

## EGGS

### Production

Table egg production in July was 599 million dozen, 4 percent higher than last July. Broiler-type hatching egg production in July was up 1 percent compared to 2013. There were 1.0 billion broiler-type hatching eggs produced. Egg-type hatching egg production was 74 million eggs, down 6 percent from last year. Shell eggs broken totaled 199 million dozen during July 2014, up 6 percent from July a year ago, and 1 percent above the 196 million broken in June.

The number of table-egg layers in the national flock on August 1 was up 2 percent compared to 2013. Hatching egg layers for the table egg flock were down 9 percent compared to last year, and the broiler-type hatching egg flock was up 2 percent compared with last year. The number of pullets added during July for all types of egg production was up 6 percent compared with last year.

### Price

After reaching a summer high of 147 cents/dozen for Grade A large eggs in late July, table egg prices fell to 123 cents/dozen by mid-August. In late August, prices again began to rise and were 130 cents/dozen at the end of the month. Breaking stock prices, on the other hand, spent most of the summer at 78 cents/dozen, and finally began to rise the last week of August, ending the month at 85 cents/dozen.

### International Trade

Shell egg exports for July were 18 million dozen with a value of \$19.6 million, up 38 percent in volume and 34 percent in value compared to June, and up 17 percent in volume and 31 percent in value compared to July 2013. Egg product exports were valued at \$14 million, up 3 percent from June, but down 10 percent from last July. Shell egg exports for the first 7 months of the year were down 8 percent in volume but up 6 percent in value compared to 2013. Egg product exports for the same period were down 8 percent. The top five export destinations for eggs and egg products, accounting for 76 percent of all exports, were Mexico, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, and Jamaica.

## LAMB

### Production

Lamb and mutton production fell by 2 percent from July 2013 but rose 4 percent from June, to 13.9 million pounds. Sheep slaughter totaled 210,200 head, 2 percent below last year and 9 percent below last month. The average live weight was 132 pounds, down 1 pound from July 2014 and 6 pounds from June. Lamb and mutton inventories were up on both a monthly and yearly basis, at 9 and 46 percent respectively.

### Price

Negotiated live slaughter lamb prices were up \$5 through August to \$155 per cwt, 31 percent higher than 2013 prices, and 7 percent above the 2010-2012 average. The lamb cutout increased slightly to \$366 per cwt, 31 percent and 6 percent higher, respectively, than 2013 and the historical average. After falling slightly, leg of lamb, trotter off prices settled at \$356 per cwt, up 16 percent from 2013, but down 4 percent from the average for 2010-2012. Boneless lamb shoulder prices fell in August by \$10 to \$528 per cwt, 20 percent above the 2013 price, and 37 percent above the historical average.

### International Trade

With low prior year export volumes, lamb exports increased 97 percent to 356 MT, and a value up 90 percent to \$2 million. Compared to June this was a 17 percent increase in volume and a 22 percent in value. YTD lamb export volumes were 11 percent lower, but had 3 percent higher value than in 2013. Mexico and Canada were the largest markets for U.S. lamb. The U.S. imported 6.1 thousand MT of lamb in July, at \$59 million, an increase in volume and value of 11 and 3 percent, respectively, over 2013 levels. Volume was also up 9 percent, and value up 14 percent, from June. YTD lamb imports were higher by 4 percent in volume and 14 percent in value. Australia and New Zealand were the U.S.'s largest importing countries.

### Production

Broiler production in July was 3.33 billion pounds on a ready-to-cook (RTC) basis. Daily production was 1 percent below June but was 1 percent above July 2013. The number of birds slaughtered on a daily basis was down fractionally from June and down 1 percent from last year. Sizeable production increases in the near future are unlikely; for the 4 weeks ending August 30, chicks placed and eggs set in incubators were each up 1 percent.

Overall chicken inventories on July 31 were 8 percent above the end of June, but were 10 percent below July 2013. Whole broiler holdings climbed significantly over the month, ending 71 percent higher, but were still 33 percent below the end of last July. All dark meat items in cold storage were up 16.5 percent from June, but down 8 percent from a year prior, and up nearly 56 percent above the July 31 average for 2010 – 2012. Total leg quarters in cold storage on July 31 were up 28 percent from the end of June, but were 16 percent lower than at the end of July 2013. Inventories were 1 percent below the 3-year average. White meat items were down 3 percent from June, but up 6 percent from a year prior. Wing inventories were unchanged for the month, but were down 34 percent compared to last year.

### Price

Whole broiler prices in August were generally steady at about 100 cents/lb. Parts prices, however, were weak. Boneless/skinless (B/S) breast prices put in their summer highs in early July and have fallen about 10 cents per month for the last two months, ending August at 183 cents/lb. Following Russia's announcement of a ban on U.S. agricultural imports in early August, leg quarter prices, which had already been falling, dropped 16 percent and ended the month at 40 cents/lb. B/S thigh meat also fell through the month, and was 127 cents/lb at month's end. Wings, in contrast, strengthened during August and were 155 cents/lb at the end of the month.

### International Trade

The United States exported 287 thousand metric tons of chicken products in July with a value of \$355 million. Exports were up 2 percent in volume and 4 percent in value compared to June. Compared to July 2013, exports were up 2 percent in volume but down 3 percent in value. For the first 7 months of 2014, exports were up 1 percent in volume but down 5 percent in value year-over-year. The top five export destinations based on value of exports in July, accounting for 46 percent of all exports, were Mexico, Canada, Russia, Taiwan, and Angola.

### Production

Beef production for July was up fractionally from the previous month, at 2.09 billion pounds, but was 9 percent below last year. Cattle slaughter was 2.60 million head, 10 percent below the 2013 level, and slightly below June. An increase in the average live weight by 18 pounds to 1,320 slightly offset reduced slaughter. Veal production dropped 19 percent below the 2013 volume to 7.8 million pounds, but was up 3 percent over June. Calf slaughter was down 31 percent from July 2013, but up 7 percent month-over-month, at 48,500 head. The average live weight was up 41 pounds from last year, at 275 pounds, but was 10 pounds lower than in June.

Total beef stocks in freezers July were up 2 percent from June but down 21 percent from last July. Boneless beef and beef cuts inventories were both up 2 percent on a monthly basis, but boneless beef supplies were down 22 percent, while beef cut stores were 12 lower than the prior year. Veal supplies at the end of July were 21 percent higher than in June, though they were down 32 percent from July 2013.

### Price

After starting the month in the record high region of \$163 per cwt, live cattle prices (FOB, steers and heifers) fell \$10 before ticking upwards to close the month at \$155 per cwt, 27 percent above the 2013 price, and 41 percent above the 2010-2012 average. The beef cutout value reached a record high value of \$262 per cwt in the first weeks of August but fell quickly in the second half of the month to close at \$247, 26 percent higher than last year and 38 percent over the historical average. 90 percent lean boneless beef continued its climb into record high territory, though at a slower pace than in July, closing August at \$299 per cwt, 44 and 60 percent above 2013 and the 2010-2012 average, respectively. Beef trim, 50 percent lean started the month at \$151 per cwt but dropped \$16 by the end of August, 25 percent ahead of 2013, and 69 percent above 2010-2012 average levels. Packer-owned veal carcasses had an average value of \$422 per cwt, while non-packer owned veal carcasses averaged \$411. Veal cutout values held steady through most of the month, but closed August up at \$532.50 per cwt, 10 percent above last year and 31 percent over the 2010-2012 average.

### International Trade

Compared to 2013, July beef and veal exports fell 15 percent to 102 thousand MT, while the export value rose less than 1 percent to \$622 million. From June, the volume of beef exports declined 5 percent and the value 2 percent. YTD beef exports are higher in both volume (4 percent) and value (13 percent) than in 2013. Japan, Mexico and Canada were our largest export markets. July imports of beef increased dramatically from last year—up 36 percent in volume to 91 thousand MT, and up 50 percent in value to \$497 million. On a monthly basis beef imports rose 3 percent in volume and 4 percent in value. YTD beef imports are up 15 percent in volume, and 23 percent in value over last year. Australia, New Zealand and Canada were the largest importers of beef to the U.S.

### Production

Pork production grew 4 percent from June output to 1.80 billion pounds, but was down 2 percent from last year. Hog slaughter also increased 4 percent from the previous month to 8.46 million head, 7 percent below July 2013 slaughter. The average live weight was up 12 pounds from last July, and down 2 pounds from June, at 283 pounds.

Total frozen pork supplies were 2 percent lower than June levels and 3 percent lower than last year. Bone-in picnics in cold storage were 10 percent lower than the prior month and 46 percent below the prior year. Total ham stocks were up 18 percent on a monthly basis though 17 percent lower yearly. Stocks of pork trimmings fell 3 percent month over month, but compared to last year, are up 15 percent. Loin inventories are down 17 percent monthly and 10 percent yearly. Supplies of ribs were also down 9 percent monthly and 6 percent yearly, while pork butts in freezers were up 5 and 34 percent, respectively. Stores of pork bellies were down 23 percent from June but up 130 percent from last July.

### Price

Since reaching the record high price level of \$130 per cwt, the negotiated carcass price for barrows and gilts had a precipitous drop to \$92 at the end of August, merely 5 percent above last year's price but 24 percent above the 2010-2012 average. Likewise, the pork cutout value peaked in July at a record \$136 per cwt, and fell rapidly to close August at \$102 per cwt, 4 and 23 percent, respectively, above the 2013 and 2010-2012 average prices. Trimmed, bone-in hams, 23-27 pounds, saw proportionately greater value loss, plunging from \$143 per cwt at the start of August to \$96 per cwt at the end, though 9 percent above 2013, and 21 percent more than the historical average. Picnic meat, cushion out, also lost value, falling from \$158 per cwt to \$108, while 23 percent above the 2013 value, and 14 percent larger than the 2010-2012 average. Pork trim, 72 percent lean, fell 13 percent in value, to \$130, 131 percent above 2013 and 46 percent above the 2010-2012 average. Pork belly primals dropped from \$148 to \$107 per cwt, ending the summer season 29 percent below last year's price, and 17 percent below the historical average.

### International Trade

July pork exports fell 3 percent on a year-over-year basis to 170 thousand MT, however, the value increased 14 percent to \$559 million. Pork export volume and value fell 4 percent and 2 percent, respectively, relative to June. For the YTD, pork exports are up by 7 percent, and in value up 17 percent, over 2013. The largest overseas markets for U.S. pork were Japan, Mexico and Canada, with Russia the fourth largest. Imports of pork to the U.S. rose 4 percent to 36 thousand MT, valued at \$158 million, 20 percent higher than in 2013. July pork imports were up 3 percent in volume and 6 percent in value over June levels. Pork imports YTD were up 8 percent in volume and 22 percent in value. Canada, Poland and Denmark were the largest importers.

Source: USDA AMS Agricultural Analytics Division

Any opinions expressed represent those of the authors for the limited purpose of this newsletter and do not represent the official position of the Department.

### Production

July turkey production was 498 million pounds on a ready-to-cook (RTC) basis. Daily production was down 2 percent compared to June and down 3 percent compared to July 2013. Daily slaughter in July was 2 percent below June and 4 percent below last July. The strong year-over-year placement increases seen in May and June have come to an end. July placements were even with last year's totals, suggesting that the increase in placements was geared to supplying holiday needs in the fourth quarter and not the beginning of sustained increases in turkey production. Eggs in incubators on August 1 were 1 percent below last August.

Turkey hen inventories in cold storage have risen compared to year-prior levels every month since the end of last November (when they were just 43 percent of the 2012 level), and were 10 percent above last year as of the end of July. Tom inventories, however, have remained consistently lower, and were 27 percent below July 2013. Parts holdings are also significantly lower than a year ago, but rose slightly from the end of June. White meat inventories were 35 percent below last year, while dark meat was 32 percent lower.

### Price

Whole turkey prices rose in August as supplies continued to remain in check. Whole hens rose about 6 cents over the month and were 112 cents/lb at month's end. Parts prices were also strong. The price of boneless/skinless (B/S) breast meat reached an all-time high of 408 cents/lb in mid-August before falling to 407 cents/lb the last week of the month. B/S thigh meat prices flirted with record-high values but ended the month less than a penny below their high at 176 cents/lb. Drumstick prices were flat, trading within a half-cent of 91 cents/lb all month.

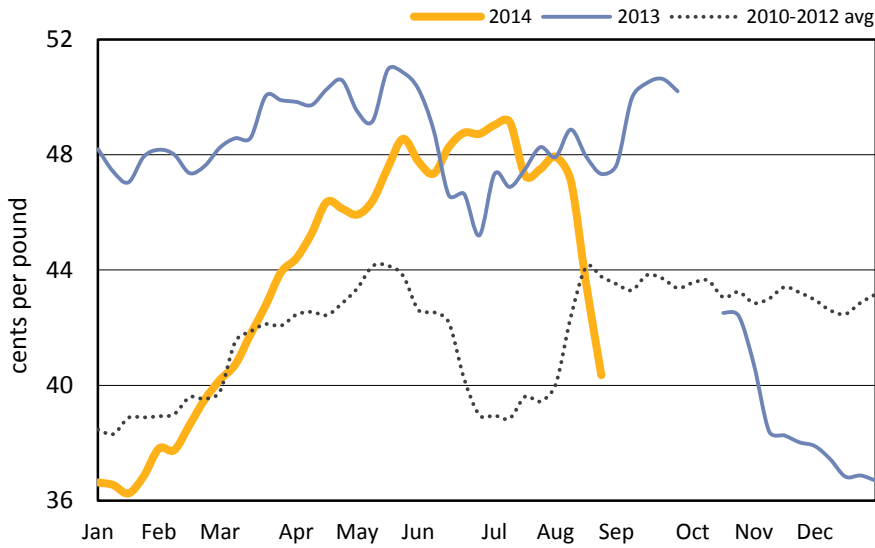
### International Trade

U.S. turkey exports in July were 35 thousand metric tons with a value of \$69.5 million, up 11 percent in volume and 6 percent in value compared with June. Exports were up 19 percent in volume and 18 percent in value over July 2013. Year-to-date, turkey exports are up about 1 percent in volume and 7 percent in value compared to the first 7 months of 2013. The top five export destination for turkey products, accounting for 83 percent of all exports, in July were Mexico, China, Canada, Japan, and Hong Kong.

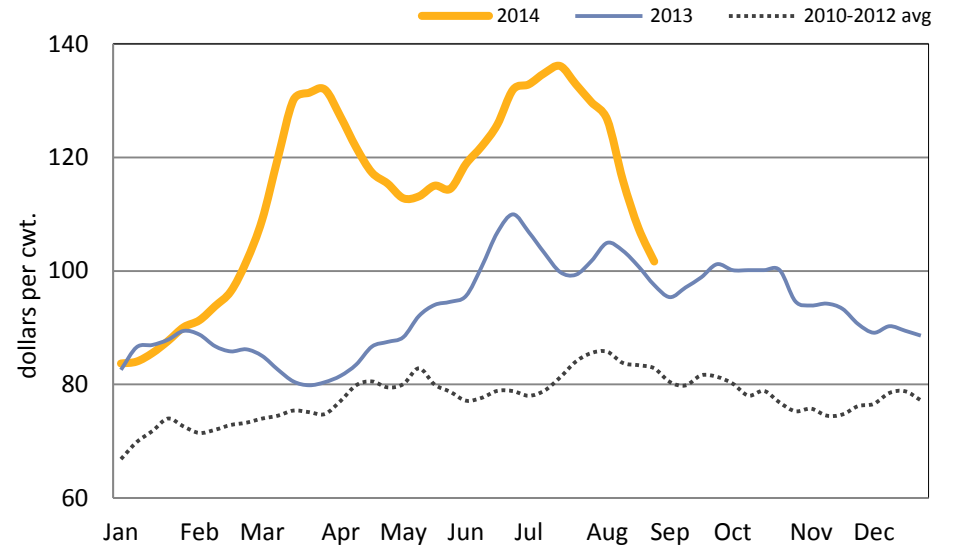
**Questions, comments, or suggestions for articles? Contact [Lawrence.Haller@ams.usda.gov](mailto:Lawrence.Haller@ams.usda.gov) or [Sherry.Wise@ams.usda.gov](mailto:Sherry.Wise@ams.usda.gov).**

*The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)*

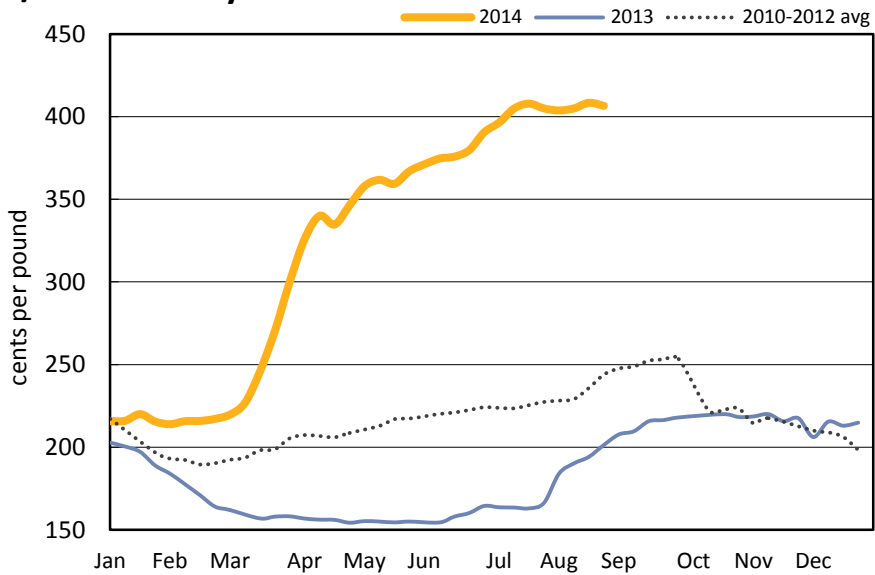
### Southern States Bulk Leg Quarters



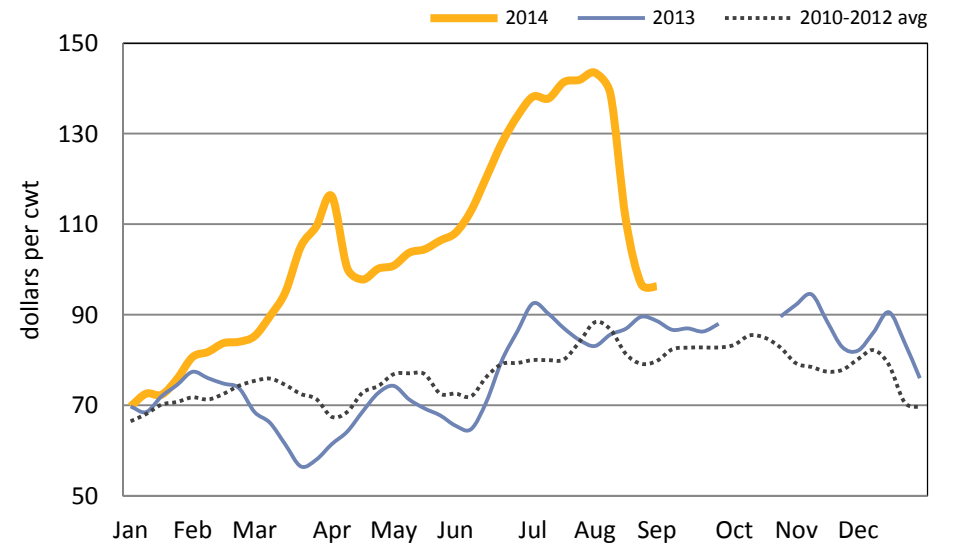
### Wholesale Weekly Pork Cutout Value



### B/S Tom Turkey Breast



### Ham, Bone-in, Trimmed 23-27#, Trim Spec 1





# September is HONEY Month

Source: AMS, LPS  
Agricultural Analytics;  
NASS, FAS, National  
Honey Board

**487,000,000**

Pounds of Honey Consumed  
in the U.S. in 2013  
1.5 Pounds per Person!  
31% was produced domestically and  
69% was imported – 51% from  
Argentina and Vietnam.

**80%**

of insect crop  
pollination is done by  
honey bees.

**149,499,000**

2013 U.S. Honey Production (lbs.)  
Top 5 Producing States (58% of total)

ND	33,120,000 lbs.	(22.2%)
MT	14,946,000 lbs.	(10.0%)
SD	14,840,000 lbs.	(9.9%)
FL	13,420,000 lbs.	(9.0%)
CA	10,890,000 lbs.	(7.3%)

**212.10**

2013 average honey  
price in cents per  
pound.

**145,000,000,000**

Honey bees in commercial production  
in 2013. At peak season, each colony  
averages 55,000 bees. In 2013, there  
were 2.64 million commercial  
colonies in the U.S.

**80-20**

Honey is 80% sugars  
20% water.

**298,998,000,000,000**

Total number of flowers needed to produce  
the 2013 U.S. honey crop.

That's 2 million flowers per pound of honey or  
2,060 flowers visited per bee!

**300**

Varieties of honey  
are produced in the  
U.S.

**776**

The average pounds of honey per  
colony produced each year in  
Mississippi, the top yielding state in  
the nation in 2013, 51% above the  
national average of 56.5 pounds!