



Broiler Hatchery

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Broiler-Type Eggs Set Down 5 Percent

Commercial hatcheries in the 19 State weekly program set 198 million eggs in incubators during the week ending March 31, 2012. This was down 5 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 5 Percent

Broiler growers in the 19 State weekly program placed 165 million chicks for meat production during the week ending March 31, 2012. Placements were down 5 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from January 1, 2012 through March 31, 2012 were 2.11 billion, down 4 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Broiler-Type Eggs Set – 19 Selected States: 2012

State	Week ending					
	February 25, 2012	March 3, 2012	March 10, 2012	March 17, 2012	March 24, 2012	March 31, 2012
	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)	(1,000 eggs)
Alabama	27,970	27,989	27,476	28,259	28,251	27,319
Arkansas	20,142	20,977	21,148	20,142	20,771	21,178
Delaware	3,190	3,191	3,303	3,415	3,388	3,517
Florida	1,353	1,350	1,350	1,351	1,348	1,350
Georgia	32,143	32,150	32,374	32,236	31,890	32,796
Kentucky	6,361	7,733	7,794	7,805	7,538	7,683
Louisiana	3,379	3,470	3,440	3,470	3,440	3,500
Maryland	7,204	7,212	7,674	7,678	7,192	7,000
Mississippi	17,814	17,799	17,682	17,784	17,907	17,907
Missouri	7,654	7,840	7,648	7,482	7,657	7,464
North Carolina	20,313	20,397	20,342	19,957	20,031	20,077
Oklahoma	6,688	6,930	6,930	6,365	6,728	6,930
Pennsylvania	3,714	3,763	3,838	3,859	3,771	3,696
South Carolina	5,296	5,291	5,472	5,118	5,448	5,385
Texas	14,868	14,732	14,994	15,077	14,943	14,933
Virginia	6,168	5,947	6,207	6,273	6,047	6,311
California, Tennessee, and West Virginia	11,002	10,913	11,016	11,303	10,648	10,771
19 State total	195,259	197,684	198,688	197,574	196,998	197,817
Previous year total	206,633	208,530	207,787	208,563	209,382	208,037
Percent of previous year	94	95	96	95	94	95

Broiler-Type Chicks Placed – 19 Selected States: 2012

State	Week ending					
	February 25, 2012	March 3, 2012	March 10, 2012	March 17, 2012	March 24, 2012	March 31, 2012
	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)	(1,000 chicks)
Alabama	18,833	18,749	19,382	20,106	19,610	20,335
Arkansas	19,144	19,498	18,611	19,004	20,043	20,359
Delaware	3,440	4,117	3,910	3,901	3,943	3,724
Florida	1,073	1,454	1,174	1,407	1,217	1,016
Georgia	27,877	27,520	28,332	27,862	27,284	27,233
Kentucky	5,662	6,562	6,595	4,894	6,594	6,214
Louisiana	3,092	3,091	3,022	2,983	3,032	3,025
Maryland	6,751	5,778	6,441	6,110	5,927	7,020
Mississippi	15,317	15,599	15,328	15,447	15,207	15,136
Missouri	4,612	5,566	6,020	5,325	5,245	5,548
North Carolina	15,820	15,856	15,816	16,753	16,294	16,080
Oklahoma	5,026	4,125	4,014	4,605	4,533	3,813
Pennsylvania	3,045	2,894	2,870	3,117	3,113	3,230
South Carolina	4,197	4,523	4,230	3,646	4,696	4,218
Texas	11,972	12,466	12,321	12,197	12,117	12,501
Virginia	4,547	5,368	4,739	4,784	5,365	4,735
California, Tennessee, and West Virginia	10,139	10,181	9,900	10,826	10,257	10,658
19 State total	160,547	163,347	162,705	162,967	164,477	164,845
Previous year total	168,805	167,792	170,434	170,587	173,852	172,812
Percent of previous year	95	97	95	96	95	95

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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