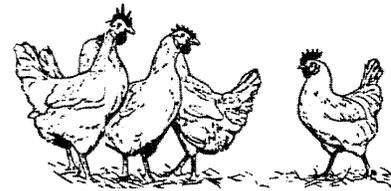


California Poultry Report



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**CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE**

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U.S. DECEMBER EGG PRODUCTION

U.S. egg production totaled 7.01 billion during December 1998, up 2 percent from the 6.84 billion produced in 1997. Production included 5.93 billion table eggs and 1.07 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.01 billion were broiler-type and 64.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during December 1998 averaged 320 million, up 3 percent from the total average number of layers during December 1997. December egg production per 100 layers was 2,190 eggs, down slightly from 2,193 eggs in December 1997.

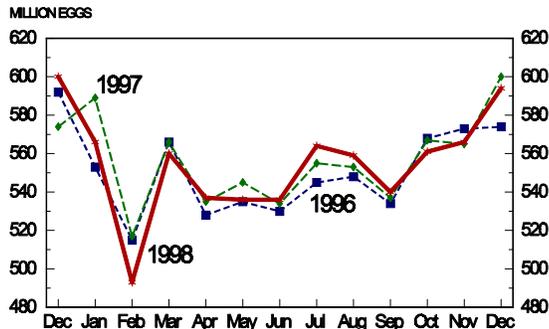
All layers in the U.S. on January 1, 1999 totaled 319 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. The 319 million layers consisted of 261 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 56.0 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.70 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on January 1, 1999 averaged 70.3 eggs per 100 layers, down fractionally from the 70.4 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production states produced 6.61 billion eggs during December, up 2 percent from December 1998. The average number of layers during December, at 302 million, was up 2 percent from a year earlier.

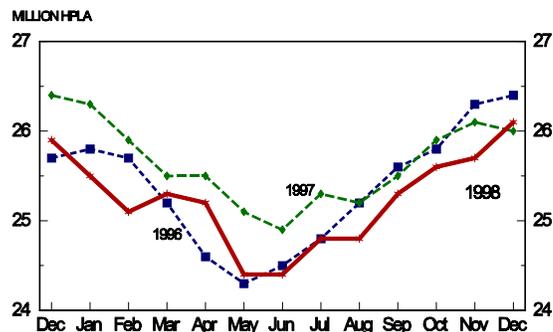
CALIFORNIA EGG PRODUCTION

California's egg production during December totaled 594 million, 26.0 million more than last month and 6.00 million more than last December. Average number of layers during the month totaled 26.1 million, 1 percent above December 1997. Eggs per 100 layers during the month were 2,273 compared to 2,202 last month and 2,265 in December 1997.

**EGG PRODUCTION, CALIFORNIA
DECEMBER THROUGH DECEMBER, 1995-1998**



**AVERAGE NUMBER OF LAYERS, CALIFORNIA
DECEMBER THROUGH DECEMBER, 1995-1998**



DECEMBER LAYER NUMBERS AND EGG PRODUCTION, JANUARY 1 FORCED MOLTING

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	1998	1999	1998	1999
	Thousands		Number		Millions		Percent			
Alabama	10,524	11,030	2,033	1,995	214	220	2.5	4.5	17.5	13.5
Arkansas	14,600	14,851	1,870	1,919	273	285	1.0	2.5	12.0	8.0
California	25,961	26,137	2,265	2,273	588	594	5.5	7.5	39.0	39.0
Georgia	20,439	21,417	2,172	2,134	444	457	6.5	4.0	18.0	17.5
Indiana	21,987	21,965	2,260	2,213	497	486	4.0	1.0	26.0	29.5
Iowa	21,775	25,177	2,223	2,157	484	543	9.5	4.5	20.0	30.0
North Carolina	11,565	11,552	1,902	1,974	220	228	2.5	1.5	12.0	9.5
Ohio	27,222	28,341	2,296	2,304	625	653	1.5	4.5	12.5	12.0
Pennsylvania	22,763	22,752	2,320	2,334	528	531	4.0	4.5	17.0	21.0
Texas	17,132	17,608	2,171	2,175	372	383	4.5	6.0	23.0	25.5
UNITED STATES	311,888	320,036	2,193	2,190	6,841	7,008	4.1	4.1	21.8	22.6

U.S. BROILER HATCH

The December 1998 hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 734 million, was up 3 percent from December of the previous year. There were 619 million eggs in incubators on January 1, 1999, up 5 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.26 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during December 1998. This was up 16 percent from December 1997.

U.S. EGG-TYPE CHICKS HATCHED

Egg-type chicks hatched during December totaled 35.4 million, down 1 percent from December 1997. Eggs in incubators totaled 32.8 million on January 1, 1999, up 2 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 175 thousand during December 1998. This was down 15 percent from December 1997.

DECEMBER BROILER-TYPE CHICKS HATCHED

State	1997	1998	<u>1998</u> <u>1997</u>
	Thousands		Percent
Alabama	92,538	98,238	106
Arkansas	107,893	108,872	101
Delaware	15,718	15,479	98
Florida	10,210	9,966	98
Georgia	105,891	112,103	106
Maryland	31,239	31,384	100
Mississippi	62,068	63,512	102
North Carolina	59,894	61,333	102
Pennsylvania	12,800	12,811	100
South Carolina	15,368	16,173	105
Texas	45,767	48,633	106
Virginia	23,496	23,965	102
California, Tennessee & West Virginia	38,935	40,044	103
Other States 1/	90,155	91,284	101
UNITED STATES	711,972	733,797	103

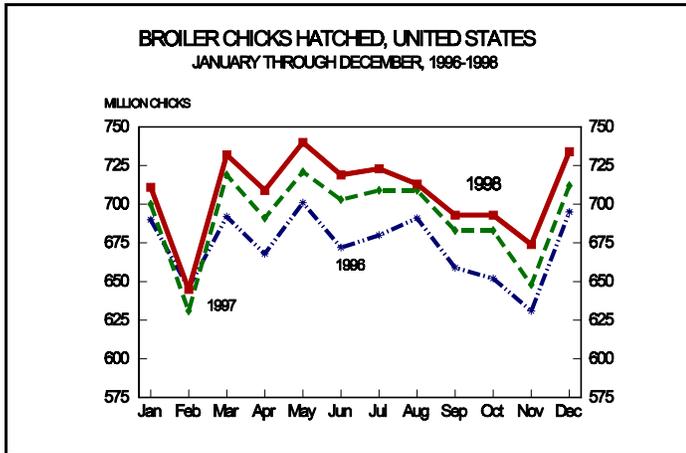
1/ Not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

DECEMBER EGG-TYPE CHICKS HATCHED

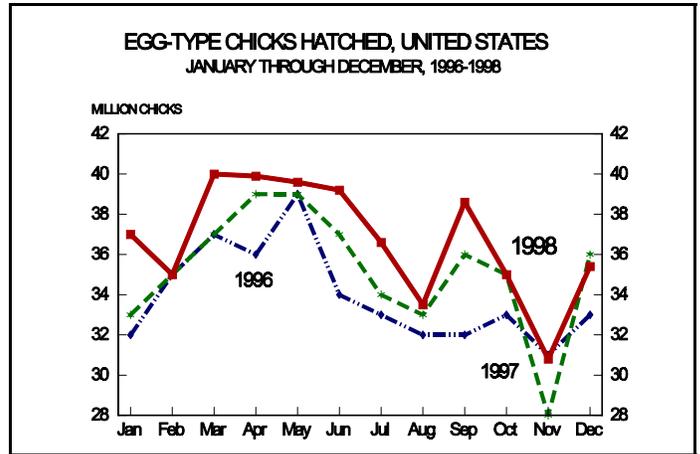
State	1997	1998	<u>1998</u> <u>1997</u>
	Thousands		Percent
Arkansas	709	659	93
Florida	993	1,032	104
Georgia	1,817	1,718	95
Indiana	7,513	7,372	98
Iowa	4,362	4,459	102
Kansas	379	415	109
Minnesota	1,810	1,919	106
Missouri	372	306	82
Pennsylvania	4,510	6,096	135
Other States 1/	13,425	11,454	85
UNITED STATES	35,890	35,430	99

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

BROILER CHICKS HATCHED, UNITED STATES
JANUARY THROUGH DECEMBER, 1996-1998



EGG-TYPE CHICKS HATCHED, UNITED STATES
JANUARY THROUGH DECEMBER, 1996-1998



JANUARY 1 EGGS IN INCUBATORS

Geographic Division	Broiler-Type			Egg-Type		
	1998	1999	1999/1998	1998	1999	1999/1998
	Thousands		Percent	Thousands		Percent
North Atlantic	11,980	12,095	101	5,803	5,827	100
East North Central	6,985	8,233	118	8,583	8,677	101
West North Central	22,986	22,570	98	5,480	5,374	98
South Atlantic	225,735	235,463	104	5,330	5,189	97
South Central	301,973	316,978	105	3,378	3,808	113
West	21,230	23,768	112	3,622	3,961	109
UNITED STATES	590,889	619,107	105	32,196	32,836	102

POULTRY AND EGG PRICES

The average December prices received by California producers, when compared to November prices, decreased 1 cent for broilers and turkeys. Market eggs increased 10 cents per dozen from last month.

Nationally, the December average prices received by producers decreased 2.5 cents per pound for broilers and 2.9 cents per pound for turkeys. Market eggs increased 1.9 cents per dozen.

POULTRY/EGG AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY PRODUCERS 1/

Commodity	Unit	December 1997	Nov. 15, 1998	Dec. 15, 1998
		Cents		
CALIFORNIA				
Chickens-Broilers	Lb.	35.5	43.0	42.0
Market Eggs 2/	Doz.	72.0	61.0	71.0
Turkeys	Lb.	42.0	46.0	45.0
UNITED STATES				
Chickens-Broilers	Lb.	32.1	41.5	39.0
Market Eggs 2/	Doz.	68.0	61.0	62.9
Turkeys	Lb.	38.6	44.0	41.1

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.

U.S. TURKEY HATCHERY PRODUCTION

Turkey eggs in incubators on January 1, 1999 in the United States totaled 31.9 million, down 3 percent from January 1 a year ago. Eggs in incubators were up 3 percent from the December 1 total of 30.8 million. Regional changes from the previous year were as follows: E N Central, up 11 percent; W N Central, up 8 percent; N & S Atlantic, down 17 percent; S Central, down 12 percent; and West, up 3 percent.

The 25.1 million poult placed during December 1998 in the United States were down 2 percent from the placements during the same month a year ago. Placements were up 13 percent from the November 1998 total of 22.2 million. Regional changes from the previous year were as follows: E N Central, up 10 percent; W N Central, up 13 percent; N & S Atlantic, down 15 percent; S Central, down 17 percent; and West, down 2 percent.

ALL TURKEYS

Geographic Division	Eggs in Incubators Jan. 1		1999 1998	Poults Placed during Dec. 1/		1998 1997
	1998	1999		1997	1998	
	Thousands		Percent	Thousands		Percent
E N Central	4,542	5,060	111	3,307	3,623	110
W N Central	9,860	10,632	108	7,904	8,970	113
N & S Atlantic	11,489	9,564	83	9,030	7,657	85
S Central	3,922	3,432	88	3,366	2,810	83
West	3,113	3,209	103	2,104	2,071	98
U.S.	32,926	31,897	97	25,711	25,131	98

1/ Excludes exported poults.

U.S. TURKEYS RAISED IN 1998

Turkeys raised in the United States during 1998 totaled 284 million birds, down 6 percent from the 301 million turkeys raised during 1997. North Carolina ranked first in the number raised with 50.0 million, followed by: Minnesota, 44.5 million; Arkansas, 28.0 million; Virginia, 26.0 million; Missouri, 22.0 million; California, 19.0 million; and Indiana, 13.5 million. These States accounted for 72 percent of the turkeys produced in the United States during 1998.

U.S. TURKEY GROWERS PLAN FOR 1999

Turkey growers in 20 states, which produced 94 percent of the turkeys raised in 1998, intend to raise 2 percent fewer birds in 1999 than they did in 1998. Intentions for the top seven producing states compared with 1998 are as follows: North Carolina and Minnesota, both down 4 percent, Arkansas, Virginia, and Missouri unchanged; California, up 2 percent; and Indiana unchanged. The number of turkeys actually raised in 1999 may vary from growers' intentions shown in this report depending on feed costs, supply of hatching eggs, cost of poults, and prices growers receive for turkeys during the next few months.

U.S. TURKEY POULT PLACEMENTS 1/

Month	Total All Breeds		98-99 97-98	Cumulative Total		98-99 97-98
	1997-98	1998-99		1997-98	1998-99	
	Thousands		Percent	Thousands		Percent
Sept.	23,907	21,124	88	23,907	21,124	88
Oct.	24,587	22,750	93	48,494	43,874	90
Nov. 2/	23,281	22,167	95	71,775	66,041	92
Dec.	25,711	25,131	98	97,486	91,172	94
Jan.	26,240			123,726		
Feb.	25,093			148,819		
Mar.	26,362			175,181		
Apr.	25,747			200,928		
May	25,677			226,605		
June	26,957			253,562		
July	26,247			279,809		
Aug.	24,450			304,259		

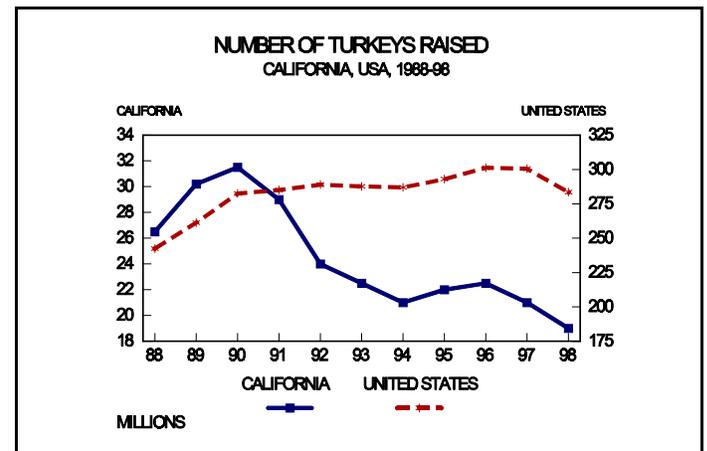
1/ Excludes exported poults.

2/ Revised data for 1998-99 Total All Breeds.

TURKEYS RAISED AND INTENTIONS

State	1997		1998		1999 Intentions	
	Thousands	Percent	Thousands	Percent	Thousands	Percent
Arkansas	30,000	28,000	93	28,000	100	100
California	21,000	19,000	90	19,400	102	102
Indiana	14,500	13,500	93	13,500	100	100
Iowa	7,000	---	---	---	---	---
Minnesota	45,500	44,500	98	42,500	96	96
Missouri	21,000	22,000	105	22,000	100	100
North Carolina	53,500	50,000	93	48,000	96	96
Pennsylvania	11,600	10,500	91	10,000	95	95
South Carolina	11,200	10,600	95	8,200	77	77
Virginia	26,000	26,000	100	26,000	100	100
UNITED STATES	301,251	283,503	94	258,811	98	98

NUMBER OF TURKEYS RAISED CALIFORNIA, USA, 1988-98



PACIFIC COAST AND UNITED STATES COLD STORAGE

Commodity	Unit	December 31, 1997	November 30, 1998 <u>a/</u>	December 31, 1998	<u>Dec. 1998</u> <u>Dec. 1997</u>	<u>Dec. 1998</u> <u>Nov. 1998</u>
		Thousands			Percent	
PACIFIC COAST						
Turkeys	Lbs.	59,711	47,454	45,197	76	95
Chickens	Lbs.	41,035	29,055	32,759	80	113
Ducks	Lbs.	304	97	79	26	81
Total Frozen Poultry Supplies	Lbs.	101,050	76,606	78,035	77	102
Eggs, Frozen	Lbs.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
UNITED STATES						
Turkeys	Lbs.	415,053	314,863	308,714	74	98
Chickens	Lbs.	614,252	663,310	718,496	117	108
Ducks	Lbs.	1,864	4,491	3,757	202	84
Total Frozen Poultry Supplies	Lbs.	1,031,169	982,664	1,030,967	100	105
Eggs, Frozen	Lbs.	9,749	9,297	11,031	113	119

a/ Revised.