



Released March 16, 2020, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Eggs in Incubators on March 1 Down Slightly from Last Year

Turkey eggs in incubators on March 1, 2020 in the United States totaled 28.0 million, down slightly from March 1, 2019. Eggs in incubators were down 1 percent from the February 1, 2020 total of 28.2 million eggs.

Poults Hatched During February Up Slightly from Last Year

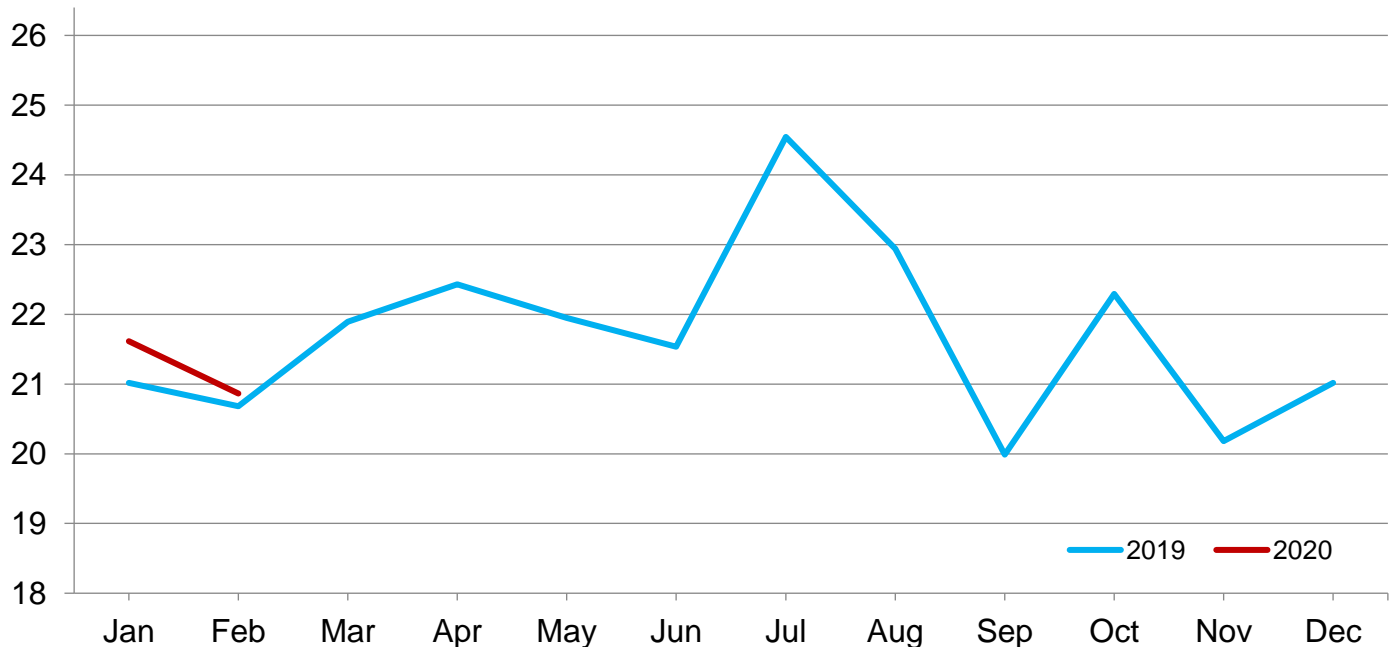
Turkey poults hatched during February 2020 in the United States totaled 22.6 million, up slightly from February 2019. Poults hatched were down 5 percent from the January 2020 total of 23.3 million poults.

Net Poults Placed During February Up 1 Percent from Last Year

The 20.7 million net poults placed during February 2020 in the United States were up 1 percent from the number placed during the same month a year earlier. Net poult placements were down 4 percent from the January 2020 total of 21.4 million.

Net Poult Placements – United States

Million poults



Eggs in Incubators and Poults Hatched by Month – United States: 2018-2020

[Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	Eggs in incubators first of month		Percent of previous year	Poults hatched entire month		Percent of previous year
	2018-2019	2019-2020		2018-2019	2019-2020	
	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(percent)	(1,000 poults)	(1,000 poults)	(percent)
September	27,532	26,780	97	22,443	22,582	101
October	28,750	29,442	102	24,295	24,904	103
November	30,418	26,958	89	29,089	22,462	77
December	28,492	26,619	93	23,176	22,704	98
January	27,831	28,820	104	23,287	23,879	103
February	28,052	28,209	101	22,495	22,567	100
March	28,049	27,979	100	23,884		
April	28,218			24,001		
May	28,018			23,570		
June	27,929			22,843		
July	28,989			25,234		
August	29,266			24,314		

Net Poulst Placements by Month – United States: 2018-2020

[Includes imports and excludes exports. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	Total all breeds		Percent of previous year	Cumulative total		Percent of previous year
	2018-2019	2019-2020		2018-2019	2019-2020	
	(1,000 poults)	(1,000 poults)	(percent)	(1,000 poults)	(1,000 poults)	(percent)
September	20,512	19,788	96	20,512	19,788	96
October	22,377	22,094	99	42,889	41,882	98
November	21,108	19,983	95	63,997	61,865	97
December	19,915	20,295	102	83,912	82,160	98
January	20,817	21,414	103	104,729	103,574	99
February	20,480	20,664	101	125,209	124,238	99
March	21,691			146,900		
April	22,232			169,132		
May	21,750			190,882		
June	21,336			212,218		
July	24,344			236,562		
August	22,741			259,303		

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: Data for turkey hatchery estimates are collected from all known turkey hatcheries. Individual NASS regional field offices maintain a list of all known turkey hatcheries and use known sources of hatcheries to update their lists. Approximately 40 hatcheries in 20 states are contacted each month. All known turkey hatcheries hatching 15,000 or more poults annually are mailed a questionnaire as close to the first of the month as possible. Adequate time is given to respond via mail, fax, or electronic data reporting. Those that do not respond are contacted by phone. Care is exercised to ensure that all hatcheries are accounted for in the estimate.

Estimating Procedures: Sound statistical methodology is employed to derive the estimates from reported data. 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 were estimated based on similar operations or historical data. NASS regional 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, regional, and United States totals. Only United States level estimates are published due to the limited number of hatcheries involved. The Net Poult Placement data include imported poults and exclude exported poults.

Cumulative net poult placements beginning on September 1 and ending on August 31 are shown in the monthly *Turkey Hatchery* report. This time period corresponds with the placements of poults which will reach maturity and be available for slaughter during the calendar year.

Revision Policy: Revisions are generally the result of late or corrected data. Revisions to the previous month are published in the monthly *Turkey Hatchery* report, while annual revisions are published in the *Hatchery Production - Annual Summary* report in April.

Reliability: Turkey hatchery estimates are based on a census of all known operating hatcheries and therefore, have no sampling error. However, 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 through a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

To assist in evaluating the reliability of the estimates in this report, the “Root Mean Square Error” is shown for selected items in the following table. The “Root Mean Square Error” is a statistical measure based on past performance and is computed using the differences between first and final estimates. The “Root Mean Square Error” for turkey eggs in incubators on the first day of the month over the past 24 months is 2.1 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 28 million eggs by more than 2.1 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 3.6 percent.

Reliability of March Turkey Hatchery Estimates

[Based on data for the past 24 months]

Item	Root mean square error	90 percent confidence level	Difference between first and latest estimate				
			Average	Smallest	Largest	Months	
						Below latest	Above latest
	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(number)	(number)
Eggs in incubators	2.1	3.6	354	0	2,201	15	8
Poults hatched	0.9	1.6	144	0	637	13	9
Net poult placements	1.5	2.6	242	0	752	13	10

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@usda.gov

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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@usda.gov.

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