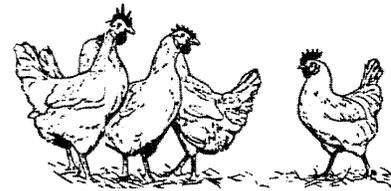


California Poultry Report



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U.S. APRIL EGG PRODUCTION UP 3 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 6.57 billion during April 1998, up 3 percent from the 6.35 billion produced in 1997. Production included 5.53 billion table eggs and 1.04 billion hatching eggs, of which 979 million were broiler-type and 62.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during April 1998 averaged 311 million, up 2 percent from the total average number of layers during April 1997. April egg production per 100 layers was 2,116 eggs, up 1 percent from April 1997.

All layers in the U.S. on May 1, 1998 totaled 309 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. The 309 million layers consisted of 251 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 55.4 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.64 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on May 1, 1998 averaged 69.7 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from the 69.1 a year ago.

CALIFORNIA EGG PRODUCTION

California's egg production during April totaled 537 million, 23.0 million less than last month, but 2.00 million more than last April. Average number of layers during the month was 25.2 million, 1.2 percent below April 1997. Eggs per 100 layers during the month were 2,134 compared to 2,215 last month and 2,100 in April 1997.

LAYER NUMBERS AND EGG PRODUCTION DURING APRIL, FORCED MOLTING AS OF MAY 1

State	Average Number of Layers on Hand		Eggs Per 100 Layers		Total Egg Production		Layers Being Molted		Layers With Molt Completed	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	-- Thousands --		-- Number --		-- Millions --		----- Percent -----			
Alabama	10,847	10,558	1,936	1,894	210	200	4.0	3.0	11.0	12.0
Arkansas	14,710	14,772	1,829	1,848	269	273	5.0	3.0	9.0	8.0
California	25,474	25,160	2,100	2,134	535	537	10.0	9.5	35.5	32.0
Georgia	19,945	21,183	1,980	2,068	395	438	5.0	6.0	20.5	13.5
Indiana	20,948	21,443	2,172	2,197	455	471	4.0	5.0	16.5	23.0
Iowa	21,235	22,937	2,157	2,158	458	495	3.5	6.0	26.5	33.5
North Carolina	12,525	11,286	1,892	1,861	237	210	3.5	3.0	8.8	9.0
Ohio	26,053	27,770	2,215	2,197	577	610	3.0	4.0	12.0	13.5
Pennsylvania	21,135	21,644	2,271	2,259	480	489	4.0	4.5	16.0	16.5
Texas	16,651	17,154	2,036	2,104	339	361	7.5	7.0	21.5	16.0
U.S. TOTAL	303,405	310,682	2,093	2,116	6,351	6,573	5.3	5.5	19.9	20.0

PACIFIC COAST AND UNITED STATES COLD STORAGE

Commodity	Unit	April 1997	March 1998 ^{a/}	April 1998	Apr. 1998 Apr. 1997	Apr. 1998 Mar. 1998
PACIFIC COAST		----- Thousands -----			-- Percent --	
Turkeys	Lbs.	64,733	76,310	84,521	131	111
Chickens	Lbs.	50,196	38,891	37,236	74	96
Ducks	Lbs.	408	344	382	94	111
Total Frozen Poultry	Lbs.	115,337	115,545	122,139	106	106
UNITED STATES						
Turkeys	Lbs.	543,274	527,020	576,675	106	109
Chickens	Lbs.	744,259	676,043	687,527	92	102
Ducks	Lbs.	2,582	3,423	4,318	167	126
Total Frozen Poultry	Lbs.	1,290,115	1,206,486	1,268,520	98	105
Eggs, Frozen	Lbs.	8,485	10,374	9,142	108	88

^{a/} Revised.

U.S. BROILER HATCH UP 2 PERCENT

The April 1998 hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 709 million, was up 2 percent from April of the previous year. Eggs in incubators totaled 613 million on May 1, 1998, up 3 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 6.69 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during April 1998. This was up 11 percent from April 1997.

BROILER-TYPE CHICKS HATCHED, APRIL

State	1997		1998		1998/1997 Percent
	- Thousands -		- Thousands -		
Alabama	90,180		91,343		101
Arkansas	105,461		104,470		99
Delaware	16,268		16,184		99
Florida	8,964		9,776		109
Georgia	103,199		105,855		103
Maryland	30,768		30,854		100
Mississippi	62,728		63,460		101
North Carolina	60,912		61,740		101
Pennsylvania	12,723		12,418		98
South Carolina	14,867		14,493		97
Texas	44,269		43,748		99
Virginia	23,831		23,737		100
California, Tennessee & West Virginia	35,996		38,774		108
Washington & Oregon	6,013		4,932		82
Other States ^{1/}	77,567		87,576		113
United States	693,746		709,360		102

^{1/} Not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

U.S. EGG-TYPE CHICKS HATCHED UP 3 PERCENT

Egg-type chicks hatched during April totaled 39.9 million, up 3 percent from April 1997. Eggs in incubators totaled 36.3 million on May 1, 1998, down 1 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 338 thousand during April 1998. This was up 7 percent from the 316 thousand of April 1997.

EGG-TYPE CHICKS HATCHED, APRIL

State	1997		1998		1998/1997 Percent
	- Thousands -		- Thousands -		
Arkansas	912		846		93
Florida	1,391		1,231		88
Georgia	2,245		2,213		99
Indiana	7,896		7,487		95
Iowa	4,135		4,797		116
Kansas	350		393		112
Minnesota	1,840		1,870		102
Missouri	402		453		113
Pennsylvania	4,979		5,570		112
Other States ^{1/}	14,723		15,066		102
United States	38,873		39,926		103

^{1/} Not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

EGGS IN INCUBATORS, MAY 1

Geographic Division	Broiler-Type			Egg-Type		
	1997	1998	1998/1997 Percent	1997	1998	1998/1997 Percent
-- Thousands --						
N Atlantic	12,608	12,745	101	6,196	6,204	100
E N Central	8,187	8,918	109	9,928	8,900	90
W N Central	22,962	23,944	104	6,679	6,758	101
S Atlantic	229,421	232,943	102	4,866	5,691	117
S Central	299,789	310,355	104	4,026	3,421	85
West	23,493	23,727	101	4,840	5,357	111
United States	596,460	612,632	103	36,535	36,331	99

U.S. TURKEY HATCHERY PRODUCTION

Turkey eggs in incubators on May 1, 1998 in the United States totaled 32.9 million, down 10 percent from May 1 a year ago. Eggs in incubators were up slightly from the April 1 total of 32.8 million. Regional percentage changes from the previous year were as follows: E N Central, down 14; W N Central, down 6; N & S Atlantic, down 14; S Central, down 8; West, down 4. The 25.7 million poultts placed

during April 1998 in the United States were down 9 percent from the placements during the same month a year ago. Placements were down 2 percent from the March 1998 total of 26.4 million. Regional percentage changes from the previous year were as follows: E N Central, down slightly; W N Central, down 4; N & S Atlantic, down 14; S Central, down 17; West, down 8.

ALL TURKEYS

Geographic Division	Eggs in Incubators		1998 1997	Poultts Placed during April ^{1/}		1998 1997
	1997	1998		1997	1998	
	Thousands	Thousands	Pct.	Thousands	Pct.	
E N Central	5,319	4,556	86	3,814	3,809	100
W N Central	11,058	10,388	94	8,365	8,063	96
N & S Atlantic	11,898	10,199	86	9,691	8,316	86
S Central	4,150	3,799	92	3,359	2,802	83
West	4,149	4,003	96	2,991	2,757	92
U.S.	36,574	32,945	90	28,220	25,747	91

^{1/} Excludes exported poultts.

TURKEY POULT PLACEMENTS WITHIN THE UNITED STATES ^{1/}

Month	Total All Breeds		97-98 96-97	Cumulative Total		97-98 96-97
	1996-97	1997-98		1996-97	1997-98	
	Thousands		Percent	Thousands		Percent
Sept.	24,154	23,907	99	24,154	23,907	99
Oct.	25,354	24,587	97	49,508	48,494	98
Nov.	23,830	23,281	98	73,338	71,775	98
Dec.	27,119	25,711	95	100,457	97,486	97
Jan.	27,121	26,240	97	127,578	123,726	97
Feb.	27,145	25,093	92	154,723	148,819	96
Mar.	27,610	26,362	95	182,333	175,181	96
Apr.	28,220	25,747	91	210,553	200,928	95
May	29,111			239,664		
June	28,381			268,045		
July	30,092			298,137		
Aug.	26,321			324,458		

^{1/} Excludes exported poultts.

EGG PRODUCTION AND VALUE

Egg producers in California produced 6.66 billion eggs in 1997, 1 percent above the 6.57 billion produced in 1996. The value of eggs produced totaled \$345 million, down 6 percent from the previous year's production of \$367 million.

Nationally, the value of egg production in 1997 was \$4.53 billion, down 5 percent from the \$4.76 billion in 1996. Egg production totaled 77.4 billion eggs, up 1 percent from the 76.3 billion eggs produced in 1996. In 1997, eggs averaged 70.2 cents per dozen, compared with 74.9 cents in 1996.

EGG PRODUCTION AND VALUE

Year	Eggs Produced	Price Per Dozen	Value of Production
CALIFORNIA	Millions	Cents	Thousand Dollars
1988	7,917	46.2	304,805
1989	7,579	65.9	416,213
1990	7,711	63.3	406,755
1991	7,721	58.4	375,755
1992	7,224	47.6	286,552
1993	7,029	49.1	287,603
1994	6,602	46.4	255,277
1995	6,444	53.7	288,869
1996	6,569	67.1	367,317
1997	6,663	62.1	344,810
UNITED STATES			
1996	76,281	74.9	4,762,131
1997	77,401	70.2	4,530,522

BROILER PRODUCTION AND VALUE

Broiler production in California for 1997 was 237 million birds, 1 percent more than the 234 million produced a year ago. Value of production, at \$472 million, was 3 percent above the previous year. The average price per pound on a live weight equivalent basis was 39.0 cents for 1997, compared to 39.0 cents per pound for the previous year.

Nationally, the value of broilers produced during 1997 was \$14.2 billion, up 2 percent from the \$13.9 billion in 1996. The total number of broilers produced in 1997 was 7.76 billion, up 2 percent from 1996. The 1997 average price per pound on a live weight equivalent basis was 37.7 cents per pound, compared to 38.1 cents per pound in 1996.

BROILER PRODUCTION AND VALUE

Year	Number Produced	Pounds Produced	Price Per Pound 1/	Value of Production 2/
CALIFORNIA	Thousand Head	Thousand Pounds	Cents	Thousand Dollars
1988	212,199	997,335	34.0	339,094
1989	223,130	1,048,711	34.5	361,805
1990	231,100	1,109,280	30.5	338,330
1991	240,200	1,152,960	29.0	334,358
1992	233,000	1,188,300	29.5	350,549
1993	216,000	1,101,600	32.0	352,512
1994	226,200	1,131,000	33.0	373,230
1995	235,800	1,179,000	32.5	383,175
1996	234,200	1,171,000	39.0	456,690
1997	237,300	1,210,200	39.0	471,978
UNITED STATES				
1996	7,597,600	36,483,050	38.1	13,904,924
1997	7,760,260	37,525,400	37.7	14,152,519

1/ Live weight equivalent price. 2/ Gross income including home consumption.

TURKEY PRODUCTION AND VALUE

California turkey production totaled 481 million pounds (live weight) in 1997, 2 percent less than the 493 million pounds raised in 1996. Value of production, at \$202 million, was 9 percent below the \$222 million realized in 1996. The annual average of 42 cents per pound was three cents below the 1996 average of 45 cents per pound.

Nationally, the value of turkeys produced during 1997 was \$2.88 billion, down 8 percent from the \$3.13 billion the previous year. Turkey production in 1997 totaled 7.22 billion pounds live weight, compared with 7.23 billion pounds in 1996. The average price received by producers during 1997 was 39.9 cents per pound, compared with 43.3 cents in 1996.

TURKEY PRODUCTION AND VALUE

Year	Number Raised	Pounds Produced 1/	Price Per Pound 2/	Value of Production
CALIFORNIA	Thousand Head	Thousand Pounds	Cents	Thousand Dollars
1988	26500	572,400	35.0	200,340
1989	30200	664,400	38.0	252,472
1990	31500	711,900	38.0	270,522
1991	29000	652,500	37.0	241,425
1992	24000	508,800	39.0	198,432
1993	22500	486,000	43.0	208,980
1994	21000	449,400	43.0	193,242
1995	22000	462,000	46.0	212,520
1996	22500	492,750	45.0	221,738
1997	21000	480,900	42.0	201,978
UNITED STATES				
1996	302708	7,233,074	43.3	3,128,814
1997	300620	7,215,704	39.9	2,880,461

1/ Includes home consumption. 2/ Live weight equivalent price.

CHICKEN VALUE OF SALES

Total value of other chickens (excluding broilers) sold in 1997 in California was \$1.23 million, 52 percent greater than the value of a year earlier. The average price for other chickens was 2.3 cents per pound compared to 2.0 cents per pound last year.

Nationally, the value of sales from chickens (excluding broilers) in 1997 was \$72.5 million, up 18 percent from the \$61.5 million a year ago. Prices averaged 7.7 cents per pound, compared with 6.7 cents in 1996. The number of chickens sold in 1997 totaled 191 million, up 10 percent from the total sold during the previous year.

CHICKEN PRODUCTION AND VALUE 1/

Year	Number Sold	Price Per Pound	Value
CALIFORNIA	Thousand Head	Cents	Thousand Dollars
1988	23,900	4.5	4,302
1989	18,600	7.8	6,093
1990	20,000	6.0	4,920
1991	19,600	3.1	2,430
1992	20,000	2.0	1,520
1993	18,100	2.4	1,651
1994	14,300	2.0	1,058
1995	13,300	1.9	910
1996	11,600	2.0	812
1997	15,300	2.3	1,232
UNITED STATES			
1996	174,314	6.7	61,465
1997	190,989	7.7	72,474

1/ Excludes commercial broilers.

PRICES PAID FOR POULTRY FEED

Region	Unit	April 1997	Apr. 15, 1998
PACIFIC REGION		--- Dollars ---	
Chick Starter Feed	Ton	304	299
Broiler Grower Feed	Ton	286	271
Turkey Grower Feed	Ton	309	283
Laying Feed	Ton	240	236
UNITED STATES			
Chick Starter Feed	Ton	284	268
Broiler Grower Feed	Ton	270	257
Turkey Grower Feed	Ton	305	278
Laying Feed	Ton	251	224

POULTRY AND EGG PRICES

The average April prices received by California producers, when compared to March average prices, increased one cent for broilers. Prices for live turkeys remained the same at 37 cents per pound. Prices for market eggs decreased one-half cent per dozen.

Nationally, the April average prices received by producers increased 1.3 cents per pound for broilers and increased 1.1 cents per pound for live turkeys. Market eggs decreased 7.5 cents per dozen.

POULTRY AND EGG AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY PRODUCERS, COMPARISONS 1/

Commodity	Unit	April 1997	Mar. 15, 1998	Apr. 15, 1998
CALIFORNIA		--- Cents ---		
Chickens-Broilers	Lb.	37.6	36.0	37.0
Market Eggs 2/	Doz.	54.0	55.0	54.5
Turkeys	Lb.	38.0	37.0	37.0
UNITED STATES				
Chickens-Broilers	Lb.	36.7	35.2	36.5
Market Eggs 2/	Doz.	53.0	57.1	49.6
Turkeys	Lb.	39.7	34.6	35.7

1/ The estimated prices shown in the table represent composite average prices received by producers. They are averages for all grades, classes and methods of sale of each commodity for the State and U.S. as a whole.

2/ Average for market (table) eggs including eggs sold retail by producers.