



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 18, 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 4 Percent

Broiler growers in the 19 State weekly program placed 161 million chicks for meat production during the week ending February 18, 2012. Placements were down 4 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from January 1, 2012 through February 18, 2012 were 1.13 billion, down 4 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Broiler-Type Eggs Set – 19 Selected States: 2012

State	Week ending					
	January 14, 2012	January 21, 2012	January 28, 2012	February 4, 2012	February 11, 2012	February 18, 2012
	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)				
Alabama	27,840	28,094	28,029	26,917	27,060	27,638
Arkansas	20,085	20,146	20,235	19,931	20,091	19,499
Delaware	3,261	3,262	3,258	3,265	3,188	3,229
Florida	1,351	1,353	1,352	1,352	1,352	1,243
Georgia	31,386	31,148	31,630	30,859	31,983	32,221
Kentucky	7,668	7,722	7,582	7,665	7,666	7,546
Louisiana	3,379	3,440	3,424	3,440	3,440	3,424
Maryland	7,098	7,669	7,216	6,874	7,484	7,067
Mississippi	17,102	17,587	17,662	17,623	17,832	17,663
Missouri	7,623	7,677	7,668	7,784	7,817	7,807
North Carolina	19,790	19,988	19,741	20,206	20,310	20,143
Oklahoma	6,787	6,721	6,609	6,841	6,923	6,768
Pennsylvania	3,875	3,849	3,831	3,649	3,539	3,748
South Carolina	5,348	5,363	5,156	5,318	5,282	5,404
Texas	14,053	14,272	14,345	14,410	14,805	14,904
Virginia	5,939	6,231	5,698	5,985	6,200	5,963
California, Tennessee, and West Virginia	10,494	9,387	10,488	10,258	10,087	10,273
19 State total	193,079	193,909	193,924	192,377	195,059	194,540
Previous year total	205,099	204,116	203,933	205,787	204,337	207,150
Percent of previous year	94	95	95	93	95	94

Broiler-Type Chicks Placed – 19 Selected States: 2012

State	Week ending					
	January 14, 2012	January 21, 2012	January 28, 2012	February 4, 2012	February 11, 2012	February 18, 2012
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)				
Alabama	19,898	20,265	20,298	19,733	19,445	21,845
Arkansas	18,012	18,621	19,924	20,438	18,219	19,111
Delaware	4,547	3,901	4,431	4,016	4,433	4,363
Florida	1,160	953	1,136	1,149	1,048	1,062
Georgia	27,346	26,950	27,019	26,053	27,384	25,271
Kentucky	6,021	6,219	6,646	6,181	6,544	6,008
Louisiana	2,992	2,995	3,010	3,023	3,062	3,068
Maryland	6,060	6,386	5,518	5,849	6,406	5,968
Mississippi	15,160	14,619	14,603	14,721	15,172	15,227
Missouri	6,087	4,910	5,034	4,934	5,755	5,674
North Carolina	15,738	15,698	15,780	15,699	15,648	15,418
Oklahoma	4,693	4,691	3,943	3,220	4,755	4,003
Pennsylvania	3,136	3,179	3,065	3,211	3,107	3,208
South Carolina	4,435	4,221	4,124	4,956	4,798	4,971
Texas	11,794	11,770	11,809	11,568	12,111	11,941
Virginia	4,693	4,844	4,785	5,164	4,607	4,096
California, Tennessee, and West Virginia	10,778	10,300	9,573	10,330	9,444	10,073
19 State total	162,550	160,522	160,698	160,245	161,938	161,307
Previous year total	168,220	167,507	168,493	168,151	167,953	167,473
Percent of previous year	97	96	95	95	96	96

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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