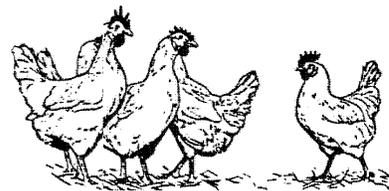


California Poultry Report



Frequency: Monthly
Released: January 30, 1998

(USPS 598-310)
VOL. 19 NO. 1



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

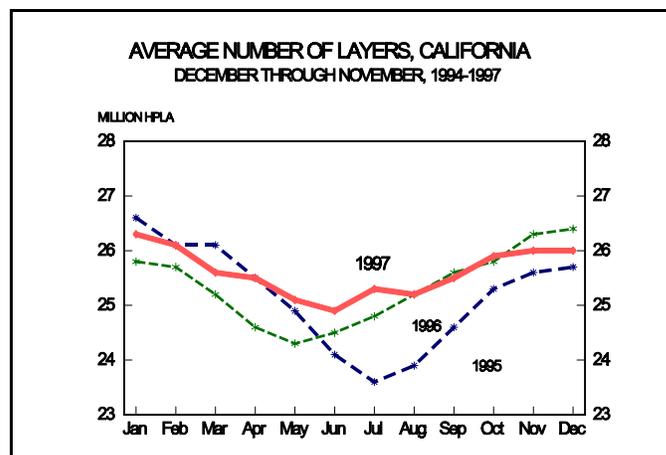
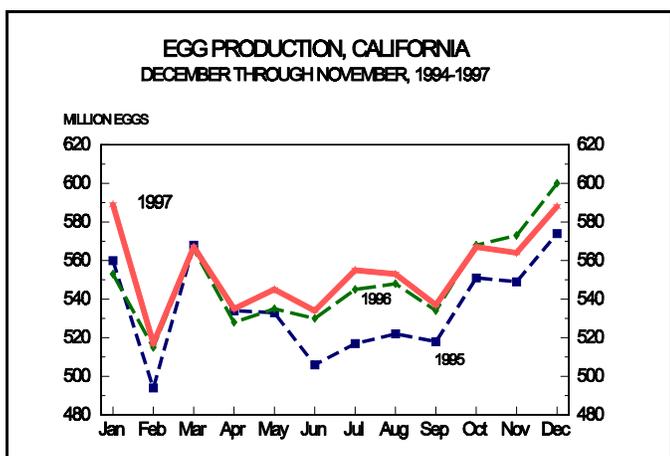
Layer & Egg Production	1
Chick Hatch & Eggs in Incubators	2
Turkey Poults Hatched & Placed	3
Poultry and Egg Prices	3
Cold Storage Holdings	4

U.S. DECEMBER EGG PRODUCTION UP 2 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 6.81 billion during December 1997, up 2 percent from the 6.70 billion produced in 1996. Production included 5.78 billion table eggs and 1.03 billion hatching eggs, of which 973 million were broiler-type and 60.0 million were egg-type. The total average number of layers during December 1997 averaged 311 million, up 2 percent from the total average number of layers during December 1996. December egg production per 100 layers was 2,193 eggs, down slightly from December 1996.

CALIFORNIA EGG PRODUCTION

California's egg production during December totaled 588 million, 24.0 million more than last month, but 12.0 million less than last December. Average number of layers during the month totaled 25.9 million, fractionally below December 1996. Eggs per 100 layers during the month were 2,265, compared to 2,170 last month and 2,271 in December 1996.



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	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	1997	1998	1997	1998
	-- Thousands --		-- Number --		-- Millions --		---- Percent ----			
Alabama	10,739	10,449	2,002	2,029	215	212	4.0	2.5	18.0	17.5
Arkansas	14,597	14,600	1,952	1,863	285	272	2.5	1.0	9.0	12.0
California	26,421	25,961	2,271	2,265	600	588	5.5	5.5	37.5	39.0
Georgia	19,370	20,439	2,096	2,172	406	444	6.0	6.5	22.5	18.0
Indiana	20,607	21,987	2,295	2,256	473	496	3.5	4.0	21.5	26.0
Iowa	20,691	21,775	2,199	2,223	455	484	7.5	9.5	30.5	20.0
North Carolina	12,715	11,565	1,958	1,902	249	220	1.5	2.5	12.5	12.0
Ohio	26,294	27,221	2,309	2,300	607	626	1.0	1.5	12.5	12.5
Pennsylvania	21,451	22,413	2,340	2,320	502	520	3.0	4.0	19.0	17.0
Texas	16,825	17,132	2,169	2,171	365	372	4.0	4.5	22.0	23.0
UNITED STATES	304,655	310,687	2,199	2,193	6,698	6,812	3.8	4.1	22.3	21.8

U.S. BROILER HATCH UP 2 PERCENT

The December 1997 hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 712 million, was up 2 percent from December of the previous year. Eggs in incubators totaled 591 million on January 1, 1998, up 1 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 6.25 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during December 1997. This was up 5 percent from December 1996.

U.S. EGG-TYPE CHICKS HATCHED UP 8 PERCENT

Egg-type chicks hatched during December totaled 35.6 million, up 8 percent from December 1996. Eggs in incubators totaled 32.2 million on January 1, 1998, up 7 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 202 thousand during December 1997. This was down 6 percent from the 215 thousand of December 1996.

DECEMBER BROILER-TYPE CHICKS HATCHED

State	1996	1997	1997 1996
	-- Thousands --		Percent
Alabama	91,727	92,538	101
Arkansas	107,117	107,953	101
Delaware	15,288	15,718	103
Florida	10,001	10,210	102
Georgia	106,631	105,887	99
Maryland	30,828	31,239	101
Mississippi	61,145	62,068	102
North Carolina	60,041	59,894	100
Pennsylvania	12,711	12,806	101
South Carolina	15,785	15,368	97
Texas	43,865	45,766	104
Virginia	23,936	23,496	98
California, Tennessee & West Virginia	35,183	38,932	111
Washington & Oregon	6,021	5,640	94
Other States 1/	74,732	84,064	112
UNITED STATES	695,011	711,579	102

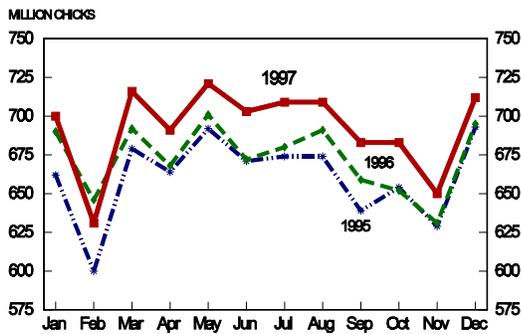
1/ Not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

DECEMBER EGG-TYPE CHICKS HATCHED

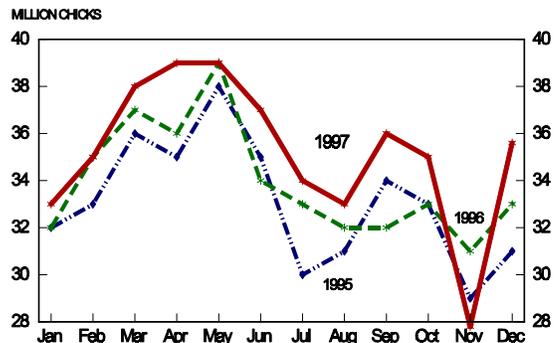
State	1996	1997	1997 1996
	-- Thousands --		Percent
Arkansas	590	709	120
Florida	959	993	104
Georgia	1,848	1,817	98
Indiana	7,090	7,513	106
Iowa	3,430	4,215	123
Kansas	174	379	218
Minnesota	2,010	1,810	90
Missouri	352	372	106
Pennsylvania	4,670	4,510	97
Other States 1/	11,894	13,286	112
UNITED STATES	33,017	35,604	108

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

**BROILER CHICKS HATCHED, UNITED STATES
JANUARY THROUGH DECEMBER, 1995-1997**



**EGG-TYPE CHICKS HATCHED, UNITED STATES
JANUARY THROUGH DECEMBER, 1995-1997**



JANUARY 1 EGGS IN INCUBATORS

Geographic Division	Broiler-Type			Egg-Type		
	1997	1998	1998/1997	1997	1998	1998/1997
	-- Thousands --		Percent	-- Thousands --		Percent
North Atlantic	12,266	11,980	98	4,740	5,803	122
East North Central	7,316	6,985	95	8,357	8,583	103
West North Central	24,249	22,986	95	5,531	5,480	99
South Atlantic	226,050	225,735	100	4,828	5,330	110
South Central	290,309	301,973	104	2,942	3,378	115
West	22,428	21,230	95	3,805	3,622	95
UNITED STATES	582,618	590,889	101	30,203	32,196	107

POULTRY AND EGG PRICES

The average December prices received by California producers, when compared to November average prices, decreased 1.5 cents for broilers and 3.0 cents per dozen for market eggs. Prices for turkeys decreased 3.0 cents from last month.

Nationally, the December average prices received by producers decreased 2.2 cents per pound for broilers, 2.9 cents per dozen for market eggs, and 3.7 cents per pound for turkeys.

**POULTRY AND EGG
AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY PRODUCERS 1/**

Commodity	Unit	December 1996	Nov. 15, 1997	Dec. 15, 1997
--- Cents ---				
CALIFORNIA				
Chickens-Broilers	Lb.	40.5	37.0	35.5
Market Eggs 2/	Doz.	86.0	75.0	72.0
Turkeys	Lb.	49.0	45.0	42.0
UNITED STATES				
Chickens-Broilers	Lb.	41.6	34.3	32.1
Market Eggs 2/	Doz.	80.0	70.9	68.0
Turkeys	Lb.	43.6	42.3	38.6

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, 1998 in the United States totaled 33.0 million, down 3 percent from January 1 a year ago. Eggs in incubators were up 3 percent from the December 1 total of 32.1 million. Regional changes from the previous year were as follows: E N Central, down 9 percent; W N Central, down 2 percent; N & S Atlantic, down 1 percent; S Central, down 2 percent; West, down 9 percent.

The 25.7 million poult placed during December 1997 in the United States were down 5 percent from the placements during the same month a year ago. Placements were up 10 percent from the November 1997 total of 23.3 million. Regional changes from the previous year were as follows: E N Central, down 7 percent; W N Central, up 2 percent; N & S Atlantic, down 11 percent; S Central, up 1 percent; West, down 7 percent.

ALL TURKEYS

Geographic Division	Eggs in Incubators Jan. 1		1998 1997	Poults Placed during Dec. 1/		1997 1996
	1997	1998		1996	1997	
-- Thousands -- Percent						
E N Central	4,994	4,542	91	3,563	3,307	93
W N Central	10,076	9,860	98	7,765	7,904	102
N & S Atlantic	11,609	11,489	99	10,202	9,030	89
S Central	3,986	3,922	98	3,330	3,366	101
West	3,446	3,150	91	2,259	2,104	93
U.S.	34,111	32,963	97	27,119	25,711	95

1/ Excludes exported poults.

U.S. TURKEYS RAISED IN 1997 DOWN 1 PERCENT

Turkeys raised in the United States during 1997 totaled 301 million, down 1 percent from the 303 million turkeys raised during 1996. North Carolina ranked first in the number raised with 53.5 million, followed by Minnesota with 46.0 million; Arkansas with 30.0 million; Virginia with 25.0 million; Missouri with 22.0 million; California with 21.0 million; Indiana with 14.2 million. These States accounted for 70 percent of the turkeys produced in the United States during 1997.

U.S. TURKEY GROWERS PLAN 2 PERCENT DECREASE IN 1998

Turkey growers in the 20 major producing states intend to raise 2 percent fewer turkeys than in 1997. Intentions for the top seven producing states compared with 1997 are as follows: North Carolina, down 3 percent; Minnesota, unchanged; Arkansas, down 3 percent; Virginia, down 2 percent; Missouri, down 9 percent; California, down 12 percent; Indiana, down 1 percent. The number of turkeys actually raised in 1998 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/

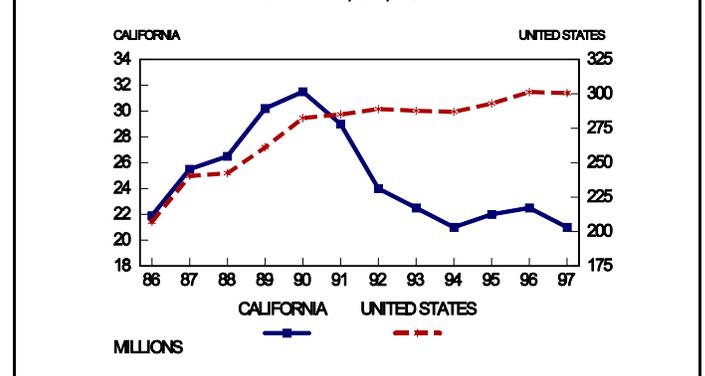
Month	Total All Breeds		97-98 96-97	Cumulative Total		97-98 96-97
	1996-97	1997-98		1996-97	1997-98	
-- Thousands -- Percent						
Sept.	24,154	23,907	99	24,154	23,907	99
Oct.	25,354	24,587	97	49,508	48,494	98
Nov. 2/	23,830	23,281	98	73,338	71,775	98
Dec.	27,119	25,711	95	100,457	97,486	97
Jan.	27,121			127,578		
Feb.	27,145			154,723		
Mar.	27,610			182,333		
Apr.	28,220			210,553		
May	29,111			239,664		
June	28,381			268,045		
July	30,092			298,137		
Aug.	26,321			324,458		

1/ Excludes exported poults.
2/ Revised data for 1997-98 Total All Breeds.

TURKEYS RAISED AND INTENTIONS

State	1996	1997	1997 1996	1998 Intentions	1998 1997
-- Thousands -- Percent					
Arkansas	28,000	30,000	107	29,000	97
California	22,500	21,000	93	18,500	88
Indiana	14,000	14,200	101	14,100	99
Iowa	8,000	7,000	88	6,500	93
Minnesota	43,500	46,000	106	46,000	100
Missouri	22,000	22,000	100	20,000	91
North Carolina	59,500	53,500	90	52,000	97
Pennsylvania	11,700	11,600	99	12,300	106
South Carolina	9,100	11,200	123	10,500	94
Virginia	25,000	25,000	100	24,500	98
UNITED STATES	302,708	300,620	99	N/A	N/A

**NUMBER OF TURKEYS RAISED
CALIFORNIA, USA, 1986-98**



PACIFIC COAST AND UNITED STATES COLD STORAGE

Commodity	Unit	December 31, 1996	November 30, 1997 <u>a/</u>	December 31, 1997	<u>Dec. 1997</u> <u>Dec. 1996</u>	<u>Dec. 1997</u> <u>Nov. 1997</u>
PACIFIC COAST		---- Thousands ----			-- Percent --	
Turkeys	Lbs.	38,426	65,273	59,721	155	92
Chickens	Lbs.	35,329	39,332	38,423	109	98
Ducks	Lbs.	639	153	304	48	199
Total Frozen Poultry Supplies	Lbs.	74,394	104,758	98,448	132	94
Eggs, Frozen	Lbs.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Eggs, Shell	Cases	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
UNITED STATES						
Turkeys	Lbs.	327,951	438,556	417,237	127	95
Chickens	Lbs.	647,011	609,900	614,050	95	101
Ducks	Lbs.	2,203	1,964	1,745	79	89
Total Frozen Poultry Supplies	Lbs.	977,165	1,050,420	1,033,032	106	98
Eggs, Frozen	Lbs.	10,185	10,264	9,616	94	94
Eggs, Shell	Cases	27	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

a/ Revised.



The Census Is Counting on You

Have you received more than one 1997 Census of Agriculture report form? Perhaps it's because you haven't sent us your reply yet. Please complete and return your report form today.

All the information you give is completely confidential by law.

Make It Known. . .
America Counts on Agriculture

USDA U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE