Poultry and Egg Situation

Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

PES-301

MARCH 1979

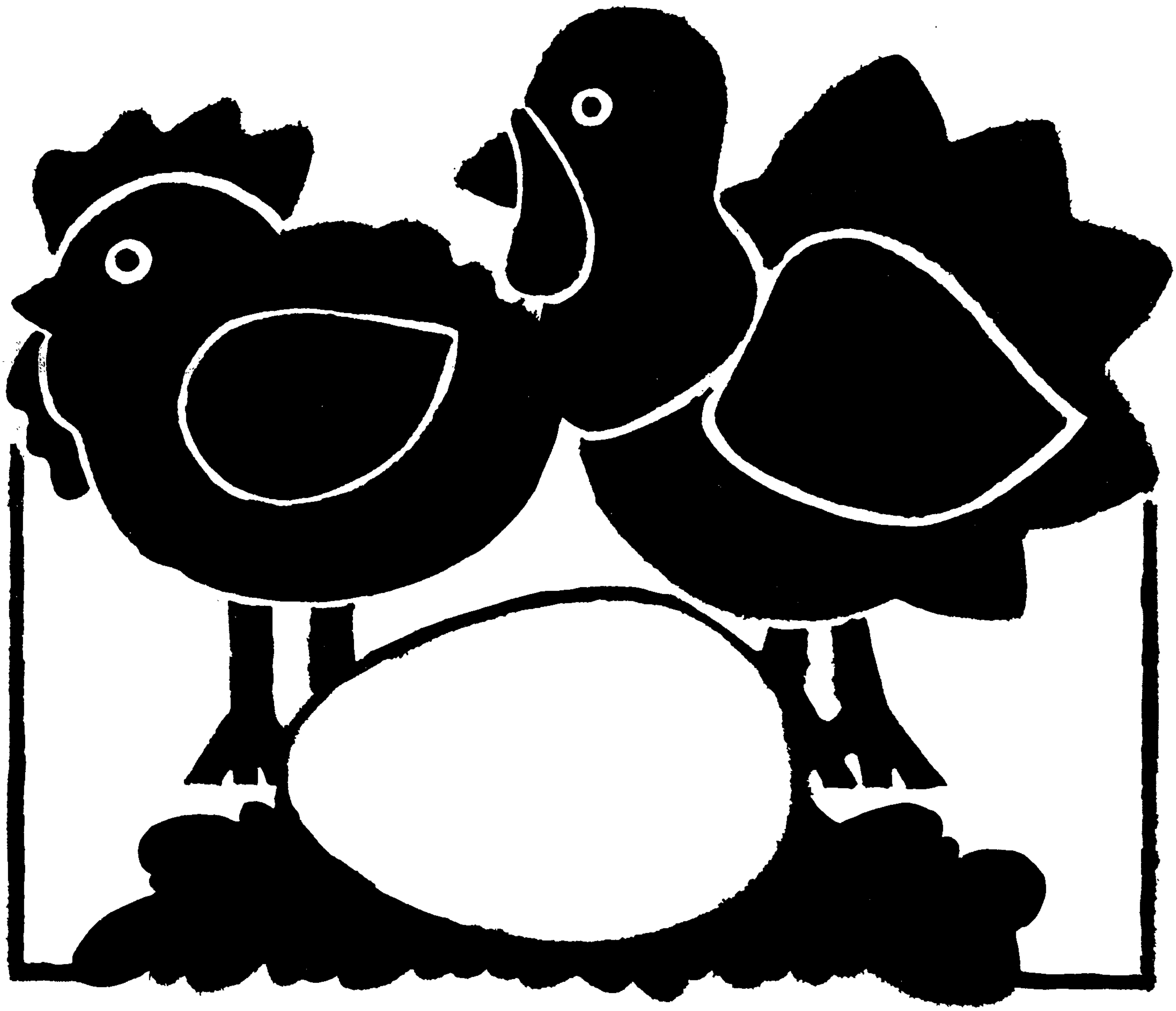
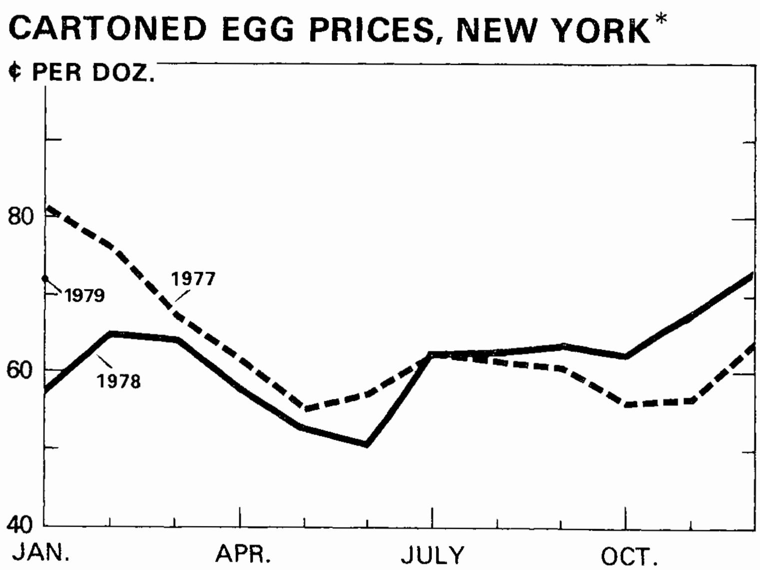


Table 1—Poultry and Egg Situation at a Glance

Item	Unit	1977-78 Oct	1977-78 Nov.	1977-78 Dec.	1977-78 Jan.	1978-79 Oct.	1978-79 Nov.	1978-79 Dec.	1978-79 Jan.
					Eggs				
Farm production	Mil. doz.	466.0	461.2	483.4	478.2	478.2	472.5	493.5	**489.2**
Average number of layers on farms	Mil.	281.0	284.6	287.0	285.7	285.3	289.9	291.3	**290.8**
Rate of lay per layer	No.	19.9	19.4	20.2	20.1	20.1	19.6	20.3	**20.2**
Price received by farmers	Ct. per doz.	47.8	51.2	53.6	49.4	52.3	56.8	61.6	60.5
14 Metro areas price									
Grade A large	Ct. per doz.	56.3	58.4	63.3	57.9	62.3	68.8	73.3	73.0
Price paid for laying feed	Dol. per ton	135	141	145	147	150	154	156	157
Egg-feed price ratio	Pounds	7.1	7.3	7.4	6.7	7.0	7.4	7.9	7.7
Stocks, first of month:									
Shell	Thous. cases	50	52	50	39	42	23	36	**38**
Frozen	Mil. lb.	33.7	33.4	31.2	29.7	28.6	27.6	25.6	**25.3**
Replacement chicks hatched	Mil.	37.6	34.5	32.5	36.8	37.6	35.5	34.6	**39.9**
					Poultry				
Federally inspected slaughter, cert.									
Broilers	Mil. lb.	775.5	719.8	753.2	781.4	896.4	779.1	767.3	
Turkeys	Mil. lb.	250.3	246.8	148.2	81.8	271.2	248.9	156.3	
Price at farm, live weight									
Broilers	Ct. per lb.	22.7	21.3	20.2	22.8	24.8	24.7	24.9	27.0
Turkeys	Ct. per lb.	36.5	39.0	40.2	38.0	45.1	46.6	49.6	47.2
9-city wholesale broiler price	Ct. per lb.	39.2	37.3	36.2	40.2	42.0	42.0	42.2	45.8
Broiler-feed price	Dol. per ton	153	159	160	162	169	174	174	175
Broiler-feed price ratio	Pounds	3.0	2.7	2.5	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.9	3.1
Turkey-feed price	Dol. per lb.	168	175	177	177	183	185	185	189
Turkey-feed price ratio	Pounds	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.9	5.0	5.4	5.0
Stocks, first of month:									
Broilers, fryers, roasters	Mil. lb.	30.7	31.2	33.3	29.4	21.1	22.8	23.2	**20.1**
Turkeys	Mil. lb.	409.3	444.5	269.4	167.9	370.4	430.1	235.7	**175.1**
Total poultry	Mil. lb.	566.0	598.6	417.8	310.0	485.6	543.4	346.4	**280.1**
Average weekly placement of									
broiler chicks in 21 States	Mil.	63.3	63.2	66.2	67.7	67.1	69.1	71.6	73.7



*SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, CONSUMER GRADE A LARGE.

USDA NEG ESCS 60-79(2)

In This Issue

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Commodity Economics Division
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SUMMARY

In response to strong consumer demand for high protein foods, broiler, turkey, and egg production in 1979 will surpass 1978. Poultry and egg prices are expected to average above 1978 levels in the first half of 1979. During the second half, broiler and egg prices are expected to be near 1978 levels, but turkey prices will drop below. Returns to poultry and egg producers will remain favorable.

Egg production continues above a year ago largely because of a larger laying flock. January egg production was up a little more than 2 percent. On February 1, there were nearly 3 percent more layers on the Nation's farms and the rate of lay was about the same as a year ago. Egg output during the first half of this year is expected to be 2 percent larger than in 1978. In the first quarter of 1979, broiler-types will make up all the increase in replacement pullets, but there will be reduced culling of egg-type layers. Second-quarter table-egg flock replacements will be up, but partially offsetting will be increased culling of old layers.

Egg prices in January averaged about the same as last December, but 15 cents above a year earlier. Prices dropped again in following weeks and were 67 cents a dozen on February 22. Prices will advance as demand picks up for Easter. January-March egg prices in New York are expected to average 5 to 7 cents above the 62 cents of a year earlier. During the spring, prices will decline and average in the upper 50's, compared with 54 cents last year.

Broiler meat output will continue to expand this year for the fourth consecutive year. In 1978, output in federally inspected slaughter plants totaled 9.9 billion pounds, 7 percent above 1977 and 24 percent above 1975. Weekly slaughter reports and chick placements suggest that January-March broiler production will be 8 to 10 percent above first-quarter 1978. Recent reports on eggs going into incubators and producer returns indicate that broiler production will continue around 8 percent above year-earlier levels next spring and summer.

The next issue of the *Poultry and Egg Situation* will be published in June.

The 9-city broiler price for the first 2 months of 1979 averaged about 47.5 cents a pound, 7 cents above a year ago. First quarter broiler prices are expected to average 4 to 6 cents a pound above the 42-cent level of last year. They will show only a small seasonal rise in the spring and summer and average near 1978. However, if sharply higher pork supplies do not materialize, the decline in beef output will push broiler prices well above a year earlier.

Turkey meat output is expanding in response to very good producer returns. Weekly slaughter reports and production of poults indicate that first-half turkey meat output will be 20 to 25 percent above January-June 1978. Production will remain well above last year in the second half but the margin of increase will narrow substantially as production increases seasonally.

Turkey prices have declined substantially but remain well above year-earlier levels. Prices in New York for 8-16 pound young hen turkeys in late February averaged about 67 cents a pound, 13 cents below December's average but still 8 cents above a year earlier. Prices will decline further in coming months because of larger turkey supplies and increasing pork and broiler production. January-March prices will average in the upper 60-cents-a-pound range but likely will decline to the mid-60's in the spring and summer. Second-half prices likely will average 7 to 9 cents below the 73-cent average of July-December 1978, if turkey output is up about 7 percent from a year earlier.

Poultry, Livestock, and Egg Production and changes from a year earlier

	1977				1978				1979	
	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I[1]	II[1]
Broilers[2] (Mil. lb.)	2,156	2,399	2,424	2,248	2,327	2,547	2,567	2,443	2,560	2,750
Percent change	+2	+4	+2	+3	+8	+6	+6	+8	+10	+8
Turkeys[2] (Mil. lb.)	210	365	672	645	228	400	680	676	285	480
Percent change	+1	-1	-5	-3	+9	+10	+1	+5	+25	+20
Beef[3] (Mil. lb.)	6,287	6,158	6,321	6,220	6,104	5,936	5,921	6,040	6,025	5,525
Percent change	-3	0	-4	-3	-3	-4	-6	-3	-1	-7
Pork[3] (Mil. lb.)	3,294	3,184	3,073	3,500	3,242	3,264	3,158	3,539	3,400	3,550
Percent change	+11	+12	+2	-5	-2	+3	+3	+1	+5	+9
Total[4] (Mil. lbs.)	12,238	12,379	12,779	12,895	12,154	12,372	12,538	12,908	12,460	12,475
,Percent change	+1	+4	-2	-3	-1	0	-2	0	+3	+1
Eggs (Mil. doz.)	1,326	1,338	1,333	1,411	1,378	1,394	1,380	1,444	1,405	1,420
Percent change	-2	0	0	+4	+4	+4	+4	+2	+2	+2

Poultry, Livestock, and Egg Prices

	1977				1978				1979	
	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I[1]	II[1]
Broilers, 9-city[5] (Cents/lb.)	40.9	42.3	42.4	37.6	41.8	47.6	46.6	42.1	46-48	47-49
Turkeys, New York[6] (Cents/lb.)	50.2	51.5	53.1	61.3	60.2	61.4	68.2	77.1	68-70	63-65
Choice Steers, Omaha (Dollars/cwt.)	37.9	40.8	40.5	42.4	45.8	55.1	53.8	54.7	61-63	64-66
Barrows and Gilts 7-markets ($/cwt.)	39.1	40.9	43.8	41.4	47.4	47.8	48.5	50.0	51-53	48-50
Eggs, New York[7] (Cents/dozen)	74.9	57.8	61.5	58.9	62.0	53.8	63.0	67.8	67-69	57-59

[1] Forecast. [2] Federally inspected slaughter. [3] Commercial production. [4] Includes veal, lamb, and mutton. [5] Wholesale weighted average. [6] 8-16 lb, young hens. [7] Cartoned consumer Grade A large, sales to volume buyers.

POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION

FACTORS AFFECTING THE POULTRY AND EGG INDUSTRIES

Production Costs Trend Upward

The costs of producing and marketing poultry and eggs moved above year-earlier levels in the second half of 1978 and are expected to remain above 1978 levels during most of 1979. Feed costs are expected to increase seasonally through the spring. However, feed prices could change substantially, depending on how the current Brazilian soybean crop and the 1979 U.S. corn and soybean crops develop.

Prices of most feedstuffs have increased moderately since last fall. Corn prices (No. 2 Yellow) at Chicago were around $2.35 per bushel in mid-February, compared with $2.22 in October and in mid-February 1978. Soybean meal (49 percent Decatur) was $208 a ton in mid-February, up from $192 in October and $166 last February.

The 1978 corn crop totaled 7.1 billion bushels, up 10 percent from 1977's record of 6.4 billion. More corn will be used this year, but ending stocks on October 1 will increase to around 1.7 billion bushels—the highest level since 1961/62. However, expected record use and farmers' use of loan and reserve programs will temper the price impact of the large supplies. Corn prices are expected to rise seasonally this spring and summer.

U.S. soybean supplies for the marketing year ending this September 30 are 2 billion bushels, a record high and 7 percent above the previous year. However, exceptionally strong demand has boosted prices well above year-earlier levels where they're expected to remain through the end of the marketing year. Prices during February-September are forecast to average 5 to 10 percent above the 1978 level of $184 per ton. Protein feed prices in coming months may be volatile as the market responds to world demand to and prospects for Brazil's soybean crop.

Lower Total Red Meat Supplies in 1979

Pork output will increase substantially this year but not enough to offset the continued decline in beef. Veal and lamb and mutton production also will be down. Commerical production of red meats in 1979 is expected to total nearly 38 billion pounds, 1 percent below the previous year.

Domestic beef production this year may decline 7 percent from 1978, and 13 percent below the 1976 peak. The January 1 cattle inventory was down more than 5 million head from a year earlier to 110.9 million and 21 million head below 1975's 132 million. Despite the reduced cattle inventory, placements of cattle on feed are expected to show a small gain this year and fed cattle marketings will be maintained near 1978 levels. But fewer nonfed cattle will be slaughtered. Fed cattle will account for an estimated 75 percent or more of this year's cattle slaughter, compared with 70 percent last year.

Cattle prices are expected to remain strong throughout 1979 and will average well above year-earlier levels. Choice steers at Omaha likely will average $10 to $15 per hundredweight above 1978.

Pork production this year is expected to increase by a tenth with the margin of increase widening throughout the year. Hog producers are apparently reacting to the favorable feed-hog price relationships. The December 1, 1978 inventory of market hogs showed those weighing less than 60 pounds up 9 percent from a year earlier. April-June slaughter likely will be up about 7 percent from a year ago.

Data in the December *Hogs and Pigs* report indicated that hog producers planned to hold 15 percent more sows to farrow during December-May. Farrowings from this period will be marketed during the second half of 1979, suggesting substantially larger pork production than in July-December 1978.

Barrow and gilt prices at 7 markets in the first quarter are expected to average $51-$53 per hundredweight, $4 to $6 above a year earlier. This likely will be the highest level this year. Rising production probably will cause hog prices to decline throughout the year and drop to the mid- to upper-$40's by this fall.

EGGS

Egg production in the first half of 1979 will average around 2 percent above 1978, primarily because of increased layer numbers. However, with most high protein foods enjoying strong consumer demand, egg prices are expected to average above January-June 1978.

Larger Egg Production in 1979

January's egg production was 2 percent above a year earlier because of increased layer numbers. With more replacement pullets available than a year earlier, layer numbers will remain above 1978 in the first half of 1979 and egg production will be up around 2 percent from first-half 1978 levels.

Although replacement pullets will be above a year earlier during the entire first half of 1979, the type of replacements will be different in the first and second quarters. The hatch of egg-type pullets and placements of broiler-type pullets in hatchery supply flocks 5 to 6 months earlier indicate there will be around 1 million more replacements in the first quarter of 1979. However, all of the additional pullets will be for the broiler hatchery supply flocks. The second quarter will show a swing to replacements mostly for the table-egg flocks. Indications point to around 2 million more egg-type pullets and 1.2 million additional broiler-types.

The size of the laying flock depends not only on the number of replacement pullets but also on the culling of older birds. Producers have not culled old birds as heavily in early 1979 as a year earlier. Weekly reports from January 4-February 14 indicate 2.3 million fewer mature birds have been slaughtered in federally inspected plants than the comparable period in 1978. All of the decline was in light-type (table-egg) birds. With favorable returns expected in the first quarter, the culling of table-egg birds will be below January-March 1978. However, with more replacements available in the spring, and with seasonally low egg prices, cullings likely will run above a year earlier in the second quarter.

Layer numbers are expected to average around 2 percent above a year earlier in the first half of 1979. However, if cullings of older birds remain below a year earlier in the second quarter, layer numbers could be 3 percent or more above 1978 by mid-1979.

Egg production in the second half of this year probably will remain above 1978. Producers stepped up hatchery activity in late 1978 and hatched 8 percent more egg-type chicks during January. Eggs in incubators on February 1 were up 7 percent. The increase in hatchings will narrow as egg prices decline seasonally this spring. However, the first-half chick hatch for second-half flock replacements will be adequate to hold the laying flock above year-earlier levels.

Table 2—Egg-type chick hatchery operations

Month	Hatch			Eggs in incubators first of month change from year earlier	
	1977	1978	1979	1978	1979
	Thou.			*Pct.*	
January	40,338	36,751	39,858	-11	10
February	40,893	37,123		-14	7
March	51,265	46,992		-5	
April	55,133	51,401		-6	
May	52,452	53,600		2	
June	44,700	45,510		8	
July	37,412	36,119		1	
August	37,821	38,603		1	
September	37,394	37,246		0	
October	37,559	37,648		7	
November	34,470	35,535		3	
December	32,476	34,593		15	

Egg Prices To Decline Seasonally

Prices for cartoned Grade A large eggs in New York averaged 61.7 cents a dozen in 1978, about 2 cents below 1977. However, all of the decline was in the first half of the year when prices were down 8 cents a dozen. Prices strengthened in late 1978

Table 3—Force moltings and light-type hen slaughter, 1977-79

Month	Forced molt layers[1]						Light-type hens slaughtered under federal inspection		
	Being molted			Molt completed					
	1977	1978	1979	1977	1978	1979	1977	1978	1979
	Percent			*Percent*			*Thousand*		
January	3.2	2.4	2.5	15.1	13.6	14.1	14,076	15,804	
February	3.4	3.7	3.5	14.4	11.9	13.8	14,519	15,232	
March	3.9	3.8		13.8	12.7		16,758	17,620	
April	2.7	3.3		12.5	12.1		16,587	12,969	
May	5.1	4.9		11.8	10.6		14,160	13,378	
June	5.5	4.9		11.3	11.9		15,361	15,738	
July	4.1	5.0		13.3	12.0		10,163	11,121	
August	3.6	4.5		14.3	13.7		11,976	10,698	
September	3.2	3.7		14.4	14.0		12,861	11,625	
October	4.6	4.1		13.9	13.4		12,525	13,594	
November	3.8	3.5		14.7	13.3		11,837	11,431	
December	3.0	2.5		15.4	14.9		13,990	12,977	

[1] Percent of hens and pullets of laying age in 17 selected states.

Table 4—Egg prices, 1977-78

Month & year	E.M.E.C. quotes on market values[1] East	E.M.E.C. quotes on market values[1] Midwest	Received by producers United States[2]	Cartoned Grade A large New York[3]
	Cents			
1977				
January	68.8	68.1	65.1	81.0
February	63.2	62.8	66.2	76.2
March	56.6	56.2	58.8	67.4
April	48.7	47.6	55.3	61.4
May	45.3	45.1	49.1	55.0
June	48.0	48.0	46.8	57.0
July	52.7	52.0	50.7	62.4
August	50.7	50.4	51.5	61.4
September	48.0	46.5	52.6	60.8
October	46.2	45.2	47.3	56.0
November	44.6	44.6	51.3	56.6
December	54.4	54.1	53.6	64.0
1978				
January	44.6	43.7	49.4	57.2
February	54.2	52.8	55.1	64.9
March	53.0	52.3	55.4	64.0
April	46.4	45.0	52.2	57.9
May	43.3	42.3	49.3	52.9
June	39.3	38.9	43.6	50.6
July	52.8	51.8	48.3	62.8
August	51.4	50.1	52.0	62.6
September	53.0	51.0	53.7	63.8
October	50.1	49.5	52.3	62.1
November	57.4	56.5	56.8	68.8
December	60.8	60.1	61.6	72.6
1979				
January	62.4	60.6	60.5	72.5

[1] Average of weekly price quotations for No. 1 nest run eggs by the Egg Market Evaluation Committee. Does not necessarily represent prices at which eggs are traded in the market. [2] Average of all eggs sold by farmers including hatching eggs and eggs sold at retail. [3] Sales to volume buyers, store door delivery, consumer Grade A large.

and averaged 9 cents above a year earlier during October-December.

Prices eased in early January but increased later in the month and averaged about the same as last December but 15 cents above January a year earlier. Severe winter weather in many areas disrupted egg marketings and contributed to strong prices. Prices have weakened in recent weeks and averaged 67 cents per dozen in mid-February. Prices probably will continue seasonally lower before showing some strength as we approach Easter (April 15), and follow their usual patterns and weaken seasonally in the spring. Since Easter is 3 weeks later this year than last, egg prices will not drop to their lows as early as last year. First-quarter prices for cartoned Grade A large eggs in New York are expected to average 5 to 7 cents above the 62 cents a dozen for January-March 1978. Despite large production, prices during April-June will average in the high 50's compared to 54 cents a year earlier.

Larger 1978 Egg Output

At 5,596 million dozen, egg production in calendar 1978 increased 3½ percent from 1977. This was the largest production since 1972 and the first significant increase since the 1971 record. The increase in 1978 resulted from a 2.2-percent larger laying flock and a 1.3-percent higher output per layer. The higher productivity was largely because of a relatively young laying flock.

Layers on farms and eggs produced

Calendar quarters	Number of layers 1977	Number of layers 1978	Eggs per layer 1977	Eggs per layer 1978	Eggs produced 1977	Eggs produced 1978
	Mil.		No.		Mil. doz.	
I	276	283	57.6	58.5	1,325.8	1,378.1
II	270	277	59.6	60.3	1,337.7	1,394.0
III	272	277	58.8	59.8	1,333.1	1,380.0
IV	284	289	59.6	60.0	1,410.6	1,444.2
Annual	275	281	235.5	238.7	5,407.2	5,596.3

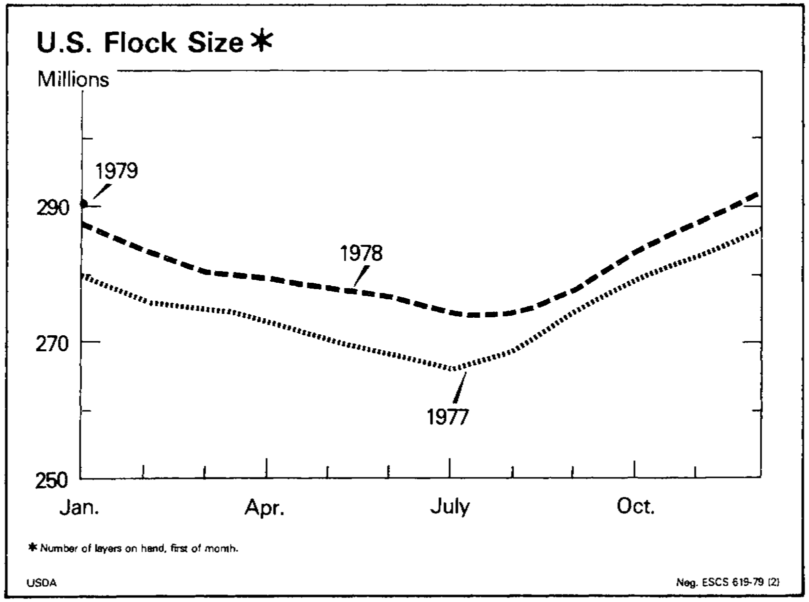
Production was up 4 percent in the first three quarters but dropped to only 2 percent above 1977 in the fourth. Layer numbers were up 3 percent in June but were only 1½ percent higher in December. Output per layer fluctuated during the year, ranging from nearly 3 percent more in January to less than 1 percent larger in November-December.

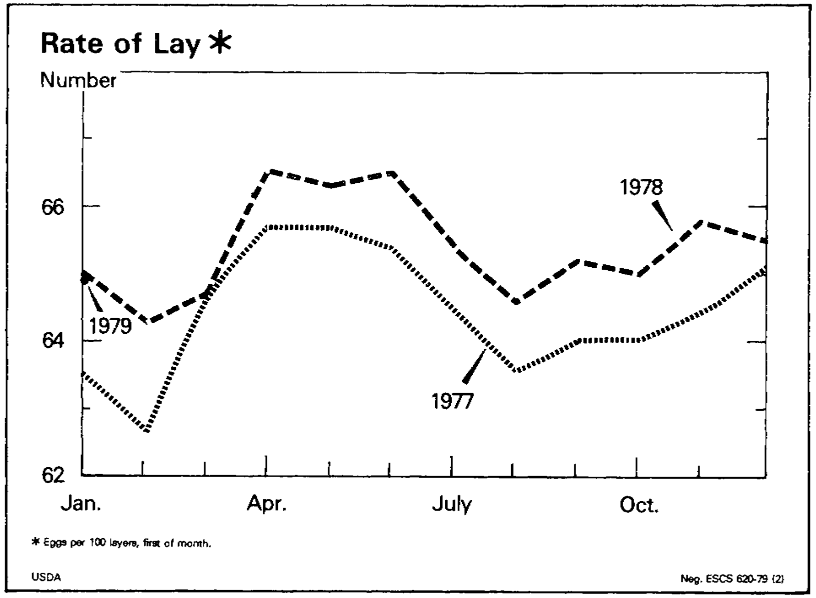
The smaller increase in layer numbers during second-half 1978 relative to 1977 was caused by relatively poor returns to table-egg producers during January-June. The hatch of egg-type chicks in the first half of 1978 for July-December replacement pullets was down 5 percent. Total layer numbers would have declined farther but broiler producers were building up their hatchery supply flocks. Pullet chicks placed from July 1977 through June 1978 for broiler hatchery flocks during 1978 increased nearly 9 percent or nearly 3 million birds more than in 1977. This suggests that all of the increase in layer numbers at yearend was from a larger broiler hatchery flock.

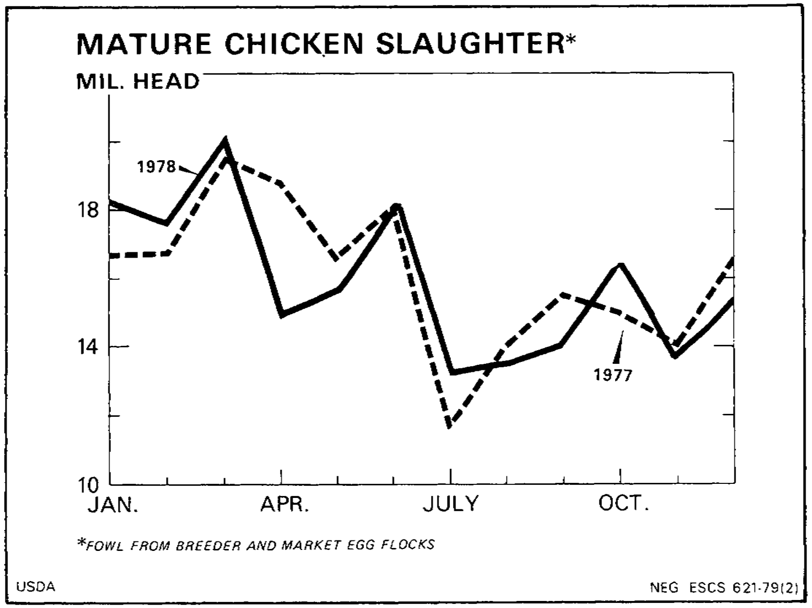
Egg Use Up in 1978

Consumption of eggs increased less than production in 1978 because of fewer imports and increased exports and hatching use than in 1977. Egg imports declined nearly 9 percent from 1977's 14 million dozen, shell equivalent. Imports are historically small and accounted for only two-tenths of one percent of the total 1978 egg supply.

More eggs went for exports and hatching use last year. Exports of shell eggs and egg products totaled about 97 million dozen (shell equivalent), up 45 percent from 1977. All of the increase was in


U.S. Flock Size *
Millions
1979
1978
1977
290
270
250
Jan.
Apr.
July
Oct.
* Number of layers on hand, first of month.
USDA
Neg. ESCS 619-79 (2)


Rate of Lay *
Number
66
64
62
1978
1979
1977
Jan.
Apr.
July
Oct.
* Eggs per 100 layers, first of month.
USDA
Neg. ESCS 620-79 (2)


MATURE CHICKEN SLAUGHTER*
MIL. HEAD
1978
1977
18
14
10
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*FOWL FROM BREEDER AND MARKET EGG FLOCKS
USDA
NEG ESCS 621-79(2)

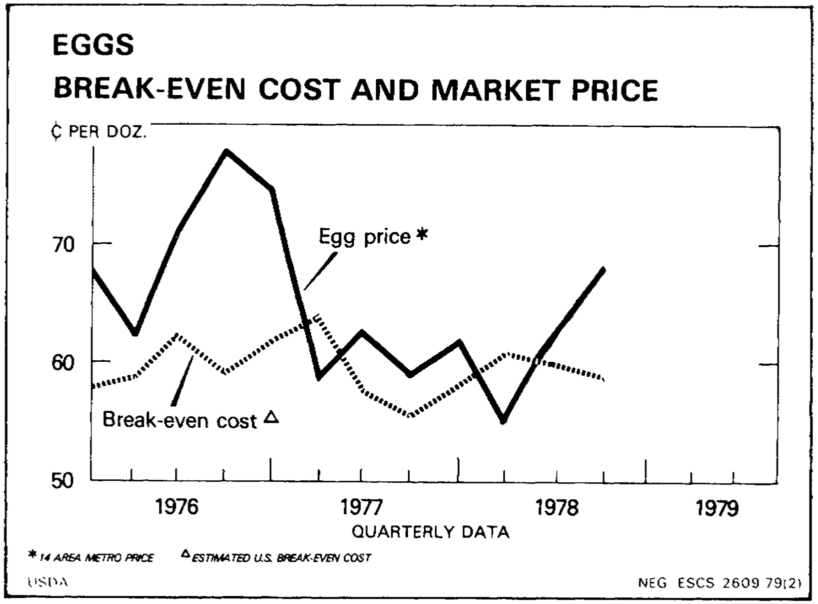

EGGS
BREAK-EVEN COST AND MARKET PRICE
¢ PER DOZ.
Egg price *
Break-even cost △
70
60
50
1976
1977
1978
1979
QUARTERLY DATA
* 14 AREA METRO PRICE
△ ESTIMATED U.S. BREAK-EVEN COST
USDA
NEG ESCS 2609 79(2)

Table 5—Total eggs: Supply and utilization, 1976-78

Year and quarters	Supply				Utilization					
							Domestic disappearance			
	Production	Imports[1]	Beginning stocks[1]	Total supply	Ending stocks[1]	Exports and shipments[1]	Eggs used for hatching	Military[1]	Civilian[1]	
									Total	Per capita
	Million dozen									*Number*
1976										
I	1,352.1	(2)	28.2	1,380.3	23.1	15.2	104.6	13.1	1,224.3	69.2
II	1,337.1	.1	23.1	1,360.3	23.6	15.9	108.1	10.8	1,201.9	67.8
III	1,334.7	1.4	23.6	1,359.7	23.3	18.0	96.4	9.3	1,212.7	68.2
IV	1,352.8	1.0	23.3	1,377.1	20.7	16.2	97.4	12.2	1,230.6	69.1
1977										
I	1,325.8	1.1	20.7	1,347.6	19.9	16.1	109.8	7.6	1,194.2	67.0
II	1,337.7	6.0	19.9	1,363.6	25.0	23.2	113.4	10.9	1,191.1	66.6
III	1,333.1	6.9	25.0	1,365.0	27.1	26.7	100.7	10.0	1,200.5	67.0
IV	1,410.6	.2	27.1	1,437.9	23.7	24.6	103.4	7.8	1,278.4	71.2
1978										
I	1,378.1	1.4	23.7	1,403.2	18.5	37.4	111.2	6.6	1,229.5	68.4
II	1,394.0	3.3	18.5	1,415.8	21,1	29.9	121.4	7.0	1,236.4	68.6
III	1,380.0	6.7	21.1	1,407.8	23.0	24.9	110.8	7.4	1,241.7	68.8
IV	1,444.2	.1	23.0	1,467.3	20.4	28.0	113.7	6.9	1,298.3	71.8

[1] Shell eggs and the approximate shell-egg equivalent of egg product. [2] Less than 100,000 dozen.

egg products, primarily egg yolk. Shell egg exports declined 3 percent to 47 million dozen, while egg products rose from 19 to 50 million dozen (shell egg equivalent). In addition, shipments of shell eggs and egg products to American territories totaled 22 million dozen, 9 percent below 1977.

Hatching egg use in 1978 is estimated to have increased 7 percent to 457 million dozen. All of the gain was due to an increased number of broiler chicks hatched. The egg-type chick hatch in 1978 was 2 percent below 1977.

Egg consumption for 1978 is estimated at almost 278 eggs per person. This is 6 eggs above 1977 and the first increase since 1971 when per capita use was 312 eggs. The 1978 gain was in consumption of shell eggs, up around 7 per person, while processed use declined 1 egg from the 36 eggs (shell equivalent) used in 1977.

Breaking Use Steady and Stocks Down

Shell eggs going to breakers for egg products continued strong throughout 1978 as stocks of frozen egg products remained low. Shell eggs broken under federal inspection in 1978 totaled 686 million dozen, about the same as in 1977. Liquid egg production for immediate consumption and for processing rose about 3 percent to 407 million pounds. Frozen egg production declined about 3 percent to 345 million pounds. Production of dried eggs at 75 million pounds was about the same as the previous year. Production of egg products will continue strong in 1979 to meet current needs because of very low stocks.

Table 6—Shell eggs broken and egg products produced under federal inspection, 1977-78

Period[1]	Shell eggs broken	Egg products produced[2]		
		Liquid[3]	Frozen	Dried
	Thou. doz.	*Thou. lbs.*	*Thou. lbs.*	*Thou. lbs.*
1977				
Dec. 19-Jan. 15	41,440	23,638	22,606	4,225
Jan. 16-Feb. 12	41,678	25,598	21,842	4,588
Feb. 13-Mar. 12	47,126	29,246	23,375	5,725
Mar. 13-Apr. 9	48,514	29,798	24,759	5,263
Apr. 10-May 7	56,549	33,807	29,849	6,518
May 8-June 4	60,437	35,012	31,644	7,001
June 5-July 2	63,793	35,114	34,044	7,688
July 3-July 30	58,114	31,106	30,533	6,349
July 31-Aug. 27	55,842	31,932	26,739	5,979
Aug. 28-Sept. 30	67,236	38,286	32,030	6,693
Oct. 1-Nov. 5	66,346	37,841	34,438	6,999
Nov. 6-Dec. 3	49,725	27,184	27,330	4,994
Dec. 4-Dec. 31	47,960	25,973	26,340	5,026
1978				
Jan. 1-Jan. 28	48,855	27,867	25,652	5,506
Jan. 29-Feb. 25	47,627	29,218	24,983	5,144
Feb. 26-Mar. 25	45,341	28,348	23,021	4,000
Mar. 26-Apr. 22	51,948	30,904	26,605	5,501
Apr. 23-May 20	56,547	34,437	28,328	6,651
May 21-June 17	62,978	35,587	33,768	7,827
June 18-July 15	60,032	33,971	29,953	6,775
July 16-Aug. 12	55,138	31,030	27,054	5,805
Aug.13-Sept. 9	53,400	32,179	24,307	5,255
Sept. 10-Sept. 30	42,820	26,442	19,972	5,007
Oct. 1-Nov. 4	67,102	41,837	32,267	8,355
Nov. 5-Dec. 2	44,814	26,579	22,048	4,702
Dec. 3-Dec. 30	49,422	28,106	27,171	4,298

[1] Weeks in 1978 and 1977. [2] Includes ingredients added. [3] Liquid egg product produced for immediate consumption and for processing.

Cold storage holdings of frozen egg products on January 1 totaled 25 million pounds, down 4 million from a year earlier and record low for any recent January.

BROILERS

Broiler production will be 8 to 10 percent above a year earlier in the first half of 1979 and continue near this level in the second half. Broiler prices will average above 1978 levels, with the sharpest increases in the first quarter. Reduced beef output will bolster prices but if current expectations of sharply larger pork supplies materialize, broiler prices in the second half will be held to slightly above 1978.

Production Expansion Continues in 1979

Broiler production will continue to expand for the fourth straight year. Weekly slaughter and chick placement reports indicate broiler meat output during January-March 1979 will be close to 10 percent above 1978. The number of broilers slaughtered under federal inspection from January 4-February 14 was 9 percent above a year earlier.

With large grain supplies and favorable price expectations, broiler production will continue to expand in coming months. Unless there are some unforeseen hatchability problems, the availability of hatching eggs is not expected to limit production as it did in parts of 1978. The cumulative placements of pullet chicks 7 to 14 months earlier indicate that through the first 8 months of this year, the hatchery supply flock will average about 14 percent larger than in 1978.

Although the supply of hatching eggs will not limit production in coming months, the availability of facilities to produce and process broilers may. Broiler production has expanded sharply since 1975, and it is doubtful whether the facilities can maintain the current 10-percent expansion rate in the peak production months in spring and summer.

Thus, spring and summer output will increase seasonally, but the percentage increase over 1978 is expected to narrow to about 8 percent. A sudden advance in feed prices or a faster than expected increase in pork production would slow the expansion further.

Continued Strong Broiler Prices

Broiler prices exceeded year-earlier levels throughout 1978 and early 1979 even though supplies were substantially larger. Prices will be well above 1978 in the first quarter but average slightly above 1978 during the remainder of 1979.

Table 7—Broiler: Eggs set and broiler chicks placed weekly in 21 commercial broiler producing States, 1977-79

Weeks*	Eggs set		Percent of previous year	Chicks placed		Percent of previous year
	1977-78	1978-79		1977-78	1978-79	
	Thousands		*Percent*	*Thousands*		*Percent*
November						
4	79,144	88,685	112	58,588	63,443	108
11	82,427	91,073	110	61,857	65,919	107
18	82,537	91,041	110	64,880	70,166	108
25	81,774	90,158	110	64,008	70,716	110
2	82,530	90,895	110	66,467	72,291	109
December						
9	82,335	87,280	106	66,748	72,283	108
16	83,549	92,956	111	65,874	71,430	108
23	83,300	92,359	111	66,143	73,521	111
30	84,266	92,366	110	66,147	69,215	105
January						
6	83,943	93,604	112	67,167	73,756	110
13	83,836	93,038	110	67,971	73,642	108
20	85,858	94,104	110	68,085	73,851	108
27	86,358	93,031	108	67,669	74,316	110
February						
3	85,662	93,832	110	68,341	74,211	109
10	86,247	97,015	112	69,242	74,880	108
17	87,546	97,309	111	69,461	74,255	107
24	87,084	97,889	112	68,886	74,394	108

*Weeks in 1977-78 and corresponding weeks in 1978-79.

Table 8—Broiler chicks hatched and pullet chicks placed in hatchery flocks

	Broiler-type chicks hatched			Pullet chicks placed in broiler hatchery supply flocks					
				Monthly placements			Cummulative placements 7-14 months earlier		
	1977	1978	1979	1977	1978	1979	1978	1979	1980
	Million			*Thousand*			*Thousand*		
January	294.3	313.0	340.7	2,585	2,687	3,541	21,934	24,824	
February	272.4	288.9		2,419	2,751		22,282	25,498	
March	323.2	332.3		2,919	3,309		22,353	25,360	
April	324.6	337.9		3,275	3,629		22,469	25,802	
May	337.4	360.5		3,025	3,532		23,063	26,168	
June	320.1	346.7		2,730	3,201		22,846	25,950	
July	310.6	338.5		2,782	3,376		22,584	25,610	
August	294.7	318.3		2,618	2,875		22,246	25,619	
September	280.0	296.5		2,701	3,129		22,267		
October	290.9	309.7		3,013	3,117		22,794		
November	282.2	307.7		2,702	3,091		23,805		
December	306.3	330.9		3,013	3,289		24,636		

Smaller beef supplies will bolster broiler prices, but larger production of both pork and broilers will limit price increases this year.

Wholesale broiler prices in 9 cities for the first two months of 1979 averaged 47.5 cents a pound, 7 cents above comparable weeks a year ago. Winter storms contributed to stronger prices for all meats. Broiler prices in 9 cities during January-March are expected to average 4 to 6 cents a pound above the 42 cents of a year earlier. Broiler prices are expected to show a small seasonal rise and average in the upper 40's during the spring and summer. Increased pork supplies are expected but a continued decline in beef supplies will bolster prices. However, if the continued cold winter reduces the expected increase in 1979 pork supplies as it did in 1978, broiler prices will continue well above 1978.

Table 9—Estimated 3rd quarter 1979 broiler price/consumption relationships[1]

Domestic civilian per capita consumption: Pounds	Domestic civilian per capita consumption: Percent change from year earlier	Estimated 9-city wholesale broiler price
		Cents per lb.
13.2	+15	44-46
12.7	+10	46-48
12.1	+5	48-50
11.5	0	[2]50-52
10.9	-5	52-54
10.4	-10	54-56
9.8	-15	56-58

[1] Based on historical relationships. [2] The estimated 50-52 cents per pound is based on prospective conditions for competing meats and general economic activity and assumes no change from a year earlier in per capita consumption of broilers.

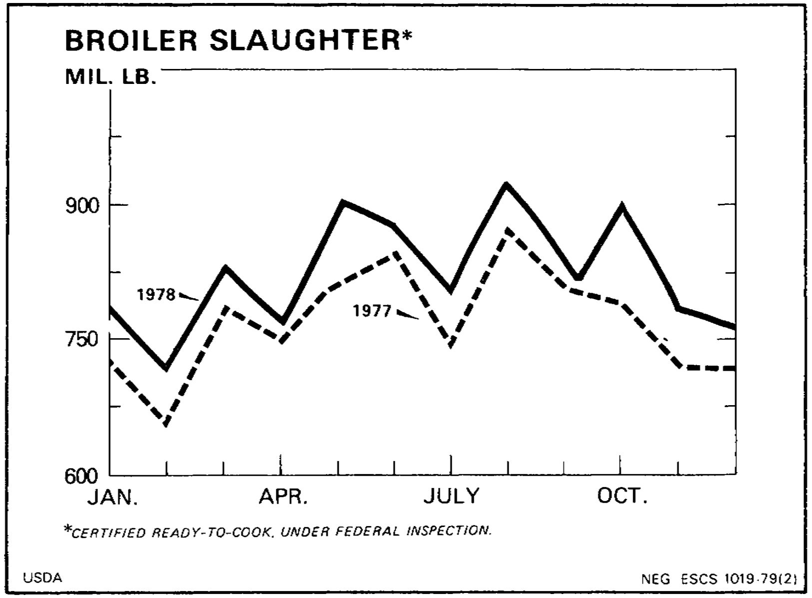
The price other than the base 50-52 cents per pound were estimated by assuming the same conditions for competing meats and economic activity as under the base but various changes from a year earlier in the per capita consumption of broilers.

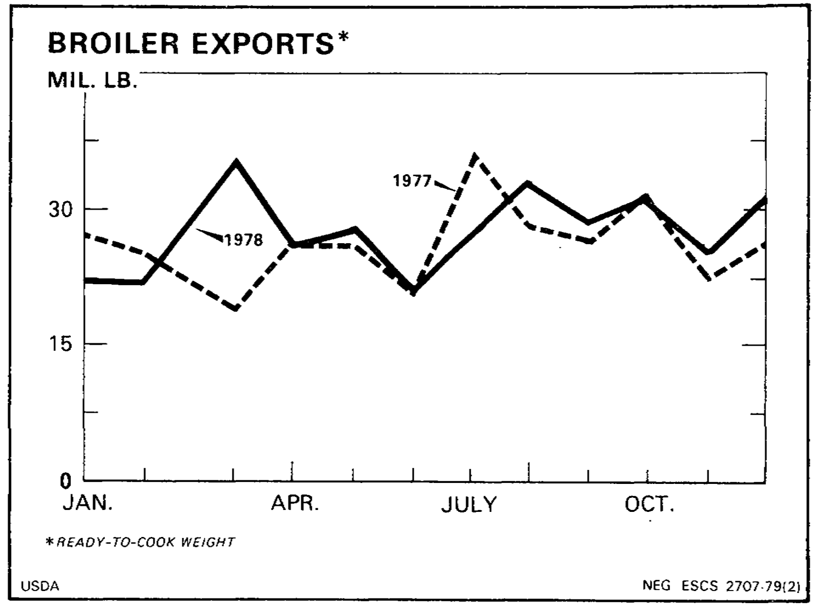
Broiler Prospects for Third Quarter 1979

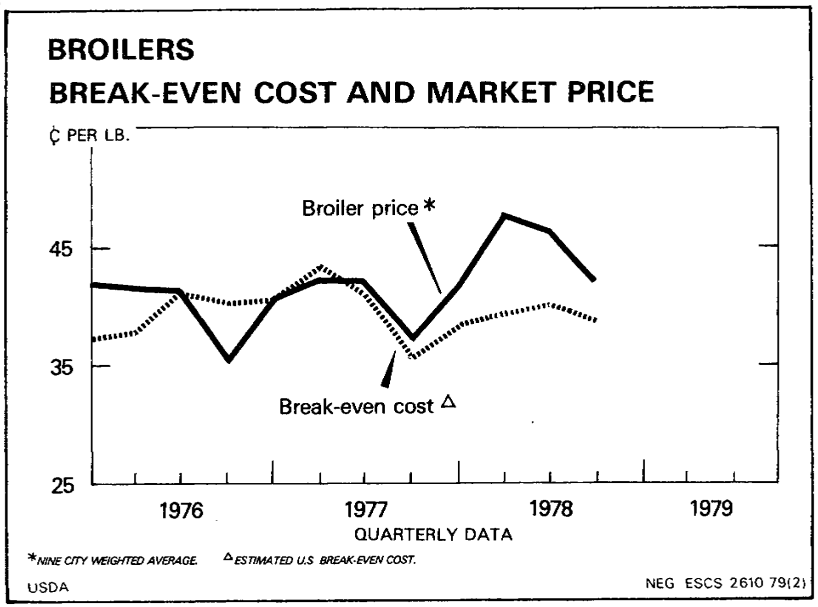
Prospects for broiler producers during July-September are favorable despite an expected increase in pork production. Feed prices may be a little higher but consumer demand for broiler meat will contine strong. Feed grain supplies are large, and farmers have indicated they'll plant large acreages to corn and soybeans again this year. Although supplies are larger, corn prices are expected to be a little higher this year than last. Soybean meal prices may be 10 to 15 percent higher because of expected strong domestic and world demand. Other production input costs will continue to rise from 1978 levels.

Broiler prices next summer will be buoyed by strong consumer demand for high protein food, particularly meats. Beef production will continue to decline, but pork production may increase by a tenth or more, nearly offseting the declines in beef. Production at these levels, combined with continued gains in consumer incomes, suggest that cattle prices will stay well above year-earlier levels, but hog prices would be about the same.

Assuming that pork and beef supplies and consumer incomes turn out about as currently expected and broiler meat production increases 8 percent, the 9-city price during July-September 1979 probably will average 0 to 2 cents a pound above the 46.6-cent average in the third quarter of 1978. However, if past relationships hold, output at year-earlier levels would result in a 9-city price in the low 50's.


BROILER SLAUGHTER*
MIL. LB.
900
750
600
1978
1977
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*CERTIFIED READY-TO-COOK, UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION.
USDA
NEG ESCS 1019-79(2)


BROILER EXPORTS*
MIL. LB.
30
15
0
1977
1978
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*READY-TO-COOK WEIGHT
USDA
NEG ESCS 2707-79(2)


BROILERS
BREAK-EVEN COST AND MARKET PRICE
¢ PER LB.
45
35
25
Broiler price*
Break-even cost △
1976
1977
1978
1979
QUARTERLY DATA
*NINE CITY WEIGHTED AVERAGE. △ESTIMATED U.S BREAK-EVEN COST.
USDA
NEG ESCS 2610 79(2)

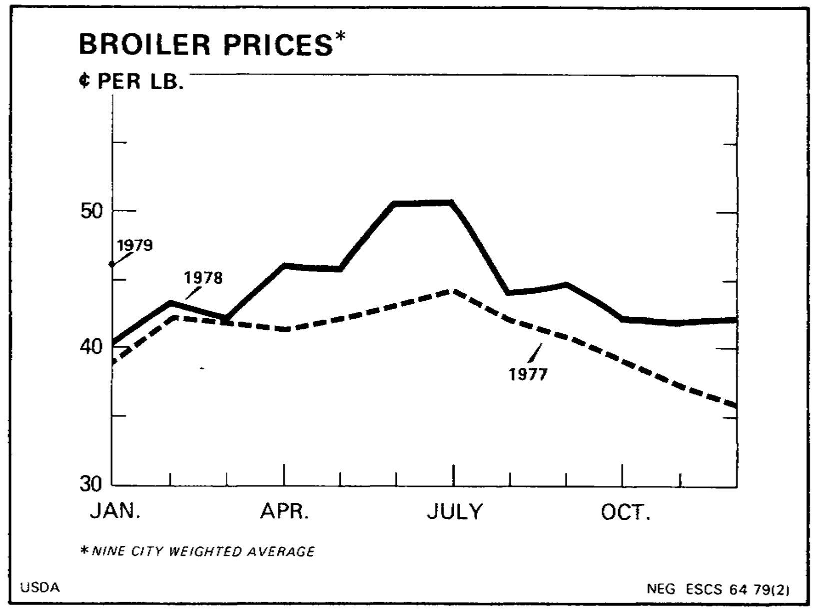

BROILER PRICES*
¢ PER LB.
50
40
30
1979
1978
1977
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*NINE CITY WEIGHTED AVERAGE
USDA
NEG ESCS 64 79(2)

Table 10—Broiler supply and prices

Year and quarters	Federally inspected slaughter				Total production RTC[1]	Per capita consumption	Prices	
	Number	Av. wt.	Live weight pounds	Certified RTC wt.			Farm	9-city
	Mil.	*Lbs.*	*Mil. lbs.*	*Mil. lbs.*	*Mil. lbs.*	*Lbs.*	*Cts/lbs.*	*Cts./lb.*
1976								
I	765	3.82	2,922	2,116	2,136	9.7	24.6	42.2
II	843	3.78	3,189	2,314	2,335	10.4	24.1	41.7
III	865	3.79	3,277	2,372	2,392	10.6	23.9	41.5
IV	780	3.87	3,020	2,185	2,205	9.7	19.9	35.5
Year	3,253	3,81	12,408	8,987	9,067	40.4	23.1	40.2
1977								
I	782	3.82	2,985	2,156	2,201	9.8	23.5	40.9
II	869	3.80	3,305	2,399	2,447	10.8	24.4	42.3
III	884	3.78	3,340	2,424	2,474	10.9	24.6	42.4
IV	798	3.90	3,110	2,248	2,296	10.2	21.4	37.6
Year	3,334	3,82	12,741	9,227	9,418	41.7	23.6	40.8
1978								
I	831	3.88	3,226	2,327	2,375	10.5	24.0	41.8
II	909	3.87	3,519	2,547	2,599	11.5	28.5	47.6
III	922	3.84	3,540	2,567	2,620	11.5	28.7	46.6
IV	854	3.95	3,371	2,443	2,494	10.9	24.8	42.1
Year	3,516	3.88	13,656	9,883	10,088	44.4	26.5	44.5

[1] Total production equals federally inspected slaughter plus other slaughter minus cut-up and further processing condemnations.

Table 11—Young chicken supply and utilization, 1977-78

Year	Production[1]	Beginning stocks	Total supply	End stocks	Exports and shipments	Military	Civilian disappearance	Per capita
	Million pounds							*Pounds*
1977:								
January	728.7	32.9	761.6	27.4	38.6	1.3	694.3	3.24
February	673.1	27.4	700.5	24.6	36.7	1.7	637.5	2.98
March	799.2	24.6	823.8	26.5	31.6	2.9	762.8	3.56
April	760.0	26.5	786.5	25.2	36.0	2.8	722.5	3.37
May	826.3	25.2	851.5	27.9	38.1	2.0	783.5	3.65
June	861.0	27.9	888.9	31.3	32.0	3.4	822.2	3.83
July	761.0	31.3	792.3	30.3	46.3	.4	715.3	3.33
August	888.5	30.3	918.8	29.6	41.4	.3	847.5	3.94
September	824.7	29.6	854.3	30.7	39.1	.1	784.4	3.65
October	791.5	30.7	822.2	31.2	34.8	2.0	754.2	3.50
November	735.0	31.2	766.2	33.3	25.6	2.1	705.2	3.27
December	769.1	33.3	802.4	29.4	41.4	2.7	728.9	3.38
1978:								
January	797.8	29.4	827.2	27.5	36.0	2.2	761.5	3.53
February	730.7	27.5	758.1	21.8	32.7	2.1	701.6	3.25
March	847.0	21.8	868.8	21.7	46.1	3.1	797.9	3.70
April	784.9	21.7	806.6	22.6	33.2	2.7	748.1	3.46
May	921.5	22.6	944.1	19.8	36.3	3.4	884.6	4.09
June	893.1	19.8	912.9	21.4	31.1	2.9	857.5	3.96
July	818.1	21.4	839.5	22.0	37.2	2.3	778.0	3.59
August	950.4	22.0	972.4	21.1	44.3	2.6	904.4	4.18
September	851.4	21.1	872.5	21.1	39.2	1.7	810.5	3.74
October	915.2	21.1	936.3	22.8	40.9	1.1	871.5	4.02
November	795.0	22.8	817.8	23.2	38.3	1.5	754.8	3.48
December	783.3	23.2	806.5	20.1	42.2	4.0	740.2	3.41

[1] Total monthly production is estimated by multiplying the monthly federally inspected slaughter by the ratio of the annual total production to the annual federally inspected slaughter. The ratio used in 1978 is the same as the one in 1977.

USDA Purchases

USDA purchases of young chicken meat for school lunch and other domestic food programs totaled nearly 84 million pounds in 1978. Of this, 56 million pounds were purchased under the 1978 program and 28 million under the 1977 program. USDA bought 75 million pounds of fresh, frozen cut-up chicken and 9 million pounds of cooked cut-up chicken. Total cost was $48 million. This compares with 62.1 million pounds of fresh frozen cut-up chicken and 3.5 million pounds of cooked frozen cut-up chicken costing $34 million.

Purchases under the 1978 program continue in 1979 and through February purchases totaled 14 million pounds of fresh frozen cut-up chicken and 2.2 million pounds of cooked cut-up chicken. Purchases under the 1976 and 1977 programs were ended in March of the following year.

Record Exports in 1978

Exports of young chicken meat (primarily broilers) increased about 6 percent over the 1977 record to 331 million pounds. Although exports were record large, they accounted for about 3 percent of estimated total production, about the same as in 1977.

Most of last year's increase was taken by Venezuela, Japan, and Hong Kong. Saudi Arabia, Canada, and Mexico also scored sharp percentage increases. Exports to the Mideast and EC-9 countries dropped sharply from 1977 levels.

In 1978, shipments of young chicken to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands (U.S. territories) totaled 126 million pounds. This compares with 128 million pounds in 1977.

Consumption of Young Chicken Gains

In 1978, consumers used more young chicken meat (broiler-fryers and other young birds such as roasters and capons) than ever before. Per capita use is currently estimated at 44.4 pounds, up from 41.7 pounds in 1977. The 1978 per capita figures will be finalized when total 1978 broiler production is reported in April. Consumption will continue to increase in 1979 while record numbers of broilers move to market. Consumption may rise another 3 pounds per person; meanwhile, total red meat use will lag year-earlier levels.

TURKEYS

Very good returns throughout 1978 have prompted producers to sharply expand poult production for 1979 production. This will push this year's turkey prices below the exceptionally high levels of last year.

1979 Production Up Sharply

Turkey producers made excellent profits in 1978 and, along with good prospects for 1979, will result in a sharp expansion in turkey meat production in 1979. In late 1978, producers in the 20 major turkey-producing States indicated they planned to raise 11 percent more turkeys in 1979 than in 1978. Heavy breed intentions were up 11 percent and light breeds, 19 percent. Those 20 States accounted for 96 percent of the turkeys raised in 1978. The inventory of breeder hens indicates there will be ample eggs to meet intentions. Turkey breeder hens on December 1, 1978 were 11 percent above a year earlier.

Weekly slaughter reports show that turkey output in federally inspected plants during the 6 weeks ending February 14, 1979 was 28 percent

Table 12— Turkey hatchery operations, United States, 1978-79

Month	Poults hatched						Eggs in incubator first of month change from prev. year		
	Light breeds		Heavy breeds		Total		Light	Heavy	Total
	1978	1979	1978	1979	1978	1979	1979	1979	1979
	Thousand						*Percent*		
January	499	955	11,307	12,813	11,806	13,768	100	15	18
February	610		13,124		13,734		59	7	10
March	652		17,421		18,073				
April	703		18,411		19,114				
May	799		19,858		20,657				
June	720		18,099		18,819				
July	701		14,328		15,029				
August	762		8,851		9,613				
September	528		5,081		5,609				
October	696		5,657		6,353				
November	983		7,363		8,346				
December	990		9,295		10,285				

above record levels of a year earlier. The number of turkeys marketed was up 26 percent.

Producers have sharply increased hatchery activity in recent months for first-half 1979 turkey marketings. The hatch during September 1978 through January 1979 was 23 percent over a year earlier. In addition, turkey eggs in incubators on February 1 were up 10 percent. The hatch during these months will supply most of the turkeys marketed during January-June 1979. This indicates that first-half turkey output will be 20 to 25 percent above 1978.

Producers are expected to continue placing more eggs in incubators in coming months, but the increase over 1978 will narrow substantially as the heavy hatching months approach. In recent years, one-third or less of the hatch was during the first 6 months of the September-August hatching season.

January Stocks Up from 1978

Larger turkey production in 1978 and reduced movement through retail channels late in the year in response to high prices pushed turkey cold storage stocks on January 1, 1979 over the low levels of a year earlier. Stocks totaled 175 million pounds, 7 million pounds more than a year earlier. Although above a year earlier, the January 1, 1979 stocks were the second lowest beginning-year stocks in over a decade.

Turkey Prices Decline

Turkey prices have declined from the record high levels of last December, but remain well above a year ago. Prices trended steadily upward throughout 1978 with young hens, 8 to 16 pounds, in New York, rising from the 60-cents-a-pound level in January to almost 81 cents in December. January 1979 prices dropped to 73 cents and by mid-February had slipped to 67 cents a pound. That was still 8 cents above a year earlier. The weakness was greater for young hens than for heavier toms. That is in line with reduced consumer demand for the smaller young hens and increased demand for the heavier toms for further processing in the first half of the year.

Turkey prices are expected to decline further in coming months because of sharply higher production than a year earlier and increasing pork supplies. Prices will average above year-earlier levels during the first half of 1979 before slipping below the exceptionally high levels of 1978 during the second half of 1979. January-March New York wholesale prices for 8-16 pound young hens will average in the upper 60-cents-a-pound range but may decline to the lower 60's in the spring.

Turkey prices

Calendar	Liveweight	New York, wholesale, frozen f.o.b. or equivalent		
		Young hens 8-16 lbs.	Young toms 14-20 lbs.	Young toms 24-26 lbs.
	Cents per pound			
1977				
I	32.7	50.2	51.4	55.6
II	33.8	51.5	51.7	58.8
III	34.0	53.1	52.6	57.2
IV	38.6	61.3	59.8	59.9
Year	35.5	54.0	53.8	57.9
1978				
I	37.6	60.2	59.0	62.2
II	39.4	61.4	61.0	68.5
III	42.7	68.2	67.8	70.0
IV	47.1	77.1	73.4	72.1
Year	41.7	66.7	65.3	68.2

Second Half 1979 Turkey Prospects

Turkey meat prices in the second half of 1979 will not be as strong as in July-December 1978. Consumers' disposable incomes will continue to increase, more people will be employed, and beef supplies will be down. However, larger supplies of broilers, pork, and turkey will be more than offsetting.

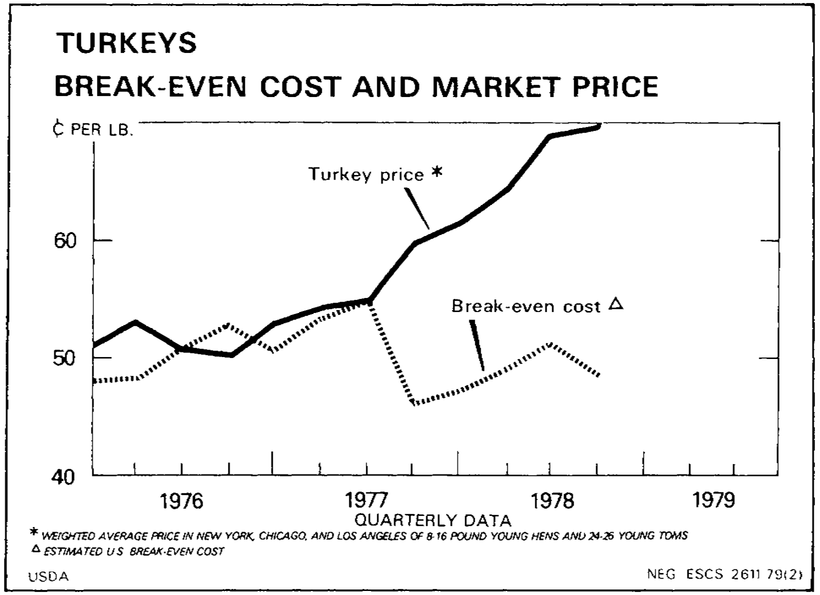
Production costs for turkeys marketed during July-December 1979 will probably be higher than in 1978. Although grain and soybean supplies are larger than a year earlier, prices are expected to be slightly higher because of farmer participation in government programs for feed grains and strong foreign and domestic demand for soybeans. After midyear, prices of high-protein feeds will depend on this spring's Brazilian soybean harvest and the

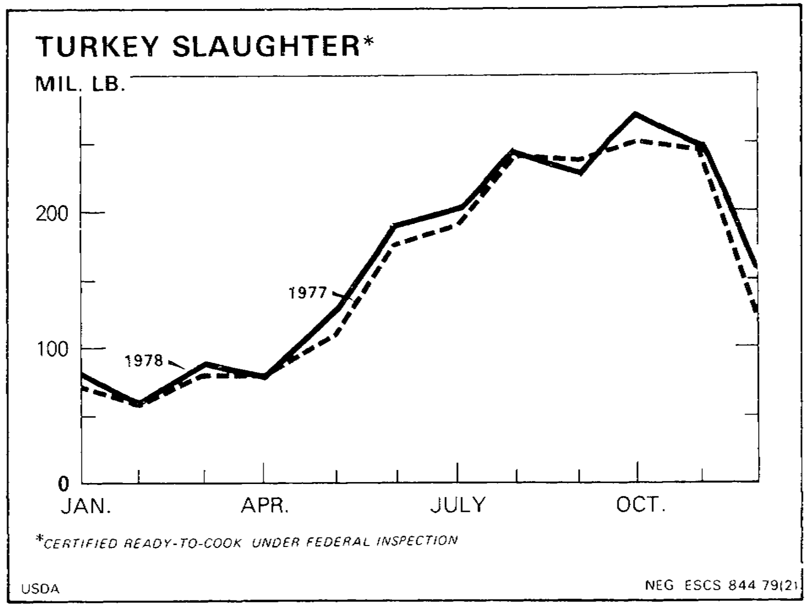
Table 13—Estimated 2nd half 1979 turkey price/production relationships[1]

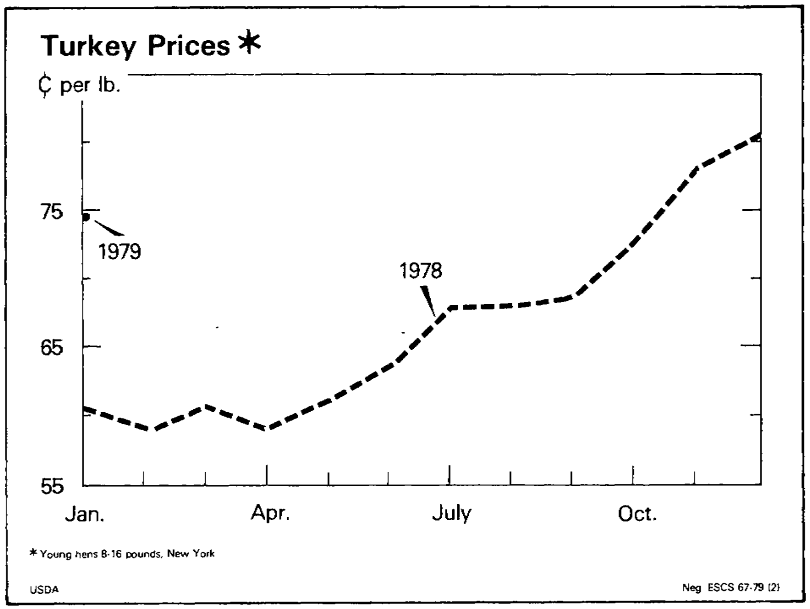
Total turkey production		Estimated New York wholesale price for young hen turkey[2]
Million pounds	Percent change from year earlier	
		Cents per pound
1,559	+15	60-62
1,492	+10	63-65
1,424	+5	66-68
1,356	0	[3]69-71
1,288	-5	72-74
1,220	-10	75-77
1,153	-15	78-80

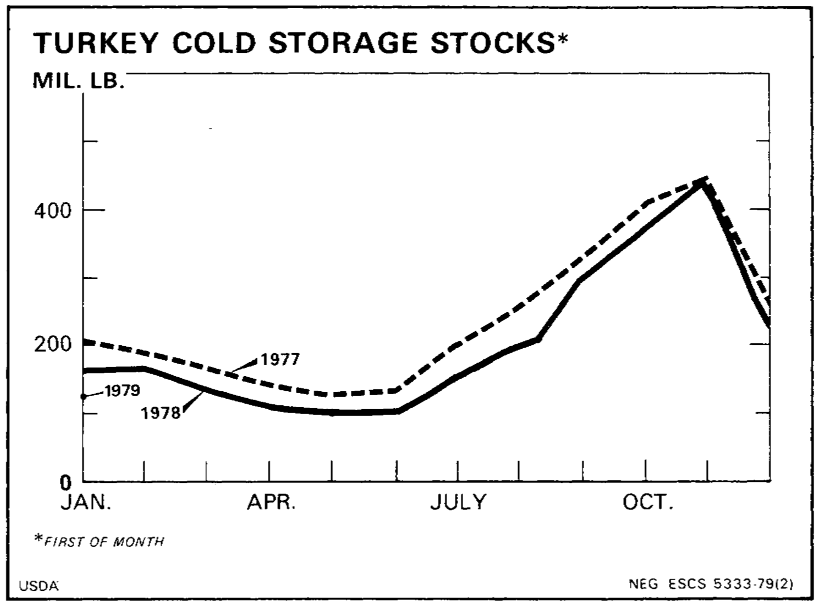
[1] Based on historical relationships. [2] Simple average for 8-16 pound young hen turkeys, f.o.b. dock or equivalent in carlots or trucklots, U.S. Grade A, frozen, ready-to-cook. [3] The estimated 69-71 cents per pound is based on prospective conditions for competing meats, general economic activity, and cold storage holdings of turkey meat and assumes no change from a year earlier in the federally inspected slaughter of turkey.

The prices, other than the base 69-71 cents per pound, were estimated by assuming the same conditions as under the base for competing meats, economic activity, and cold storage holdings but various changes from a year earlier in the slaughter of turkey.


TURKEYS
BREAK-EVEN COST AND MARKET PRICE
¢ PER LB.
Turkey price *
Break-even cost △
60
50
40
1976
1977
1978
1979
QUARTERLY DATA
* WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE IN NEW YORK, CHICAGO, AND LOS ANGELES OF 8-16 POUND YOUNG HENS AND 24-26 YOUNG TOMS
△ ESTIMATED U.S. BREAK-EVEN COST
USDA
NEG. ESCS 2611 79(2)


TURKEY SLAUGHTER*
MIL. LB.
200
100
0
1977
1978
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*CERTIFIED READY-TO-COOK UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION
USDA
NEG. ESCS 844 79(2)


Turkey Prices *
¢ per lb.
75
65
55
1979
1978
Jan.
Apr.
July
Oct.
* Young hens 8-16 pounds, New York
USDA
Neg. ESCS 67-79 (2)


TURKEY COLD STORAGE STOCKS*
MIL. LB.
400
200
0
1977
1979
1978
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*FIRST OF MONTH
USDA
NEG. ESCS 5333-79(2)

inputs, other than feed ingredients, will continue upward.

Although January 1, 1979 stocks are the second lowest of the date since 1961, large first-half production likely will be reflected in a buildup in July 1 cold storage stocks. This will depress prices during the balance of the year.

If competing meat supplies, consumers' disposable incomes, and turkey cold storage stocks turn out about as expected, and July-December 1979 turkey meat output increases around 7 percent from a year earlier, the price of 8-16 pound young hen turkeys at New York could average 7 to 9 cents below the 73 cents of July-December 1978. If output were held to 1978 levels, prices would decline far less and would average only 2 to 4 cents below a year earlier.

1978 Turkey Crop Up

The 1978 turkey crop totaled 139.8 million head, up 3 percent from 1977 and only slightly below the record 140 million raised in 1976. Heavy breed turkeys increased 5 percent to 131 million, but light breeds declined 26 percent to 9 million.

Turkey meat output in federally inspected plants in 1978 totaled a record 1,983 million pounds (ready-to-cook weight), up 5 percent from 1977. The number of turkeys inspected was up nearly 3 percent and the average weight was 2 percent heavier. Turkey production in 1978 would have been larger if the breeder flock had been able to provide more hatching eggs for poult production. Prospects were not favorable for turkey production in the fall of 1977, and producers did not increase their breeder flocks for the 1977/78 hatching season.

More turkey meat continued to go for further processing in 1978. Further processing of turkeys other than whole birds increased 7 percent from 1977 and totaled 710 million pounds. This equaled about 36 percent of total certified ready-to-cook federally inspected output, up slightly from 1977. Further processing of whole bird turkeys (those which have been injected, basted, marinated, or smoked and packaged whole) gained 9 percent to 501 million pounds. Cut-up turkey was also up 9 percent to 466 million pounds.

USDA Purchases

In 1978, USDA purchased the equivalent of 80 million pounds of ready-to-cook turkey for use in the school lunch and other domestic food programs. Of this, 56 million pounds were purchased under the 1978 program and 24 million under the 1977 program. USDA in 1978 bought 29 million pounds of young turkey, 280,000 pounds of bulk pack turkey, and 27 million pounds of cooked turkey rolls. Total cost was $56 million. Purchases in 1977 totaled 74 million pounds of ready-to-cook equivalent at a cost of $44 million.

Purchases under the 1978 program continues in 1979, and through February 15, purchases totaled 6.5 million pounds of young turkey and 6.6 million pounds of cooked turkey rolls.

Table 14— Turkey supply and consumption

	Federally inspected slaughter				Total production RTC[1]	Per capita consumption
	Number	Av. wt.	Live wt. lb.	Certified RTC wt.		
	Mil.	*Lbs.*	*Mil. lbs.*	*Mil. lbs.*	*Mil. lbs.*	*Lbs.*
1976						
I	14.7	17.93	263.2	206.6	217.8	1.2
II	27.1	17.20	465.2	368.5	388.7	1.5
III	49.6	18.06	895.1	710.4	750.1	2.1
IV	43.0	19.49	839.2	664.5	701.9	4.4
Year	134.3	18.33	2,462.6	1,950.1	2,058.5	9.2
1977						
I	15.0	17.90	267.7	209.5	222.4	1.3
II	26.3	17.58	462.2	365.4	388.3	1.4
III	46.2	18.35	847.2	672.2	714.8	2.3
IV	40.8	19.96	815.3	645.3	686.4	4.2
Year	128.3	18.65	2,392.4	1,892.5	2,011.9	9.2
1978						
I	15.3	18.84	289.2	227.8	242.0	1.3
II	28.1	17.96	504.3	399.6	424.1	1.7
III	45.8	18.69	856.2	679.7	722.6	2.3
IV	42.6	20.05	853.7	676.4	719.5	4.1
Year	131.8	18.99	2,503.4	1,983.5	2,108.2	9.4

[1] Total production equals federally inspected slaughter plus other slaughter minus cut-up further processing condemnations.

1978 Exports Lower But Shipments Higher

Sharply higher domestic prices for turkeys in 1978 resulted in lower exports of turkey meat. However, shipments to U.S. territories increased from the low 1977 levels and more than offset the decline in exports. Exports of whole turkey and turkey parts (excluding livers) totaled 51 million pounds, nearly 3 million below the previous year. Exports to West Germany, our largest turkey customer, were down 3 percent to 9.8 million pounds, but Nigeria and the United Kingdom, the second and fourth largest importers in 1978, took 7.9 and 2.7 million pounds, 1 and 49 percent above 1977. Canada, the third largest customer, took 1.5 million pounds, down 10 percent from 1977. Parts accounted for about 82 percent of the turkey export market in 1978, about the same as in 1977.

Shipments of turkey meat to U.S. territories (Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands) totaled 6 million pounds, sharply above the 2.2 million pounds in 1977.

Larger 1978 Turkey Consumption

Turkey meat consumption in 1978 totaled an estimated record 9.4 pounds per person, compared with 9.2 pounds in 1977. Consumption showed a smaller increase than production largely because of growing population and a buildup in cold storage turkey stocks in 1978. In 1977 there was a 35-million-pound reduction in turkey stocks.

Table 15—Turkey: Supply and utilization, 1977-78

Year	Production[1]	Beginning stocks	Total supply	Ending stocks	Exports and shipments	Military	Civilian disappearance	Per capita
	Million pounds							*Pounds*
1977:								
January	74.8	203.4	278.2	190.3	3.0	1.0	83.9	.39
February	62.3	190.3	252.6	167.8	3.5	.2	81.1	.38
March	85.3	167.8	253.1	142.3	2.1	.9	107.8	.50
April	83.8	142.3	226.1	130.3	2.5	1.1	92.2	.43
May	116.9	130.3	247.2	138.2	4.0	.4	104.6	.49
June	187.6	138.2	325.8	201.4	5.2	1.3	117.9	.55
July	201.6	201.4	403.0	253.6	5.2	([2])	144.2	.67
August	259.9	253.6	513.5	329.9	7.2	.1	176.3	.82
September	253.4	329.9	583.3	409.3	6.9	.2	166.9	.78
October	266.2	409.3	675.5	444.5	4.7	3.5	222.8	1.04
November	262.5	444.5	707.0	269.4	5.6	.8	431.2	2.00
December	157.6	269.4	427.0	167.9	6.3	1.7	251.1	1.16
1978:								
January	86.9	167.9	254.8	168.3	4.5	2.4	79.6	.37
February	63.3	168.3	231.6	136.6	3.7	.7	90.6	.42
March	91.7	136.6	228.3	112.9	6.6	.1	108.8	.50
April	85.8	112.9	198.7	101.1	4.6	.3	92.7	.43
May	137.2	101.1	238.3	103.6	2.3	.9	131.5	.61
June	201.1	103.6	304.7	152.1	3.4	.8	148.4	.69
July	212.3	152.1	364.4	212.7	3.2	2.0	146.6	.68
August	264.6	212.7	477.3	297.9	4.6	1.2	173.6	.80
September	245.6	297.9	543.5	370.4	6.2	1.4	165.4	.76
October	288.5	370.4	658.9	430.1	7.9	2.6	218.3	1.01
November	264.8	430.1	694.9	235.7	6.0	1.5	451.7	2.08
December	166.2	235.7	401.9	175.1	4.1	1.4	221.2	1.02

[1] Total monthly production is estimated by multiplying the monthly federally inspected slaughter by the ratio of the annual total production to the annual federally inspected slaughter. The ratio used in 1978 is the same as the one in 1977. [2] Less than 100,000 pounds.

Table 16— Prices and price spreads for eggs and frying chickens, for selected cities and 10-city average

Item	Grade A large eggs			U.S. Grade A fryers		
	October 1978	November 1978	December 1978	October 1978	November 1978	December 1978
	Cents per dozen			*Cents per pound*		
Northeast prices						
Farm price	46.9	51.6	60.1	33.1	33.8	33.5
Price to retailer	61.9	68.3	72.9	47.0	45.7	47.1
Retail price	84.0	84.3	95.2	69.0	70.0	68.5
Price spreads						
Farm to consumer	37.1	32.7	35.1	35.9	36.2	35.0
Farm to retailer	15.0	16.7	12.8	13.9	11.9	13.6
Retail	22.1	16.0	22.3	22.0	24.3	21.4
Midwest prices Farm price	45.7	52.2	59.4	32.1	32.4	31.8
Price to retailer	60.4	66.9	71.6	45.9	46.5	46.7
Retail price	78.7	83.5	84.5	65.0	63.0	68.0
Price spreads						
,Farm to consumer	33.0	31.3	25.1	32.9	30.6	36.2
Farm to retailer	14.7	14.7	12.2	13.8	14.1	14.9
Retail	18.3	16.6	12.9	19.1	16.5	21.3
Southern prices						
Farm price	42.5	48.0	51.0	32.3	32.6	32.1
Price to retailer	63.5	69.7	75.3	43.0	43.6	42.6
Retail price	69.8	77.0	84.3	67.0	70.0	67.5
Price spreads						
,Farm ro consumer	27.3	29.0	33.3	34.7	37.4	35.4
Farm to retailer	21.0	21.7	24.3	10.7	11.0	10.5
Retail	6.3	7.3	9.0	24.0	26.4	24.9
Western prices						
Farm price	48.1	52.1	56.0	34.9	34.3	34.8
Price to retailer	64.7	71.1	76.0	56.7	56.3	55.4
Retail price	73.6	75.0	79.9	66.0	65.0	65.5
Price spreads						
Farm to consumer	25.5	22.9	23.9	31.1	30.7	30.7
Farm to retailer	16.6	19.0	20.0	21.8	22.0	20.6
Retail	8.9	3.9	3.9	9.3	8.7	10.1
4-region average						
Farm price	45.8	51.0	56.6	33.1	33.3	33.1
Price to retailer	62.6	69.0	74.0	48.2	48.0	48.0
Retail price	76.5	80.0	86.0	66.8	67.0	67.4
Price spreads						
Farm to consumer	30.7	29.0	29.4	33.7	33.7	34.3
Farm to retailer	16.8	18.0	17.4	15.1	14.7	14.9
Retail	13.9	11.0	12.0	18.6	19.0	19.4

Table 17— Estimated costs and returns for market eggs[1]

Calendar quarters	Production costs all eggs		Wholesale, cartoned Grade A large eggs		Net returns[2 3 5]
	Feed[2]	Total[2]	Total costs[2 3]	14 metro areas price[2]	
	Cents per dozen				
Annual average[2]					
1972	17.3	28.9	43.3	40.5	-2.8
1973	29.2	41.7	58.1	64.3	6.2
1974	31.0	45.4	63.5	63.0	-0.4
1975	29.0	43.5	61.8	62.9	1.0
1976[4]	28.2	41.2	59.6	69.9	10.2
1977[4]	27.1	40.6	59.6	63.8	4.1
1976[4]					
I	26.5	39.5	57.9	67.7	9.8
II	27.4	40.4	58.8	62.5	3.7
III	31.0	44.0	62.4	71.2	8.8
IV	28.0	41.0	59.4	77.9	18.5
1977[4]					
I	29.3	42.8	61.8	74.4	12.7
II	31.4	44.9	63.9	58.9	-5.0
III	25.1	38.6	57.6	62.7	5.1
IV	23.1	36.6	55.6	59.4	3.8
1978[4 5]					
I	25.2	38.9	58.1	62.0	3.9
II	27.9	41.6	60.8	55.0	-5.8
III	26.5	40.2	59.4	63.4	4.0
IV	25.9	39.6	588	68.2	9.4

[1] Estimated by computerized formula. [2] Weighted by monthly egg production less estimated eggs used for hatching. [3] Based on farm cost converted to wholesale market values for Grade A large eggs. [4] 1976-78 cost and net return estimates have been revised due to changes in the method of calculation. [5] Preliminary.

Table 18— Estimated costs and returns for broilers[1]

Calendar quarters	Production costs liveweight		Wholesale ready-to-cook		Net returns[2 3 5]
	Feed[2]	Total[2]	Total costs[2 3]	9-city weighted average price[2]	
	Cents per pound				
Annual average[2]					
1972	9.0	14.3	28.2	28.2	-0.1
1973	16.4	22.2	39.8	42.4	2.6
1974	15.8	22.0	40.1	38.0	-2.0
1975	15.1	21.3	39.4	45.2	5.8
1976[4]	14.8	21.0	39.2	40.2	1.0
1977[4]	15.3	21.6	40.3	40.9	0.6
1976[4]					
I	13.4	19.6	37.4	42.1	4.7
II	13.8	20.0	37.9	41.7	3.9
III	16.2	22.4	41.2	41.5	0.2
IV	15.5	21.7	40.3	35.5	-4.8
1977[4]					
I	15.6	21.9	40.7	40.9	0.3
II	17.5	23.8	43.3	42.4	-0.9
III	15.9	22.2	41.1	42.3	1.2
IV	12.0	18.3	35.8	37.6	1.8
1978[4 5]					
I	13.7	20.0	38.4	41.8	3.4
II	14.5	20.8	39.5	47.7	8.2
III	14.9	21.2	40.1	46.5	6.3
IV	13.9	20.2	38.7	42.1	3.4

[1] Estimated by computerized formula. [2] Weighted by monthly broiler slaughter. [3] Based on farm cost converted to wholesale market values for ready-to-cook broilers. [4] 1976-78 cost and net return estimates have been revised due to changes in the method of calculation. [5] Preliminary.

Table 19— Estimated costs and returns for turkeys[1]

Calendar quarters	Production costs liveweight		Wholesale ready-to-cook		Net returns[2 3 5]
	Feed[2]	Total[2]	Total costs[2 3]	3-city composite price[2 4]	
	Cents per pound				
Annual average[2]					
1972	13.5	20.5	34.1	35.8	1.7
1973	25.6	33.1	50.6	64.2	13.6
1974	22.5	30.7	48.8	45.6	-3.2
1975	22.1	30.7	49.4	55.1	5.8
1976[5]	22.3	31.3	50.7	51.0	0.3
1977[5]	22.5	31.5	51.2	56.2	5.1
1976[5]					
I	20.1	29.1	48.0	50.9	2.9
II	20.3	29.3	48.2	52.9	4.7
III	22.4	31.4	50.9	50.8	-0.0
IV	23.9	32.9	52.8	50.2	-2.5
1977[5]					
I	22.0	31.0	50.6	52.9	2.3
II	24.3	33.3	53.4	54.4	1.0
III	25.5	34.5	54.9	54.9	0.0
IV	18.5	27.5	46.2	59.8	13.6
1978[5 6]					
I	19.1	28.1	47.2	61.5	14.3
II	20.7	29.7	49.2	64.5	15.2
III	22.2	31.2	51.1	68.7	17.6
IV	20.4	29.4	48.9	74.0	25.1

[1] Estimated by computerized formula. [2] Weighted by monthly turkey slaughter. [3] Based on farm cost converted to wholesale market values for heavy young turkeys. [4] Weighted average of 8-16 young hens and 24-26 pound young toms in New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles. [5] 1976-78 cost and net return estimates have been revised due to changes in the method of calculation. [6] Preliminary.

Table 20— U.S. young chicken exports to major importers, 1962, 1965, 1970, 1975-78

Country or area	1965	1970	1975	1976	1977	1978
	1,000 pounds					
Canada	2,978	1,380	6,588	16,072	14,908	18,977
Mexico	780	2,068	9,569	11,651	12,088	14,581
Jamaica	1,241	12,057	24,148	36,982	32,055	28,799
Barbados	1,313	6,632	3,703	4,839	2,934	4,061
Netherlands Antilles	2,936	4,493	6,660	8,743	8,340	9,890
United Kingdom	741	523	298	1,259	1,938	926
Netherlands	5,616	152	260	580	1,493	547
West Germany	20,752	1,231	492	833	1,287	1,175
Greece	5,562	3,241	145	190	205	99
Switzerland	1,970	12,941	363	1,671	1,290	875
Hong Kong	8,356	17,141	20,131	37,948	40,719	41,155
Japan	9,219	9,800	29,114	47,037	61,074	79,185
Singapore	0	1,279	10,102	13,940	19,270	21,731
Iraq	0	0	0	62,026	31,570	0
Saudia Arabia	1,270	263	793	1,671	1,973	2,751
U.S.S.R.	0	0	0	4,830	13,966	0
Egypt	1,132	—	—	40	12,302	5,483
Nigeria	43	—	710	4,061	8,419	2,262
Other	25,178	20,506	22,365	33,036	47,458	[1] 98,641
Total	87,912	93,707	137,731	287,409	313,289	331,138

[1] Venezuela accounted for 48,764 thousand pounds in 1978 and 7,518 thousand in 1977.

Table 21— Egg production, by States and regions, by years, 1971-78[1]

State and region	Number of eggs produced[1]							
	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
	Million							
Maine	1,368	1,443	1,549	1,671	1,708	1,791	1,849	1,916
New Hampshire	305	300	304	255	260	237	210	220
Vermont	96	128	150	136	115	114	121	120
Massachesetts	512	466	393	376	402	343	355	341
Rhode Island	70	57	52	61	59	52	51	51
Connecticut	784	857	822	727	702	803	863	897
New York	2,316	2,271	2,052	2,030	1,984	1,903	1,805	1,845
New Jersey	804	746	756	736	620	548	446	375
Pennsylvania	3,162	2,918	2,851	2,759	2,800	2,701	2,960	3,357
North Atlantic	9,417	9,186	8,929	8,751	8,650	8,492	8,660	9,124
Ohio	2,338	2,324	2,102	2,103	2,109	1,994	1.941	2,140
Indiana	3,000	3,209	3,148	3,080	3,156	3,091	3,128	3,447
Illinois	1,799	1,778	1,666	1,545	1,507	1,398	1,389	1,380
Michigan	1,505	1,523	1,539	1,412	1,467	1,520	1,530	1,497
Wisconsin	1,344	1,313	1,267	1,183	1,194	1,094	981	973
East North Central	9,986	10,147	9,722	9,321	9,433	9,097	8,969	9,437
Minnesota	2,493	2,584	2,474	2,385	2,209	2,238	2,120	2,189
Iowa	2,406	2,296	2,167	2,087	2,058	2,040	2,004	1,914
Missouri	1,460	1,473	1,347	1,149	1,241	1,193	1,199	1,320
North Dakota	168	153	153	151	132	120	99	95
South Dakota	901	814	785	770	698	620	579	562
Nebraska	861	813	775	723	782	737	739	780
Kansas	752	718	673	601	599	564	548	511
West North Central	9,041	8,851	8,374	7,866	7,719	7,512	7,288	7,371
Delaware	131	130	128	135	115	129	128	129
Maryland	326	334	327	335	331	327	308	313
Virginia	858	824	790	758	767	800	819	885
West Virginia	269	261	240	248	256	230	192	153
North Carolina	3,381	3,433	3,212	3,037	2,802	2,756	2,846	3,081
South Carolina	1,341	1,381	1,319	1,301	1,384	1,282	1,248	1,409
Georgia	5,600	5,465	5,534	5,827	5,284	5,591	5,468	5,662
Florida	2,802	2,837	2,806	2,852	2,779	2,846	2,998	2,954
South Atlantic	14,708	14,665	14,356	14,493	13,718	13,961	14,007	14,586
Kentucky	566	537	515	527	518	541	566	553
Tennessee	1,010	1,113	1,088	1,028	1,002	974	993	974
Alabama	2,861	2,852	2,853	2,945	2,951	2,919	3,183	3,329
Mississippi	2,317	2,281	1,983	1,908	1,707	1,719	1,775	1,696
Arkansas	3,641	3,795	3,695	3,601	3,594	3,752	3,812	3,998
Louisiana	757	744	665	664	658	671	598	584
Oklahoma	528	502	446	428	430	458	487	612
Texas	2,607	2,685	2,496	2,292	2,360	2,357	2,436	2,630
South Central	14,287	14,509	13,741	13,393	13,220	13,391	13,850	14,376
Montana	221	217	215	203	199	185	175	193
Idaho	186	168	197	186	184	192	192	206
Wyoming	33	32	29	27	27	26	24	18
Colorado	305	297	317	390	476	505	508	535
New Mexico	218	234	208	197	234	270	288	359
Arizona	195	164	153	150	159	143	140	118
Utah	287	296	306	311	321	283	335	399
Nevada	3	3	4	5	4	5	3	2
Washington	1,021	1,035	1,058	1,085	1,082	1,058	1,063	1,121
Oregon	514	554	535	543	519	532	525	555
California	9,012	8,652	7,680	8,485	8,467	8,635	8,345	8,412
West	11,995	11,650	10,702	11,582	11,672	11,834	11,602	11,918
Alaska	6	7	7	6	5	6	6	4
Hawaii	211	204	208	207	209	218	218	218
United States[2]	69,649	69,219	66,039	65,620	64,626	64,511	64,600	67,034

[1] Annual estimates cover the period December 1 previous year thru November 30. [2] Sum of States will not add to U.S. total due to rounding.

Table 22— Chickens: Number on Farms by classes and by regions, December 1, 1970-78

Year	North Atlantic	E. North Central	W. North Central	South Atlantic	South Central	Western	Alaska and Hawaii	United States
	1,000 head							
	TOTAL HENS AND PULLETS OF LAYING AGE							
1970	43,737	43,833	42,936	67,702	68,045	56,166	964	323,383
1971	40,842	44,839	41,143	68,204	66,364	55,607	979	317,978
1972	39,766	44,050	38,181	65,016	63,725	48,430	986	300,154
1973	37,336	41,197	37,267	65,113	61,108	50,770	1,012	293,803
1974	37,492	41,338	34,680	60,959	58,169	52,329	1,066	286,033
1975	35,821	41,168	33,754	59,842	56,923	51,256	979	279,743
1976	36,056	39,340	32,570	60,968	59,070	50,610	1,040	279,654
1977	37,157	39,925	31,994	62,857	62,545	51,114	1,031	286,623
1978	38,535	41,118	32,050	64,196	63,340	51,863	1,049	292,151
	PULLETS 3 MONTHS OLD AND OLDER NOT OF LAYING AGE							
1970	5,123	6,323	5,374	12,398	12,194	8,613	181	50,206
1971	5,287	6,403	5,584	12,729	12,905	7,460	191	50,559
1972	4,874	6,069	4,980	12,921	12,624	7,170	195	48,833
1973	5,743	6,482	5,196	13,224	13,594	7,649	138	52,026
1974	5,157	6,775	4,967	11,578	10,851	7,269	155	46,752
1975	5,711	6,441	4,896	13,365	11,002	6,862	127	48,404
1976	5,803	5,449	4,964	12,273	12,364	6,829	87	47,769
1977	5,849	6,607	4,693	12,309	11,887	6,168	137	47,650
1978	6,336	6,147	4,296	13,017	11,825	6,487	132	48,240
	PULLETS UNDER 3 MONTHS OLD							
1970	4,908	6,330	4,385	14,664	12,587	9,860	260	52,994
1971	4,928	6,334	3,833	12,062	12,350	7,131	270	46,908
1972	4,924	5,872	4,198	12,507	12,330	9,006	185	49,022
1973	5,422	7,017	5,074	15,857	13,788	9,514	182	56,854
1974	5,228	6,485	4,019	12,071	11,060	6,839	130	45,832
1975	5,220	6,595	4,185	12,051	11,348	6,700	162	46,261
1976	5,325	6,866	3,833	11,549	11,608	5,845	158	45,184
1977	5,584	6,862	4,535	11,144	11,484	6,417	160	46,186
1978	6,797	6,715	4,154	12,154	11,646	6,526	177	48,169
	TOTAL ALL CHICKENS							
1970	54,327	56,882	53,2[illegible]3	96,921	95,306	75,145	1,406	433,280
1971	51,562	57,974	51,125	95,158	93,908	70,595	1,441	421,763
1972	50,075	56,337	47,888	92,557	91,028	64,939	1,367	404,191
1973	48,978	55,054	47,997	96,264	90,880	68,263	1,333	408,769
1974	48,286	54,919	44,116	86,502	82,064	66,862	1,352	384,101
1975	47,085	54,541	43,249	87,069	81,357	65,184	1,269	379,754
1976	47,520	51,962	41,720	86,763	85,329	63,658	1,286	378,238
1977	49,058	53,710	41,580	88,407	88,355	63,990	1,329	386,429
1978	52,096	54,290	40,843	91,238	89,501	65,178	1,359	394,505

Table 23—Turkeys: Number raised in 20 selected States in 1977 and 1978 and number intended to be raised in 1979

State	Heavy breeds			Light breeds			All breeds			1979 as % of 1978
	1977	1978	1979[1]	1977	1978	1979[1]	1977	1978	1979[1]	
	1,000 head									*Percent*
Arkansas[2]							10,800	12,500	13,750	110
California	16,630	16,760	19,150	735	20	150	17,365	16,780	19,300	115
Colorado[2]							3,500	3,580	3,960	111
Georgia	1,633	1,799	2,321	0	0	0	1,633	1,799	2,321	129
Indiana	3,964	4,624	4,948	222	31	33	4,186	4,655	4,981	107
Iowa	5,980	6,214	7,155	29	45	45	6,009	6,259	7,200	115
Minnesota	16,896	17,319	18,420	5,843	4,919	5,411	22,739	22,238	23,831	107
Missouri[2]							9,846	10,500	10,671	102
North Carolina[2]							16,500	18,854	22,114	117
North Dakota[3]	656			142			798	871	1,059	122
Ohio[3]	2,100			350			2,450	2,565	2,927	114
Oklahoma[2]							1,300	1,450	1,668	115
Oregon[2]							1,350	1,275	1,300	102
Pennsylvania[2]	2,979	3,280	3,575	588	170	354	3,567	3,450	3,929	114
South Carolina	2,410	2,527	2,945	0	0	0	2,410	2,527	2,945	117
South Dakota[3]	707			405			1,112	979	1,186	121
Texas	8,600	7,300	8,000	0	0	0	8,600	7,300	8,000	110
Utah	2,664	2,794	2,903	0	0	0	2,664	2,794	2,903	104
Virginia[2]							8,694	8,546	10,255	120
Wisconsin	5,536	5,680	5,675	8	26	25	5,544	5,706	5,700	100
20 States total	119,727	126,107	139,851	11,340	8,521	10,149	131,067	134,628	150,000	111
U.S. TOTAL	124,266	130,800	NA	12,093	9,000	NA	136,359	139,800	NA	NA

[1] Intended. [2] Breakdown by breeds not published to avoid disclosing individual operations. [3] Breakdown by breeds not published in 1978 and 1979 to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Table 24—Turkey breeder hens: Selected States, December 1, 1976-78

State	Heavy breeds			Light breeds			All breeds			1978 as % of 1977
	1976	1977	1978	1976	1977	1978	1976	1977	1978	
	1,000 head									*Percent*
Arkansas[1] [4]							44	57		
California	520	490	530	40	10	20	560	500	550	110
Georgia	39	46	47	0	0	0	39	46	47	102
Illinois	40	50	59	0	0	0	40	50	59	118
Iowa	131	82	90	4	3	8	135	85	98	115
Michigan							55	52	40	77
Minnesota	360	390	460	120	90	133	480	480	593	124
Missouri[1]							220	220	230	105
Nebraska	9	8	16	0	0	0	9	8	16	200
North Carolina[1]							365	420	495	118
Ohio[1]							109	104	120	115
Oregon[1]							60	45	63	140
Pennsylvania	16	14	47	8	3	1	24	17	48	282
South Carolina[1]							39	39	15	38
Texas	440	460	475	0	0	0	440	460	475	103
Utah[3]	37			0			37			
Virginia							162	149	168	113
West Virginia	10	23	12	4	5	4	14	28	16	57
Wisconsin	73	70	75				73	70	75	107
Other States[2]							164	208	275	132
TOTAL	2,783	2,881	3,134	286	157	249	3,069	3,038	3,383	111

[1] Breakdown by breeds not published to avoid disclosing individual operations. [2] Colorado, Indiana, Kansas, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and Washington combined to avoid disclosing individual operations. [3] Utah included in other States in 1977 and 1978 to avoid disclosing individual operations. [4] Arkansas included in other States in 1978 to avoid disclosing individual operations.

SOME RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE POULTRY AND EGG INDUSTRIES

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ABSTRACT: Over the last 3 years, average net returns in the poultry and egg irdustries have been favorable and output has expanded. Feed costs have not changed much, but costs of other production and marketing inputs have trended upward, offsetting gains in productivity. Farm to consumer price spreads widened. Numbers of farms and marketing firms declined and average sizes increased. Vertical integration continued to grow. Processed products, institutional outlets, and packer branding increased. Commodity pricing systems received more attention. Regional shares of total output changed slightly. Production and marketing costs differ considerably between regions.

KEYWORDS: Eggs, broilers, turkeys, costs, margins, channels, pricing.

Some of the ongoing changes in the poultry and egg industries represent continuations of long-time trends. Year-to-year variations from trends often make short-run measurements difficult. But there is no contrary evidence to a continuing decline in numbers of farms producing eggs and turkeys. Numbers of farms producing broilers appear more stable. And average sizes of producing units are still increasing. Numbers of input-supplying and marketing firms continue to decline and average size to increase. And these functions continue to be more closely tied together through various coordinating systems, including contract integration and central ownership.

Total farm-to-consumer marketing margins have widened in recent years (table 1). Higher wage rates, packing material costs, energy prices, interest rates, taxes, and building and equipment costs are largely responsible. They have generally risen faster than offsetting gains in productivity. Wider margins at the processing and retail levels show the principal effects of rising operating costs, but they also show the major effects of higher 1978 prices, particularly for broilers and turkeys. Assembly margins have remained stable to lower, largely reflecting continued reductions in the size of supply areas, more mechanized handling, and larger loads. Long-distance hauling rate increases have been somewhat offset by larger net weights of loads and to some extent by more localized sources of supply. Wholesaling margins reflect some growth in direct deliveries from plants to volume buyers and, hence, some bypassing of small volume local distributors.

Regional Differences

Few changes in regional shares of total output are evident. The South continues to produce the major share of broilers. The West North Central region's small share of total broiler output has increased slightly. The South has increased its share of total turkey output, and, if this continues, the South may become about as important as the Midwest in turkey production. The shares of total turkey output from the Midwest and West are declining. With the revisions of 1977 and 1978 egg output (see table in this issue), the North Atlantic and Mountain regions account for an increasing share of total egg output, while the Pacific region's share has declined. Shares from other regions appear to be stabilizing.

With nearly 23 percent of the U.S. population, the Northeast produces almost 14 percent of the

Table 1—Marketing margins and the farm share of the consumer price, 1976-78

Item and years	Farm equivalent share of consumer price	Farm-to-consumer margins[1]					
		Assembly	Processing	Long-distance transportation	Wholesaling	Retailing	Total
	Percent	*Cents per unit*					
Eggs, per doz.[2]							
1976	68	0.90	9.60	1.40	3.50	11.50	26.90
1977	65	0.90	10.30	1.50	3.50	12.30	28.50
1978	63	0.85	10.50	1.60	3.40	12.45	28.80
Broilers, per lb.[3]							
1976	55	1.10	7.80	1.30	3.70	13.20	27.10
1977	55	1.10	8.00	1.40	3.70	12.90	27.10
1978	56	1.00	8.70	1.40	3.80	14.40	29.30
Turkeys, per lb.[4]							
1976	59	1.00	9.80	1.40	3.60	13.00	28.80
1977	64	1.00	10.00	1.40	3.60	9.50	25.50
1978	66	1.00	10.60	1.40	3.60	11.00	27.60

[1] Include cost and profit components. Market basket series, 1976-77 and equivalent estimates for 1978. [2] Grade A and AA large. [3] Ready-to-cook whole. [4] Ready-to-cook whole, 8-16 pound young hens. Average annual retail prices and retail margins adjusted for effects of holiday price specials.

eggs, 5 percent of the broilers, and 3 percent of the turkeys. The Midwest, with nearly 27 percent of the population, produces over 25 percent of the eggs, 3 percent of the broilers, and 40 percent of the turkeys. The South has over 32 percent of the population and produces over 43 percent of the eggs, 88 percent of the broilers, and 38 percent of the turkeys. The West, with over 18 percent of the population, produces close to 18 percent of the eggs, 4 percent of the broilers, and about 19 percent of the turkeys.

Some of the major movements of eggs and poultry can be deduced from the above percentages. Those include broiler movements from the South to other regions, and turkey movements from the Midwest and South to the Northeast. But other movements occur across regional boundaries because of processed vs. nonprocessed mixes, for size, quality, and seasonal reasons, and because of established business relationships. Eggs move in volume from the South to the Northeast and Midwest. Processed eggs move from the Midwest to the Northeast and South. Some eggs move from the West to the Southwest, and there are smaller movements from the Midwest to the Northeast and in both directions between the Midwest and West. Some turkeys move westward from the Midwest and South, some turkeys eastward from the West, and further-processed turkeys from the Midwest to other regions.

Production costs are several cents lower per dozen eggs or per pound of live broiler or turkey in the Midwest or South than in the Northeast or West (table 2). Feed costs account for two-thirds to three-fourths of total production costs. From the standpoint of costs for the major feed ingredients (corn and soybean meal), the Midwest should have a clear advantage. But farm feed costs are also affected by farm and mill sizes, the geographic dispersion of producing units, and the extent of volume purchasing in a region. Thus, some of the inherent advantages of the Midwest are offset by higher milling, delivery, or sales costs, particularly on eggs and broilers. Conversely, the Northeast, South, and West achieve some advantages on eggs and broilers that partly offset disadvantages on raw ingredient prices, as do the South and West on turkeys. Regional production costs other than feed are affected by farm sizes, weather-related housing

Table 2—Regional production costs, eggs, broilers and turkeys, 1976-78[1]

Item and year	Region			
	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
	(Cents per dozen)			
Market eggs				
1976	42.9	40.4	41.6	42.5
1977	42.7	40.2	41.4	42.3
1978	42.2	39.6	41.3	42.1
	(Cents per lb. live weight)			
Broilers				
1976	23.1	22.0	20.8	24.0
1977	23.8	22.7	21.5	24.8
1978	22.6	21.5	20.6	23.7
	(Cents per lb. live weight)			
Turkeys				
1976	33.4	30.3	30.2	32.9
1977	34.1	31.0	30.9	33.6
1978	33.1	29.7	30.3	32.8

[1] Estimated by formula.

requirements, and, on eggs, by the extent of forced molting, which can reduce hen depreciation cost.

Table 3 illustrates some of the cost increases which have occurred in processing and hauling eggs. There are also regional differences in marketing costs beyond the farm production level. These are not confined to comparisons like those shown in table 3 for egg cartoning costs, where the Midwest and South are lower than the Northeast. Aggregate regional comparisons must also recognize costs for packing loose eggs and the relative proportions sold by plants in loose and cartoned forms, and also average assembly costs and average costs for long-distance transportation and selling. Egg assembly costs are lowest in the South and highest in the Midwest. Long-distance transportation costs are lowest in the Northeast, which ships out relatively few eggs. Average returns to a region are also influenced by the proportion sold for breaking and by relative prices received within the regions, compared with prices in regions to which eggs are shipped.

Table 3—Costs of cartoning Grade A large eggs from No. 1 Nest Run eggs, and hauling and local delivery costs, 1976-78[1]

Item	1976	1977	1978
	(Cents per dozen)		
Packing materials	4.75	4.93	5.09
Plant costs	5.02	5.44	5.48
Sub-total	9.77	10.37	10.57
Case/flat credit	-1.55	-1.60	-1.81
Sub-total	8.22	8.77	8.76
Gr. yield/size loss	2.83	3.34	3.54
Net cost, all plants	11.05	12.11	12.30
Northeast	11.62	12.93	13.02
Midwest[2]	11.19	11.91	12.21
South	10.19	11.85	11.84
Store door delivery costs[3]	—	—	2.26
Hauling costs, 600 miles[4]	2.23	[5] 2.53	3.13

[1] Based on records submitted by member plants of Egg Clearinghouse, Inc. Averages of mid-year and year-end surveys for cartoning costs. [2] Includes a few plants in the West. [3] Within a 100 mile radius of plant and a minimum drop of 5 cases. Late 1978 only. [4] Loads of 700-750 or more cases. [5] Mid-1977.

For broilers, assembly and processing costs are lowest in the South. Assembly costs are highest in the Midwest and processing costs are highest in the West and Northeast. Long-distance hauling and selling costs are highest for the South, which is the major source of broilers for the deficit regions. On turkeys, the Midwest has the lowest processing costs. Long-distance hauling and selling costs are higher for the Midwest, South, and West than for the Northeast, where production is far lower than consumption.

Average returns to a region are also affected by the extent of price premiums received for local production vs. "shipped-in" supplies. Local premiums are particularly evident on eggs and broilers in the Northeast and West. Locally produced turkeys may also command price premiums, particularly in deficit regions, and where larger shares of local output may be sold in fresh (unfrozen) form.

Changes in Outlets and Product Form

Larger shares of total output are being sold in further-processed form. Those now account for almost three-fifths of all turkeys, 13 percent of all eggs, and over 8 percent of total broiler production.

Net export and shipment percentages have also increased, accounting for about 4.5 percent of the broilers, 2.5 percent of the turkeys, and 2 percent of the eggs. Institutional outlets now account for more than one-fourth of the broilers and one-fifth or more of the turkeys and eggs produced in the United States.

About two-thirds of the eggs reach consumers mainly in cartoned form. Direct marketing of eggs from producer to consumer accounts for about 4 percent, with the balance marketed through retail outlets. Nearly two-fifths of the output of broiler processing plants is in cut-up form, as is almost one-fourth of the output of turkey processing plants.

Packer branding of broilers and turkeys has increased in recent years, with more than two-fifths of the broilers and over three-fifths of the turkeys (and products) now reaching consumers with packer brands. There has been less change for eggs with packer branding accounting for about one-third of cartoned sales.

Half or less of total broiler output now leaves processing plants in ice pack form. Other packs, such as chill, CO2, controlled atmosphere, and frozen, have continued to increase in importance. Last year nearly three-tenths of turkey output left processing plants in fresh form, an increase from earlier years.

Pricing and Prices

Commodity pricing systems have received increased attention from public officials, industry members, and researchers. On eggs, where Egg Clearinghouse Inc.'s electronic trading exchange plays an important role in base price determination, efforts are underway to improve the volume of trading. On broilers, there is heightened interest in developing improved price information on packs other than whole ready-to-cook iced-pack broilers. For turkeys, the percentage of total volume represented by whole unbranded frozen ready-to-cook birds has reached an all-time low of about 10 percent. That has focused increased attention on making sure the prices for further-processed (whole-bird and other) products, parts, fresh birds, and branded birds are adequately represented in the base price-making process.

Parity prices and percentages of parity represented by current farm prices are infrequently mentioned within the poultry an egg industries. In part, that is because the relevant farm price for eggs in parity comparisons represents all eggs and all methods of sale, whereas trading in market eggs is more precisely defined by grade, size, location, and level of sale. Farm prices for parity comparisons on live broilers and turkeys are less meaningful than in earlier years because of changes in technology and industry structure. Most of the production is under contract or integrated firm ownership where no live market exists, and, hence, farm values are mainly derived equivalents based on ready-to-cook sales values. As of January 15, 1979, seasonally adjusted farm egg prices were at 59 percent of parity, broilers at 68 percent of the computed parity, and turkeys were at 81 percent. Net returns series (see tables in this issue) indicate that 1978 was a fair year for egg producers and an exceedingly good year for broiler and turkey firms. These series, which equate commercial production and marketing costs with wholesale market prices, are a reasonably good indicator of overall industry well-being.

Table 25—Selected poultry and egg statistics*

Table 1.—Eggs: Production and disposition

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Number of layers:														
First of month														
1976	Mil.	279.9	279.6	278.0	274.9	270.3	269.1	268.0	268.1	271.9	273.8	276.3	279.7	
1977	Mil.	280.0	276.8	275.0	273.8	270.2	268.4	266.2	268.5	274.3	279.4	282.6	286.6	
1978	Mil.	287.5	283.9	280.7	279.4	277.9	277.1	274.1	274.4	277.8	283.0	287.7	292.2	
Average for month														
1976	Mil.	279.8	278.8	276.4	272.6	269.7	268.6	268.1	270.0	272.8	275.0	278.0	279.8	274.1
1977	Mil.	278.4	275.9	274.4	272.0	269.3	267.3	267.4	271.4	276.8	281.0	284.6	287.0	275.5
1978	Mil.	285.7	282.3	280.0	278.7	277.5	275.6	274.3	276.1	280.4	285.3	289.9	291.3	281.4
Eggs per 100 layers:														
First of month														
1976	No.	63.3	63.7	64.2	65.1	65.2	65.1	65.5	64.4	64.1	63.7	63.4	63.6	
1977	No.	63.5	62.7	64.6	65.7	65.7	65.4	64.5	63.6	64.0	64.0	64.4	65.1	
1978	No.	65.3	64.3	64.7	66.5	66.3	66.5	65.4	64.6	65.2	65.0	64.8	65.5	
Average for month														
1976	No.	1,970	1,855	2,005	1,954	2,020	1,962	2,016	1,994	1,917	1,971	1,906	1,971	23,541
1977	No.	1,956	1,782	2,021	1,971	2,034	1,950	1,986	1,978	1,921	1,990	1,944	2,021	23,554
1978	No.	2,009	1,808	2,034	1,993	2,061	1,979	2,016	2,012	1,954	2,011	1,956	2,033	23,866
Monthly egg production														
1976	Mil. doz.	459.2	430.9	461.9	443.9	454.1	439.1	450.3	448.6	435.8	451.8	441.4	459.6	5,377
1977	Mil. doz.	453.9	409.7	462.2	446.7	456.5	434.4	442.5	447.4	443.2	466.6	461.2	483.4	5,408
1978	Mil. doz.	478.2	425.2	474.7	462.8	476.7	454.5	460.7	462.8	456.5	478.2	472.5	493.5	5,596
Eggs used for hatching														
1976	Mil. doz.	31.3	36.5	36.8	37.5	35.7	34.8	34.0	31.5	31.0	30.9	32.5	34.0	407
1977	Mil. doz.	32.2	38.5	39.1	40.1	37.5	35.8	34.2	32.7	33.8	32.6	34.9	36.0	427
1978	Mil. doz.	33.1	38.5	39.6	42.1	39.9	39.4	38.5	35.6	36.7	35.9	38.1	39.7	457
Eggs broken commercially														
1976	Mil. doz.	37.8	37.6	51.6	50.7	47.1	56.0	52.6	52.6	53.4	52.6	52.2	47.7	592
1977	Mil. doz.	43.9	45.6	56.3	57.0	65.0	70.1	61.3	64.2	58.8	54.8	56.0	53.2	686
1978	Mil. doz.	53.9	47.1	53.8	53.1	65.6	71.4	58.8	64.2	56.9	58.7	50.7	51.9	686
Cold Storage stocks:														
Frozen egg products														
1976	Mil. lbs.	36.3	31.7	28.7	29.4	29.7	28.9	30.1	31.6	31.0	28.7	28.9	25.5	
1977	Mil. lbs.	26.1	26.9	24.9	24.6	25.3	28.0	31.4	35.1	35.4	33.7	33.4	31.2	
1978	Mil. lbs.	29.7	28.1	25.7	22.9	23.2	22.5	26.6	28.0	28.6	28.6	27.6	25.6	
Shell eggs														
1976	Mil. doz.	.7	.4	.6	.8	.8	.7	.7	1.0	1.4	1.5	1.0	.8	
1977	Mil. doz.	.8	.8	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.5	
1978	Mil. doz.	1.2	1.5	1.2	1.1	1.1	.9	.9	.9	1.6	1.3	.7	1.1	
Shell equivalent all eggs[1]														
1976	Mil. doz.	28.2	24.5	22.4	23.1	23.3	22.6	23.6	25.1	24.9	23.3	22.9	20.1	
1977	Mil. doz.	20.7	21.2	20.2	19.9	20.5	22.3	24.7	27.8	28.3	27.1	26.9	25.2	
1978	Mil. doz.	23.7	22.8	20.7	18.5	18.7	18.0	21.1	22.1	23.4	23.0	21.7	20.5	
Exports:														
Shell eggs														
1976	Mil. doz.	1.7	2.5	2.4	2.6	2.2	2.2	2.5	2.2	2.7	2.5	3.6	2.7	30
1977	Mil. doz.	2.5	2.1	3.6	2.9	3.6	4.2	4.4	4.3	5.1	5.2	5.3	4.9	48
1978	Mil. doz.	7.1	2.6	4.6	3.5	5.2	3.1	2.7	2.8	4.2	4.8	3.3	2.8	47
Shell equivalent all eggs[1]														
1976	Mil. doz.	2.1	2.9	2.7	3.0	2.9	2.8	3.5	2.8	4.0	3.0	4.1	3.7	37
1977	Mil. doz.	3.1	2.5	4.4	3.9	5.7	6.1	6.4	6.4	7.6	6.5	6.7	7.5	67
1978	Mil. doz.	11.8	8.1	11.8	8.5	9.7	7.1	6.2	5.4	6.7	8.7	6.6	6.0	97
Per capita consumption:														
Shell eggs														
1976	No.	21.7	19.6	20.5	19.6	20.5	19.2	20.1	20.1	19.3	20.3	19.5	20.8	241
1977	No.	20.9	17.9	20.1	19.1	19.4	18.1	19.2	19.1	19.0	20.7	20.2	21.4	235
1978	No.	21.1	18.6	20.8	20.0	20.3	18.7	19.9	19.7	19.8	20.8	20.7	21.8	242
All eggs[1]														
1976	No.	24.0	21.9	23.3	22.4	23.2	22.2	22.9	23.0	22.3	23.2	22.5	23.4	274
1977	No.	23.3	20.5	23.2	22.2	22.7	21.7	22.3	22.5	22.2	23.7	23.3	24.2	272
1978	No.	23.9	21.0	23.5	22.7	23.7	22.2	22.9	23.1	22.8	23.9	23.4	24.5	278

Table 2.—Eggs: Prices for shell eggs and egg products

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Shell eggs (price per dozen):														
Received by farmers, U.S.[2] [3]														
1976	Cents	61.2	58.5	53.5	52.7	54.7	53.3	55.1	60.0	61.4	60.3	65.5	69.8	59.7
1977	Cents	66.1	65.5	58.9	55.4	49.2	47.3	50.9	51.6	52.3	47.8	51.2	53.6	54.2
1978	Cents	49.4	55.1	55.4	52.2	49.3	43.6	48.3	52.0	53.7	52.3	56.8	61.6	52.5
Midwest cities, large eggs, paid by first receivers[4]														
1976	Cents	72.8	66.2	60.8	59.9	62.3	61.1	65.8	71.4	72.1	70.2	76.0	81.6	68.4
1977	Cents	78.5	75.4	67.0	62.6	55.1	54.6	61.6	60.9	61.7	55.6	57.8	62.7	62.8
1978	Cents	57.2	65.0	64.1	58.1	53.4	50.6	61.8	62.9	63.2	61.5	67.1	72.5	61.4

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 25—Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Table 2.—Eggs: Prices for shell eggs and egg products—Continued														
Price to volume buyers, cartoned Grade A large[5]														
14-metro areas														
1976	Cents	73.30	67.42	62.40	62.05	63.27	62.30	67.38	72.22	63.52	71.44	76.66	82.52	69.54
1977	Cents	78.98	76.61	67.99	63.28	56.09	57.52	63.07	62.67	62.49	56.33	58.44	63.34	63.90
1978	Cents	57.86	64.05	64.31	59.04	54.62	51.34	61.75	63.45	64.97	62.34	68.76	73.30	62.15
New York														
1976	Cents	73.90	67.21	63.04	62.14	63.54	63.61	68.20	73.30	73.96	72.41	78.82	83.87	70.33
1977	Cents	81.04	76.25	67.39	61.38	55.05	57.00	62.35	61.35	60.81	56.05	56.57	64.05	63.27
1978	Cents	57.15	64.94	64.00	57.90	52.86	50.62	62.75	62.75	63.75	62.14	68.75	72.65	61.68
Chicago														
1976	Cents	70.90	64.16	59.54	58.55	60.70	60.86	65.45	70.55	72.81	70.55	76.69	82.26	67.75
1977	Cents	78.74	75.55	67.50	62.45	55.69	57.00	62.75	59.33	59.29	53.68	55.05	61.52	62.38
1978	Cents	55.19	62.84	62.04	56.95	52.00	49.29	61.15	61.78	63.20	60.81	67.15	71.65	60.34
Los Angeles, Grade AA														
1976	Cents	75.33	69.00	66.96	66.36	65.75	66.04	69.86	75.00	74.57	68.97	73.67	78.42	70.83
1977	Cents	78.29	76.47	70.13	67.29	61.05	64.00	66.50	69.00	68.30	60.68	65.10	65.62	67.70
1978	Cents	60.14	62.74	66.43	61.00	60.41	53.40	62.10	64.11	66.90	64.10	71.15	76.10	64.05
Eggs in retail stores (Index)[6]														
1976	1967=100	182.8	184.9	160.4	159.4	154.5	152.6	164.1	175.7	182.3	179.4	178.7	193.8	172.4
1977	1967=100	197.9	207.9	179.5	166.0	152.8	141.0	163.6	166.2	166.6	154.5	157.9	148.6	166.9
1978	1967=100	168.9	161.7	165.3	160.3	152.1	143.4	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Egg products (price per lb.):														
Frozen, New York—Philadelphia[7]														
Whole, light colored														
1976	Cents	41.31	42.75	42.56	40.52	41.84	42.64	43.83	47.86	52.50	52.06	54.02	52.50	46.20
1977	Cents	50.47	48.28	45.46	41.61	41.11	39.53	38.56	37.19	37.08	36.14	37.50	35.03	40.66
1978	Cents	33.12	34.29	35.89	37.50	37.91	36.50	37.79	40.33	40.72	41.34	46.31	47.19	39.07
Whites														
1976	Cents	22.31	22.59	22.58	21.92	23.88	25.56	26.97	28.75	31.75	32.37	34.28	34.00	27.25
1977	Cents	32.31	32.16	31.03	30.19	30.69	29.75	28.76	27.17	26.47	25.39	25.97	25.06	28.75
1978	Cents	24.50	25.57	27.00	28.34	29.47	27.41	28.29	30.28	31.38	32.00	35.53	36.31	29.67
Yolks, sugared														
1976	Cents	67.42	67.78	67.50	65.46	66.07	67.40	69.28	76.22	83.34	83.43	84.16	82.02	73.34
1977	Cents	79.20	76.62	71.78	65.50	64.11	63.00	63.19	62.50	63.03	61.75	62.53	59.31	66.04
1978	Cents	55.16	54.96	54.83	55.59	55.75	54.03	54.86	57.50	59.56	60.38	65.50	66.44	57.88
Dried, New York														
Whole														
1976	Dollars	1.58	1.58	1.57	1.54	1.61	1.66	(8)	2.04	2.31	2.29	2.27	2.18	(8)
1977	Dollars	2.04	2.00	(8)	1.64	1.65	1.63	1.62	1.55	1.52	1.46	1.51	1.43	(8)
1978	Dollars	1.37	1.38	1.44	1.50	1.53	1.47	1.51	1.61	1.63	1.62	1.73	1.80	1.55
Yolks														
1976	Dollars	1.68	1.66	1.66	1.58	1.66	1.71	(8)	2.10	2.34	2.31	2.30	2.19	(8)
1977	Dollars	2.05	1.98	1.80	1.58	1.60	1.61	1.58	1.54	1.52	1.46	1.50	1.42	1.64
1978	Dollars	1.33	1.37	1.44	1.45	1.45	1.40	1.43	1.50	1.54	1.54	1.61	1.62	1.47
Albumen, spray dried														
1976	Dollars	1.72	1.68	1.65	1.59	1.67	1.75	1.84	2.14	2.54	2.70	2.86	2.79	2.08
1977	Dollars	2.66	2.61	2.55	2.48	2.47	2.43	2.38	2.27	2.21	2.08	2.01	1.96	2.34
1978	Dollars	1.88	1.91	2.08	2.33	2.37	2.31	2.34	2.48	2.55	2.61	2.71	2.83	2.37
Table 3.—Poultry: Slaughter in federally inspected plants														
Young chicken														
Number inspected														
1976	Mil.	256.3	230.0	278.5	270.6	270.4	301.9	283.2	294.6	286.9	274.1	250.4	255.9	3,253
1977	Mil.	255.8	241.5	284.9	268.6	292.0	308.6	277.3	318.6	288.5	273.4	258.6	266.2	3,334
1978	Mil.	276.5	257.5	297.3	271.6	319.9	317.6	293.1	335.5	293.4	309.8	274.5	269.6	3,516
Liveweight pounds														
1976	Mil. lbs.	985	874	1,064	1,023	1,027	1,138	1,059	1,112	1,106	1,061	967	993	12,408
1977	Mil. lbs.	989	913	1,083	1,028	1,115	1,162	1,029	1,199	1,111	1,068	997	1,045	12,741
1978	Mil. lbs.	1,084	993	1,149	1,066	1,245	1,209	1,107	1,287	1,147	1.233	1,095	1,063	13,656
Certified ready-to-cook														
1976	Mil. lbs.	712.3	632.3	771.9	742.5	745.4	825.9	766.0	805.2	800.3	769.5	699.2	716.8	8,987
1977	Mil. lbs.	713.8	659.2	783.2	744.9	809.9	843.7	745.5	870.4	808.2	775.5	719.8	753.2	9,227
1978	Mil. lbs.	781.4	715.7	830.0	769.1	902.6	874.9	801.7	930.8	834.0	896.4	779.1	767.3	9,883
Cut-up, ready-to-cook weight														
1976	Mil. lbs.	228.0	209.2	253.9	247.4	259.0	266.5	281.8	280.1	289.3	278.2	254.5	265.6	3,114
1977	Mil. lbs.	246.8	247.0	304.9	282.9	304.6	315.6	270.1	355.0	307.9	296.6	288.4	301.6	3,522
1978	Mil. lbs.	309.4	273.6	326.3	294.0	326.6	320.2	293.1	341.2	310.4	335.0	310.4	296.9	3,717
Further processed, RTC weight														
1976	Mil. lbs.	51.8	47.5	55.6	53.6	52.2	61.0	54.4	56.3	54.0	54.3	50.0	52.8	643
1977	Mil. lbs.	50.5	52.9	66.5	58.3	53.1	67.8	59.8	65.8	60.3	60.4	61.0	59.9	716
1978	mil. lbs.	92.4	58.6	66.5	62.2	72.9	78.3	70.1	78.3	69.6	77.0	64.0	70.3	830

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 25— Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Item	Data in–	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Table 3.—Poultry: Slaughtered in federally inspected plants—Continued														
Mature chicken:														
Number inspected														
1976	Mil.	17.1	15.9	16.9	18.9	12.5	14.3	14.0	13.8	14.7	14.4	12.6	15.0	180
1977	Mil.	16.6	16.7	19.5	18.8	16.6	18.0	11.6	14.0	15.5	15.0	14.0	16.5	193
1978	Mil.	18.1	17.6	20.1	14.9	15.7	18.2	13.2	13.5	14.1	16.4	13.7	15.3	191
Liveweight pounds														
1976	Mil. lbs.	71.6	67.6	74.0	78.9	54.8	65.3	61.6	61.0	67.8	63.2	55.5	65.0	786
1977	Mil. lbs.	70.1	69.0	83.5	79.6	71.9	78.1	49.1	60.4	68.6	65.5	61.1	70.6	828
1978	Mil. lbs.	74.6	73.0	83.5	64.3	68.3	77.8	57.8	60.8	62.7	72.1	60.9	66.1	822
Certified ready-to-cook														
1976	Mil. lbs.	44.1	42.2	46.4	48.9	34.4	41.1	38.6	38.0	42.6	39.6	34.9	40.4	491
1977	Mil. lbs.	43.6	42.6	51.5	48.6	44.3	48.3	30.4	37.5	42.6	40.7	38.0	44.0	512
1978	Mil. lbs.	46.0	45.2	51.5	39.7	42.3	47.6	35.9	38.1	39.3	44.5	38.0	40.8	509
Cut-up, ready-to-cook weight														
1976	Mil lbs.	.7	.7	.8	.9	.8	.6	.6	.7	.7	.4	.5	.6	8
1977	Mil. lbs.	.7	.8	1.0	1.3	.8	.8	.7	.9	1.1	.8	.7	.9	10
1978	Mil. lbs.	.9	.4	.7	2.2	.9	.9	.6	1.1	.7	1.7	.7	.2	11
Further processed, RTS weight														
1976	Mil. lbs.	43.2	39.6	44.7	40.0	36.8	32.3	26.9	35.5	32.3	33.8	34.0	36.8	436
1977	Mil. lbs.	37.8	38.5	43.1	39.5	35.9	33.1	22.4	35.7	32.4	34.8	31.4	33.4	418
1978	Mil. lbs.	38.5	38.5	39.9	36.5	40.8	39.1	23.2	40.5	36.3	46.2	39.2	34.7	453
Turkeys:														
Fryers—Roasters														
Number inspected														
1976	Mil.	.9	.9	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.2	.7	13
1977	Mil.	.4	.8	1.1	.7	.8	1.0	.9	.9	.8	.7	.8	.5	9
1978	Mil.	.5	.5	.6	.4	.6	.7	.6	.8	.6	.5	.7	.4	7
Liveweight pounds														
1976	Mil. lbs.	8.4	8.1	10.2	8.7	9.4	11.5	12.0	10.5	10.4	10.0	10.5	6.3	116
1977	Mil. lbs.	4.0	7.2	9.8	6.4	7.3	9.6	8.2	8.0	7.4	7.0	7.9	4.3	87
1978	Mil. lbs.	4.7	4.9	5.0	3.6	5.9	6.8	5.3	7.5	5.4	4.7	7.1	3.3	64
Certified ready-to-cook														
1976	Mil. lbs.	6.5	6.4	8.1	6.9	7.5	9.2	9.5	8.3	8.2	7.9	8.2	5.0	92
1977	Mil. lbs.	3.2	5.8	7.8	5.1	5.8	7.6	6.5	6.3	5.8	5.5	6.2	3.4	69
1978	Mil. lbs.	3.7	3.9	4.0	2.9	4.7	5.3	4.2	5.9	4.2	3.7	5.5	2.5	51
Young turkey														
Number inspected														
1976	Mil.	4.0	3.5	4.1	5.2	6.8	11.6	13.7	15.7	16.0	15.7	15.7	8.7	121
1977	Mil.	4.0	3.4	5.0	5.1	7.2	11.2	12.2	15.7	15.3	15.2	14.8	8.8	118
1978	Mil.	4.5	3.6	5.5	5.4	8.5	12.1	12.8	15.8	14.8	16.5	15.0	9.4	124
Liveweight pounds														
1976	Mil. lbs.	88.2	69.3	74.5	91.4	124.0	214.1	252.3	293.2	306.6	312.9	318.4	179.8	2,325
1977	Mil. lbs.	84.8	66.2	90.7	92.9	130.6	208.8	227.1	297.9	291.6	308.9	303.0	183.3	2,286
1978	Mil. lbs.	98.8	70.3	103.3	97.4	155.4	228.1	241.3	303.0	284.9	335.4	305.8	195.0	2,419
Certified ready-to-cook														
1976	Mil. lbs.	68.9	54.5	58.8	72.1	98.3	170.0	200.3	233.1	243.3	248.4	252.8	141.2	1,842
1977	Mil. lbs.	66.1	51.9	71.0	73.1	103.3	165.4	180.2	236.7	231.2	244.5	240.3	144.7	1,808
1978	Mil. lbs.	77.6	55.3	81.5	77.4	122.7	181.0	192.4	240.7	225.5	266.6	242.6	153.6	1,917
Total turkey														
Number inspected														
1976	Mil.	4.9	4.4	5.4	6.2	7.8	13.0	15.3	17.0	17.2	16.8	16.9	9.4	134
1977	Mil.	4.5	4.3	6.1	5.8	8.0	12.5	13.3	16.7	16.2	15.9	15.7	9.3	128
1978	Mil.	5.0	4.2	6.1	5.8	9.3	13.0	13.6	16.8	15.5	17.1	15.7	9.8	132
Liveweight pounds														
1976	Mil. lbs.	97.6	78.4	87.1	101.3	134.3	229.6	269.6	306.8	318.7	323.3	329.3	186.5	2,463
1977	Mil. lbs.	90.5	74.8	102.4	100.2	139.1	228.8	239.1	307.6	300.6	316.2	311.3	187.9	2,392
1978	Mil. lbs.	104.1	75.7	109.4	101.7	163.7	238.9	250.8	313.5	291.9	341.2	313.9	198.6	2,503
Certified ready-to-cook														
1976	Mil. lbs.	76.3	61.7	68.6	79.9	106.5	182.2	213.9	243.8	252.8	256.6	261.5	146.4	1,950
1977	Mil. lbs.	70.5	58.7	80.3	78.9	110.0	176.5	189.6	244.4	238.2	250.3	246.8	148.2	1,892
1978	Mil. lbs.	81.8	59.7	86.3	80.8	129.3	189.5	199.9	248.8	230.9	271.2	248.9	156.3	1,983
Cut-up, ready-to-cook weight														
1976	Mil. lbs.	30.2	25.3	26.2	24.2	26.6	35.9	31.9	42.7	40.3	39.6	35.0	29.2	387
1977	Mil. lbs.	29.0	27.6	32.5	27.7	28.6	39.0	37.2	46.7	41.9	40.0	41.0	35.1	426
1978	Mil. lbs.	32.8	30.4	35.8	32.4	40.8	37.3	39.0	48.0	44.6	45.4	42.8	36.7	466
Further processed, RTC weight														
Whole bird[10]														
1976	Mil. lbs.	10.4	8.4	13.5	12.9	25.1	46.2	58.3	63.0	67.6	64.8	56.4	19.7	446
1977	Mil. lbs.	6.9	7.9	12.4	16.5	24.0	38.2	51.6	66.8	75.5	75.2	56.6	27.6	459
1978	Mil. lbs.	11.1	9.4	10.4	9.9	24.3	43.3	59.2	72.2	78.0	86.0	72.0	25.2	501
Other														
1976	Mil. lbs.	37.5	36.0	41.0	36.2	43.9	51.7	55.3	62.0	64.5	69.2	62.6	47.9	608
1977	Mil. lbs.	43.3	42.9	56.8	44.1	50.8	62.4	59.2	67.3	65.8	67.9	61.4	43.5	665
1978	Mil. lbs.	45.2	44.2	53.4	42.5	53.2	62.1	59.8	81.4	71.4	76.5	72.4	48.3	710

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 25—Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Table 4.—Total poultry slaughter and commercial red meat production														
Total poultry slaughter, ready-to-cook weight[11]														
1976	Mil. lbs.	857	758	912	897	910	1,077	1,045	1,115	1,125	1,094	1,021	928	11,739
1977	Mil. lbs.	849	780	938	895	988	1,095	988	1,179	1,115	1,092	1,028	969	11,916
1978	Mil. lbs.	932	831	981	901	1,088	1,127	1,052	1,234	1,119	1,229	1,081	978	12,553
Commercial red meat production, carcass weight														
1976	Mil. lbs.	3,267	2,907	3,515	3,109	2,928	3,150	3,048	3,350	3,467	3,497	3,453	3,367	39,059
1977	Mil. lbs.	3,237	3,084	3,551	3,195	3,122	3,298	2,925	3,404	3,354	3,345	3,416	3,241	39,172
1978	Mil. lbs.	3,214	3,044	3,341	2,079	3,268	3,078	2,882	3,272	3,138	3,353	3,343	3,092	38,104
Table 5.—Poultry: Cold storage holdings and exports														
Cold storage holdings, first of month (ready-to-cook weight)														
Broilers, fryers, roasters														
1976	Mil. lbs.	22.3	20.2	19.7	19.4	19.1	17.4	20.0	25.6	27.4	24.3	24.3	29.1	
1977	Mil. lbs.	32.9	27.4	24.6	26.5	25.2	27.9	31.3	30.3	29.6	30.7	31.2	33.3	
1978	Mil. lbs.	29.4	27.5	21.8	21.7	22.6	19.8	21.4	22.0	21.1	21.1	22.8	23.2	
Total chicken														
1976	Mil. lbs.	114.7	106.5	103.5	104.9	114.3	108.0	119.2	135.0	143.9	143.5	144.5	147.4	
1977	Mil. lbs.	154.5	139.3	131.5	134.6	134.4	139.3	146.4	148.7	147.7	148.0	145.9	142.6	
1978	Mil. lbs.	138.6	133.2	124.2	118.9	107.2	108.0	102.9	109.3	109.8	109.8	108.0	106.8	
Turkey														
Whole bird														
1976	Mil. lbs.	146.8	138.4	115.1	95.4	74.9	82.5	136.7	214.0	314.0	395.2	446.5	241.4	
1977	Mil. lbs.	147.8	134.6	118.0	94.5	82.5	93.3	146.0	197.7	268.2	340.4	374.1	207.4	
1978	Mil. lbs.	108.9	107.2	86.2	66.7	59.2	65.1	104.2	159.8	233.8	304.5	360.1	175.9	
Other														
1976	Mil. lbs.	48.4	48.3	45.5	45.3	39.5	38.3	40.6	47.9	56.3	64.4	65.8	57.5	
1977	Mil. lbs.	55.6	55.7	49.8	47.8	47.8	44.9	55.4	55.9	61.7	68.8	70.4	62.0	
1978	Mil. lbs.	59.1	61.1	50.4	46.2	41.8	38.4	47.9	52.9	64.1	65.8	70.0	59.8	
Total turkey														
1976	Mil. lbs.	195.2	186.8	160.7	140.7	114.5	120.8	177.3	261.9	370.3	459.7	512.3	298.8	
1977	Mil. lbs.	203.4	190.3	167.8	142.3	130.3	138.2	201.4	253.6	329.9	409.3	444.5	269.4	
1978	Mil. lbs.	167.9	168.3	136.6	112.9	101.1	103.6	152.1	212.7	297.9	370.4	430.1	235.7	
Total poultry														
1976	Mil. lbs.	313.6	296.1	267.0	248.4	231.9	231.5	300.5	402.9	521.5	611.0	664.5	453.2	
1977	Mil. lbs.	362.8	334.6	302.8	279.4	267.3	281.1	353.2	409.2	484.6	566.0	598.6	417.8	
1978	Mil. lbs.	310.0	304.4	262.8	233.3	209.6	213.0	256.8	325.5	412.8	485.6	543.4	346.4	
Exports (ready-to-cook weight):														
Young chicken														
1976	Mil. lbs.	16.3	12.9	16.3	17.2	24.0	24.9	20.4	39.4	26.0	26.6	28.9	34.5	287
1977	Mil. lbs.	27.1	25.0	18.9	25.8	25.8	20.5	35.8	27.5	26.8	31.9	22.3	25.9	313
1978	Mil. lbs.	21.9	21.9	35.1	25.7	27.7	20.9	27.4	33.3	28.7	31.5	25.4	31.5	331
Other chicken														
1976	Mil. lbs.	1.8	3.6	3.7	3.0	3.1	3.0	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.3	4.2	2.3	35
1977	Mil. lbs.	2.7	2.3	3.3	3.3	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.6	3.1	2.7	3.5	4.1	36
1978	Mil. lbs.	3.0	2.3	2.7	4.4	1.7	1.8	1.6	1.8	3.0	2.2	2.8	2.6	30
Turkey														
1976	Mil. lbs.	5.1	6.0	7.7	4.0	3.9	6.3	4.1	4.5	4.9	6.3	6.3	6.2	65
1977	Mil. lbs.	2.9	3.3	2.1	2.4	3.9	5.0	5.2	6.9	6.1	4.4	5.5	6.0	54
1978	Mil. lbs.	4.3	3.6	6.1	4.4	2.2	3.3	3.0	4.5	5.3	4.9	5.4	4.0	51
Table 6.—Poultry: Chicken and turkey prices														
Broilers:														
Liveweight, U.S. at farm[12]														
1976	Cents	24.2	25.2	24.4	23.5	24.6	24.3	25.4	23.8	22.8	20.6	19.4	19.7	23.2
1977	Cents	21.9	24.3	24.2	24.2	24.1	24.9	25.9	24.1	23.8	22.7	21.3	20.2	23.5
1978	Cents	22.8	24.3	24.8	28.1	27.2	30.2	32.8	26.7	26.7	24.8	24.7	24.9	26.5
Wholesale weighted average, ready-to-cook weight[13]														
9-city average[14]														
1976	Cents	41.9	42.7	41.9	41.0	42.1	42.1	43.2	41.6	39.7	36.4	34.9	35.0	40.2
1977	Cents	38.8	42.1	41.9	41.4	42.2	43.3	44.3	42.0	40.9	39.2	37.3	36.2	40.8
1978	Cents	40.2	43.1	42.2	46.1	46.1	50.7	50.8	44.1	44.9	42.0	42.0	42.2	44.5
New York														
1976	Cents	41.6	41.9	41.3	40.8	41.8	41.6	42.8	41.4	39.6	36.0	34.2	34.2	39.8
1977	Cents	38.0	40.7	41.1	41.0	41.8	43.7	43.8	41.6	40.3	38.8	36.0	35.5	40.2
1978	Cents	39.3	42.3	41.0	44.6	44.8	50.1	50.2	43.6	44.2	40.8	40.7	41.2	43.6

*See footnote at end of table.

Table 25—Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Table 6.—Poultry: Chicken and turkey prices—Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Chicago (U.S. Grade A)														
1976	Cents	41.7	42.6	41.6	40.9	42.0	41.7	43.3	41.4	39.8	36.2	34.9	35.0	40.1
1977	Cents	38.7	41.4	42.0	41.1	41.8	42.7	43.8	41.9	40.6	38.8	36.9	35.9	40.5
1978	Cents	40.0	42.8	41.9	46.1	45.5	50.1	50.2	43.3	44.4	41.5	41.7	42.0	44.1
Los Angeles														
1976	Cents	43.4	44.4	43.7	42.2	43.0	42.6	44.4	43.0	40.9	38.0	36.6	36.9	41.6
1977	Cents	40.7	42.9	43.3	42.5	43.9	43.8	45.7	43.6	42.8	41.4	38.9	38.6	42.3
1978	Cents	42.1	45.2	44.7	49.2	49.1	52.4	52.7	46.4	46.9	44.9	44.9	44.5	46.9
Frying chicken in retail stores (Index)[6]														
1976	1967=100	168.0	162.2	160.5	160.4	157.0	163.9	165.3	160.4	157.0	149.8	143.7	143.5	157.6
1977	1967=100	144.2	155.1	161.8	161.4	160.2	159.6	163.9	163.8	162.3	159.3	157.7	152.2	158.5
1978	1967=100	157.6	161.6	166.4	171.7	172.9	184.6	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Turkeys:														
Liveweight, U.S. at farm[3]														
1976	Cents	33.4	32.1	32.9	31.8	32.1	31.2	31.1	31.1	30.7	30.7	31.1	33.5	31.8
1977	Cents	32.2	32.0	33.9	33.5	33.6	34.2	33.8	33.8	34.4	36.5	39.0	40.2	34.8
1978	Cents	38.0	37.1	37.8	37.9	39.6	40.8	41.8	42.9	43.5	45.1	46.6	49.6	41.7
Wholesale, frozen, f.o.b. or equivalent, RTC weight[1,5]														
New York														
Hens, 8-16 pounds														
1976	Cents	47.1	49.1	51.7	48.2	48.9	47.6	49.5	48.1	48.0	47.8	48.4	50.6	48.7
1977	Cents	48.7	49.7	52.3	53.6	50.8	50.0	50.8	53.4	54.9	57.4	60.7	65.8	54.0
1978	Cents	60.5	59.2	60.9	59.2	61.3	63.6	67.8	68.0	68.7	72.7	78.0	80.5	66.7
Toms, 14-20 pounds														
1976	Cents	46.8	46.1	49.8	49.4	50.8	47.8	48.5	47.9	46.8	46.9	49.6	54.0	48.7
1977	Cents	50.9	51.2	52.0	53.0	51.4	50.6	49.8	52.4	55.6	58.8	60.5	59.9	53.8
1978	Cents	57.6	59.9	59.6	59.1	60.7	63.4	65.6	67.8	69.8	71.2	74.0	75.0	65.3
Toms, 24-26 pounds														
1976	Cents	52.4	50.7	53.7	54.6	60.0	56.3	56.3	55.4	51.3	51.6	51.6	55.0	54.1
1977	Cents	54.2	55.4	57.3	58.1	59.3	59.0	58.1	56.8	56.8	59.0	59.9	60.7	57.9
1978	Cents	61.8	62.1	62.8	65.3	68.9	71.4	70.0	70.0	70.0	71.3	72.0	73.9	68.3
Chicago														
Hens, 8-16 pounds														
1976	Cents	46.4	48.4	51.0	47.4	48.2	46.9	48.6	47.6	47.1	47.1	47.6	49.8	48.0
1977	Cents	47.9	48.7	51.3	52.6	49.8	49.1	49.9	52.6	54.2	56.3	59.9	65.1	53.1
1978	Cents	60.2	58.2	60.4	58.3	60.2	62.8	([8])	67.6	67.6	71.1	([8])	79.2	64.6
Toms, 14-20 pounds														
1976	Cents	46.7	45.0	49.1	48.4	49.8	47.6	47.8	47.3	46.3	46.1	48.4	53.1	48.0
1977	Cents	51.4	51.7	51.7	51.8	51.1	49.7	49.1	51.4	54.6	58.0	59.7	59.2	53.3
1978	Cents	58.7	59.0	58.9	59.1	(8)	62.6	65.2	67.0	68.4	70.1	72.6	73.8	65.0
Toms, 24-26 pounds														
1976	Cents	52.8	50.6	52.8	53.6	59.7	59.2	49.8	54.6	50.7	50.8	50.7	54.1	53.3
1977	Cents	54.0	54.7	56.6	56.8	57.8	57.8	57.0	55.7	56.0	57.9	59.1	59.8	56.9
1978	Cents	61.0	61.4	62.1	([8])	([8])	([8])	69.0	68.9	69.2	70.5	71.2	73.4	67.4
Paid at seller's dock frozen, ready-to-cook weight[1,6]														
New York														
Hens, 8-16 pounds														
1976	Cents	51.8	51.8	55.3	52.8	52.9	51.4	52.2	52.0	51.6	51.2	51.7	54.8	52.4
1977	Cents	51.9	52.6	55.4	56.6	54.4	53.9	53.9	56.8	57.5	60.3	64.2	70.1	57.3
1978	Cents	66.3	62.4	64.2	62.4	64.3	66.9	70.6	72.2	72.6	75.8	80.8	84.9	70.3
Toms, heaviest weight quoted														
1976	Cents	69.0	69.0	69.9	70.0	70.6	71.0	71.0	71.0	71.0	71.0	72.8	73.0	70.8
1977	Cents	72.5	70.2	68.8	68.8	69.0	70.1	72.1	73.2	73.6	74.6	75.5	78.2	72.2
1978	Cents	78.5	78.5	78.9	79.0	82.2	86.1	86.8	87.0	87.0	89.1	91.2	90.7	84.6
Chicago														
Hens, 8-16 pounds														
1976	Cents	51.2	50.0	53.5	51.1	50.8	50.2	51.0	50.4	49.7	48.6	50.4	52.9	50.9
1977	Cents	50.6	50.6	53.7	55.4	53.4	52.1	52.5	55.2	56.8	60.0	64.0	68.4	56.0
1978	Cents	64.7	61.6	63.8	61.2	64.1	66.2	69.4	71.0	71.3	74.5	79.8	85.0	69.4
Toms, heaviest weight quoted														
1976	Cents	68.0	68.0	67.8	68.4	69.4	70.0	70.0	69.6	69.7	70.0	70.2	70.5	69.3
1977	Cents	70.5	68.3	67.0	66.9	67.7	69.2	70.1	71.8	72.5	72.5	73.1	74.7	70.4
1978	Cents	76.0	76.2	76.2	76.8	80.4	83.4	83.6	84.0	84.0	85.2	87.0	87.2	81.7
Poultry:														
Retail price index														
1976	1967=100	164.5	159.8	157.7	158.0	155.3	160.7	161.9	158.2	155.1	149.2	144.5	144.0	155.7
1977	1967=100	144.5	152.9	158.3	157.7	157.6	157.6	161.2	161.1	160.3	158.5	157.4	153.6	156.7
1978	1967=100	158.0	161.3	165.4	169.8	171.4	181.9	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

*See footnote at end of table.

Table 25—Selected poultry and egg statistics*

Table 7.—Prices paid for feed ingredients and poultry feed, and product-feed price ratios

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Corn, Chicago No. 2 yellow (price per bushel)														
1976	Dollars	2.62	2.70	2.68	2.68	2.84	2.96	2.96	2.87	2.77	2.49	2.33	2.44	2.70
1977	Dollars	2.53	2.54	2.52	2.50	2.41	2.27	2.05	1.78	1.80	1.84	2.14	2.19	2.21
1978	Dollars	2.19	2.21	2.36	2.51	2.57	2.51	2.28	2.17	2.13	2.22	2.28	2.27	2.31
Soybean meal, 49-50 percent, Decatur, Ill. (per ton, bulk)														
1976	Dollars	136	139	136	136	162	200	208	187	192	182	193	213	174
1977	Dollars	224	230	247	299	284	247	183	161	162	151	178	175	212
1978	Dollars	175	166	193	189	195	187	187	178	178	192	190	204	186
Poultry feed (per ton, bulk)[3]:														
,Laying														
1976	Dollars	143	143	144	144	146	156	162	157	159	154	151	153	151
1977	Dollars	156	161	161	163	166	162	153	143	138	135	141	145	152
1978	Dollars	147	146	149	154	155	157	155	150	149	150	154	156	152
Broiler grower														
1976	Dollars	158	160	160	159	161	172	181	177	179	170	169	174	168
1977	Dollars	174	178	179	183	187	184	175	164	154	153	159	160	171
1978	Dollars	162	164	167	169	171	174	170	169	168	169	174	174	169
Turkey grower														
1976	Dollars	165	165	165	162	165	178	187	181	181	176	177	179	174
1977	Dollars	182	186	188	195	200	196	188	176	172	168	175	177	184
1978	Dollars	177	177	179	183	184	186	186	182	180	183	185	185	182
Product-feed price ratios:														
Egg[17]														
1976	Pounds	8.6	8.2	7.4	7.3	7.5	6.8	6.8	7.6	7.7	7.8	8.7	9.1	7.9
1977	Pounds	8.5	8.1	7.3	6.8	5.9	5.8	6.7	7.2	7.6	7.1	7.3	7.4	7.1
1978	Pounds	6.7	7.5	7.4	6.8	6.4	5.6	6.2	6.9	7.2	7.0	7.4	7.9	6.9
Broiler[18]														
1976	Pounds	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.1	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.8
1977	Pounds	2.5	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.7	3.0	2.9	3.1	3.0	2.7	2.5	2.8
197 2	Pounds	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.3	3.2	3.5	3.9	3.2	3.2	2.9	2.8	2.9	3.1
Turkey[19]														
1976	Pounds	4.0	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.7
1977	Pounds	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.8	4.0	4.3	4.5	4.5	3.9
1978	Pounds	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.7	4.8	4.9	5.0	5.4	4.6

Table 8.—USDA contracts to purchase chicken and turkey

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Young chicken (ready-to-cook wt.)														
1976	Mil. lbs.	7.6	7.3	8.4	---	---	---	---	4.5	5.2	3.3	6.2	4.6	47.1
1977	Mil. lbs.	4.9	6.4	4.4	---	---	---	---	6.5	6.3	8.4	13.2	11.4	62.1
1978	Mil. lbs.	9.6	12.7	3.5	---	---	---	3.2	9.4	7.6	7.8	11.1	10.2	75.1
Canned boned chicken (RTC wt.)														
1976	Mil. lbs.	11.2	6.5	5.4	---	---	---	---	2.9	1.0	9.2	4.6	4.1	44.9
1977	Mil. lbs.	7.7	6.6	16.9	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	4.3	7.9	43.4
1978	Mil. lbs.	3.8	5.8	6.7	6.9	2.1	---	---	---	---	5.4	9.5	5.3	45.5
Turkey (ready-to-cook wt.)														
1976	Mil. lbs.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	10.5	20.7	20.7	8.9	3.4	64.3
1977	Mil. lbs.	6.2	7.2	---	---	---	---	5.8	16.6	14.3	3.9	10.3	9.0	73.4
1978	Mil. lbs.	9.6	6.8	8.0	---	---	---	---	7.7	14.5	14.0	9.4	9.8	80.0
Canned boned turkey (RTC wt.)														
1976	Mil. lbs.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	2.8	.9	1.2	---	4.9
1977	Mil. lbs.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1978	Mil. lbs.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

[1] Shell eggs plus the shell egg equivalent of egg products. [2] All eggs, including hatching eggs and eggs sold at retail. [3] Price as of 15th of month. [4] Delivered f.o.b. buyer. [5] Delivered store door. [6] Reported by Bureau of Labor Statistics. [7] 30-pound containers, carlot or trucklot. [8] Insufficient price data. [9] Includes fryers-roasters, young turkeys, and old turkeys. [10] Whole carcass turkeys which have been injected, basted, marinated, etc. and packaged as such. [11] Includes federally inspected slaughter of all poultry plus other slaughter of chicken and turkey. [12] Price for month. [13] Trucklot sales of U.S. Grade A and plant grade, ice packed and CO2 chilled broilers delivered to major areas. [14] Computed by weighting the city averages by their metropolitan area populations. [15] U.S. Grade A, carlots or trucklots. [16] U.S. Grade A, less than carlots. [17] Pounds of laying feed equal in value to 1 dozen eggs. [18] Pounds of broiler grower equal in value to 1 pound of broiler liveweight. [19] Pounds of turkey grower equal in value to 1 pound of turkey liveweight.

LIST OF TABLES

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