



Broiler Hatchery

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Broiler-Type Eggs Set Down 6 Percent

Commercial hatcheries in the 19 State weekly program set 195 million eggs in incubators during the week ending February 25, 2012. This was down 6 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 85 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

Broiler-Type Chicks Placed Down 5 Percent

Broiler growers in the 19 State weekly program placed 160 million chicks for meat production during the week ending February 25, 2012. Placements were down 5 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from January 1, 2012 through February 25, 2012 were 1.29 billion, down 4 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Broiler-Type Eggs Set – 19 Selected States: 2012

State	Week ending					
	January 21, 2012	January 28, 2012	February 4, 2012	February 11, 2012	February 18, 2012	February 25, 2012
	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)
Alabama	28,094	28,029	26,946	27,060	27,638	28,000
Arkansas	20,146	20,235	19,931	20,091	19,499	20,142
Delaware	3,262	3,258	3,265	3,188	3,191	3,190
Florida	1,353	1,352	1,352	1,352	1,243	1,353
Georgia	31,148	31,630	31,616	31,983	32,222	32,143
Kentucky	7,722	7,582	7,416	7,666	7,546	6,478
Louisiana	3,440	3,424	3,440	3,440	3,424	3,379
Maryland	7,669	7,216	6,874	7,484	7,067	7,204
Mississippi	17,587	17,662	17,623	17,832	17,663	17,814
Missouri	7,677	7,668	7,784	7,817	7,807	7,672
North Carolina	19,988	19,741	20,207	20,310	20,143	20,325
Oklahoma	6,721	6,609	6,841	6,923	6,768	6,688
Pennsylvania	3,849	3,831	3,649	3,539	3,497	3,688
South Carolina	5,363	5,156	5,318	5,282	5,404	5,296
Texas	14,272	14,345	14,410	14,805	14,904	14,572
Virginia	6,231	5,698	5,985	6,200	5,963	6,168
California, Tennessee, and West Virginia	9,387	10,488	10,486	10,121	10,387	11,113
19 State total	193,909	193,924	193,143	195,093	194,366	195,225
Previous year total	204,116	203,933	205,787	204,337	207,150	206,633
Percent of previous year	95	95	94	95	94	94

Broiler-Type Chicks Placed – 19 Selected States: 2012

State	Week ending					
	January 21, 2012	January 28, 2012	February 4, 2012	February 11, 2012	February 18, 2012	February 25, 2012
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)
Alabama	20,265	20,298	19,955	19,445	21,845	18,833
Arkansas	18,621	19,924	20,438	18,219	19,111	19,144
Delaware	3,901	4,431	4,016	4,433	4,404	3,358
Florida	953	1,136	1,149	1,048	1,062	1,073
Georgia	26,950	27,019	26,053	27,384	25,271	27,868
Kentucky	6,219	6,646	6,181	6,544	6,008	5,504
Louisiana	2,995	3,010	3,023	3,062	3,068	3,092
Maryland	6,386	5,518	5,849	6,406	5,959	6,833
Mississippi	14,619	14,603	14,721	15,172	15,227	15,192
Missouri	4,910	5,034	4,934	5,755	5,674	4,613
North Carolina	15,698	15,780	15,699	15,648	15,418	15,820
Oklahoma	4,691	3,943	3,220	4,755	4,003	5,026
Pennsylvania	3,179	3,065	3,211	3,107	3,159	3,060
South Carolina	4,221	4,124	4,956	4,798	4,971	4,197
Texas	11,770	11,809	11,568	12,111	11,941	11,971
Virginia	4,844	4,785	5,164	4,607	4,096	4,547
California, Tennessee, and West Virginia	10,300	9,573	10,632	9,451	10,094	10,176
19 State total	160,522	160,698	160,769	161,945	161,311	160,307
Previous year total	167,507	168,493	168,151	167,953	167,473	168,805
Percent of previous year	96	95	96	96	96	95

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: Data for broiler hatchery estimates are collected weekly from all chicken hatcheries within the 19 States that hatch at least one million chicks a year. The 19 States account for approximately 97 percent of the broilers produced on an annual basis. Individual NASS field offices maintain a list of all known hatcheries and update their lists on a continual basis. All hatcheries within the 19 States that meet the minimum size criteria are given adequate time to respond to the weekly survey. Those that do not respond are contacted by telephone.

Estimating Procedures: All data are analyzed for unusual values. Data from each operation are compared to their own past operating profile and to trends from similar operations. Data for missing operations are estimated based on similar operations or historical data. NASS field offices prepare these estimates by using a combination of survey indications and historic trends. Individual State estimates are reviewed by the Agricultural Statistics Board for reasonableness. Individual hatchery data are summed to State and 19 State totals.

Revision Policy: Revisions are generally the result of late or corrected data. Revisions made to the previous five-week's data during the current week are published in this report. Final estimates are published in the annual *Hatchery Production Summary* released in April.

Reliability: Estimates are subject to errors such as omission, duplication, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. While these errors cannot be measured directly, they are minimized through strict quality controls in the data collection process and a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov

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