

Chickens and Eggs



USDA
Washington, D.C.

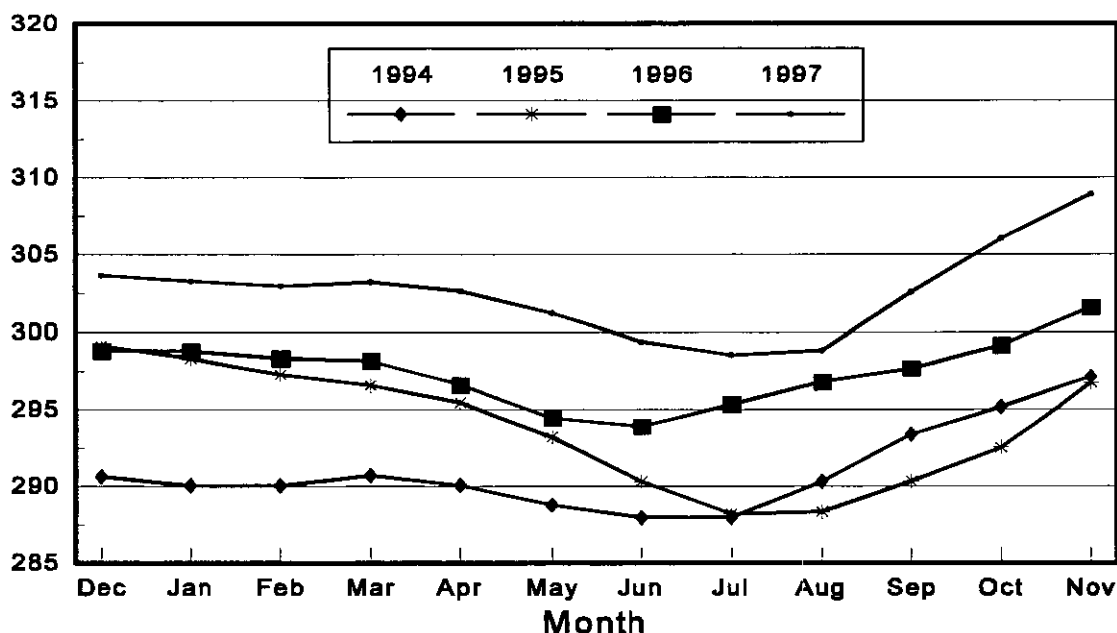
Released December 19, 1997, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on "Chickens and Eggs" call Dan Boostrom at (202) 720-3244, office hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

November Egg Production Up 2 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 6.56 billion during November 1997, up 2 percent from the 6.41 billion produced in 1996. Production included 5.56 billion table eggs and 997 million hatching eggs, of which 940 million were broiler-type and 57.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during November 1997 averaged 309 million, up 2 percent from the average number of layers during November 1996. November egg production per 100 layers was 2,122 eggs, down slightly from November 1996.

Average Number of All Layers United States , 1994-1997

Million Layers



All layers in the U.S. on December 1, 1997, totaled 311 million, up 3 percent from a year ago. The 311 million layers consisted of 256 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 53.2 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.50 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on December 1, 1997, averaged 71.0 eggs per 100 layers, down fractionally from the 71.3 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production States produced 6.21 billion eggs during November, up 2 percent from November 1996. The average number of layers during November, at 293 million, was up 2 percent from a year earlier.

Individual State estimates are available for the 30 major egg producing States. These States are listed on page 8 of this release and account for approximately 95 percent of the total U.S. egg production. Production for the other States are grouped into an "Other States" category and combined with the 30 States published individually to obtain a U.S. estimate. Individual State estimates for "Other States" are available annually in the "**Layers and Egg Production**" report.

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched down 12 Percent

Egg-type chicks **hatched** during November totaled 27.8 million, down 12 percent from November 1996. **Eggs in incubators** totaled 33.0 million on December 1, 1997, up 7 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of **egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks** by leading breeders totaled 124,000 during November 1997, down 41 percent from the 210,000 of November 1996.

Broiler Hatch Up 3 Percent

The November 1997 **hatch** of broiler-type chicks, at 648 million, was up 3 percent from November of the previous year. There were 594 million **eggs in incubators** on December 1, 1997, up 4 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 6.35 million **broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks** during November 1997, down 2 percent from November 1996.

For information call Tom Kruchten at (202) 690-4870

**Layers: Average Number During the Month,
United States, 1994-97**

Month	1994	1995	1996	1997
	<i>1,000 Layers</i>	<i>1,000 Layers</i>	<i>1,000 Layers</i>	<i>1,000 Layers</i>
Dec ¹	290,642	299,160	298,861	303,669
Jan	290,041	298,367	298,814	303,293
Feb	290,047	297,293	298,357	302,971
Mar	290,719	296,561	298,209	303,244
Apr	290,073	295,464	296,605	302,666
May	288,784	293,198	294,458	301,235
Jun	287,974	290,313	293,915	299,427
Jul	287,990	288,213	295,349	298,548
Aug	290,321	288,359	296,785	298,861
Sep	293,381	290,337	297,696	302,585
Oct	295,172	292,516	299,196	306,246
Nov	297,134	296,724	301,604	308,929

¹ December preceding year.

**Eggs: Production During the Month by Type,
United States, 1996-97**

Month	Total Eggs		Table Eggs		Hatching Eggs	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>
Dec ¹	6,523	6,678	5,548	5,695	975	983
Jan	6,398	6,554	5,420	5,567	978	987
Feb	5,954	5,887	5,036	4,985	918	902
Mar	6,495	6,600	5,505	5,580	990	1,020
Apr	6,243	6,334	5,284	5,336	959	998
May	6,340	6,495	5,341	5,449	999	1,046
Jun	6,169	6,265	5,209	5,250	960	1,015
Jul	6,440	6,433	5,457	5,400	983	1,033
Aug	6,447	6,467	5,465	5,453	982	1,014
Sep	6,235	6,344	5,297	5,353	938	991
Oct	6,495	6,651	5,539	5,617	956	1,034
Nov	6,409	6,555	5,471	5,558	938	997
During Year	76,148	77,263	64,572	65,243	11,576	12,020

¹ December preceding year.

**Eggs and Layers: Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Type,
and Forced Molt, United States, October-November 1996-97 ¹**

Item	Unit	1996	1997	1997 as % of 1996
Layers During Oct	1,000			
All Layers		299,196	306,246	102
Table Egg Type		248,071	251,108	101
Hatching Egg Type		51,125	55,138	108
Broiler-Type Hatching		48,581	52,602	108
Egg-Type Hatching		2,544	2,536	100
Eggs per 100 Layers During Oct	Number			
All Layers		2,171	2,172	100
Table Egg Type		2,233	2,237	100
Hatching Egg Type		1,870	1,875	100
Broiler-Type Hatching		1,846	1,854	100
Egg-Type Hatching		2,319	2,326	100
Eggs Produced During Oct	Million			
All Layers		6,495	6,651	102
Table Egg Type		5,539	5,617	101
Hatching Egg Type		956	1,034	108
Broiler-Type Hatching		897	975	109
Egg-Type Hatching		59	59	100
Layers on Nov 1	1,000			
All Layers		299,910	306,583	102
Table Egg Type		248,972	251,476	101
Hatching Egg Type		50,938	55,107	108
Broiler-Type Hatching		48,394	52,609	109
Egg-Type Hatching		2,544	2,498	98
Eggs per 100 Layers on Nov 1	Number			
All Layers		70.2	70.4	100
Table Egg Type		72.2	72.6	101
Hatching Egg Type		60.5	60.1	99
Broiler-Type Hatching		59.7	59.4	99
Egg-Type Hatching		75.1	76.5	102
Forced Molt Layers on Nov 1	Percent			
Percent Being Molted		3.1	4.2	135
Percent with Molt Completed		23.9	22.2	93

¹ Revised.

**Eggs and Layers: Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Type,
and Forced Molt, United States, November-December 1996-97**

Item	Unit	1996 ¹	1997 ²	1997 as % of 1996
Layers During Nov	1,000			
All Layers		301,604	308,929	102
Table Egg Type		249,823	253,529	101
Hatching Egg Type		51,781	55,400	107
Broiler-Type Hatching		49,235	52,893	107
Egg-Type Hatching		2,546	2,507	98
Eggs per 100 Layers During Nov	Number			
All Layers		2,125	2,122	100
Table Egg Type		2,190	2,192	100
Hatching Egg Type		1,811	1,800	99
Broiler-Type Hatching		1,785	1,777	100
Egg-Type Hatching		2,317	2,274	98
Eggs Produced During Nov	Million			
All Layers		6,409	6,555	102
Table Egg Type		5,471	5,558	102
Hatching Egg Type		938	997	106
Broiler-Type Hatching		879	940	107
Egg-Type Hatching		59	57	97
Layers on Dec 1	1,000			
All Layers		303,248	311,219	103
Table Egg Type		250,645	255,555	102
Hatching Egg Type		52,603	55,664	106
Broiler-Type Hatching		50,070	53,161	106
Egg-Type Hatching		2,533	2,503	99
Eggs per 100 Layers on Dec 1	Number			
All Layers		71.3	71.0	100
Table Egg Type		73.6	73.4	100
Hatching Egg Type		60.3	59.7	99
Broiler-Type Hatching		59.4	58.9	99
Egg-Type Hatching		77.5	76.9	99
Forced Molt Layers, Dec 1	Percent			
Percent Being Molted		2.1	2.8	133
Percent with Molt Completed		23.5	24.1	103

¹ Revised.

² Preliminary.

**Eggs and Layers: Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Type, and Forced
Molt, October-November, 30 Selected States, 1996-97 ^{1 2}**

Item	Unit	1996	1997	1997 as % of 1996
Layers During Oct	1,000			
All Layers		283,233	290,077	102
Table Egg Type		235,571	238,816	101
Hatching Egg Type		47,662	51,261	108
Broiler-Type Hatching		45,207	48,822	108
Egg-Type Hatching		2,455	2,439	99
Eggs per 100 Layers During Oct	Number			
All Layers		2,172	2,173	100
Table Egg Type		2,234	2,238	100
Hatching Egg Type		1,867	1,873	100
Broiler-Type Hatching		1,843	1,850	100
Egg-Type Hatching		2,322	2,337	101
Eggs Produced During Oct	Million			
All Layers		6,153	6,304	102
Table Egg Type		5,263	5,344	102
Hatching Egg Type		890	960	108
Broiler-Type Hatching		833	903	108
Egg-Type Hatching		57	57	100
Layers on Nov 1	1,000			
All Layers		283,893	290,433	102
Table Egg Type		236,442	239,197	101
Hatching Egg Type		47,451	51,236	108
Broiler-Type Hatching		44,997	48,820	108
Egg-Type Hatching		2,454	2,416	98
Eggs per 100 Layers on Nov 1	Number			
All Layers		70.2	70.4	100
Table Egg Type		72.2	72.6	101
Hatching Egg Type		60.4	60.2	100
Broiler-Type Hatching		59.6	59.4	100
Egg-Type Hatching		74.9	76.7	102
Forced Molt Layers on Nov 1	Percent			
Percent Being Molted		3.1	4.2	135
Percent with Molt Completed		24.0	22.2	93
Layers Sold During Oct	1,000	15,764	14,365	91
Layers Rendered, Died, Destroyed, Composted or Disappeared For Any Reason During Oct	1,000	2,877	3,482	121
Pullets Less Than 20 Weeks of Age, Nov 1	1,000	69,965	76,915	110
Pullets Added During Oct ³	1,000	22,561	17,790	79

¹ The 30 States are listed in the table on page 8.

² Revised.

³ 1996 is pullets added less than 20 weeks old to pullet flocks. 1997 is pullet chicks one day old added to pullet flocks.

Eggs and Layers: Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Type, and Forced Molt, 30 Selected States, November-December, 1996-97 ¹

Item	Unit	1996 ²	1997 ³	1997 as % of 1996
Layers During Nov	1,000			
All Layers		285,544	292,655	102
Table Egg Type		237,220	241,191	102
Hatching Egg Type		48,324	51,464	106
Broiler-Type Hatching		45,873	49,046	107
Egg-Type Hatching		2,451	2,418	99
Eggs per 100 Layers During Nov	1,000			
All Layers		2,124	2,122	100
Table Egg Type		2,188	2,190	100
Hatching Egg Type		1,809	1,801	100
Broiler-Type Hatching		1,783	1,778	100
Egg-Type Hatching		2,285	2,275	100
Eggs Produced During Nov	Million			
All Layers		6,065	6,209	102
Table Egg Type		5,191	5,282	102
Hatching Egg Type		874	927	106
Broiler-Type Hatching		818	872	107
Egg-Type Hatching		56	55	98
Layers on Dec 1	1,000			
All Layers		287,158	294,837	103
Table Egg Type		237,979	243,169	102
Hatching Egg Type		49,179	51,668	105
Broiler-Type Hatching		46,745	49,259	105
Egg-Type Hatching		2,434	2,409	99
Eggs per 100 Layers on Dec 1	Number			
All Layers		71.3	70.9	99
Table Egg Type		73.6	73.3	100
Hatching Egg Type		60.2	59.8	99
Broiler-Type Hatching		59.3	59.0	99
Egg-Type Hatching		77.4	76.8	99
Forced Molt Layers, Dec 1	Percent			
Percent Being Molted		2.1	2.8	133
Percent with Molt Completed		23.5	24.2	103
Layers Sold During Nov	1,000	14,002	13,180	94
Layers Rendered, Died, Destroyed, Composted or Disappeared For Any Reason During Nov	1,000	2,604	2,629	101
Pullets Less Than 20 Weeks of Age, Dec 1	1,000	71,667	78,098	109
Pullets Added During Nov ⁴	1,000	20,862	20,036	96

¹ The 30 States are listed in the table on page 8.

² Revised.

³ Preliminary.

⁴ 1996 is pullets added less than 20 weeks old to pullet flocks. 1997 is pullet chicks one day old added to pullet flocks.

**Layers and Eggs: Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by State
and United States, During October 1996-97 ¹**

State	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 and Above		All Layers ²		Eggs per 100 for All Layers ²	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
AL	4,086	3,987	10,318	10,569	2,045	1,959
AR	5,005	4,414	14,713	14,364	1,917	1,887
CA	25,301	25,231	25,841	25,881	2,198	2,191
CO	2,745	2,994	3,275	3,560	2,168	2,247
CT	3,462	3,160	3,588	3,315	2,258	2,293
FL	8,130	9,486	8,762	10,126	2,214	2,143
GA	10,847	11,680	18,539	20,582	2,087	2,089
HI	701	691	725	716	2,089	1,888
IL	3,100	3,247	3,291	3,392	2,400	2,358
IN	20,517	20,568	21,597	21,430	2,278	2,282
IA	19,212	20,327	20,079	21,264	2,226	2,262
ME	5,165	4,821	5,290	4,935	2,382	2,452
MD	3,199	2,723	3,640	3,168	2,280	2,210
MI	4,654	4,906	4,891	5,150	2,288	2,266
MN	11,370	10,878	12,203	11,686	2,163	2,165
MS	2,143	1,820	6,534	6,706	2,020	1,953
MO	5,588	5,615	6,611	6,874	2,178	2,226
NE	8,966	9,648	9,116	9,798	2,155	2,192
NY	3,183	3,131	3,467	3,343	2,365	2,393
NC	5,461	4,276	12,298	11,519	1,935	1,901
OH	24,730	25,948	25,214	26,494	2,249	2,272
OK	1,858	1,680	3,753	3,585	1,998	1,925
OR	2,520	2,893	2,720	3,060	2,279	2,190
PA	19,490	20,455	20,766	21,696	2,268	2,277
SC	3,637	3,698	4,705	4,789	2,274	2,234
SD	1,878	1,868	2,090	2,143	2,238	2,241
TX	13,294	13,679	16,645	17,361	2,091	2,120
VA	1,940	1,627	3,891	3,605	2,030	1,969
WA	4,881	4,915	5,122	5,245	2,284	2,326
WI	3,040	3,092	3,549	3,721	2,141	2,284
30 Sts	230,103	233,458	283,233	290,077	2,172	2,173
Oth Sts ³	11,256	11,237	15,963	16,169	2,142	2,146
US	241,359	244,695	299,196	306,246	2,171	2,172

¹ Revised.

² Includes all layers and eggs produced in both table egg and hatching egg flocks regardless of size.

³ Estimates for individual States are not available.

**Layers and Eggs: Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by State
and United States, During November 1996-97 ¹**

State	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 and Above		All Layers ²		Eggs per 100 for All Layers ²	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
AL	4,110	3,911	10,364	10,419	1,959	1,939
AR	4,923	4,436	14,628	14,399	1,907	1,820
CA	25,783	25,340	26,331	25,991	2,176	2,170
CO	2,742	3,087	3,299	3,688	2,092	2,169
CT	3,469	3,226	3,600	3,389	2,222	2,272
FL	8,213	9,865	8,878	10,541	2,095	2,078
GA	11,073	11,631	19,016	20,573	2,040	2,076
HI	711	707	736	732	2,049	1,788
IL	3,109	3,207	3,303	3,352	2,331	2,297
IN	19,821	21,156	20,774	22,028	2,258	2,197
IA	19,424	20,546	20,310	21,495	2,142	2,205
ME	5,140	4,737	5,256	4,863	2,359	2,406
MD	3,094	2,698	3,557	3,163	2,249	2,150
MI	4,727	4,958	4,971	5,210	2,280	2,139
MN	11,233	11,110	12,051	11,881	2,058	2,087
MS	2,142	1,883	6,617	6,778	1,889	1,829
MO	5,435	5,705	6,518	6,993	2,148	2,145
NE	9,154	9,774	9,304	9,924	2,154	2,094
NY	3,261	3,301	3,547	3,506	2,255	2,339
NC	5,512	4,237	12,452	11,729	1,887	1,833
OH	25,488	26,072	25,986	26,629	2,186	2,216
OK	1,800	1,678	3,730	3,611	1,903	1,911
OR	2,546	2,854	2,741	3,031	2,189	2,210
PA	19,905	20,960	21,170	22,193	2,239	2,253
SC	3,734	3,626	4,763	4,667	2,225	2,207
SD	1,840	1,918	2,048	2,105	2,175	2,130
TX	13,366	13,600	16,707	17,248	2,101	2,076
VA	2,016	1,588	4,026	3,531	1,937	1,954
WA	4,864	4,862	5,177	5,147	2,221	2,293
WI	3,112	3,218	3,684	3,839	2,117	2,292
30 Sts	231,747	235,891	285,544	292,655	2,124	2,122
Oth Sts ³	11,436	11,287	16,060	16,274	2,142	2,120
US	243,183	247,178	301,604	308,929	2,125	2,122

¹ 1997 preliminary, 1996 Revised.

² Includes all layers and eggs produced in both table egg and hatching egg flocks regardless of size.

³ Estimates for individual States are not available.

**Egg Production: By Type, State, and United States,
October 1996-97 ¹**

State	Total Production		Table Eggs ²		Hatching Eggs ²	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>
AL	211	207	97	89	114	118
AR	282	271	106	91	176	180
CA	568	567				
CO	71	80				
CT	81	76				
FL	194	217	181	205	13	12
GA	387	430	237	259	150	171
HI	15	14	15	14	0	0
IL	79	80	78	79	1	1
IN	492	489	483	479	9	10
IA	447	481				
ME	126	121				
MD	83	70	76	63	7	7
MI	112	117				
MN	264	253	253	242	11	11
MS	132	131	49	40	83	91
MO	144	153				
NE	196	215	196	215	0	0
NY	82	80				
NC	238	219	121	91	117	128
OH	567	602				
OK	75	69	45	38	30	31
OR	62	67	60	66	2	1
PA	471	494	456	479	15	15
SC	107	107	88	87	19	20
SD	47	48	47	48	0	0
TX	348	368				
VA	79	71	45	37	34	34
WA	117	122				
WI	76	85				
30 Sts	6,153	6,304	5,263	5,344	890	960
Oth Sts ³	342	347	276	273	66	74
US	6,495	6,651	5,539	5,617	956	1,034

¹ Revised.

² Data by type of flock not shown for some States to avoid disclosing individual operations.

³ Estimates for individual States are not available.

**Egg Production: By Type, State, and United States,
November 1996-97 ¹**

State	Total Production		Table Eggs ²		Hatching Eggs ²	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>
AL	203	202	94	88	109	114
AR	279	262	104	88	175	174
CA	573	564				
CO	69	80				
CT	80	77				
FL	186	219	173	207	13	12
GA	388	427	240	261	148	166
HI	15	13	15	13	0	0
IL	77	77	76	76	1	1
IN	469	484	460	474	9	10
IA	435	474				
ME	124	117				
MD	80	68	73	61	7	7
MI	113	111				
MN	248	248	238	238	10	10
MS	125	124	45	38	80	86
MO	140	150				
NE	200	208	200	208	0	0
NY	80	82				
NC	235	215	120	89	115	126
OH	568	590				
OK	71	69	42	38	29	31
OR	60	67	58	66	2	1
PA	474	500	459	485	15	15
SC	106	103	88	84	18	19
SD	45	45	45	45	0	0
TX	351	358				
VA	78	69	43	37	35	32
WA	115	118				
WI	78	88				
30 Sts	6,065	6,209	5,191	5,282	874	927
Oth Sts ³	344	346	280	276	64	70
US	6,409	6,555	5,471	5,558	938	997

¹ 1997 preliminary, 1996 Revised.

² Data by type of flock not shown for some States to avoid disclosing individual operations.

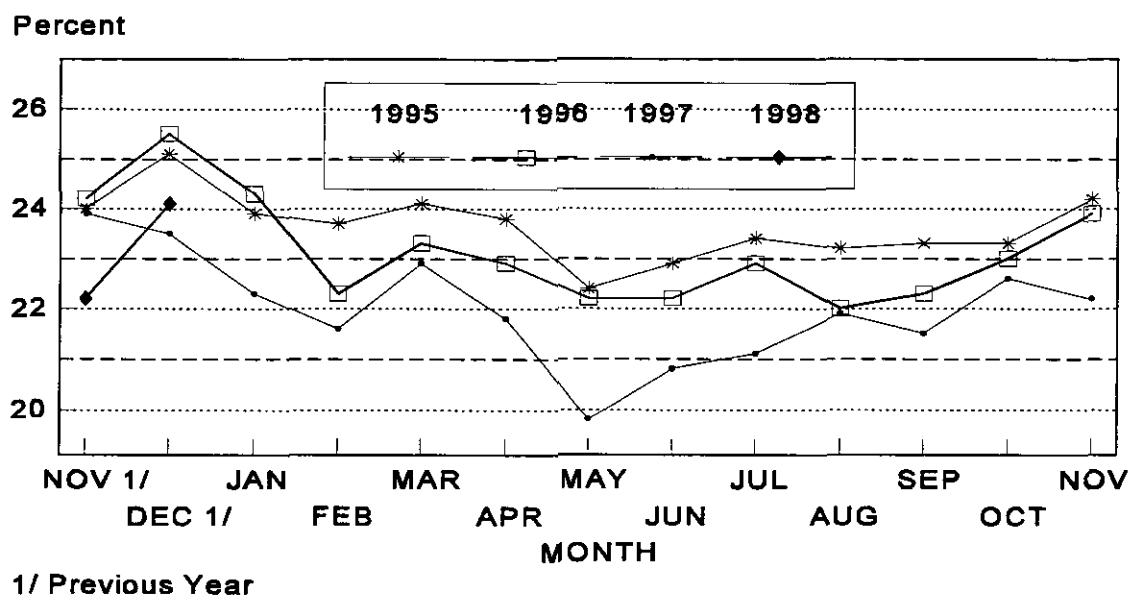
³ Estimates for individual States are not available.

**Forced Molt: Percent of All Layers by Month,
United States, 1996-97 ¹**

Month	Percent Being Molted		Percent with Molt Completed	
	1996	1997	1996	1997
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Jan	3.7	3.8	24.3	22.3
Feb	5.4	5.1	22.3	21.6
Mar	3.5	2.4	23.3	22.9
Apr	1.9	3.1	22.9	21.8
May	5.4	5.3	22.2	19.8
Jun	4.7	4.4	22.2	20.8
Jul	4.0	4.8	22.9	21.1
Aug	4.7	3.5	22.0	21.9
Sep	4.3	3.9	22.3	21.5
Oct	4.8	4.7	23.0	22.6
Nov	3.1	4.2	23.9	22.2
Dec	2.1	2.8	23.5	24.1

¹ As of first of month.

ALL LAYER Percent Molt Completed, 1995- 1998 FIRST OF MONTH



**Forced Molt: Percent of All Layers by State
and United States, December 1996-97 ¹**

State	Percent Being Molted		Percent with Molt Completed	
	1996	1997	1996	1997
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	0.5	0.0	14.5	20.5
AR	2.5	2.5	11.0	16.5
CA	4.5	3.5	41.5	40.0
CO	2.0	0.0	28.5	17.0
CT	0.0	12.5	13.0	11.0
FL	2.0	4.5	31.0	40.0
GA	0.0	5.5	24.0	16.5
HI	5.5	15.0	52.0	44.5
IL	3.5	7.0	20.0	32.5
IN	2.0	2.0	21.0	26.0
IA	4.5	3.5	32.5	35.0
ME	1.5	0.0	1.5	2.0
MD	0.0	3.0	32.5	42.0
MI	1.0	1.0	20.5	20.0
MN	2.5	3.0	33.0	32.0
MS	0.5	0.0	15.5	12.0
MO	0.0	2.0	20.0	26.0
NE	2.5	8.0	26.5	27.0
NY	1.0	0.0	6.5	3.5
NC	0.0	0.0	12.0	15.5
OH	1.0	1.5	13.0	14.0
OK	1.5	1.0	13.5	11.0
OR	8.0	6.0	29.5	36.5
PA	1.0	3.0	21.0	19.5
SC	10.0	4.0	25.0	34.5
SD	0.0	1.0	60.0	50.5
TX	1.5	1.5	24.0	20.5
VA	3.0	3.0	11.0	12.5
WA	5.0	3.0	44.5	38.0
WI	3.0	1.0	31.0	26.0
30 Sts	2.1	2.8	23.5	24.2
Oth Sts ²	2.4	2.3	24.1	22.8
US	2.1	2.8	23.5	24.1

¹ As of first of month.

² Estimates for individual States are not available.

**Hatchery Production: Eggs in Incubators, Chicks Hatched,
and Placements by Type, United States, November-December 1996-97**

Item	1996	1997	1997 as % of 1996
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<i>Egg-Type</i>			
Eggs in Incubators on Dec 1	30,770	32,960	107
Chicks Hatched During Nov	31,437	27,803	88
Chicks Hatched Jan thru Nov	374,231	386,518	103
Pullets Hatched During Oct for Intended Placements in Hatchery Supply Flocks	210	124	59
7-18 Month Earlier ¹	2,807	2,863	102
<i>Broiler-Type</i>			
Eggs in Incubators on Dec 1	573,495	593,985	104
Chicks Hatched During Nov	631,142	648,120	103
Chicks Hatched Jan thru Nov	7,381,927	7,594,872	103
Pullets Hatched During Oct for Intended Placements in Hatchery Supply Flocks	6,508	6,347	98
7-15 Months Earlier ²	55,892	56,219	101

¹ 1997 includes pullet chicks hatched May 1996 through Apr 1997.

² 1997 includes pullet chicks hatched Aug 1996 through Apr 1997.

**Egg-Type Eggs in Incubators: By Region and United States,
December 1, 1996-97**

Geographic Division	1996	1997	1997 as % of 1996
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>
North Atlantic	5,080	5,383	106
E North Central	8,471	9,321	110
W North Central	5,863	6,251	107
South Atlantic	4,253	4,505	106
South Central	3,002	3,551	118
West	4,101	3,949	96
US	30,770	32,960	107

Regional Listing:

North Atlantic = CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT.

E North Central = IL, IN, MI, OH, WI.

W North Central = IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD.

South Atlantic = DE, FL, GA, MD, NC, SC, VA, WV.

South Central = AL, AR, KY, LA, MS, OK, TN, TX.

West = AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NM, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY.

**Egg-Type Chicks Hatched: By State and United States,
November 1996-97**

State	November			Jan-Nov		
	1996	1997	1997 as % of 1996	1996	1997	1997 as % of 1996
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AR	655	645	98	9,426	8,884	94
FL	1,110	835	75	12,527	13,020	104
GA	1,524	1,400	92	22,215	21,937	99
IN	6,643	5,529	83	78,869	78,096	99
IA	3,606	3,545	98	36,363	43,298	119
KS	334	292	87	2,913	2,871	99
MN	1,961	1,483	76	22,246	21,056	95
MO	341	360	106	3,815	4,231	111
PA	3,729	4,128	111	44,398	52,599	118
Oth Sts ¹	11,534	9,586	83	141,459	140,526	99
US	31,437	27,803	88	374,231	386,518	103

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

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched: By Month, United States, 1995-97

Month	By Months				Cumulative			
	1995	1996	1997	1997 as % of 1996	1995	1996	1997	1997 as % of 1996
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	32,374	31,523	33,331	106	32,374	31,523	33,331	106
Feb	32,743	34,627	35,318	102	65,117	66,150	68,649	104
Mar	36,019	37,474	37,648	100	101,136	103,624	106,297	103
Apr	35,078	35,628	38,746	109	136,214	139,252	145,043	104
May	37,540	38,607	38,891	101	173,754	177,859	183,934	103
Jun	34,996	34,076	36,955	108	208,750	211,935	220,889	104
Jul	29,572	33,331	33,954	102	238,322	245,266	254,843	104
Aug	31,442	32,393	32,903	102	269,764	277,659	287,746	104
Sep	33,586	32,070	35,794	112	303,350	309,729	323,540	104
Oct	33,383	33,065	35,175	106	336,733	342,794	358,715	105
Nov	29,129	31,437	27,803	88	365,862	374,231	386,518	103
Dec	30,639	33,017			396,501	407,248		

**Intended Placements: Egg-Type Pullet Chicks for Hatchery Supply
Flocks by Month and Total, United States, 1995-97 ¹**

Month	Pullet Chicks Hatched			1997 as % of 1996	Cumulative Potential Placements Relative to Current Supply Flocks 7-18 Months Earlier ²		
	1995	1996	1997		1996	1997	1998
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Jan	236	219	208	95	3,108	2,953	2,814
Feb	251	238	219	92	3,089	2,984	2,747
Mar	356	317	206	65	2,943	3,007	2,845
Apr	317	252	316	125	2,920	2,946	3,011
May	193	291	268	92	2,951	2,870	3,044
Jun	234	282	256	91	2,835	2,956	2,958
Jul	235	266	199	75	2,941	2,940	
Aug	163	186	284	153	2,924	2,929	
Sep	292	231	397	172	2,911	2,910	
Oct	309	233	266	114	2,872	2,799	
Nov	124	210	124	59	2,807	2,863	
Dec	231	215			2,905	2,840	
Total	2,941	2,940					

¹ Reported by leading breeders. Coverage may not be 100 percent. Includes expected pullet chicks from eggs sold during the preceding month at the rate of 125 pullet chicks per 30 dozen case of eggs.

² For November 1997, includes breeder pullet chicks hatched May 1996 through Apr 1997. The 7-18 months represent the first laying cycle. Molting and additional laying cycles will increase the cumulative potential placements.

**Broiler-Type Eggs in Incubators: By Region
and United States, December 1, 1996-97**

Geographic Division	1996	1997	1997 as % of 1996
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>
North Atlantic	11,983	11,798	98
E North Central	7,841	7,354	94
W North Central	21,758	21,955	101
South Atlantic	223,454	225,969	101
South Central	285,651	304,025	106
West	22,808	22,884	100
US	573,495	593,985	104

**Broiler-Type Chicks Hatched: By State
and United States, November 1996-97**

State	November			Jan-Nov		
	1996	1997	1997 as % of 1996	1996	1997	1997 as % of 1996
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	81,704	83,836	103	956,028	995,933	104
AR	95,670	98,622	103	1,142,008	1,155,902	101
DE	14,955	14,591	98	175,929	177,264	101
FL	9,411	9,440	100	110,847	103,476	93
GA	94,824	95,912	101	1,109,903	1,150,559	104
MD	28,449	27,837	98	332,842	331,842	100
MS	54,273	57,879	107	624,470	674,128	108
NC	57,416	56,038	98	676,359	662,030	98
PA	11,392	11,697	103	127,956	138,795	108
SC	14,622	14,620	100	166,873	167,484	100
TX	38,553	41,141	107	449,040	477,680	106
VA	21,259	21,706	102	252,918	257,532	102
CA TN & WV	33,704	35,230	105	371,082	383,156	103
15 Sts ¹	556,232	568,549	102	6,496,255	6,675,781	103
OR & WA	5,045	4,909	97	60,646	62,305	103
Oth Sts ²	69,865	74,662	107	825,026	856,786	104
US	631,142	648,120	103	7,381,927	7,594,872	103

¹ States in the weekly hatchery production estimating program.

² Not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

Broiler Chicks Hatched: By Month, United States, 1995-97

Month	By Months				Cumulative			
	1995	1996	1997	1997 as % of 1996	1995	1996	1997	1997 as % of 1996
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	662,467	689,994	700,467	102	662,467	689,994	700,467	102
Feb	600,095	645,590	631,259	98	1,262,562	1,335,584	1,331,726	100
Mar	679,066	692,287	716,374	103	1,941,628	2,027,871	2,048,100	101
Apr	664,121	668,378	690,790	103	2,605,749	2,696,249	2,738,890	102
May	691,935	700,556	720,610	103	3,297,684	3,396,805	3,459,500	102
Jun	670,815	672,168	702,511	105	3,968,499	4,068,973	4,162,011	102
Jul	673,666	679,766	709,150	104	4,642,165	4,748,739	4,871,161	103
Aug	674,054	690,838	709,281	103	5,316,219	5,439,577	5,580,442	103
Sep	638,882	658,976	683,249	104	5,955,101	6,098,553	6,263,691	103
Oct	655,036	652,232	683,061	105	6,610,137	6,750,785	6,946,752	103
Nov	629,208	631,142	648,120	103	7,239,345	7,381,927	7,594,872	103
Dec	693,007	695,011			7,932,352	8,076,938		

**Intended Placements: Broiler-Type Pullet Chicks for Hatchery
Supply Flocks by Month and Total, 1995-97 ¹**

Month	Pullet Chicks Hatched			1997 as % of 1996	Cumulative Potential Placements Relative to Current Supply Flocks 7-15 Months Earlier ²		
	1995	1996	1997		1996	1997	1998
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
US Place- ments							
Jan	5,710	5,487	6,393	117	54,562	56,074	56,607
Feb	5,484	5,916	5,913	100	54,522	56,090	57,718
Mar	6,161	6,093	6,439	106	55,178	55,944	57,907
Apr	6,320	6,746	6,122	91	55,053	55,892	58,462
May	6,135	6,776	7,056	104	55,356	56,626	58,323
Jun	6,178	6,169	6,008	97	56,528	57,218	58,757
Jul	6,302	6,029	7,332	122	56,585	57,072	
Aug	6,475	6,510	6,697	103	55,752	56,719	
Sep	6,288	6,166	6,502	105	55,533	55,856	
Oct	6,013	6,221	6,254	101	55,448	56,126	
Nov	6,656	6,508	6,347	98	55,892	56,219	
Dec	6,218	5,947			56,193	56,765	
Annual Total	73,940	74,568					
Total Place- ments ³							
Jan	7,040	6,693	7,665	115			
Feb	7,180	7,167	7,252	101			
Mar	7,577	7,501	8,030	107			
Apr	7,835	7,903	7,453	94			
May	7,873	8,234	8,660	105			
Jun	7,485	7,467	7,483	100			
Jul	7,730	7,572	8,714	115			
Aug	7,850	8,120	8,350	103			
Sep	7,730	7,771	8,188	105			
Oct	7,301	7,892	8,277	105			
Nov	7,784	7,860	8,119	103			
Dec	7,750	7,709					
Annual Total	91,135	91,889					

¹ Reported by leading breeders. Coverage may not be 100 percent. Includes expected pullet chicks from eggs sold during the preceding month at the rate of 125 pullet chicks per 30 dozen case of eggs.

² For Nov 1997, includes breeder pullet chicks hatched Aug 1996 through Apr 1997.

³ U.S. production of intended placements worldwide.

Procedures and Reliability

Data Sources: Primary data for the "**Chickens and Eggs**" report are from weekly and/or monthly questionnaires sent to producers. An attempt is made to collect information for layer and egg estimates from each known contractor and independent producer who has over 30,000 table egg layers. Coverage for operations with less than 30,000 table egg layers are estimated each month based on data reported in December. Approximately 900 contractors, independent egg producers, and started pullet operations are contacted each month. All known hatcheries, approximately 360, are contacted for information on a weekly and/or monthly basis.

Revisions: The previous month's estimates are subject to revision if late reports or corrected data indicates a different level. Additionally, revisions needed after the monthly report will be made at the end of the marketing year and published in the annual summaries of "**Layers and Egg Production**" and "**Hatchery Production**".

Procedures and Reliability: Operations are mailed a questionnaire and given adequate time to respond by mail. Those that do not respond are phoned. Great care is exercised to ensure that all operations are accounted for during each survey period. However, there are usually missing reports that must be accounted for in the estimates.

Sound statistical methodology is employed to derive estimates from the reported data. All data are checked for unusual values. All operations' data are compared to their own past operating profiles and also to trends from other operations. Data for missing operations are estimated based on similar operations or historical data. Survey data are subject to non-sampling errors such as omissions and mistakes in reporting and in processing. While these errors cannot be measured directly, they are minimized by reviewing all data for consistency and reasonableness.

Egg-type chicks hatched are comprised of all chicks of egg-type domesticated breeds including males and chicks destined for hatchery supply flocks and research purposes. The relationship of chicks hatched to chicken inventory and poultry marketings is carefully monitored. The disposition of egg-type chicks hatched prior to placement into the laying flock can vary significantly, which can make comparisons to changes in layer inventory inconsistent over time.

Intended placement data reported by leading breeders include pullet chicks expected from eggs sold the preceding month. The breeders in this report account for a large percentage of replacement pullets for hatchery supply flocks. Production of replacement pullets by these breeders indicates the number of pullets available to hatchery egg supply flocks several months before the pullets will actually move into the flocks. Beginning with the January 1996 publication the broiler-type cumulative potential placements went from 7-14 months earlier to 7-15 months earlier. The egg-type cumulative potential placements of 7-18 months represent the first laying cycle. Molting and additional laying cycles will increase the cumulative potential placements of egg-type hatching flocks.

The next "Chickens and Eggs" report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on January 30, 1998.

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Chickens and Eggs



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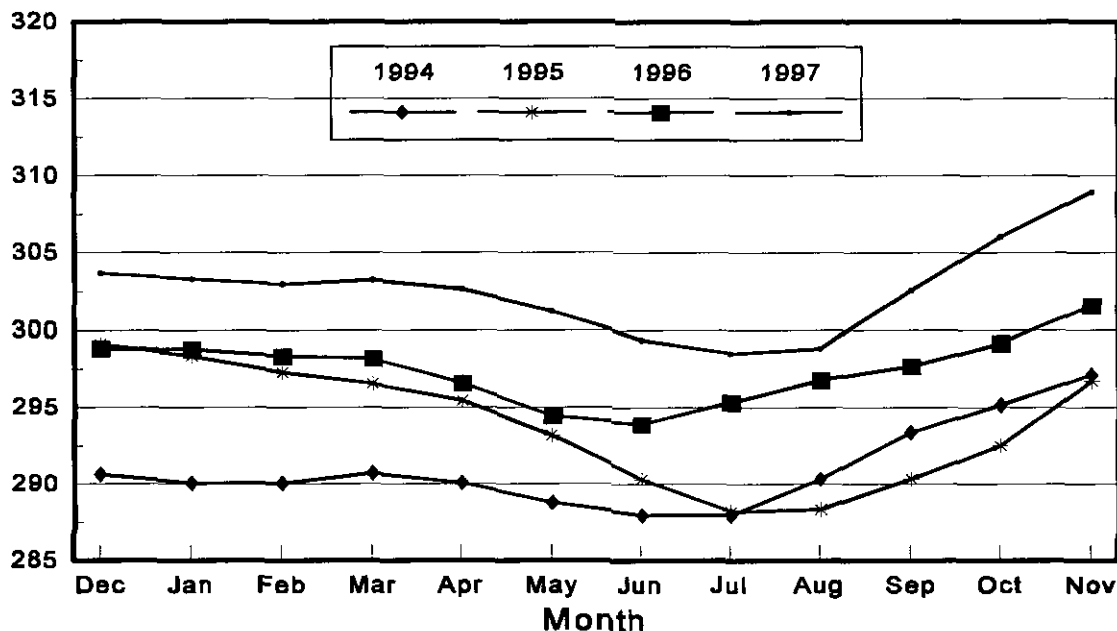
Released December 19, 1997, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on "Chickens and Eggs" call Dan Boostrom at (202) 720-3244, office hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

November Egg Production Up 2 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 6.56 billion during November 1997, up 2 percent from the 6.41 billion produced in 1996. Production included 5.56 billion table eggs and 997 million hatching eggs, of which 940 million were broiler-type and 57.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during November 1997 averaged 309 million, up 2 percent from the average number of layers during November 1996. November egg production per 100 layers was 2,122 eggs, down slightly from November 1996.

Average Number of All Layers United States , 1994-1997

Million Layers



All layers in the U.S. on December 1, 1997, totaled 311 million, up 3 percent from a year ago. The 311 million layers consisted of 256 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 53.2 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.50 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on December 1, 1997, averaged 71.0 eggs per 100 layers, down fractionally from the 71.3 a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg production States produced 6.21 billion eggs during November, up 2 percent from November 1996. The average number of layers during November, at 293 million, was up 2 percent from a year earlier.

Individual State estimates are available for the 30 major egg producing States. These States are listed on page 8 of this release and account for approximately 95 percent of the total U.S. egg production. Production for the other States are grouped into an "Other States" category and combined with the 30 States published individually to obtain a U.S. estimate. Individual State estimates for "Other States" are available annually in the "**Layers and Egg Production**" report.

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched down 12 Percent

Egg-type chicks **hatched** during November totaled 27.8 million, down 12 percent from November 1996. **Eggs in incubators** totaled 33.0 million on December 1, 1997, up 7 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of **egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks** by leading breeders totaled 124,000 during November 1997, down 41 percent from the 210,000 of November 1996.

Broiler Hatch Up 3 Percent

The November 1997 **hatch** of broiler-type chicks, at 648 million, was up 3 percent from November of the previous year. There were 594 million **eggs in incubators** on December 1, 1997, up 4 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 6.35 million **broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks** during November 1997, down 2 percent from November 1996.

For information call Tom Kruchten at (202) 690-4870

**Layers: Average Number During the Month,
United States, 1994-97**

Month	1994	1995	1996	1997
	<i>1,000 Layers</i>	<i>1,000 Layers</i>	<i>1,000 Layers</i>	<i>1,000 Layers</i>
Dec ¹	290,642	299,160	298,861	303,669
Jan	290,041	298,367	298,814	303,293
Feb	290,047	297,293	298,357	302,971
Mar	290,719	296,561	298,209	303,244
Apr	290,073	295,464	296,605	302,666
May	288,784	293,198	294,458	301,235
Jun	287,974	290,313	293,915	299,427
Jul	287,990	288,213	295,349	298,548
Aug	290,321	288,359	296,785	298,861
Sep	293,381	290,337	297,696	302,585
Oct	295,172	292,516	299,196	306,246
Nov	297,134	296,724	301,604	308,929

¹ December preceding year.

**Eggs: Production During the Month by Type,
United States, 1996-97**

Month	Total Eggs		Table Eggs		Hatching Eggs	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>
Dec ¹	6,523	6,678	5,548	5,695	975	983
Jan	6,398	6,554	5,420	5,567	978	987
Feb	5,954	5,887	5,036	4,985	918	902
Mar	6,495	6,600	5,505	5,580	990	1,020
Apr	6,243	6,334	5,284	5,336	959	998
May	6,340	6,495	5,341	5,449	999	1,046
Jun	6,169	6,265	5,209	5,250	960	1,015
Jul	6,440	6,433	5,457	5,400	983	1,033
Aug	6,447	6,467	5,465	5,453	982	1,014
Sep	6,235	6,344	5,297	5,353	938	991
Oct	6,495	6,651	5,539	5,617	956	1,034
Nov	6,409	6,555	5,471	5,558	938	997
During Year	76,148	77,263	64,572	65,243	11,576	12,020

¹ December preceding year.

**Eggs and Layers: Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Type,
and Forced Molt, United States, October-November 1996-97 ¹**

Item	Unit	1996	1997	1997 as % of 1996
Layers During Oct	1,000			
All Layers		299,196	306,246	102
Table Egg Type		248,071	251,108	101
Hatching Egg Type		51,125	55,138	108
Broiler-Type Hatching		48,581	52,602	108
Egg-Type Hatching		2,544	2,536	100
Eggs per 100 Layers During Oct	Number			
All Layers		2,171	2,172	100
Table Egg Type		2,233	2,237	100
Hatching Egg Type		1,870	1,875	100
Broiler-Type Hatching		1,846	1,854	100
Egg-Type Hatching		2,319	2,326	100
Eggs Produced During Oct	Million			
All Layers		6,495	6,651	102
Table Egg Type		5,539	5,617	101
Hatching Egg Type		956	1,034	108
Broiler-Type Hatching		897	975	109
Egg-Type Hatching		59	59	100
Layers on Nov 1	1,000			
All Layers		299,910	306,583	102
Table Egg Type		248,972	251,476	101
Hatching Egg Type		50,938	55,107	108
Broiler-Type Hatching		48,394	52,609	109
Egg-Type Hatching		2,544	2,498	98
Eggs per 100 Layers on Nov 1	Number			
All Layers		70.2	70.4	100
Table Egg Type		72.2	72.6	101
Hatching Egg Type		60.5	60.1	99
Broiler-Type Hatching		59.7	59.4	99
Egg-Type Hatching		75.1	76.5	102
Forced Molt Layers on Nov 1	Percent			
Percent Being Molted		3.1	4.2	135
Percent with Molt Completed		23.9	22.2	93

¹ Revised.

**Eggs and Layers: Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Type,
and Forced Molt, United States, November-December 1996-97**

Item	Unit	1996 ¹	1997 ²	1997 as % of 1996
Layers During Nov	1,000			
All Layers		301,604	308,929	102
Table Egg Type		249,823	253,529	101
Hatching Egg Type		51,781	55,400	107
Broiler-Type Hatching		49,235	52,893	107
Egg-Type Hatching		2,546	2,507	98
Eggs per 100 Layers During Nov	Number			
All Layers		2,125	2,122	100
Table Egg Type		2,190	2,192	100
Hatching Egg Type		1,811	1,800	99
Broiler-Type Hatching		1,785	1,777	100
Egg-Type Hatching		2,317	2,274	98
Eggs Produced During Nov	Million			
All Layers		6,409	6,555	102
Table Egg Type		5,471	5,558	102
Hatching Egg Type		938	997	106
Broiler-Type Hatching		879	940	107
Egg-Type Hatching		59	57	97
Layers on Dec 1	1,000			
All Layers		303,248	311,219	103
Table Egg Type		250,645	255,555	102
Hatching Egg Type		52,603	55,664	106
Broiler-Type Hatching		50,070	53,161	106
Egg-Type Hatching		2,533	2,503	99
Eggs per 100 Layers on Dec 1	Number			
All Layers		71.3	71.0	100
Table Egg Type		73.6	73.4	100
Hatching Egg Type		60.3	59.7	99
Broiler-Type Hatching		59.4	58.9	99
Egg-Type Hatching		77.5	76.9	99
Forced Molt Layers, Dec 1	Percent			
Percent Being Molted		2.1	2.8	133
Percent with Molt Completed		23.5	24.1	103

¹ Revised.

² Preliminary.

**Eggs and Layers: Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Type, and Forced
Molt, October-November, 30 Selected States, 1996-97^{1 2}**

Item	Unit	1996	1997	1997 as % of 1996
Layers During Oct	1,000			
All Layers		283,233	290,077	102
Table Egg Type		235,571	238,816	101
Hatching Egg Type		47,662	51,261	108
Broiler-Type Hatching		45,207	48,822	108
Egg-Type Hatching		2,455	2,439	99
Eggs per 100 Layers During Oct	Number			
All Layers		2,172	2,173	100
Table Egg Type		2,234	2,238	100
Hatching Egg Type		1,867	1,873	100
Broiler-Type Hatching		1,843	1,850	100
Egg-Type Hatching		2,322	2,337	101
Eggs Produced During Oct	Million			
All Layers		6,153	6,304	102
Table Egg Type		5,263	5,344	102
Hatching Egg Type		890	960	108
Broiler-Type Hatching		833	903	108
Egg-Type Hatching		57	57	100
Layers on Nov 1	1,000			
All Layers		283,893	290,433	102
Table Egg Type		236,442	239,197	101
Hatching Egg Type		47,451	51,236	108
Broiler-Type Hatching		44,997	48,820	108
Egg-Type Hatching		2,454	2,416	98
Eggs per 100 Layers on Nov 1	Number			
All Layers		70.2	70.4	100
Table Egg Type		72.2	72.6	101
Hatching Egg Type		60.4	60.2	100
Broiler-Type Hatching		59.6	59.4	100
Egg-Type Hatching		74.9	76.7	102
Forced Molt Layers on Nov 1	Percent			
Percent Being Molted		3.1	4.2	135
Percent with Molt Completed		24.0	22.2	93
Layers Sold During Oct	1,000	15,764	14,365	91
Layers Rendered, Died, Destroyed, Composted or Disappeared For Any Reason During Oct	1,000	2,877	3,482	121
Pullets Less Than 20 Weeks of Age, Nov 1	1,000	69,965	76,915	110
Pullets Added During Oct ³	1,000	22,561	17,790	79

¹ The 30 States are listed in the table on page 8.

² Revised.

³ 1996 is pullets added less than 20 weeks old to pullet flocks. 1997 is pullet chicks one day old added to pullet flocks.

**Eggs and Layers: Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Type, and Forced
Molt, 30 Selected States, November-December, 1996-97 ¹**

Item	Unit	1996 ²	1997 ³	1997 as % of 1996
Layers During Nov	1,000			
All Layers		285,544	292,655	102
Table Egg Type		237,220	241,191	102
Hatching Egg Type		48,324	51,464	106
Broiler-Type Hatching		45,873	49,046	107
Egg-Type Hatching		2,451	2,418	99
Eggs per 100 Layers During Nov	1,000			
All Layers		2,124	2,122	100
Table Egg Type		2,188	2,190	100
Hatching Egg Type		1,809	1,801	100
Broiler-Type Hatching		1,783	1,778	100
Egg-Type Hatching		2,285	2,275	100
Eggs Produced During Nov	Million			
All Layers		6,065	6,209	102
Table Egg Type		5,191	5,282	102
Hatching Egg Type		874	927	106
Broiler-Type Hatching		818	872	107
Egg-Type Hatching		56	55	98
Layers on Dec 1	1,000			
All Layers		287,158	294,837	103
Table Egg Type		237,979	243,169	102
Hatching Egg Type		49,179	51,668	105
Broiler-Type Hatching		46,745	49,259	105
Egg-Type Hatching		2,434	2,409	99
Eggs per 100 Layers on Dec 1	Number			
All Layers		71.3	70.9	99
Table Egg Type		73.6	73.3	100
Hatching Egg Type		60.2	59.8	99
Broiler-Type Hatching		59.3	59.0	99
Egg-Type Hatching		77.4	76.8	99
Forced Molt Layers, Dec 1	Percent			
Percent Being Molted		2.1	2.8	133
Percent with Molt Completed		23.5	24.2	103
Layers Sold During Nov	1,000	14,002	13,180	94
Layers Rendered, Died, Destroyed, Composted or Disappeared For Any Reason During Nov	1,000	2,604	2,629	101
Pullets Less Than 20 Weeks of Age, Dec 1	1,000	71,667	78,098	109
Pullets Added During Nov ⁴	1,000	20,862	20,036	96

¹ The 30 States are listed in the table on page 8.

² Revised.

³ Preliminary.

⁴ 1996 is pullets added less than 20 weeks old to pullet flocks. 1997 is pullet chicks one day old added to pullet flocks.

**Layers and Eggs: Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by State
and United States, During October 1996-97 ¹**

State	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 and Above		All Layers ²		Eggs per 100 for All Layers ²	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
AL	4,086	3,987	10,318	10,569	2,045	1,959
AR	5,005	4,414	14,713	14,364	1,917	1,887
CA	25,301	25,231	25,841	25,881	2,198	2,191
CO	2,745	2,994	3,275	3,560	2,168	2,247
CT	3,462	3,160	3,588	3,315	2,258	2,293
FL	8,130	9,486	8,762	10,126	2,214	2,143
GA	10,847	11,680	18,539	20,582	2,087	2,089
HI	701	691	725	716	2,089	1,888
IL	3,100	3,247	3,291	3,392	2,400	2,358
IN	20,517	20,568	21,597	21,430	2,278	2,282
IA	19,212	20,327	20,079	21,264	2,226	2,262
ME	5,165	4,821	5,290	4,935	2,382	2,452
MD	3,199	2,723	3,640	3,168	2,280	2,210
MI	4,654	4,906	4,891	5,150	2,288	2,266
MN	11,370	10,878	12,203	11,686	2,163	2,165
MS	2,143	1,820	6,534	6,706	2,020	1,953
MO	5,588	5,615	6,611	6,874	2,178	2,226
NE	8,966	9,648	9,116	9,798	2,155	2,192
NY	3,183	3,131	3,467	3,343	2,365	2,393
NC	5,461	4,276	12,298	11,519	1,935	1,901
OH	24,730	25,948	25,214	26,494	2,249	2,272
OK	1,858	1,680	3,753	3,585	1,998	1,925
OR	2,520	2,893	2,720	3,060	2,279	2,190
PA	19,490	20,455	20,766	21,696	2,268	2,277
SC	3,637	3,698	4,705	4,789	2,274	2,234
SD	1,878	1,868	2,090	2,143	2,238	2,241
TX	13,294	13,679	16,645	17,361	2,091	2,120
VA	1,940	1,627	3,891	3,605	2,030	1,969
WA	4,881	4,915	5,122	5,245	2,284	2,326
WI	3,040	3,092	3,549	3,721	2,141	2,284
30 Sts	230,103	233,458	283,233	290,077	2,172	2,173
Oth Sts ³	11,256	11,237	15,963	16,169	2,142	2,146
US	241,359	244,695	299,196	306,246	2,171	2,172

¹ Revised.

² Includes all layers and eggs produced in both table egg and hatching egg flocks regardless of size.

³ Estimates for individual States are not available.

**Layers and Eggs: Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by State
and United States, During November 1996-97 ¹**

State	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 and Above		All Layers ²		Eggs per 100 for All Layers ²	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
AL	4,110	3,911	10,364	10,419	1,959	1,939
AR	4,923	4,436	14,628	14,399	1,907	1,820
CA	25,783	25,340	26,331	25,991	2,176	2,170
CO	2,742	3,087	3,299	3,688	2,092	2,169
CT	3,469	3,226	3,600	3,389	2,222	2,272
FL	8,213	9,865	8,878	10,541	2,095	2,078
GA	11,073	11,631	19,016	20,573	2,040	2,076
HI	711	707	736	732	2,049	1,788
IL	3,109	3,207	3,303	3,352	2,331	2,297
IN	19,821	21,156	20,774	22,028	2,258	2,197
IA	19,424	20,546	20,310	21,495	2,142	2,205
ME	5,140	4,737	5,256	4,863	2,359	2,406
MD	3,094	2,698	3,557	3,163	2,249	2,150
MI	4,727	4,958	4,971	5,210	2,280	2,139
MN	11,233	11,110	12,051	11,881	2,058	2,087
MS	2,142	1,883	6,617	6,778	1,889	1,829
MO	5,435	5,705	6,518	6,993	2,148	2,145
NE	9,154	9,774	9,304	9,924	2,154	2,094
NY	3,261	3,301	3,547	3,506	2,255	2,339
NC	5,512	4,237	12,452	11,729	1,887	1,833
OH	25,488	26,072	25,986	26,629	2,186	2,216
OK	1,800	1,678	3,730	3,611	1,903	1,911
OR	2,546	2,854	2,741	3,031	2,189	2,210
PA	19,905	20,960	21,170	22,193	2,239	2,253
SC	3,734	3,626	4,763	4,667	2,225	2,207
SD	1,840	1,918	2,048	2,105	2,175	2,130
TX	13,366	13,600	16,707	17,248	2,101	2,076
VA	2,016	1,588	4,026	3,531	1,937	1,954
WA	4,864	4,862	5,177	5,147	2,221	2,293
WI	3,112	3,218	3,684	3,839	2,117	2,292
30 Sts	231,747	235,891	285,544	292,655	2,124	2,122
Oth Sts ³	11,436	11,287	16,060	16,274	2,142	2,120
US	243,183	247,178	301,604	308,929	2,125	2,122

¹ 1997 preliminary, 1996 Revised.

² Includes all layers and eggs produced in both table egg and hatching egg flocks regardless of size.

³ Estimates for individual States are not available.

**Egg Production: By Type, State, and United States,
October 1996-97 ¹**

State	Total Production		Table Eggs ²		Hatching Eggs ²	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>
AL	211	207	97	89	114	118
AR	282	271	106	91	176	180
CA	568	567				
CO	71	80				
CT	81	76				
FL	194	217	181	205	13	12
GA	387	430	237	259	150	171
HI	15	14	15	14	0	0
IL	79	80	78	79	1	1
IN	492	489	483	479	9	10
IA	447	481				
ME	126	121				
MD	83	70	76	63	7	7
MI	112	117				
MN	264	253	253	242	11	11
MS	132	131	49	40	83	91
MO	144	153				
NE	196	215	196	215	0	0
NY	82	80				
NC	238	219	121	91	117	128
OH	567	602				
OK	75	69	45	38	30	31
OR	62	67	60	66	2	1
PA	471	494	456	479	15	15
SC	107	107	88	87	19	20
SD	47	48	47	48	0	0
TX	348	368				
VA	79	71	45	37	34	34
WA	117	122				
WI	76	85				
30 Sts	6,153	6,304	5,263	5,344	890	960
Oth Sts ³	342	347	276	273	66	74
US	6,495	6,651	5,539	5,617	956	1,034

¹ Revised.

² Data by type of flock not shown for some States to avoid disclosing individual operations.

³ Estimates for individual States are not available.

**Egg Production: By Type, State, and United States,
November 1996-97 ¹**

State	Total Production		Table Eggs ²		Hatching Eggs ²	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>	<i>Million Eggs</i>
AL	203	202	94	88	109	114
AR	279	262	104	88	175	174
CA	573	564				
CO	69	80				
CT	80	77				
FL	186	219	173	207	13	12
GA	388	427	240	261	148	166
HI	15	13	15	13	0	0
IL	77	77	76	76	1	1
IN	469	484	460	474	9	10
IA	435	474				
ME	124	117				
MD	80	68	73	61	7	7
MI	113	111				
MN	248	248	238	238	10	10
MS	125	124	45	38	80	86
MO	140	150				
NE	200	208	200	208	0	0
NY	80	82				
NC	235	215	120	89	115	126
OH	568	590				
OK	71	69	42	38	29	31
OR	60	67	58	66	2	1
PA	474	500	459	485	15	15
SC	106	103	88	84	18	19
SD	45	45	45	45	0	0
TX	351	358				
VA	78	69	43	37	35	32
WA	115	118				
WI	78	88				
30 Sts	6,065	6,209	5,191	5,282	874	927
Oth Sts ³	344	346	280	276	64	70
US	6,409	6,555	5,471	5,558	938	997

¹ 1997 preliminary, 1996 Revised.

² Data by type of flock not shown for some States to avoid disclosing individual operations.

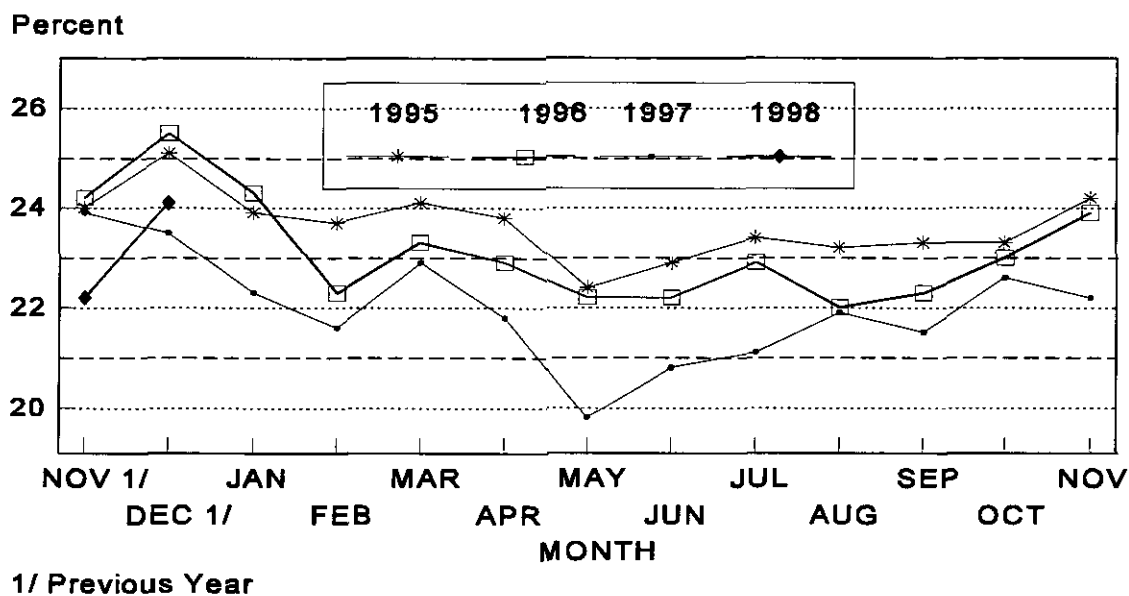
³ Estimates for individual States are not available.

**Forced Molt: Percent of All Layers by Month,
United States, 1996-97 ¹**

Month	Percent Being Molted		Percent with Molt Completed	
	1996	1997	1996	1997
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	3.7	3.8	24.3	22.3
Feb	5.4	5.1	22.3	21.6
Mar	3.5	2.4	23.3	22.9
Apr	1.9	3.1	22.9	21.8
May	5.4	5.3	22.2	19.8
Jun	4.7	4.4	22.2	20.8
Jul	4.0	4.8	22.9	21.1
Aug	4.7	3.5	22.0	21.9
Sep	4.3	3.9	22.3	21.5
Oct	4.8	4.7	23.0	22.6
Nov	3.1	4.2	23.9	22.2
Dec	2.1	2.8	23.5	24.1

¹ As of first of month.

ALL LAYER Percent Molt Completed, 1995- 1998 FIRST OF MONTH



**Forced Molt: Percent of All Layers by State
and United States, December 1996-97 ¹**

State	Percent Being Molted		Percent with Molt Completed	
	1996	1997	1996	1997
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	0.5	0.0	14.5	20.5
AR	2.5	2.5	11.0	16.5
CA	4.5	3.5	41.5	40.0
CO	2.0	0.0	28.5	17.0
CT	0.0	12.5	13.0	11.0
FL	2.0	4.5	31.0	40.0
GA	0.0	5.5	24.0	16.5
HI	5.5	15.0	52.0	44.5
IL	3.5	7.0	20.0	32.5
IN	2.0	2.0	21.0	26.0
IA	4.5	3.5	32.5	35.0
ME	1.5	0.0	1.5	2.0
MD	0.0	3.0	32.5	42.0
MI	1.0	1.0	20.5	20.0
MN	2.5	3.0	33.0	32.0
MS	0.5	0.0	15.5	12.0
MO	0.0	2.0	20.0	26.0
NE	2.5	8.0	26.5	27.0
NY	1.0	0.0	6.5	3.5
NC	0.0	0.0	12.0	15.5
OH	1.0	1.5	13.0	14.0
OK	1.5	1.0	13.5	11.0
OR	8.0	6.0	29.5	36.5
PA	1.0	3.0	21.0	19.5
SC	10.0	4.0	25.0	34.5
SD	0.0	1.0	60.0	50.5
TX	1.5	1.5	24.0	20.5
VA	3.0	3.0	11.0	12.5
WA	5.0	3.0	44.5	38.0
WI	3.0	1.0	31.0	26.0
30 Sts	2.1	2.8	23.5	24.2
Oth Sts ²	2.4	2.3	24.1	22.8
US	2.1	2.8	23.5	24.1

¹ As of first of month.

² Estimates for individual States are not available.

**Hatchery Production: Eggs in Incubators, Chicks Hatched,
and Placements by Type, United States, November-December 1996-97**

Item	1996	1997	1997 as % of 1996
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Egg-Type			
Eggs in Incubators on Dec 1	30,770	32,960	107
Chicks Hatched During Nov	31,437	27,803	88
Chicks Hatched Jan thru Nov	374,231	386,518	103
Pullets Hatched During Oct for Intended Placements in Hatchery Supply Flocks	210	124	59
7-18 Month Earlier ¹	2,807	2,863	102
Broiler-Type			
Eggs in Incubators on Dec 1	573,495	593,985	104
Chicks Hatched During Nov	631,142	648,120	103
Chicks Hatched Jan thru Nov	7,381,927	7,594,872	103
Pullets Hatched During Oct for Intended Placements in Hatchery Supply Flocks	6,508	6,347	98
7-15 Months Earlier ²	55,892	56,219	101

¹ 1997 includes pullet chicks hatched May 1996 through Apr 1997.

² 1997 includes pullet chicks hatched Aug 1996 through Apr 1997.

**Egg-Type Eggs in Incubators: By Region and United States,
December 1, 1996-97**

Geographic Division	1996	1997	1997 as % of 1996
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>
North Atlantic	5,080	5,383	106
E North Central	8,471	9,321	110
W North Central	5,863	6,251	107
South Atlantic	4,253	4,505	106
South Central	3,002	3,551	118
West	4,101	3,949	96
US	30,770	32,960	107

Regional Listing:

North Atlantic = CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT.

E North Central = IL, IN, MI, OH, WI.

W North Central = IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD.

South Atlantic = DE, FL, GA, MD, NC, SC, VA, WV.

South Central = AL, AR, KY, LA, MS, OK, TN, TX.

West = AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NM, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY.

**Egg-Type Chicks Hatched: By State and United States,
November 1996-97**

State	November			Jan-Nov		
	1996	1997	1997 as % of 1996	1996	1997	1997 as % of 1996
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AR	655	645	98	9,426	8,884	94
FL	1,110	835	75	12,527	13,020	104
GA	1,524	1,400	92	22,215	21,937	99
IN	6,643	5,529	83	78,869	78,096	99
LA	3,606	3,545	98	36,363	43,298	119
KS	334	292	87	2,913	2,871	99
MN	1,961	1,483	76	22,246	21,056	95
MO	341	360	106	3,815	4,231	111
PA	3,729	4,128	111	44,398	52,599	118
Oth Sts ¹	11,534	9,586	83	141,459	140,526	99
US	31,437	27,803	88	374,231	386,518	103

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

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched: By Month, United States, 1995-97

Month	By Months				Cumulative			
	1995	1996	1997	1997 as % of 1996	1995	1996	1997	1997 as % of 1996
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	32,374	31,523	33,331	106	32,374	31,523	33,331	106
Feb	32,743	34,627	35,318	102	65,117	66,150	68,649	104
Mar	36,019	37,474	37,648	100	101,136	103,624	106,297	103
Apr	35,078	35,628	38,746	109	136,214	139,252	145,043	104
May	37,540	38,607	38,891	101	173,754	177,859	183,934	103
Jun	34,996	34,076	36,955	108	208,750	211,935	220,889	104
Jul	29,572	33,331	33,954	102	238,322	245,266	254,843	104
Aug	31,442	32,393	32,903	102	269,764	277,659	287,746	104
Sep	33,586	32,070	35,794	112	303,350	309,729	323,540	104
Oct	33,383	33,065	35,175	106	336,733	342,794	358,715	105
Nov	29,129	31,437	27,803	88	365,862	374,231	386,518	103
Dec	30,639	33,017			396,501	407,248		

**Intended Placements: Egg-Type Pullet Chicks for Hatchery Supply
Flocks by Month and Total, United States, 1995-97¹**

Month	Pullet Chicks Hatched			1997 as % of 1996	Cumulative Potential Placements Relative to Current Supply Flocks 7-18 Months Earlier ²		
	1995	1996	1997		1996	1997	1998
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>
Jan	236	219	208	95	3,108	2,953	2,814
Feb	251	238	219	92	3,089	2,984	2,747
Mar	356	317	206	65	2,943	3,007	2,845
Apr	317	252	316	125	2,920	2,946	3,011
May	193	291	268	92	2,951	2,870	3,044
Jun	234	282	256	91	2,835	2,956	2,958
Jul	235	266	199	75	2,941	2,940	
Aug	163	186	284	153	2,924	2,929	
Sep	292	231	397	172	2,911	2,910	
Oct	309	233	266	114	2,872	2,799	
Nov	124	210	124	59	2,807	2,863	
Dec	231	215			2,905	2,840	
Total	2,941	2,940					

¹ Reported by leading breeders. Coverage may not be 100 percent. Includes expected pullet chicks from eggs sold during the preceding month at the rate of 125 pullet chicks per 30 dozen case of eggs.

² For November 1997, includes breeder pullet chicks hatched May 1996 through Apr 1997. The 7-18 months represent the first laying cycle. Molting and additional laying cycles will increase the cumulative potential placements.

**Broiler-Type Eggs in Incubators: By Region
and United States, December 1, 1996-97**

Geographic Division	1996	1997	1997 as % of 1996
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>
North Atlantic	11,983	11,798	98
E North Central	7,841	7,354	94
W North Central	21,758	21,955	101
South Atlantic	223,454	225,969	101
South Central	285,651	304,025	106
West	22,808	22,884	100
US	573,495	593,985	104

**Broiler-Type Chicks Hatched: By State
and United States, November 1996-97**

State	November			Jan-Nov		
	1996	1997	1997 as % of 1996	1996	1997	1997 as % of 1996
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	81,704	83,836	103	956,028	995,933	104
AR	95,670	98,622	103	1,142,008	1,155,902	101
DE	14,955	14,591	98	175,929	177,264	101
FL	9,411	9,440	100	110,847	103,476	93
GA	94,824	95,912	101	1,109,903	1,150,559	104
MD	28,449	27,837	98	332,842	331,842	100
MS	54,273	57,879	107	624,470	674,128	108
NC	57,416	56,038	98	676,359	662,030	98
PA	11,392	11,697	103	127,956	138,795	108
SC	14,622	14,620	100	166,873	167,484	100
TX	38,553	41,141	107	449,040	477,680	106
VA	21,259	21,706	102	252,918	257,532	102
CA TN & WV	33,704	35,230	105	371,082	383,156	103
15 Sts ¹	556,232	568,549	102	6,496,255	6,675,781	103
OR & WA	5,045	4,909	97	60,646	62,305	103
Oth Sts ²	69,865	74,662	107	825,026	856,786	104
US	631,142	648,120	103	7,381,927	7,594,872	103

¹ States in the weekly hatchery production estimating program.

² Not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

Broiler Chicks Hatched: By Month, United States, 1995-97

Month	By Months				Cumulative			
	1995	1996	1997	1997 as % of 1996	1995	1996	1997	1997 as % of 1996
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	662,467	689,994	700,467	102	662,467	689,994	700,467	102
Feb	600,095	645,590	631,259	98	1,262,562	1,335,584	1,331,726	100
Mar	679,066	692,287	716,374	103	1,941,628	2,027,871	2,048,100	101
Apr	664,121	668,378	690,790	103	2,605,749	2,696,249	2,738,890	102
May	691,935	700,556	720,610	103	3,297,684	3,396,805	3,459,500	102
Jun	670,815	672,168	702,511	105	3,968,499	4,068,973	4,162,011	102
Jul	673,666	679,766	709,150	104	4,642,165	4,748,739	4,871,161	103
Aug	674,054	690,838	709,281	103	5,316,219	5,439,577	5,580,442	103
Sep	638,882	658,976	683,249	104	5,955,101	6,098,553	6,263,691	103
Oct	655,036	652,232	683,061	105	6,610,137	6,750,785	6,946,752	103
Nov	629,208	631,142	648,120	103	7,239,345	7,381,927	7,594,872	103
Dec	693,007	695,011			7,932,352	8,076,938		

**Intended Placements: Broiler-Type Pullet Chicks for Hatchery
Supply Flocks by Month and Total, 1995-97 ¹**

Month	Pullet Chicks Hatched			1997 as % of 1996	Cumulative Potential Placements Relative to Current Supply Flocks 7-15 Months Earlier ²		
	1995	1996	1997		1996	1997	1998
	1,000	1,000	1,000	Percent	1,000	1,000	1,000
US Place- ments							
Jan	5,710	5,487	6,393	117	54,562	56,074	56,607
Feb	5,484	5,916	5,913	100	54,522	56,090	57,718
Mar	6,161	6,093	6,439	106	55,178	55,944	57,907
Apr	6,320	6,746	6,122	91	55,053	55,892	58,462
May	6,135	6,776	7,056	104	55,356	56,626	58,323
Jun	6,178	6,169	6,008	97	56,528	57,218	58,757
Jul	6,302	6,029	7,332	122	56,585	57,072	
Aug	6,475	6,510	6,697	103	55,752	56,719	
Sep	6,288	6,166	6,502	105	55,533	55,856	
Oct	6,013	6,221	6,254	101	55,448	56,126	
Nov	6,656	6,508	6,347	98	55,892	56,219	
Dec	6,218	5,947			56,193	56,765	
Annual Total	73,940	74,568					
Total Place- ments ³							
Jan	7,040	6,693	7,665	115			
Feb	7,180	7,167	7,252	101			
Mar	7,577	7,501	8,030	107			
Apr	7,835	7,903	7,453	94			
May	7,873	8,234	8,660	105			
Jun	7,485	7,467	7,483	100			
Jul	7,730	7,572	8,714	115			
Aug	7,850	8,120	8,350	103			
Sep	7,730	7,771	8,188	105			
Oct	7,301	7,892	8,277	105			
Nov	7,784	7,860	8,119	103			
Dec	7,750	7,709					
Annual Total	91,135	91,889					

¹ Reported by leading breeders. Coverage may not be 100 percent. Includes expected pullet chicks from eggs sold during the preceding month at the rate of 125 pullet chicks per 30 dozen case of eggs.

² For Nov 1997, includes breeder pullet chicks hatched Aug 1996 through Apr 1997.

³ U.S. production of intended placements worldwide.

Procedures and Reliability

Data Sources: Primary data for the "**Chickens and Eggs**" report are from weekly and/or monthly questionnaires sent to producers. An attempt is made to collect information for layer and egg estimates from each known contractor and independent producer who has over 30,000 table egg layers. Coverage for operations with less than 30,000 table egg layers are estimated each month based on data reported in December. Approximately 900 contractors, independent egg producers, and started pullet operations are contacted each month. All known hatcheries, approximately 360, are contacted for information on a weekly and/or monthly basis.

Revisions: The previous month's estimates are subject to revision if late reports or corrected data indicates a different level. Additionally, revisions needed after the monthly report will be made at the end of the marketing year and published in the annual summaries of "**Layers and Egg Production**" and "**Hatchery Production**".

Procedures and Reliability: Operations are mailed a questionnaire and given adequate time to respond by mail. Those that do not respond are phoned. Great care is exercised to ensure that all operations are accounted for during each survey period. However, there are usually missing reports that must be accounted for in the estimates.

Sound statistical methodology is employed to derive estimates from the reported data. All data are checked for unusual values. All operations' data are compared to their own past operating profiles and also to trends from other operations. Data for missing operations are estimated based on similar operations or historical data. Survey data are subject to non-sampling errors such as omissions and mistakes in reporting and in processing. While these errors cannot be measured directly, they are minimized by reviewing all data for consistency and reasonableness.

Egg-type chicks hatched are comprised of all chicks of egg-type domesticated breeds including males and chicks destined for hatchery supply flocks and research purposes. The relationship of chicks hatched to chicken inventory and poultry marketings is carefully monitored. The disposition of egg-type chicks hatched prior to placement into the laying flock can vary significantly, which can make comparisons to changes in layer inventory inconsistent over time.

Intended placement data reported by leading breeders include pullet chicks expected from eggs sold the preceding month. The breeders in this report account for a large percentage of replacement pullets for hatchery supply flocks. Production of replacement pullets by these breeders indicates the number of pullets available to hatchery egg supply flocks several months before the pullets will actually move into the flocks. Beginning with the January 1996 publication the broiler-type cumulative potential placements went from 7-14 months earlier to 7-15 months earlier. The egg-type cumulative potential placements of 7-18 months represent the first laying cycle. Molting and additional laying cycles will increase the cumulative potential placements of egg-type hatching flocks.

The next "Chickens and Eggs" report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on January 30, 1998.

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