



## EGGS

### Production

October table egg production totaled 670 million dozen, up 1 percent from October 2017. On November 1, the number of birds in the table egg flock was 326 million, up 2 percent compared to a year earlier. Egg-type hatching egg production was 86.3 million eggs, up 19 percent from a year earlier. There were 1.10 billion broiler-type hatching eggs produced in October, up 1 percent from last year. The broiler-type laying flock on November 1 was 57.6 million hens, 1 percent above November 2017. Shell eggs broken totaled 211 million dozen during October, up 7 percent from October a year ago and up 3 percent from the 204 million broken in September. Pullets for all egg-types added to flocks in October were up 10 percent year-over-year.

### Price

The price of one dozen Grade A Large eggs in the New York wholesale market began the month at 124 cents/dozen and rose slowly through the month to 130 cents/dozen, 56 cents below the price in 2017. Breaking stock prices rose 14 cents in November to 74 cents/dozen. This is 23 cents below the price in 2017.

### International Trade

Exports of shell eggs in October totaled 21 million dozen valued at \$39 million. This was a decrease of 2 percent in volume and an increase of 22 percent in value compared with September and an increase of 17 percent in volume but a decrease of 1 percent in value compared with October 2017. Through October 2018 exports were up 6 percent in volume and up 12 percent in value compared with 2017.

The U.S. exported \$9 million in egg products in October, up slightly from September in value and 6 percent below the month before in volume. Value and volume were down 30 percent and 42 percent, respectively compared to 2017. For the first nine months of 2018, the volume of egg products exports was 27 percent below the same period in 2017, and down 7 percent in value. Mexico, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan and Jamaica were the five largest importers of U.S. eggs and egg products in October.

## TURKEY

### Production

October turkey production totaled 573 million pounds on a ready-to-cook basis. For October, daily production was 13 percent above September and up slightly from last October, with 4 additional slaughter days compared to September. Dressed weights were up 10 percent from September and down 1 percent from last year. Eggs in incubators totaled 30.3 million on November 1, 6 percent more than in 2017, and 5 percent more than October 1. Poults placed were up slightly from year-earlier levels and were up 8 percent from the month before, at 22 million net poults.

Total turkey holdings on October 31 were down 21 percent from October 2017 and down 4 percent from September. Total holdings of whole frozen birds were down 24 percent monthly and 2 percent yearly, while whole toms were down 3 percent and whole hens were down 1 percent compared with last October. Stocks of white meat were down 7 percent year-over-year, while stocks of dark meat were up 25 percent.

### Price

Whole frozen hen prices were soft in the first half of November, but ended the month down by just 1 cent at 83 cents/lb. Whole frozen toms added 1 cent, closing the month at 82 cents/lb. The hen price is 11 cents below the same time last year and 30 cents below the 2014 – 2016 average for the end of November. B/S breast meat prices ended November at 210 cents/lb. in both 2017 and 2018. B/S thigh meat gained 4 cents to end the month at 132 cents/lb. Tom drumsticks added 6 cents to close November at 75 cents/lb.

### International Trade

U.S. turkey exports in October totaled 30 thousand metric tons valued at \$69 million. Exports in October were up 44 percent in volume and 47 percent in value compared with September and were up 3 percent in volume and 7 percent in value compared with last October. For the first nine months of the year, exports were down 1 percent in volume and up 3 percent in value compared with 2017. The top five destinations for exports of turkey in October were Mexico, Hong Kong, Japan, Canada and the Dominican Republic.

### Production

In October the United States produced 3.9 billion pounds of chicken on a ready-to-cook basis. Daily production in October was 6 percent below the revised September volume and down slightly from October 2017. The average live weight of young chickens was 6.32 pounds, up slightly from last year and September.

Total stocks of chicken in cold storage on October 31 were down 2 percent compared with the end of September and up 8 percent compared with October 2017. Whole broiler/roaster/fryer supplies were 17 percent below September and 14 percent below last year. Breasts and breast meat stocks were up 4 percent month-over-month and up 6 percent year-over-year. Dark meat supplies were down 8 percent on the month and 5 percent on the year, with leg quarter holdings down 13 percent from September and down 25 percent from last October. Thighs and thigh meat stocks were down 1 percent month-over-month and up 31 percent year-over-year. Drumstick holdings were down 4 percent compared with September and up 76 percent compared with October 2017. Inventories of wings were down 7 percent on the month and up 38 percent on the year.

### Price

The National composite price for whole broilers ended the month up 2 cents at 87 cents/lb. Boneless/skinless (B/S) breast prices fell 4 cents during the month to close at 84 cents/lb. Leg quarter prices fell 3 cents to 27 cents/lb. B/S thigh meat prices gained 1 cent to close at 117 cents/lb. Drumsticks lost 1 cent to 36 cents/lb. Wings added 2 cents to 148 cents/lb.

### International Trade

The United States exported 304 thousand metric tons of chicken products in October with a value of \$277 million. October's export volume was up 16 percent from September and was up 13 percent in value. October exports were also 4 percent higher in volume than October 2017, but 11 percent lower in value. Through October, exports for 2018 were up 4 percent in volume and 2 percent in value compared with the same period in 2017. In October, our five largest export destinations for chicken were Mexico, Canada, Angola, The Philippines and Hong Kong.

### Production

In October 2.43 billion pounds of beef were produced, up 5 percent from October 2017 and up 13 percent from September (with 4 additional production days). Cattle slaughter totaled about 2.96 million head, up 6 percent from last October and up 13 percent from September. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from last year, at 1,366 pounds. Total beef production for the first ten months of 2018 grew 3 percent from last year. October veal production was up 13 percent from last year at 7.2 million pounds, and up 20 percent from September. 53,800 head of calves were slaughtered in September, roughly equivalent to 2017. The average live weight was down 18 pounds from last year, at 232 pounds. Year-to-date veal production was 2 percent higher than in 2017.

Total beef in cold storage increased 2 percent from both September 2018 and October 2017. Boneless beef stocks increased 1 percent on a month-over-month basis and 2 percent year-over-year. Frozen beef cut inventories fell 2 percent from the month prior but rose 5 percent yearly. The volume of veal in cold storage was down 30 percent from September and down 22 percent from October 2017.

### Price

Live cattle prices (FOB, steers and heifers) gained \$1 through November to close at \$115 per cwt, 3 percent below the prior year value. In the first half of the month, the beef cutout lost \$3 in November to close at \$209 per cwt, 1 percent higher than 2017. The 90 percent lean boneless beef wholesale price reversed course to add \$6, 8 percent below the year before at \$195 per cwt. The 50 percent lean trim price gained \$14 in November rising to \$69 per cwt, up 5 percent from last year. Nonpacker-owned veal carcass added \$2 to end the month at \$309 per cwt, while packer-owned veal carcasses, lost \$1 and closed at \$306 per cwt, 7 and 6 percent below 2017, respectively. The veal cutout average held steady at \$395 per cwt, 7 percent below last year's value.

### International Trade

Compared to October 2017, beef and veal exports (including variety meats) increased 6 percent to 118 thousand MT, and the export value rose 10 percent to \$727 million. The export volume and value were up 7 and 6 percent, respectively, from September. Cumulative beef exports were higher in volume by 9 percent relative to 2017, and value was 17 percent higher. South Korea, Japan and Hong Kong were our largest export markets in October. Year-over-year beef import volumes were 6 percent lower at 84 thousand MT, and 1 percent higher in value at \$468 million. Compared to September, beef imports and value were 2 percent lower in volume and up 1 percent in value respectively. Year-to-date beef and veal imports were slightly lower while import values were up 7 percent from last year. Canada, Australia and Mexico were the largest sources of imported beef to the U.S.

## Production

October pork production totaled 2.45 billion pounds, a rise of 13 percent from last year and 13 percent below September (with 4 additional production days). Total hog slaughter was 11.57 million head, down 6 percent from last year and 20 percent below the month before. The average live weight was the same as last year at 283 pounds. Accumulated pork production for January-October 2018 was 3 percent higher than last year.

Frozen pork supplies at the end of October were 3 percent lower than in September, and down 5 percent from 2017. Stocks of pork bellies were down 12 percent monthly and down 17 percent from last year. Picnics in cold storage fell 6 percent monthly and 2 percent yearly. Ham inventories were down 18 percent from September, and down 10 percent from last year. Rib holdings added 22 percent to the prior month and 7 percent to the yearly volume, while loin supplies rose 1 percent from September and fell 8 percent below 2017. Pork trimmings in cold storage were 10 percent higher monthly and 28 percent higher yearly.

## Price

The negotiated carcass price for barrows and gilts continued its decent, losing \$8, to close November at \$50 per cwt, 15 percent below 2017. The pork cutout value lost \$6 through November, closing the month at \$76 per cwt, down 13 percent from last year. Trimmed, bone-in hams, 23-27 pounds held mostly steady through the month, ending down \$1 at \$51 per cwt, 21 percent lower yearly. The picnic meat combos cushion out price dropped \$14 in November, to \$55 per cwt, 33 percent below 2017. Pork trim, 72 percent lean lost \$5 to \$47 per cwt, down 28 percent from 2017. Pork belly primals lost \$28 to end at \$111 per cwt, 22 percent above 2017.

## International Trade

Pork exports in October (including variety meats) were down 2 percent from 2017 at 203 thousand MT, and the value was 7 percent lower at \$500 million. Pork export volume was up 16 percent from September and the value was up 13 percent. For 2018 so far, pork exports are up from 2017 by 1 percent in volume and are down 1% in value. The largest overseas markets for U.S. pork were Japan, Mexico and Canada. Compared to 2017, the October pork import volume fell 13 percent to 38 thousand MT, and value lost 8 percent to \$138 million. The volume of pork imports lost 3 percent relative to September, and the value was up 1 percent. Year-to-date pork import volume and value were down 5 and 7 percent, respectively. The countries of Canada, Italy and Poland imported the largest volumes of pork to the U.S.

## Production

October production of lamb and mutton was 13.1 million pounds, 9 percent higher than 2017, and up 15 percent from September (with 4 additional production days). Sheep slaughter was 199,800 head, up 9 percent from last year and up by 16 percent from September. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from 2017 at 131 pounds. Total 2018 commercial lamb and mutton production was 6 percent higher than 2017. Lamb and mutton stocks were 3 percent lower monthly but up 24 percent year-over-year.

## Price

Negotiated live slaughter lamb prices lost \$3 in November, closing the month at \$133 per cwt, 1 percent above 2017. The lamb cutout value added \$5 at \$383, 1 percent below the value a year ago. Leg of lamb, trotter-off values gained \$2 in November, to close at \$370 per cwt, up 2 percent from 2017. The wholesale price of boneless square-cut lamb shoulders closed the month down \$4 at \$551 per cwt, 7 percent below last year.

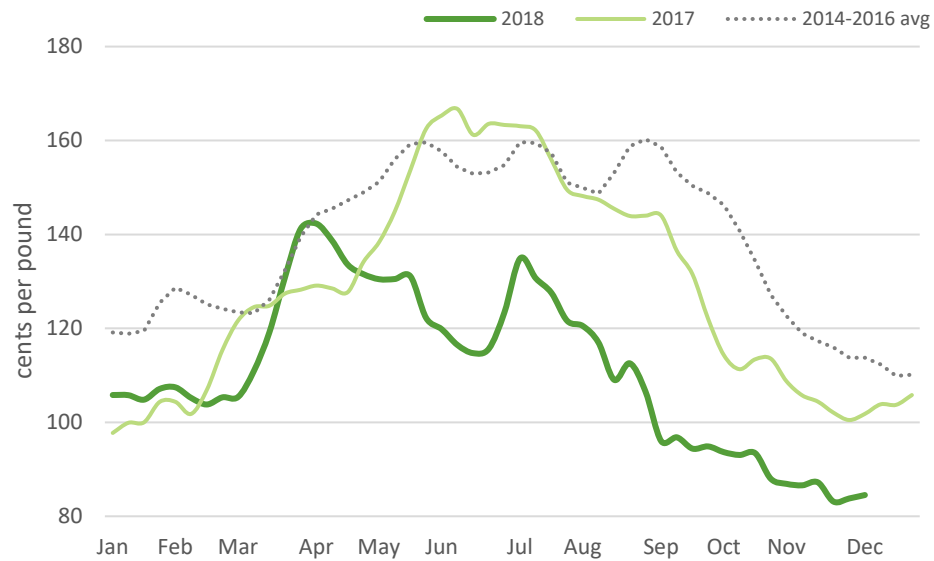
## International Trade

October lamb exports were up 21 percent from 2017 at 208 MT, and up 27 percent in value to \$1.1 million. Compared to September, export volume was up 73 percent and the value was up 64 percent. Year-to-date exports of lamb lost 13 percent in volume and lost 2 percent in value over this period in 2017. Mexico, The Bahamas and Netherlands Antilles were the largest export markets for lamb and mutton. U.S. lamb imports in September were down 10 percent from 2017 at 7 thousand MT, and the value was down 12 percent at \$55 million. The October import volume and value were down 12 and 25 percent, respectively. 2018 total lamb imports were up 9 percent in volume and 12 percent in value from last year. Australia, New Zealand and Iceland were the largest sources of imports.

Questions, comments, or suggestions for articles?  
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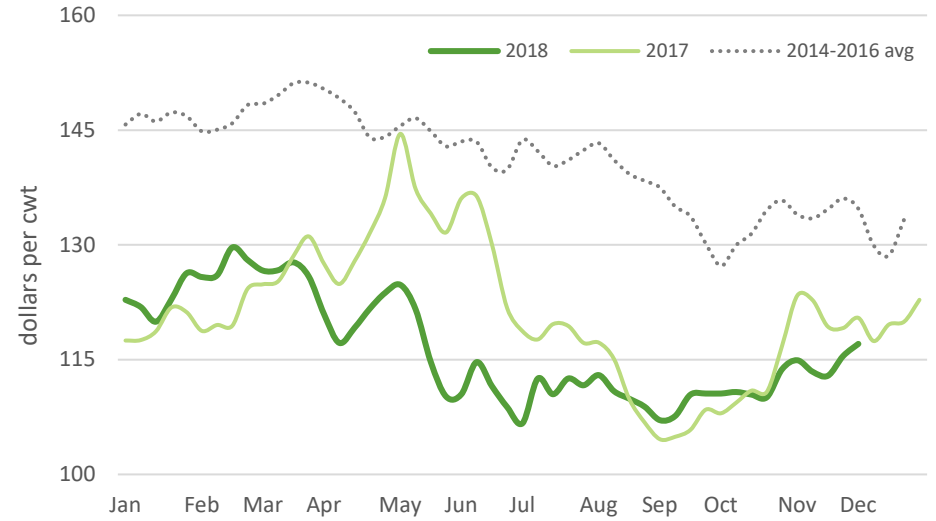
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### Boneless/Skinless Chicken Breast Prices

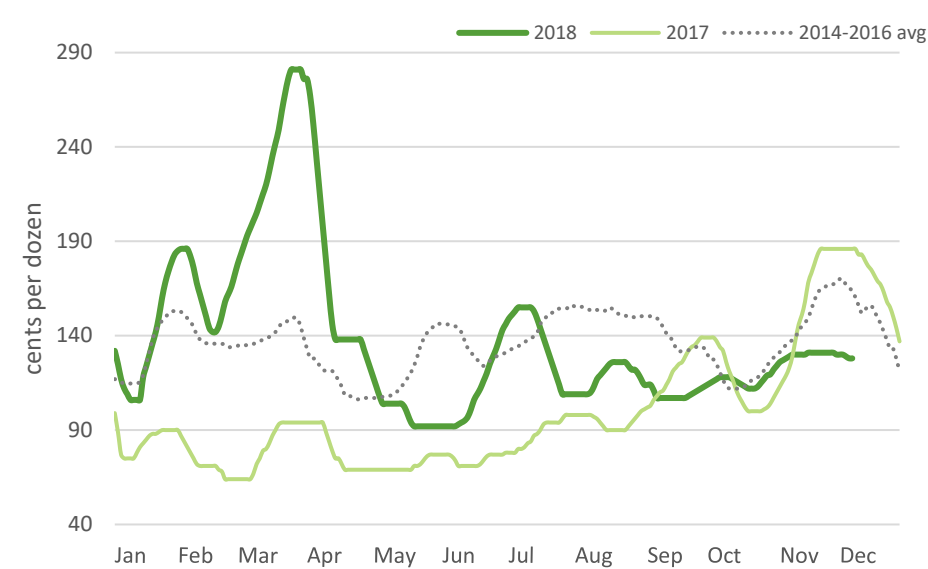


### Wkly Neg. Slaughter Cattle Prices

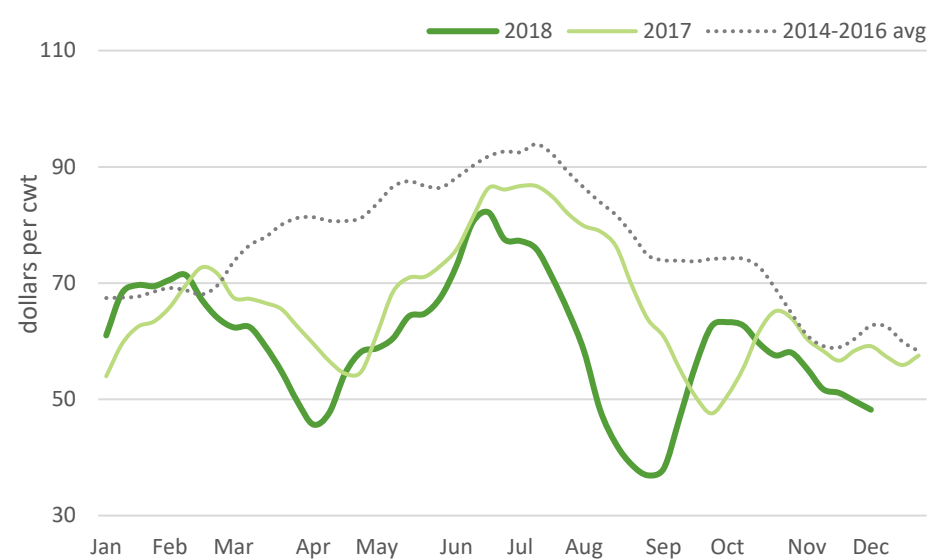
Live, FOB, All Beef Type Cattle, Steers and Heifers



### New York shell egg price (Grade A Large - wholesale)



### Weekly National Negotiated Barrow & Gilt Prices



# 0 Weihnachtsbaum?

German for Christmas Tree

The first supplier was Mark Carr of the Catskill Mountains who sold trees in New York City in 1851 for \$0.05 to \$0.25 each.

The practice of placing Christmas trees in houses started in Germany and the custom came to the U.S. in the early 1800's with German Settlers.

**Douglas Fir**  
20%

The Leyland Cypress is very popular in the Southeast.

**Scotch Pine**  
2%

The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service developed Standards for Christmas Trees in 1989

**Frasier Fir**  
39%

Most Popular Christmas Tree Types

In 2017  
27,400,000  
real trees were  
sold in the U.S.

Ranking by % Annual Sales

**Balsam Fir**  
4%

**Noble Fir**  
24%

The Frasier Fir originated in the Southern Appalachians.

**Blue Spruce**  
1%

In 1901, W. V. McGilliard planted 25,000 Norway spruce trees near Trenton, NJ – the first Christmas tree farm. He sold them for \$1 each