

Farm Production, Disposition and Income from Chickens and Eggs, 1945-49

By States and Geographic Divisions

Revised Estimates

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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CHICKENS AND EGGS: FARM PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION, CASH RECEIPTS AND
GROSS INCOME 1945-49*

June 1952

Revised estimates of farm production, disposition and income from chickens and eggs are presented in this report for the years 1945-49. These revisions resulted from a review and analyses of the 1950 Census of Agriculture covering chickens and eggs and of other available data relating to the production, disposition and prices of chickens and eggs. Revised estimates of numbers of chickens on farms January 1, 1945-50 also appear in this bulletin.

This report is one of a series on agricultural products presenting revised estimates of farm production, disposition, cash receipts and gross income for the years 1945 through 1949. Estimates of numbers of chickens on farms January 1 and chickens raised are revised every 5 years after taking into consideration the changes indicated by Census enumerations and all other available data.

Inventory Numbers: Estimates of numbers of chickens on farms January 1 are based primarily upon the 5-year Census enumerations. These enumerations were first adjusted for changes between January 1 and the average date of enumeration in each State. These estimates cover only farm flocks as defined and enumerated by the United States Census. According to the 1950 Census definition, a place of 3 or more acres was counted as a farm only if agricultural products, exclusive of home garden, with a value of \$150 or more were produced in 1949. Also in 1950, places of less than 3 acres were counted as farms only if the value of agricultural products sold amounted to \$150 or more. Estimates of change in numbers from year to year are based on rural carrier surveys made in December each year, covering about 150,000 livestock and poultry farms, and on changes in flocks belonging to about 25,000 crop reporters.

Non-Farm Flocks: No official estimates are prepared for non-farm flocks. The number of chickens in non-farm flocks is roughly assumed to be about 10 percent of those in farm flocks and the production of chickens and eggs by non-farm flocks in about the same proportion. By geographic Regions, non-farm flocks are assumed to be the following percentages of farm flocks: North Atlantic 15 percent, East North Central 10 percent, West North Central 6 percent, South Atlantic 13 percent, South Central 11 percent, and the West 6 percent.

Commercial Flocks: Commercial flocks are presumed to be included in the Census totals by the Census definition of a farm. Separate estimates of commercial flocks have not been made since the type of management, rather than size, usually determines whether a flock is a farm flock or a commercial flock. Classifications by size of flock are available from the Census of 1940 but there is little information on type of management.

Chickens Raised: The estimates of numbers of chickens raised on farms are based on the number of baby chicks produced by commercial hatcheries and the proportion of these bought for farm flocks, the relation of numbers of young chickens on hand in sample farm flocks on June 1 (plus prior disposals and later hatchings) to inventory numbers of older chickens on hand, and the probable total consumption of chickens by producers and by non-producers.

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Chickens Produced on Farms: The estimates of the number produced are the net annual farm production of chickens, equivalent to the number raised during the year less death loss of chickens that were on hand at the beginning of the year. Young chickens of the current year's hatchings that die are not included in the number of chickens raised. The number produced also equals the number sold plus those consumed on farms plus or minus the change in inventory. The estimates of pounds produced (live weight) represent the pounds of chickens sold, plus the pounds consumed in farm households, plus or minus the change in inventory live weight during the year.

Commercial Broilers: The term commercial broilers as used here includes all young chickens of the heavy or cross-breeds raised for meat from which pullets as well as cockerels are sold as broilers. It does not include white leghorn broilers (sexed cockerels) which are raised incidental to the production of pullets for egg production. Commercial broiler production is not included in the estimated production of farm chickens.

Death Loss of Layers: The annual death loss of chickens on hand at the beginning of the year is estimated from quarterly returns from crop reporters showing the number of layers per flock which died during the preceding month. The annual percentage death loss, computed from these quarterly returns, is applied to numbers of chickens on hand at the beginning of the year to get the total number which died during the year.

Farm Consumption of Chickens and Eggs: The annual farm consumption of chickens and eggs is also estimated from quarterly returns from crop reporters, showing the consumption in their households of chickens during the preceding month and of eggs during the preceding week. The basic estimates were the result of numerous studies of consumption per farm, multiplied by the number of farms on which chickens and eggs were consumed.

Annual Rate of Lay: The annual rate of lay is presented in two forms in this publication; (1) the rate per hen and pullet on hand January 1 and (2) the rate based on the average number of hens and pullets of laying age on hand during the year. Averages derived for the first series are computed by dividing the total annual production of eggs by the total number of hens and pullets on farms at the beginning of the year. Average rates obtained for the second series are computed by dividing total egg production for the year by the average number of hens and pullets of laying age on hand during the year. The average number of layers on hand during the year is a simple average of the 12 monthly estimates of layers on hand during the month. The first series, or "hen house" rate, is usually about 20 percent less than the rate per average layer on hand during the year.

Eggs Produced: Annual egg production is the sum of the production in the 12 months. Monthly egg production is estimated from returns from about 25,000 crop correspondents reporting on the first of each month for their own flocks the number of layers on hand and the eggs produced yesterday. Beginning with the estimated total number of layers on farms at the beginning of the year the change in numbers from month to month is estimated from the changes shown by reports from these sample farms. From the computed daily rate of lay per bird at the beginning and end of the month the monthly production per bird is derived. Total monthly egg production is obtained by multiplying the average number of layers by the monthly egg production per layer.

Revisions in the monthly average number of layers and total egg production are made at the end of the year if the change in number of layers shown by the annual survey with about 150,000 returns differs significantly from the change in the number of layers estimated during the year from monthly returns.

FARM CHICKENS SOLD AND AVERAGE LIVE WEIGHT, BY STATES, 1945-46

State and Division	Percent of chickens sold	Number of chickens sold	Average live weight:		Pounds of chickens sold	Percent of chickens sold	Average live weight:		Number of chickens sold	Percent of chickens sold	Average live weight:	
			Per bird sold	Young			All	Mature			Young	
1945												
Me.	75	25	3,917	1,323	4.7	6.2	5.1	6.6	34	8,151	4.3	
N.H.	69	31	1,352	1,595	4.4	6.3	5.0	9.140	45	2,279	4.5	
Vt.	65	35	1,122	644	4.5	5.2	5.1	3,877	46	666	4.6	
Mass.	57	43	5,098	3,891	4.5	5.8	23,185	22,507	62	2,649	4.5	
R.I.	59	41	559	383	4.5	6.0	2,591	2,307	39	1,210	4.5	
Conn.	66	34	3,076	2,008	4.7	6.0	5.1	16,524	51	2,282	4.6	
N.Y.	60	40	15,329	8,743	4.0	5.6	5.2	48,669	49	8,566	4.0	
N.J.	59	41	5,374	5,334	3.9	4.4	5.2	30,164	50	5,829	3.9	
Pa.	67	33	23,773	11,590	4.4	4.6	4.6	62,885	56	11,005	4.2	
S.Atl.	64	36	62,510	35,351	4.2	5.6	4.7	263,599	52	41,429	4.2	
Ohio	62	38	16,714	10,425	4.0	5.5	4.6	57,280	54	47	4.8	
Ind.	61	39	15,193	9,872	4.0	5.5	4.6	60,532	55	12,302	4.1	
Ill.	57	43	17,887	13,441	4.0	5.5	4.6	70,758	50	14,066	4.0	
Mich.	66	34	12,659	6,412	4.4	5.4	4.7	55,215	59	9,826	4.3	
Wis.	60	40	12,257	6,118	4.0	5.0	4.3	47,125	41	7,021	3.7	
E. N. Cent.	61	39	71,710	46,286	4.0	5.4	4.6	201,153	53	47	4.6	
Minn.	55	45	21,133	17,557	3.9	4.8	4.3	82,860	53	16,143	4.0	
Iowa	53	47	26,937	23,717	4.3	5.2	4.7	115,081	50	50	4.7	
Mo.	53	47	14,390	3,355	4.0	5.3	4.3	56,240	49	13,099	4.0	
N. Dak.	59	41	4,372	3,097	4.3	5.3	4.7	18,747	44	4,047	4.3	
S. Dak.	64	36	9,607	5,482	4.3	5.1	4.6	41,298	55	6,838	5.0	
Nebr.	60	40	15,118	9,972	4.0	5.2	4.3	55,770	56	5,640	4.1	
Kans.	62	38	12,179	8,515	3.4	5.0	4.0	42,484	55	12,332	4.1	
W. N. Cent.	56	44	10,255	82,600	3.9	5.1	4.4	46,768	52	11,302	3.4	
Col.	71	29	1,586	801	3.7	6.1	4.5	416,832	52	48	4.6	
Md.	63	37	3,632	2,185	3.7	5.6	4.4	13,407	50	12,276	50	
Va.	54	46	4,627	3,924	3.1	5.3	4.1	14,251	53	20,849	53	
W. Va.	54	46	2,175	1,755	3.6	5.6	4.0	8,576	52	26,075	53	
H. C.	61	39	7,558	4,655	3.0	5.6	4.0	21,857	53	47	5,398	
S.C.	58	42	1,791	1,300	2.4	5.3	3.7	6,931	43	57	1,299	
Ge.	54	46	2,484	3,197	2.4	4.7	3.7	4,506	42	2,614	2.4	
Fla.	72	28	2,618	1,091	2.4	5.1	2.9	5,926	50	30	2,194	
S. Atl.	59	41	26,311	18,562	3.1	5.3	4.0	61,308	50	50	20,270	
Ky.	54	46	6,811	5,984	3.2	5.6	4.0	18,310	50	50	20,039	
Tenn.	55	45	6,121	5,094	3.2	5.3	4.0	17,746	50	50	50	
Ala.	55	45	3,736	5,060	2.4	5.0	4.9	9,052	55	45	4,932	
Miss.	67	33	2,933	2,912	2.6	5.1	3.4	15,193	66	34	4,109	
Ark.	58	42	5,000	3,671	2.9	5.2	3.9	19,110	61	39	5,993	
La.	50	50	2,121	2,131	2.6	4.8	3.7	10,273	41	59	5,877	
Okla.	65	35	10,528	5,150	2.9	4.9	3.6	5,429	41	1,582	2.4	
Tex.	65	35	20,138	11,077	2.7	5.0	3.5	54,599	56	41	8,233	
S. Cent.	61	39	95,656	35,660	2.8	5.1	3.7	165,539	56	44	14,986	
Mont.	65	35	1,727	932	3.8	5.3	4.3	6,405	56	34	1,939	
Idaho	53	47	1,382	1,225	4.2	4.8	4.0	5,080	54	46	1,309	
Wyo.	69	51	735	531	3.5	5.1	4.0	2,571	59	41	1,457	
Colo.	72	28	4,537	1,752	3.4	5.1	3.9	15,599	61	39	2,832	
N. Mex.	76	24	1,056	334	3.0	5.1	3.5	3,116	61	35	1,780	
Ariz.	67	33	497	213	2.8	5.2	3.6	1,407	65	35	1,221	
Utah	75	25	3,223	1,052	3.1	4.6	3.5	4,818	68	32	2,058	
Nev.	70	30	219	94	3.5	5.2	4.0	762	60	40	1,815	
Wash.	44	51	5,101	2,206	3.7	5.0	4.1	18,964	67	33	4,559	
Oreg.	73	27	3,074	1,165	4.1	5.2	4.9	12,609	59	41	1,601	
Calif.	80	20	12,991	4,771	3.3	4.8	3.6	65,284	58	42	10,380	
West.	—	75	—	25	41	250	14,108	34	4,9	—	—	
U.S.	—	61	39	371,692	231,579	3.7	5.2	4.3	1,370,464	75	47	26,659

1/ Average obtained by dividing pounds sold by number sold.

FARM CHICKENS SOLD AND AVERAGE LIVE WEIGHT, 1949, AND AVERAGE ANNUAL PRICE PER POUND, BY STATES, 1945-49

State and Division	Percent of chickens sold	Number of chickens sold	Average live weight per bird sold	Pounds of chickens sold	Average annual price				
					1945	1946	1947	1948	
Me.	77	23	4,235	4.9	6.6	5.3	19.869	8.115	
N.H.	70	30	2,901	4.8	5.9	5.1	13.833	7.449	
Vt.	68	32	958	4.7	5.3	4.9	2.498	2.876	
Mass.	55	45	3,551	4.5	6.2	5.3	16.112	16.68	
R.I.	61	39	478	5.1	5.2	2.152	1.655	1.655	
Conn.	70	30	3,151	4.68	4.7	6.2	1.056	9.031	
N.Y.	61	39	9,802	6.242	11.3	4.9	42.453	36.163	
N.J.	49	51	5,332	5.68	4.1	4.6	21.179	28.166	
Pa.	64	16	10,909	5.250	4.5	5.6	7.6106	5.2806	
N.J. At.	62	38	7,427	20.050	4.2	5.7	23.358	16.270	
Ohio	53	37	12,198	7.259	7.1	5.6	51.132	50.175	
Ind.	60	40	13,162	8,912	4.0	5.7	53.031	50.052	
Ill.	49	51	10,380	10.812	3.9	4.7	40.937	58.165	
Mich.	72	28	10,338	3,970	4.6	5.4	4.8	47.388	
Wis.	59	41	9,210	5.212	4.2	5.9	4.5	21.290	
E. N. C. At.	50	50	2,758	7.452	4.2	5.4	38.253	32.586	
Man.	56	10,557	13.282	4.1	4.9	4.5	20.641	22.768	
Iowa	49	49	16,616	17,849	4.2	5.2	4.7	64.214	64.214
No.	51	10,848	11,171	3.6	5.4	4.5	38.644	92.599	
N. Dak.	51	2,590	1,810	4.2	5.4	4.7	10.960	9.120	
S. Dak.	59	41	6,115	4,182	4.3	5.3	4.7	22.462	21.9
Nebr.	58	42	9,954	6,564	3.6	5.2	4.7	32.907	34.250
Kans.	57	43	8,335	6,209	3.4	5.2	4.2	28.099	22.6
W. Va. C. At.	52	18	6,115	6.1	5.2	5.3	12.352	16.917	
Del.	68	32	872	4.19	3.8	5.7	4.4	3.942	
Md.	54	46	2,999	1,783	3.6	5.1	4.3	2.886	
W. Va.	29	71	1,282	3,991	3.1	5.1	4.3	7.512	
N.C.	56	44	1,689	1,211	3.6	5.4	4.4	3.909	
S.C.	59	41	5,359	5,580	3.1	5.7	4.2	16.629	
Ge.	67	67	551	1,100	2.6	4.9	4.1	20.113	
P.L. E. At.	52	45	2,075	2,251	2.0	5.6	4.1	1.421	
Ky.	68	23	2,251	1,012	2.9	5.4	3.8	6.732	
Tenn.	61	47	1,211	1,211	2.1	5.4	4.2	6.610	
Ala.	63	37	5,867	5,734	3.0	5.6	4.1	17.714	
Miss.	71	29	3,473	2,026	2.6	5.6	3.7	8.952	
Ark.	70	30	4,812	1,989	2.7	5.5	3.5	12.910	
La.	57	43	5,087	2,159	3.1	5.5	3.8	11.980	
Okla.	58	32	6,475	4,148	2.7	5.2	6.5	6.657	
Tex.	75	75	4,678	3,008	3.1	5.4	3.8	9.580	
S. Cen.	66	34	5,210	5,132	3.2	5.3	4.2	14.615	
Mont.	70	30	15,090	15,088	3.1	5.2	4.2	14.615	
Idaho	66	34	1,412	1,412	2.9	5.4	4.2	14.615	
Wyo.	68	32	3,390	1,335	3.3	5.1	4.1	5.510	
Colo.	68	32	2,390	1,206	3.6	5.1	4.1	4.751	
N. Mex.	81	19	767	175	3.3	6.1	3.8	7.147	
Ariz.	73	27	327	118	3.4	5.3	3.9	1.111	
Utah	81	19	2,969	719	3.5	4.4	4.0	10.507	
Rev.	63	37	133	1,687	4.0	4.4	4.0	4.498	
Wash.	73	27	4,333	860	4.0	5.6	4.4	17.598	
Oreg.	77	23	2,837	2,837	4.2	5.5	4.5	12.141	
Calif.	58	42	10,186	7,507	3.2	4.7	4.5	35.159	
West.	61	72	21,252	13,051	2.1	4.2	4.2	36.418	
U.S.	59	41	26,321	18,521	3.8	5.3	4.4	36.748	

1/ Average obtained by dividing pounds sold by number sold.
 2/ Weighted average of monthly prices per pound received by farmers.

COMMERCIAL BROILER PRODUCTION, BY STATES, 1945-49

State and Division	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	Number Produced		Pounds Produced				
						Thousands	Thousands	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Me.	1,152	871	2,299	6,506	13,012	5,663	3,571	9,196	26,024	54,650		
N.H.	3,454	2,245	2,335	2,849	3,362	11,053	7,633	7,939	9,972	12,103		
Vt.	702	386	309	365	420	2,387	1,312	1,020	1,350	1,512		
Mass.	6,280	5,464	5,792	7,530	9,187	21,980	19,670	19,693	27,861	35,992		
R.I.	640	448	457	558	642	2,112	1,568	1,600	2,065	2,375		
Conn.	10,350	8,176	7,767	9,243	11,461	35,190	27,798	26,408	34,199	43,552		
N.Y.	6,620	5,693	5,124	5,893	7,013	21,184	17,648	15,372	19,447	23,844		
N.J.	6,990	6,501	4,486	5,966	6,980	23,067	21,453	14,355	20,284	23,732		
Pa. ¹	6,415	5,902	6,079	7,903	10,432	22,422	21,247	20,669	27,660	36,512		
N.Atl.	42,032	25,686	34,648	46,813	62,022	34,018	34,252	34,252	34,662	32,272		
Ohio	5,170	4,653	5,257	5,583	6,479	14,799	17,061	10,122	11,107	11,333		
Ind.	9,159	9,617	11,252	15,90	20,203	30,225	29,813	36,006	45,510	64,650		
Ill.	9,850	5,910	7,092	7,872	10,076	28,565	17,139	19,858	22,012	29,012		
Mich.	1,600	1,104	1,104	1,104	1,104	5,120	3,312	3,533	3,643	5,102		
Wis.	2,960	3,960	3,683	4,235	5,082	11,880	11,049	12,052	15,246	15,246		
E.N.Cent.	29,139	25,244	26,288	21,284	21,284	9,286	9,281	8,668	9,287	12,551		
Minn.	1,218	1,358	1,258	1,384	1,661	1,370	1,370	1,370	1,374	1,493		
Iowa	3,300	2,805	2,609	4,018	4,621	10,220	9,256	8,871	14,063	16,174		
Mo.	3,08	2,481	2,58	5,080	11,080	11,880	11,049	12,052	15,246	15,246		
Nebr.	890	801	881	1,498	2,696	2,403	2,163	2,467	4,194	7,549		
Kans.	1,081	757	795	1,034	1,551	2,811	1,892	2,146	2,895	4,188		
W.N.Cent.	9,827	8,242	7,801	13,114	21,252	27,76	25,26	24,032	40,514	67,184		
Del.	72,500	51,675	53,582	53,016	71,612	225,990	169,492	165,104	165,104	221,997		
Md.	39,900	31,122	34,545	38,345	48,315	127,680	99,590	110,544	122,704	149,776		
Va.	27,023	21,889	23,640	26,477	38,127	83,771	65,667	70,200	82,019	118,194		
W.Ta.	8,136	6,753	8,441	11,817	13,708	27,662	22,285	27,011	38,996	43,866		
N.C.	17,940	14,711	16,182	18,286	23,040	52,026	42,662	45,310	53,029	64,512		
S.C.	3,600	3,600	3,348	3,951	6,519	9,000	9,360	8,705	10,213	17,601		
Ga.	29,520	22,435	28,717	33,025	45,574	82,656	60,574	77,536	85,865	123,050		
T.La.	5,150	5,462	6,773	7,247	8,334	14,215	14,147	18,287	18,118	22,335		
S.Atl.	20,469	16,647	17,298	19,294	25,222	62,160	48,377	52,417	57,207	76,231		
Ky.	1,746	1,211	1,090	1,090	1,090	2,600	1,840	2,112	2,112	5,216		
Tenn.	2,000	1,800	1,854	2,596	3,115	5,600	4,860	4,860	6,490	9,034		
A.Ia.	5,075	4,568	4,796	5,995	10,491	12,180	10,963	11,510	14,988	27,277		
Miss.	2,369	1,753	3,401	5,986	9,398	6,396	4,733	9,863	16,162	27,254		
Ark.	17,500	16,450	15,628	24,380	39,983	49,000	46,060	45,321	68,264	111,952		
La.	1,1540	1,309	1,244	1,193	1,866	3,542	3,111	3,234	3,732	5,038		
Okla.	1,000	800	704	1,056	2,006	2,600	1,840	2,112	2,851	5,216		
Tex.	13,860	12,474	10,603	11,208	25,290	31,878	28,490	26,508	36,941	68,283		
S.Cent.	74,690	50,365	32,320	56,804	92,211	114,850	103,548	106,638	125,480	257,868		
Colo.	622	560	700	910	1,310	1,619	1,512	1,690	2,457	5,537		
Ariz.	738	517	450	729	838	1,993	1,448	1,260	2,041	2,430		
Wash.	2,986	1,792	3,136	3,63	4,741	8,659	5,197	9,111	11,665	14,223		
Oreg.	1,721	1,549	1,704	2,471	3,212	5,619	4,957	5,453	8,154	10,278		
Calif.	27,577	17,925	20,793	21,833	28,601	65,489	59,152	66,538	69,866	91,522		
West.	32,614	22,343	26,783	29,106	38,702	103,499	72,266	80,235	94,183	121,991		
U.S.	365,572	202,527	210,168	310,235	217,296	1,201,174	883,855	936,742	1,126,642	1,570,197		

Sales: Sales of chickens and eggs are computed by subtracting farm utilization from estimated production. These estimates of sales are checked so far as possible against the available data of commercial movement and of consumption off farms.

Prices: The value per head of chickens on hand January 1 is estimated from the values reported by crop reporters. The average annual prices per pound of chickens, live weight, and per dozen of eggs sold are computed from the monthly farm prices, weighted by the estimated quantities sold each month.

Income: Cash receipts from marketings of chickens are computed by multiplying the pounds of chickens sold by the average price per pound. Cash receipts from marketings of eggs are derived by multiplying the dozens of eggs sold by the price per dozen. Gross income from chickens is the total of cash receipts plus the value of chickens consumed in farm households. Gross income from eggs is the total of cash receipts plus the value of eggs consumed in farm households.

Gross income from commercial broilers is derived by multiplying the pounds produced by the price per pound. It includes consumption in households of broiler producers, which is probably less than 1 percent of the total production. Income from commercial broilers is not included in cash receipts and gross income from farm chickens as shown in this report.