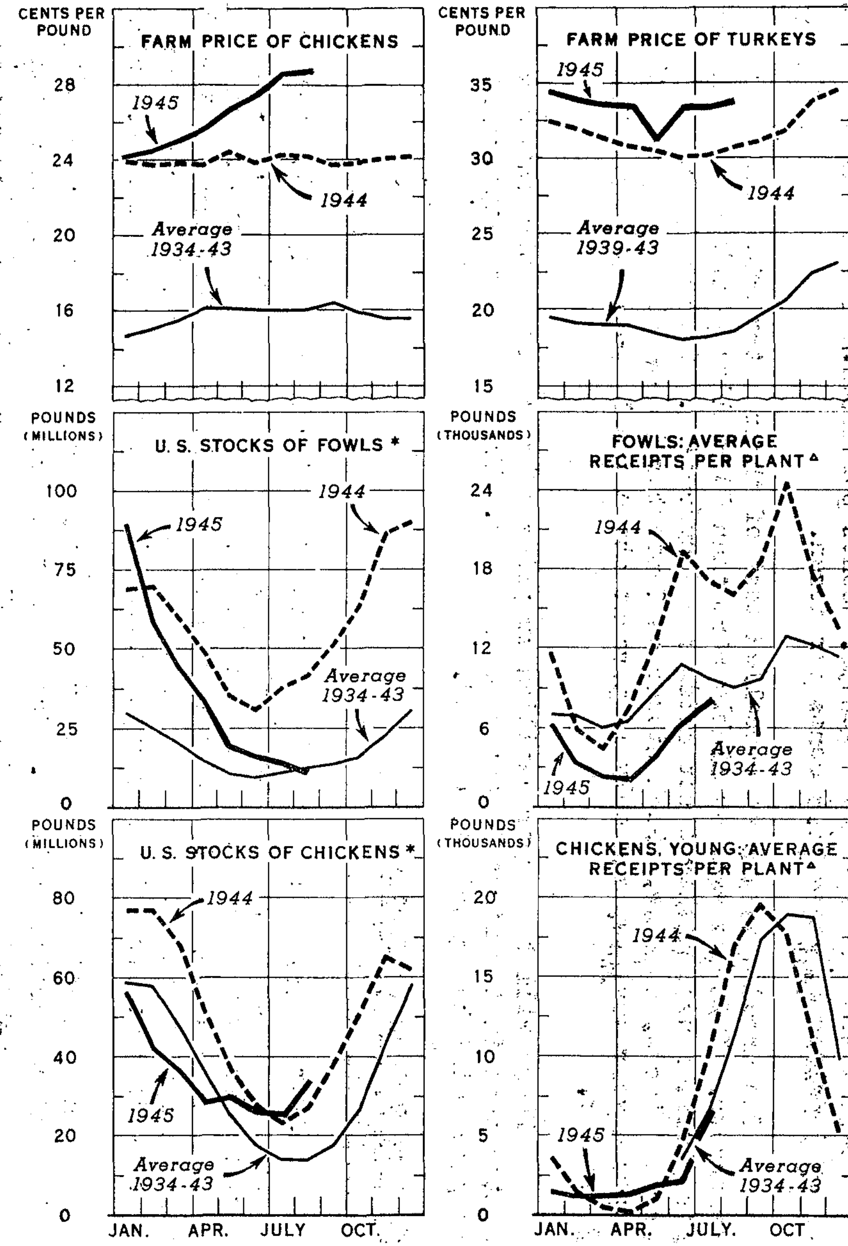
FIGURE 1

THE POULTRY SITUATION



* 1st OF THE MONTH △ RECEIPTS AT CENTRAL WESTERN PRIMARY MARKETS

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FIGURE 2

support activities were undertaken. Prices received by farmers for eggs in the first quarter of 1944 averaged 32.2 cents per dozen. In the first quarter of 1945 prices averaged 36.6 cents per dozen.

The armed forces have cancelled most of their outstanding dried egg contracts. This has made available more than 50 million pounds of frozen eggs for civilian use, hitherto set aside for dehydrating. Stocks of frozen eggs are not large, however. Such stocks on September 1 were about 40 percent below a year earlier, and only 15 percent above the 1937-41 average for September.

There will be larger civilian supplies of meat during the next few months than in the first 8 months of the year. Use of eggs to supplement meat supplies will be materially reduced.

Poultry Prices to Decline Moderately This Fall

Average prices received by farmers for chickens probably will decline moderately this fall, from the all-time peak reached in mid-August. Such declines are not expected to be significant, because the gap between demand and supply has been wide. Military procurement will be materially smaller than in recent months. But the effect of increasing the civilian supply will be reflected at first in increased consumption, without much decline in prices.

The reduction in military procurement of chicken will affect especially prices of commercial broilers. Procurement of broilers by Government agencies prior to mid-August had been running about 5 to 7 million pounds weekly, in addition to purchases of farm chicken meat. For the past year, the armed forces had been taking 30 to 40 percent of the commercial broiler output.

Prices received by farmers for chickens in mid-August -- 28.6 cents per pound -- were at an all-time high. Since V-J Day, War Food Orders relating to the set-aside of poultry meat for armed forces have been suspended indefinitely or terminated. Civilian supplies of chicken meat, especially in the Northeast, have increased.

Pressure on ceiling prices of chicken has almost completely disappeared since mid-August. Wholesale prices of poultry meat at most markets in mid-September were at or somewhat below ceiling levels, depending on grade and weights, although above-ceiling sales of live poultry were reported in New York City.

Fairly Strong Demand for 1945 Turkey Crop in Prospect

Prices received by turkey growers will tend to decline somewhat from present levels during the next few months. Production probably will total about 650 million pounds this year (dressed weight basis), 20 percent above the previous record in 1944. Civilian demand probably will continue strong, even though consumer income is declining. Military procurement of turkey will be below last year, but will still be a significant factor.

Turkey meat consumption was on an upward trend prior to 1945. In 1943 and 1944, civilian consumption was restrained by large Army procurement, and per capita consumption was about 3-1/4 to 3-1/2 pounds, compared with 2.6 pounds prewar. Demand for turkey meat in 1943 and 1944 exceeded supply by a wide margin. This year, with larger supplies and smaller Army procurement, this gap may vanish. Per capita consumption will be above 4 pounds.

In the past 2 years, the armed forces purchased nearly one-fifth of the total turkey crop. This year military purchases probably will be smaller, both in absolute quantity and in proportion of the crop. War Food Order 106, providing for this set-aside of turkeys, was terminated September 24.

Commercial Hatchery Operations at Record Levels for July and August

Commercial hatchery operations carried on after June usually are to a large extent for the production of chichen meat. This year, however, because of favorable egg prices, a larger-than-usual number of baby chicks was produced for replacement purposes. Output of chicks by commercial hatcheries during July and August was at a record level for those months. August production of 60 million chicks was 130 percent above the previous August. From January through August the number of chicks hatched by commercial hatcheries totaled 1.4 million birds, 25 percent above last year, and exceeded only by the 1943 record output of 1.5 million birds.

As a result of the large late hatch, the number of young chickens on farms (under 3 months old) on September 1 was 46 percent above September 1, 1944, and was exceeded only by the number on farms September 1, 1943. The total number of potential layers on farms September 1 was 598 million birds, slightly ahead of last year. Based on past relationships, the number of hens and pullets on farms next January 1 will be at least as large as on January 1, 1945. However, prospective declines in egg prices may result in a heavier than usual culling for the remainder of the year. Egg production during the first quarter of 1946, assuming little change in the rate of lay, may not be much different than in the first quarter of 1945.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Egg Production per Layer Continues at Record Levels

Egg production per average layer on farms during August was 13.0 eggs, 4 percent above the previous year, and 13 percent above the 10-year average (1934-43). Farm egg production during August totaled 328 million dozen, 2 percent below August 1944. The average number of layers on farms, however, was 6 percent below that of the previous August.

A remarkable achievement has been obtained thus far during 1945 in the high rate of egg production per layer. For the first 8 months of 1945 the average layer produced 116 eggs, compared with 113 eggs for the 8-month period in the previous year. For 1945, egg production per average layer will exceed 150 eggs compared with 147 eggs per layer in 1944 and 123 eggs in 1935. Accounting for this increase during the past decade has been improvement in type of bird partly because of the National Poultry Improvement Plan, better feeds, and an increased proportion of eggs hatched by commercial hatcheries. This year, ample feed supplies and favorable weather also have been factors.

Wholesale Quotations for Shell Eggs Below Ceilings

The average price received by farmers for eggs in mid-August -- 40.8 cents per dozen and 112 percent of parity -- was 7.8 cents above mid-August 1944, and was the second highest for any August on record. This high level of returns reflected reduced production, compared with 1944, large army procurement, a high level of consumer income, and the replacement of eggs for limited supplies of meat.

Since mid-August, demand for eggs has weakened. However, quotations in wholesale markets on top-grade eggs have not declined and still are at ceiling levels, which rise seasonally from August to November. The gap between the demand for and supply of eggs has narrowed, and in many cases, even on top qualities, has practically vanished. Sales of lower-grade eggs, especially checks and dirties, have been reported below ceilings. This has resulted in sharp declines in producer prices in many points in the Midwest and Southwest where straight run eggs are commonly sold.

Because of the uncertainties as to egg prices in the future, storage holdings are being withdrawn at a record rate. The out-movement of both shell and frozen eggs during August was the highest ever reported. Shell egg holdings were at the lowest level for September 1 on record. Cold storage holdings of frozen eggs are below the large holdings of September 1, 1944, but are above those for any September 1 prior to 1942.

Table 1.- Storage holdings of eggs and egg products, specified dates
(Shell Egg Equivalent)

Year	Shell			Frozen			Dried		
	July 1	Aug. 1	Sept. 1	July 1	Aug. 1	Sept. 1	July 1	Aug. 1	Sept. 1
	1,000 cases	1,000 cases	1,000 cases	1,000 cases	1,000 cases	1,000 cases	1,000 cases	1,000 cases	1,000 cases
Average 1937-41	7,144	7,316	6,860	4,127	4,249	4,058	---	---	---
1944	11,335	9,351	7,653	9,446	10,361	9,910	8,518	9,633	10,957
1945	6,120	5,926	4,721	6,825	6,631	5,772	4,122	2,713	2,466

Set-aside Orders on Chickens Suspended or Terminated

Changes in wartime conditions resulted in the reduction in procurement policy of the armed forces relating to chicken meat. Three War Food Orders had been in operation to aid Government agencies in procuring chicken meat. All of these were either suspended or terminated on August 27.

WFO 119 required the set-aside of all commercial broilers in important producing areas in 10 States. The order was suspended temporarily in all States except North Carolina, where it was terminated. It has been in effect since December 1944 when it was originally instituted in the Del-Mar-Va Peninsula and the Shenandoah Valley. Later, in January and February, 1945, and again in June, it was expanded to include counties in Georgia, North Carolina, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Kansas. In recent months the order was relaxed in the Del-Mar-Va Peninsula and the Shenandoah Valley, requiring the set-aside of only 70 percent of the broilers processed.

WFO 142 became effective August 13, one day after the surrender of Japan, and was rescinded in its entirety August 27. This order provided for the set-aside of 50 percent of chicken meat processed by "authorized processors" in 12 midwestern States. Procurement of dressed chicken under this order was to fulfill armed forces' requirements for canned boned chicken. Reports indicate that the army procured 5 million pounds of chicken meat under this order in the two weeks it was in operation.

WFO 125 (canned boned chicken and turkey order) provided for the set-aside of all canned boned chicken and turkey for sale to the armed forces. This order became effective March 1 and was suspended temporarily August 1. It was to have been reinstated on October 1. However, the armed forces have indicated that there are available sufficient stocks of canned boned chicken and dressed chicken to meet requirements.

Termination or suspension of these orders does not necessarily mean the withdrawl of the military from all procurement activities related to poultry, It is indicated that the armed forces will continue making some purchases on the open market.

Record Turkey Crop Raised in 1945

A preliminary report on the number of turkeys raised in 1945 indicates a crop of 44.2 million birds, 22 percent above 1944, and exceeding the previous 1942 record by 33 percent. The number raised is far above the intentions of farmers as of February 15. At that time, farmers indicated that they would raise 8 percent more turkeys in 1945 than in 1944. Operations, however, are influenced by developments during the hatching season. This year many favorable factors were responsible for the large increases over the intentions and over last year's production. A liberal supply of feed, a strong demand because of large Army procurement, profitable operations during the last 3 years, and good weather accounted to a large extent for the tremendous increase compared with 1944.

Regionally, shifts in production have occurred. In the early 1930's, the greatest portion of turkeys raised was in States west of the Mississippi River. In recent years turkey production has shown a steady upward trend in Eastern States, especially Virginia, Connecticut, Maine, and New Hampshire.

Table 2.-Turkeys raised on farms, United States and regions, 1929-45

Year	North Atlantic	East North Central	West North Central	South	Western	United States
	Millions	Millions	Millions	Millions	Millions	Millions
1929	0.6	0.9	4.6	7.6	4.8	18.5
1930	0.7	1.0	4.3	7.3	4.1	17.4
1931	0.8	1.2	4.4	7.4	4.5	18.2
1932	1.0	1.5	5.9	9.1	4.9	22.3
1933	1.1	1.9	7.0	8.6	4.7	23.2
1934	1.2	2.0	5.8	7.9	4.8	21.7
1935	1.3	1.8	5.8	7.1	4.8	20.8
1936	1.5	2.3	8.5	8.8	6.8	28.0
1937	1.5	2.1	7.3	8.7	6.2	25.8
1938	1.6	2.2	8.5	8.1	6.4	26.9
1939	1.9	2.6	11.4	9.1	8.6	33.6
1940	1.9	2.9	11.8	9.0	8.6	34.2
1941	2.1	2.7	11.4	8.1	8.3	33.2
1942	2.2	2.9	10.7	8.2	9.0	33.1
1943	2.2	3.0	9.8	8.0	10.0	33.0
1944	2.6	3.7	10.6	8.2	11.2	36.3
1945 1/	3.4	4.8	12.7	10.2	13.1	44.2

1/ Preliminary.

Turkeys are still a minor element in the cash receipts from poultry products and from all farm marketings. However, in the past 5 years they have gained ground. In the early 1930's, cash receipts from turkeys accounted for 7 to 8 percent of total cash receipts from poultry products, but much less than 1 percent of cash receipts from all farm products. In the past few years, turkeys have become of increasing importance as a source of farmers' income. In 1944 receipts from turkeys amounted to 198 million dollars, almost 10 percent of the total receipts from sales of poultry and poultry products, and about 1 percent of the total cash receipts from all farm marketing.

NEW SERIES OF FARM-RETAIL PRICE SPREADS FOR CHICKENS AND EGGS

by Carl C. Curtis

Beginning with the next issue, The Poultry and Egg Situation will carry new retail price series for chickens and eggs in place of retail prices as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The new series represent average prices at retail for all classes and grades of chickens and eggs, and are used in recently revised estimates of the farm-retail price spreads 1/. The new retail prices beginning 1913, together with price spread comparisons for chickens and eggs, are shown in tables 3 to 6 of this report.

1/ The new retail price series were developed in "Price Spreads between Farmers and Consumers for Food Products," Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Miscellaneous Publication No. 576, scheduled for early release. This report presents revised estimates of charges for marketing all farm food products calculated from spreads on retail prices paid by consumers and payments to farmers for equivalent quantities of produce. Full details on procedure are included in the report

Comparison of New Retail Price Series for Chickens and Eggs with BLS Series

Retail prices of chickens and eggs reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics represent average prices of a single grade or a single class of these products in 56 cities. Egg prices are for strictly fresh eggs of the highest grade handled in volume in each store where price quotations are obtained. Chicken prices for the past several years have been for good quality roasting chickens. At other periods, the Bureau of Labor Statistics' chicken quotations have had varying specifications in regard to age, weight, etc.

The new retail price series for chickens and eggs are based on a conversion of the Bureau of Labor Statistics series from prices of one class of chickens and one grade of eggs to prices of all chickens and all eggs. Adjustment factors by which this conversion was effected, in the case of chickens, were obtained from analysis of price relationships between various classes of chickens in the New York market. For eggs, the adjustment was made on the basis of data on grade price differentials obtained from one of the largest chain store systems.

A further adjustment in the BLS prices for 56 cities was made to convert the series to the basis of over-all consumer purchases of chickens and eggs in the United States, including rural areas and towns and cities not covered in the BLS series. Factors for effecting this adjustment were based on the natior consumer-purchase surveys of 1935-36 and 1942.

Conversion of the Bureau of Labor Statistics series to prices more nearly representative of all sales of chickens and eggs at retail in the United States resulted in prices comparable to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics series of average prices received by farmers for these products. Thus the new retail price series provide the basis for more nearly accurate measurement of farm retail price spreads.

Price Spread Comparisons for Chickens and Eggs

Revised estimates of farm-to-retail price spreads on chickens and eggs from 1913 to date show eggs usually leading all foods in the size of the farmer's share of the consumer's dollar, the percentage averaging 72 percent during 1944. For the same year, the farmer's share of the retail value of chickens averaged 64 percent. For chickens and eggs together, during 1944, the farmer received 69 percent of the consumer's dollar.

The average farm-to-retail price margin per pound during 1944 for chickens was 15.2 cents. For eggs, the average margin was 13.5 cents per dozen.

The relatively large size of the farmer's share of the consumer's egg dollar can be attributed partially to the comparative simplicity of the egg-marketing process. An egg is a finished product when it is produced at the farm. Little processing is needed except packaging. Direct sales of eggs from the farm also account in part for the relatively large share of the consumer's egg dollar. Analysis of the farm-retail price spread as here estimated take into account the farm-retail sales factor. The farm-to-retail price margir on eggs sold through major commercial channels is no doubt appreciably larger than the average estimated in this study, which was computed for all eggs.

The relatively large size of the farmer's share of the retail value of chicken, in comparison with most other farm products, also reflects a significant volume of direct farm sales. This is true to a lesser extent than in the case of eggs, but is more marked than for hogs and other farm products that are more difficult to process. Relatively shorter distances from consuming centers, generally characteristic of chicken production, result in lower transportation costs than for meat animals, and increase the relative size of the farmer's share in the retail value.

For both chickens and eggs the price trends from 1913 to date show a marked reduction in seasonal price fluctuations beginning in 1930, with a consequent narrowing in fluctuations of the farm-retail price spread. This reduction in seasonal price fluctuations reflects changes in the pattern of poultry-and-egg production, marketing, and consumption. Increased winter egg production and the year-around marketing of freshly dressed chicken have brought a lessened seasonal variation in supplies. In the war period, price controls have further reduced price fluctuations.

Table 3.- Eggs: Retail price per dozen, 1913-45

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Average
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
1913	33.2	27.5	22.5	20.9	22.1	23.7	24.0	26.8	31.1	36.7	45.4	43.6	29.8
1914	[illegible]	32.8	27.3	21.2	22.5	24.0	24.3	27.1	30.2	34.0	40.3	43.8	30.6
1915	40.9	30.0	21.6	21.9	21.9	22.5	21.9	24.1	28.1	35.4	41.3	42.4	29.3
1916	38.8	31.0	24.6	23.2	24.1	26.0	26.2	30.4	34.9	41.0	47.2	49.5	33.1
1917	52.0	48.2	31.4	35.6	36.8	38.0	37.3	41.0	47.2	51.5	54.4	60.9	44.5
1918	65.9	61.3	41.9	39.7	39.5	39.5	44.7	49.2	53.8	61.2	71.7	79.8	54.0
1919	74.3	48.1	46.2	47.1	51.1	51.4	53.0	56.3	58.7	69.7	79.2	89.6	60.4
1920	82.4	67.5	54.1	50.9	50.9	51.5	53.7	60.0	67.3	79.2	84.8	92.2	66.2
1921	78.5	45.3	39.0	30.8	29.8	31.4	37.5	42.7	44.8	55.5	66.8	68.3	47.5
1922	46.9	45.8	28.3	28.0	29.9	30.4	30.6	31.3	38.8	50.5	61.4	64.0	40.5
1923	52.3	42.8	35.9	31.1	31.6	32.1	32.4	36.3	42.8	50.7	64.0	61.2	42.8
1924	50.9	47.3	31.5	28.6	29.2	32.3	34.1	39.2	45.8	55.7	64.4	67.1	43.8
1925	67.8	50.8	36.5	35.0	36.0	39.0	41.4	43.4	45.6	56.9	65.8	62.1	48.4
1926	49.8	40.7	35.9	35.4	35.8	37.7	36.9	39.5	45.9	54.7	63.5	62.1	44.8
1927	52.5	41.5	32.5	30.8	30.7	30.6	31.7	36.5	42.8	53.6	58.9	57.9	41.7
1928	53.4	41.0	34.9	33.1	35.1	36.1	36.9	40.1	45.3	51.0	56.4	55.1	43.2
1929	48.0	46.5	39.8	33.9	35.9	38.5	39.7	43.4	47.5	55.0	59.6	59.6	45.6
1930	51.8	44.1	32.7	31.4	30.7	30.6	30.2	33.8	38.0	41.7	45.3	37.5	37.3
1931	32.3	21.1	25.6	24.2	21.7	22.4	23.6	26.5	28.3	34.6	35.5	34.2	27.5
1932	25.4	20.5	18.3	16.8	16.9	17.2	17.5	20.8	23.1	30.2	32.7	34.4	22.8
1933	28.0	17.1	16.3	15.1	16.6	16.3	18.7	19.0	21.8	27.8	30.9	26.6	21.2
1934	25.0	24.1	21.9	20.7	19.9	21.2	20.8	24.2	27.2	30.6	34.7	31.3	25.1
1935	33.4	34.1	26.6	25.8	28.2	28.3	27.7	29.8	32.4	34.6	35.1	33.1	30.8
1936	30.8	29.5	27.6	24.3	25.2	26.8	27.9	30.9	32.4	37.3	40.3	38.4	31.0
1937	33.5	28.3	28.0	27.4	26.2	26.4	26.5	28.2	31.0	33.2	34.7	31.1	29.5
1938	28.8	24.2	23.3	23.3	24.8	26.1	26.7	28.5	32.5	35.7	36.2	35.3	28.8
1939	26.7	23.8	23.0	21.0	20.9	21.1	22.4	23.4	27.5	30.9	32.2	28.2	25.1
1940	25.1	28.7	23.2	21.7	21.7	21.7	23.3	24.2	28.4	31.8	33.2	32.8	26.3
1941	28.6	24.1	24.0	27.0	27.7	31.3	33.2	34.9	38.4	41.7	44.7	42.3	33.2
1942	40.4	36.6	34.6	34.1	35.5	36.9	38.9	44.1	46.9	51.7	52.0	52.8	42.0
1943	53.4	45.6	45.5	44.8	45.1	46.5	47.2	51.8	54.6	60.6	60.6	57.6	51.1
1944	48.5	44.9	42.9	39.8	39.6	40.3	45.7	49.1	51.4	56.9	59.5	60.6	48.3
1945	54.6	49.2	45.1	44.4	44.5	45.8	48.3	53.3	57.2	59.1	61.2	62.0	52.1
1946	54.3	44.7	43.4										

Table 4.- Farmer's share of the consumer's dollar spent for eggs, 1913-45

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Average
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
1913	77	79	82	78	75	73	70	68	70	73	71	78	74
1914	77	80	84	80	77	74	74	73	77	72	72	75	76
1915	80	81	79	78	78	74	77	74	75	71	73	75	76
1916	77	80	76	78	79	75	78	73	75	76	76	80	77
1917	75	76	83	83	85	81	80	77	78	77	78	78	79
1918	76	77	76	79	80	77	76	74	75	75	74	77	76
1919	77	74	76	79	78	72	74	74	76	75	77	80	76
1920	76	74	77	74	76	72	72	73	74	71	76	75	74
1921	71	70	71	69	67	66	67	70	71	73	77	77	72
1922	70	71	71	74	72	68	68	68	72	70	73	76	71
1923	74	72	73	71	71	67	68	67	72	70	73	77	72
1924	72	73	67	69	70	67	69	69	72	71	73	77	71
1925	74	72	67	71	71	69	69	71	70	68	73	80	72
1926	75	73	69	72	73	70	72	69	71	69	73	79	72
1927	73	72	66	68	66	60	67	66	71	68	73	77	70
1928	74	73	69	71	71	68	72	70	71	70	72	80	72
1929	71	71	72	70	70	70	71	71	73	72	76	79	73
1930	76	74	67	70	67	63	64	63	69	65	72	74	69
1931	71	69	68	69	63	65	64	67	70	68	77	77	69
1932	70	64	58	62	63	63	71	73	77	77	82	84	72
1933	79	66	64	70	73	64	72	72	77	77	80	83	75
1934	72	68	68	67	69	64	70	73	83	80	85	89	75
1935	77	77	72	80	78	76	81	79	84	83	88	89	81
1936	76	83	65	71	74	73	74	75	78	76	83	82	76
1937	71	73	73	76	70	69	75	74	76	78	83	86	76
1938	77	70	72	70	73	72	77	76	79	78	83	81	76
1939	73	72	72	76	75	73	76	77	77	76	83	75	76
1940	75	72	69	71	72	68	73	73	76	77	81	84	75
1941	71	72	70	75	75	76	80	79	81	79	82	83	78
1942	80	77	77	77	77	76	78	75	76	74	79	77	77
1943	75	77	77	77	78	78	79	77	78	77	80	80	78
1944	73	73	72	70	71	72	70	69	71	70	75	76	72
1945	77	75	76	77	78	81	81	79	71	74	79	80	77
1946	78	75	76										

Table 5.- Chickens: Retail price per pound, 1913-1945

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Average
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
1913	19.9	20.4	21.1	21.9	21.9	21.6	24.1	23.9	23.9	23.6	22.8	23.1	22.4
1914	21.0	21.8	22.1	22.8	22.4	21.7	24.4	24.5	24.2	23.8	22.8	22.0	22.8
1915	19.9	20.6	20.9	21.0	21.1	20.6	22.8	22.8	23.1	22.8	22.5	22.5	21.7
1916	21.3	21.8	22.6	23.4	23.8	23.9	26.6	26.4	26.8	26.9	26.5	26.5	24.7
1917	25.0	26.3	27.2	28.7	28.9	28.5	31.0	30.9	33.6	34.5	32.5	33.7	30.1
1918	32.5	35.8	36.3	36.8	37.4	37.1	42.0	42.8	43.7	43.2	43.5	42.6	39.5
1919	39.5	39.1	40.6	42.4	42.9	42.0	46.6	46.4	45.9	44.6	43.4	43.3	43.1
1920	41.5	44.1	45.1	47.2	46.6	45.4	49.9	49.9	50.6	48.6	47.5	44.5	46.7
1921	42.2	42.4	42.6	42.5	40.8	38.1	43.0	43.1	42.3	41.3	39.7	39.7	41.5
1922	36.4	36.4	37.3	37.3	37.2	36.4	39.5	38.7	38.7	38.6	37.5	37.2	37.6
1923	34.3	35.2	35.3	35.7	35.7	35.1	38.6	38.3	38.8	38.6	37.3	36.8	36.6
1924	33.8	34.7	35.5	35.9	36.5	36.0	39.3	38.9	39.5	39.4	38.8	38.6	37.2
1925	34.8	35.1	35.8	36.6	36.7	36.0	38.3	37.6	38.1	38.0	37.3	37.9	36.8
1926	37.0	37.4	37.7	38.9	39.5	39.0	41.8	40.4	40.5	40.3	39.8	40.0	39.4
1927	35.0	35.0	35.1	35.4	35.1	33.5	37.1	37.1	37.1	37.5	37.3	37.1	36.0
1928	35.1	35.5	35.4	35.8	36.1	35.6	40.8	41.0	42.1	42.0	42.0	41.8	38.6
1929	40.3	41.1	41.9	43.7	44.1	42.9	46.6	46.2	45.9	44.8	43.5	43.0	43.7
1930	38.5	38.9	38.8	38.9	38.1	36.7	40.6	40.1	40.3	40.0	38.7	38.2	39.0
1931	35.6	34.5	34.7	35.1	34.0	33.5	36.3	36.4	36.3	34.9	34.3	33.4	34.9
1932	28.8	27.8	28.3	27.4	26.7	25.0	27.0	26.4	27.0	26.2	25.2	24.8	26.7
1933	22.6	22.4	22.4	22.9	22.7	22.6	25.1	24.9	24.5	24.4	23.5	23.6	23.5
1934	24.5	25.8	26.3	27.2	28.3	27.2	31.2	31.6	32.8	32.0	30.8	30.9	29.0
1935	26.8	28.7	28.8	23.4	30.9	29.7	28.6	29.7	31.8	32.2	32.4	30.7	29.9
1936	32.0	33.0	32.8	32.9	34.7	30.3	28.8	31.1	29.9	30.2	30.0	27.8	31.1
1937	29.4	30.5	29.3	30.5	27.7	30.7	29.2	32.0	32.9	34.9	34.3	33.8	31.3
1938	32.8	30.7	30.9	32.2	31.3	29.6	28.8	28.0	29.1	28.6	29.7	29.9	30.1
1939	28.5	27.6	29.0	27.9	28.9	27.3	27.0	26.0	27.7	27.7	27.9	25.7	27.6
1940	25.9	26.2	26.7	27.5	29.8	29.8	28.5	28.0	28.2	28.8	28.9	28.5	28.1
1941	29.4	29.9	29.8	30.5	31.2	30.2	28.8	29.1	30.0	31.2	31.3	30.5	30.2
1942	32.2	33.0	33.1	32.8	33.3	35.1	34.3	37.1	38.6	40.9	42.1	41.1	36.1
1943	41.8	42.8	42.9	42.6	41.8	39.6	38.3	39.2	40.5	42.4	43.4	42.6	41.5
1944	43.1	42.6	42.4	42.1	43.6	41.8	39.5	40.2	41.3	44.0	45.2	43.6	42.4
1945	43.7	43.5	43.6	43.5	44.2	43.0	41.2	42.9	43.5	45.2	47.3	45.5	43.9
1946	44.5	43.7	42.9										

Table 6.- Farmer's share of the consumer's dollar spent for chickens, 1913-45

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Average
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
1913	62	61	62	61	62	63	61	61	60	63	57	55	60
1914	62	62	64	65	64	69	62	61	60	57	55	55	61
1915	62	62	64	64	64	67	61	61	59	59	58	56	61
1916	62	63	63	64	65	67	60	61	60	61	60	58	62
1917	64	65	65	69	69	71	64	61	62	61	59	59	64
1918	64	65	63	64	63	65	63	62	61	58	57	60	62
1919	64	63	66	69	71	71	65	64	62	59	58	58	64
1920	64	66	68	68	68	69	65	61	60	57	55	53	63
1921	59	60	61	59	61	64	57	56	54	53	53	52	57
1922	59	59	59	61	62	64	59	56	55	53	52	52	57
1923	57	60	61	62	64	66	61	59	58	56	54	51	59
1924	59	60	61	61	63	65	58	58	57	56	54	53	59
1925	60	62	63	66	68	68	63	63	61	60	58	59	63
1926	64	65	66	67	68	70	64	62	60	59	57	56	63
1927	65	69	69	70	70	68	61	60	59	60	59	59	64
1928	64	64	64	66	68	69	61	60	60	60	58	58	62
1929	61	61	62	62	63	65	58	56	55	54	53	50	58
1930	58	60	60	62	60	59	49	49	50	50	47	46	54
1931	50	50	53	54	53	55	49	51	49	47	48	47	50
1932	52	51	51	52	52	52	49	50	49	47	46	43	49
1933	47	48	46	48	52	50	47	45	44	43	43	42	46
1934	44	45	46	46	45	47	43	41	44	42	43	43	44
1935	52	53	56	61	58	60	56	54	55	55	56	59	56
1936	58	58	58	58	54	61	64	55	57	53	50	51	57
1937	52	50	56	57	61	55	60	60	60	57	56	55	57
1938	58	59	59	57	58	60	59	58	56	54	52	52	57
1939	56	58	56	59	55	56	58	57	56	52	51	52	55
1940	53	53	54	53	52	51	54	54	55	52	52	52	53
1941	53	53	55	58	59	61	66	64	62	58	56	59	59
1942	60	60	62	64	63	60	62	60	60	54	53	57	59
1943	60	61	62	65	67	72	75	74	71	66	64	65	67
1944	63	63	64	64	64	65	70	68	65	61	60	63	64
1945	63	64	65	67	68	73	79	76	72	61	58	59	67
1946	60	60	62										