



Broiler Hatchery

ISSN: 1949-1840

Released March 21, 2012, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Broiler-Type Eggs Set Down 6 Percent

Commercial hatcheries in the 19 State weekly program set 196 million eggs in incubators during the week ending March 17, 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 163 million chicks for meat production during the week ending March 17, 2012. Placements were down 5 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from January 1, 2012 through March 17, 2012 were 1.78 billion, down 4 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Broiler-Type Eggs Set – 19 Selected States: 2012

State	Week ending					
	February 11, 2012	February 18, 2012	February 25, 2012	March 3, 2012	March 10, 2012	March 17, 2012
	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)
Alabama	27,085	27,624	27,970	27,581	27,476	28,260
Arkansas	20,091	19,499	20,142	20,493	20,665	19,658
Delaware	3,188	3,191	3,190	3,191	3,303	3,415
Florida	1,352	1,243	1,353	1,350	1,350	1,351
Georgia	31,983	32,222	32,143	32,150	32,374	32,236
Kentucky	7,751	7,571	6,399	7,855	7,841	7,805
Louisiana	3,470	3,424	3,379	3,470	3,440	3,470
Maryland	7,484	7,067	7,204	7,212	7,674	7,678
Mississippi	17,832	17,663	17,814	17,799	17,682	17,784
Missouri	7,817	7,807	7,654	7,840	7,648	7,482
North Carolina	20,310	20,336	20,313	20,397	20,342	19,957
Oklahoma	6,923	6,768	6,688	6,930	6,930	6,365
Pennsylvania	3,539	3,497	3,714	3,763	3,838	3,692
South Carolina	5,282	5,404	5,296	5,291	5,472	5,118
Texas	15,035	15,011	14,868	14,732	14,994	15,084
Virginia	6,199	5,963	6,168	6,118	6,207	6,273
California, Tennessee, and West Virginia	10,140	10,373	10,998	10,909	11,010	11,299
19 State total	195,481	194,663	195,293	197,081	198,246	196,927
Previous year total	204,337	207,150	206,633	208,530	207,787	208,563
Percent of previous year	96	94	95	95	95	94

Broiler-Type Chicks Placed – 19 Selected States: 2012

State	Week ending					
	February 11, 2012	February 18, 2012	February 25, 2012	March 3, 2012	March 10, 2012	March 17, 2012
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)
Alabama	19,365	21,845	18,833	18,749	19,382	20,062
Arkansas	18,219	19,111	19,144	19,498	18,611	19,004
Delaware	4,433	4,404	3,440	4,117	3,910	3,901
Florida	1,048	1,062	1,073	1,454	1,174	1,407
Georgia	27,384	25,271	27,877	27,520	28,332	27,769
Kentucky	6,544	6,008	5,662	6,562	6,595	5,014
Louisiana	3,062	3,068	3,092	3,091	3,022	2,983
Maryland	6,490	5,959	6,751	5,778	6,441	6,110
Mississippi	15,172	15,227	15,317	15,599	15,328	15,440
Missouri	5,755	5,674	4,612	5,566	6,020	5,325
North Carolina	15,648	15,418	15,820	15,856	15,816	16,753
Oklahoma	4,755	4,003	5,026	4,125	4,014	4,605
Pennsylvania	3,107	3,159	3,045	2,894	2,870	2,970
South Carolina	4,798	4,971	4,197	4,523	4,230	3,646
Texas	12,119	11,949	11,972	12,466	12,321	12,205
Virginia	4,607	4,096	4,547	5,368	4,739	4,784
California, Tennessee, and West Virginia	9,442	10,057	10,137	10,181	9,900	10,824
19 State total	161,948	161,282	160,545	163,347	162,705	162,802
Previous year total	167,953	167,473	168,805	167,792	170,434	170,587
Percent of previous year	96	96	95	97	95	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

Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 720-3570
Bruce Boess, Head, Poultry and Specialty Commodities Section	(202) 720-4447
Cody Brokmeyer – Poultry Slaughter, Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised	(202) 690-3237
David Colwell – Cold Storage	(202) 720-8784
LaKeya Jones – Catfish Processing, Catfish Production, Trout Production, Census of Aquaculture, Honey, Egg Products, Mink	(202) 720-0585
Kim Linonis – Layers, Eggs	(202) 690-8632
Miste Salmon – Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery	(202) 720-3244

Access to NASS Reports

For your convenience, you may access NASS reports and products the following ways:

- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>
- Both national and state specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit <http://www.nass.usda.gov> and in the “Follow NASS” box under “Receive reports by Email,” click on “National” or “State” to select the reports you would like to receive.
- Printed reports may be purchased from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) by calling toll-free (800) 999-6779, or (703) 605-6220 if calling from outside the United States or Canada. Accepted methods of payment are Visa, MasterCard, check, or money order.

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@nass.usda.gov.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.