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EGGS

Production
December table egg production totaled 628 million dozen, up 3 percent from December 2013. There were 1.02 billion broiler-type hatching eggs produced, up 2 percent from the prior year. The broiler-type laying flock on January 1 was 53.2 million hens, up 1 percent from 2014. Egg-type hatching egg production was 75 million eggs, down 1 percent from a year ago. On January 1, the number of birds in the table egg flock was 305 million, up 1 percent compared to a year earlier. Shell eggs broken totaled 188 million dozen during December 2014, up 9 percent from December a year ago, and 3 percent above the 183 million broken in November.

Price
Table egg prices began January on a down note before beginning to climb mid-month. The price of a dozen large Grade A eggs in the New York wholesale market fell 7 cents in the first week of January to 115 cents/dozen, and stayed at that level through the middle of the month when it began to rise and reached 146 cents/dozen by the end of the month. In California, prices for a dozen large Grade A eggs at the wholesale level began the month at 237 cents/dozen then spiked, reaching 353 cents/dozen by the week of January 27. However, prices fell to 305 cents/dozen the first week of February and trade sentiment points to sharply lower prices the following week.

Breaking stock followed a similar pattern. Breaking stock prices fell quickly from 65 cents/dozen at the beginning of the month to 51 cents/dozen and remained there for the first 3 weeks. Prices started back up and had recovered to 65 cents/dozen by month's end

International Trade
Table egg exports in December totaled 30 million dozen valued at $22 million, 55 percent above November in volume and 28 percent higher in value. December's totals were 95 percent above December 2013 in volume and 49 percent higher in value. For the year, table egg exports were up 5 percent in volume and 8 percent in value over 2013. Egg products exports in December were valued at $14 million, 22 percent above November but 7 percent below last December. Total 2014 egg products exports were 10 percent below 2013 totals. The top five importers of table eggs and egg products were Canada, Mexico, Japan, Hong Kong, and Jamaica.

LAMB

Production

Lamb and mutton production, at 13.4 million pounds, was up 3 percent from December 2013. Sheep slaughter totaled 200,000 head, slightly above last year. The average live weight was 134 pounds, up 3 pounds from December a year ago. January to December 2014 lamb and mutton production was down slightly. Holdings of lamb and mutton were 38 percent higher than the November levels and were up 8 percent on a year-over year basis.

Price

Negotiated live slaughter lamb prices slid $12 to close at $147 per cwt, 8 percent lower than the 2014 price but 3 percent above the 2011-2013 average. The lamb cutout increased $8 to $379 per cwt, 5 percent and 11 percent higher, respectively, than 2014 and the historical average. Leg of lamb, trotter off, increased $1 to $360, 1 percent below 2014 and 4 percent below the 2011-2013 average. Boneless lamb shoulder prices ended down $7 to $550 per cwt, 6 percent above the 2014 price, and 42 percent above the historical average.

International Trade

December lamb exports fell 45 percent from 2013 levels to 136 MT, and down 29 percent in value to $1 million. From November, volume and value were down 29 percent and 26 percent, respectively. Annual lamb export volume was down 9 percent, but up 3 in value compared to 2013. Canada and Chile were the largest markets for U.S. lamb in December. The U.S. imported 8.5 thousand MT of lamb in December, at a value of $71 million, up 47 percent in volume and 44 percent in value from 2013. Both volume and value increased 15 percent from November. Total 2014 lamb imports were 19 percent higher in volume and 47 percent higher in value than for 2013. Australia and New Zealand were the largest importers.

CHICKEN

Production

Total chicken production in December was 3.3 billion pounds on a ready-to-cook basis. Daily production in December was 2 percent below November but 3 percent above December 2013. The year-over-year increase was due primarily to increases in slaughter weights; average live weight in December was 2 percent above last year. Total production in 2014 was 38.5 billion pounds, 2 percent above 2013. Production appears to be ramping up in the first part of 2015 with chicks placed for the 4 weeks ending January 31 up 3.3 percent compared to the same period in 2014 and eggs set in incubators up 2.6 percent.

Total chicken products held in cold storage on December 31 were up 2 percent compared both to the end of November and the end of December 2013. Whole broilers were up 6 percent compared to November, but were 17 percent below last December's levels. White meat holdings were up sharply; month-over-month supplies were up 9 percent while year-over-year supplies were up 44 percent. Overall dark meat supplies were up 4 percent compared to November but down 6 percent from last December. Leg quarter stocks were even with November, but were down sharply, 17 percent, compared to December 2013. Wing supplies were down significantly, down 16 percent month-over-month and 33 percent year-over-year.

Price

Whole broiler and dark meat prices fell in January. The National composite whole broiler price rose the first two weeks of the month, but ended the month at 94 cents/lb., 6 cents below its level at the beginning of the month. Dark meat items fell victim to trade blockages from China and South Korea and to the slowdowns at western U.S. ports. The price of leg quarters fell 3 cents during January to end at 35 cents/lb., boneless/skinless (B/S) thigh meat dropped 16 cents to 109 cents/lb, and drumsticks fell 2 cents to 49 cents/lb., all 4-year lows. White meat, however, strengthened, with B/S breast meat rising 18 cents to end the month at 146 cents/lb. Wings continued to rise, and passed the $2 level for the first time since February 2013, ending January at 205 cents/lb.

International Trade

Exports of U.S. chicken products in December totaled 255 thousand metric tons with a value of $311 million. This was down 1 percent in volume and 3 percent in value from November and down 2 percent in volume and up 3 percent in value from December 2o13. For all of 2014, chicken exports were 1 percent below 2013 in volume and 4 percent below in value. The top 5 destinations for U.S. broiler products in December were Mexico, Canada, Angola, Taiwan, and Hong Kong.

BEEF/VEAL

Production

December 2014 beef production was 2 billion pounds, 8 percent above November's production and 2 percent below December 2013 volume. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.44 million head, up 7 percent from November, but down 5 percent from December 2013. The average live weight was up 29 pounds from the previous year, at 1,363 pounds. December veal production totaled 7.6 million pounds, up 17 percent from the prior month, but 22 percent below December a year ago. Calf slaughter was 43,000 head, 20 percent above November, but down 36 percent from December 2013. The average live weight was up 51 pounds from last year, at 302 pounds. January to December 2014 total yearly commercial veal production was down 16 percent from 2013 output. Total beef stocks at the end of December were up 11 percent from November levels, and up slightly from last year. Boneless beef supplies were also 11 percent higher on a monthly basis, and were up 1 percent from 2013, while beef cuts in cold storage were 2 percent lower than last month and 6 percent higher than last year. Veal stocks remain high, up 21 percent from last month and 63 percent from December 2013.

Price

After a $4 jump early in the month, live cattle prices (FOB, steers and heifers) dropped $11 to close the month down at $159 per cwt, 10 percent above the 2014 price and 35 percent above the 2011-2013 average. The cutout value peaked in mid-January at near record heights, then returned to the same level it began the month with, $247 per cwt, 6 percent higher than last year and 37 percent over the historical average. 90 percent lean boneless beef increased steadily through the month by $6 to $303 per cwt, a record high level 36 and 49 percent above 2014 and the 2011-2013 average, respectively. Beef trim, 50 percent lean spiked $40 in the first two weeks of January, then slowed to close at $145 per cwt, 35 percent over 2014 and 77 percent above 2011-2013 average levels. Packer-owned veal carcasses rose $7 through January to $442 per cwt while non-packer owned veal carcasses increased $5 to $435. Veal cutout values held steady through the month at $583 per cwt, 21 percent above last year and 39 percent over the 2011-2013 average

International Trade

Compared to 2013, December beef and veal exports decreased 2 percent to 100 thousand MT, while the export value increased 17 percent to $643 million. This volume is up 4 percent from November but is 3 percent lower in value. Total annual beef export volumes were up 2 percent and value was up 16 percent over 2013. Hong Kong, Japan and Mexico were our largest export markets in December. Year-over-year beef import volumes in December were up 72 percent to 100 thousand MT, and were up 124 percent in value to $644 million. Compared to November, beef imports were up 11 percent in both volume and value. Yearly total beef and veal imports were up 31 percent in volume and 49 percent in value over 2013. Australia, New Zealand and Canada were the largest importers in December.

PORK

Production

December pork production totaled 2.11 billion pounds, up 2 percent from 2013. Hog slaughter totaled 9.85 million head, up 1 percent. The average live weight was up 3 pounds from the previous year, at 286 pounds. Pork supplies in cold storage were 2 percent above November but 10 percent below 2013. Picnic inventories were 18 percent below the prior month and 12 percent higher than in 2013. Frozen hams were down overall, 31 percent compared to November stock and down 14 percent yearly. Pork trimmings in freezers were 23 percent greater than in the previous month, and were up 29 percent year-over-year. Stocks of pork bellies were up 37 percent monthly but down 42 percent yearly.

Price

The negotiated carcass price for barrows and gilts dropped sharply through January, down $8 to $67 per cwt, 16 percent lower than 2014 and 19 percent below the 2011-2013 average. The pork cutout fell $5 at the end of the month to close at $80 per cwt, 11 percent lower than 2014 and 3 percent below the 2011-2013 average. After a brief peak at $77, trimmed, bone-in hams, 23-27 pounds, fell to $66 per cwt, 18 percent below the 2014 value and 13 percent below the historical average. Picnic meat combo, cushion out, fell $12 per cwt to $68 (a total of $30 in 2 months), 27 percent below 2014 and 22 percent below the 2011-2013 average. Pork trim, 72 percent lean, peaked at $68 per cwt but closed down at $61, 18 percent below the 2014 price and 15 percent below the 2011-2013 average. Pork belly primals had a similar pattern, ending down $9 from the monthly peak to $100, 14 percent below 2014 and 22 percent below the 2011-2013 average.

International Trade

December pork exports rose 5 percent on a year-over-year basis to 179 thousand MT, while the value fell 1 percent to $526 million. Pork export volume and value rose 9 and 4 percent, respectively, from the previous month. Yearly total pork export volume was down 1 percent and value fell 9 percent from 2013. The largest overseas markets for U.S. pork were Japan, Mexico and Canada. Year-over-year imports of pork in December were up 34 percent in volume to 47 thousand MT, and up 29 percent in value at $160 million. Compared to November, pork imports increased 14 percent in volume and 11 percent in value. Total pork imports for the year increased 15 percent in volume and 23 percent in value over 2013. Canada, Italy and Denmark were the largest importers.

TURKEY

Production

December's turkey production totaled 472 million pounds on a ready-to-cook basis. Daily production in December was 7 percent above last December, with most of the increase, 6 percent, resulting from an increase in the number of birds slaughtered. For the year, however, total production was below 2013. The 2014 total, 5.7 billion pounds, was 1 percent less than the prior year. Production increases in the first half of 2015 should be strong, with poults placed in December 7 percent above December 2013 and eggs in incubators on January 1 7 percent above last year's figure.

Turkey inventories continue to be far below last year's levels. Total holdings on December 31 were down 19 percent compared to 2013. The only category showing a year-over-year increase was whole hens, which were up 23 percent from December 2013. Whole toms were down 31 percent, total white meat supplies were down 38 percent, and dark meat supplies were down 16 percent.

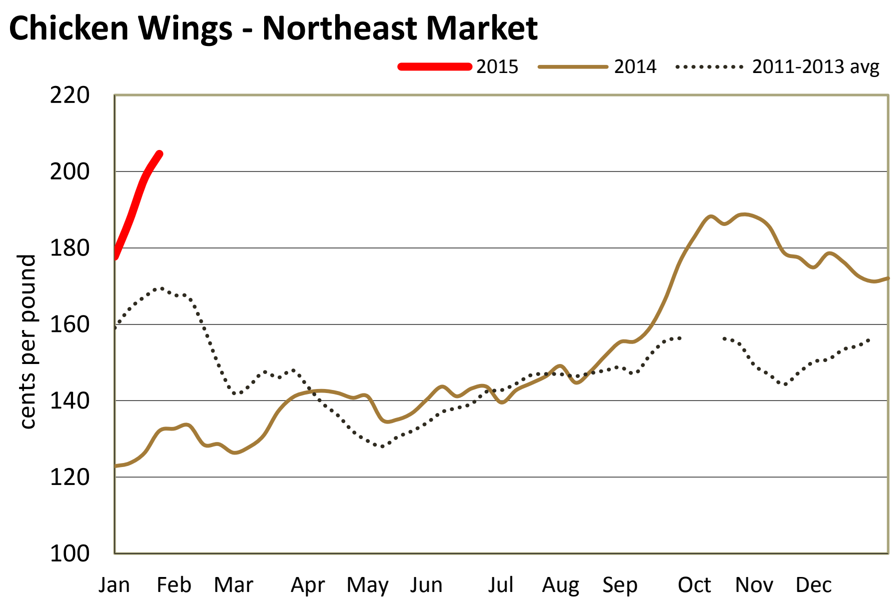
Price

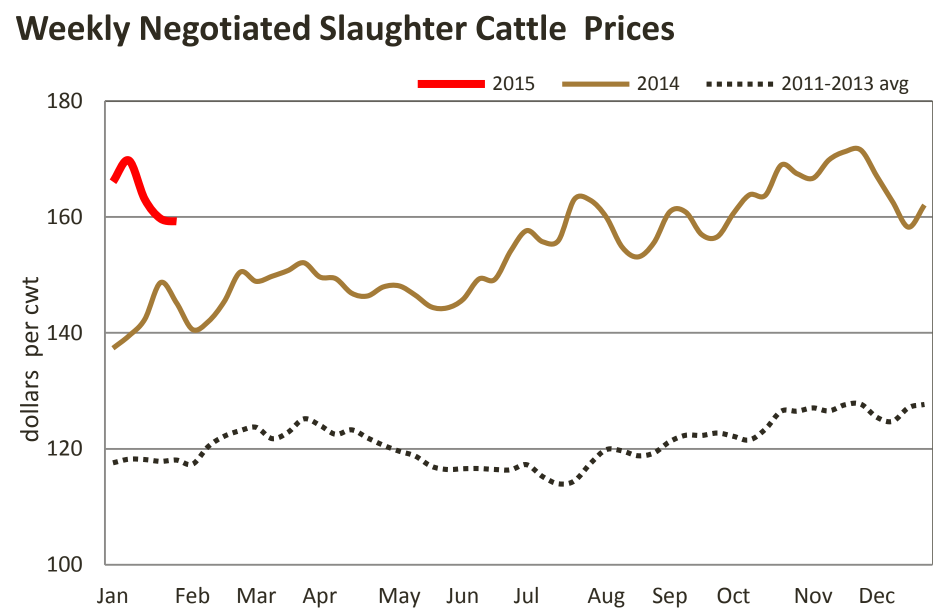
After dropping a nickel the first week of the month, whole turkeys spent January within a penny of 99 cents/lb. Processing turkey, on the other hand, fell sharply through the month. Boneless/skinless (B/S) breast meat fell 48 cents and closed at 322 cents/lb. B/S thigh meat fell 19 cents to end the month at 143 cents/lb., and tom drumsticks dropped 17 cents to 67 cents/lb. at month's end.

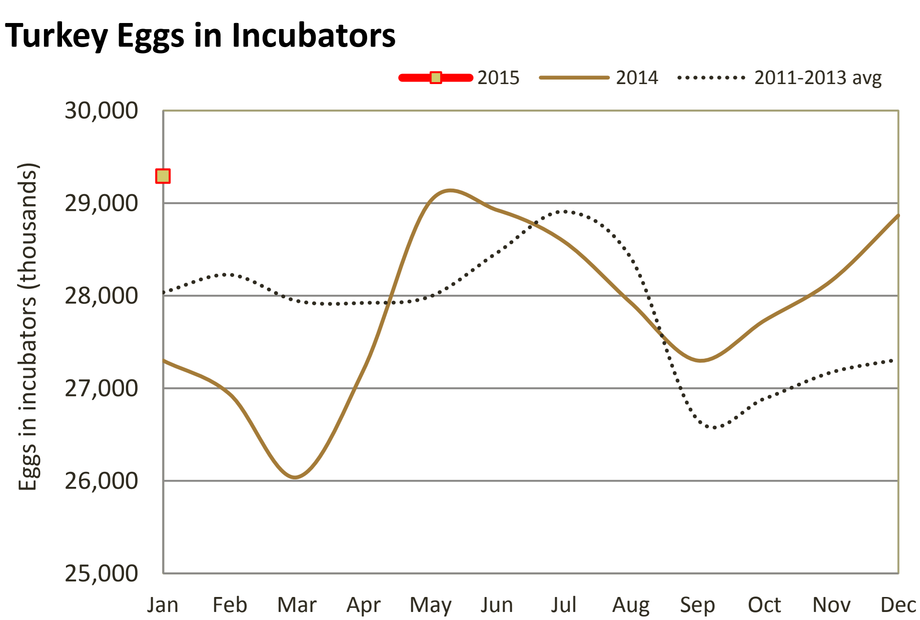
International Trade

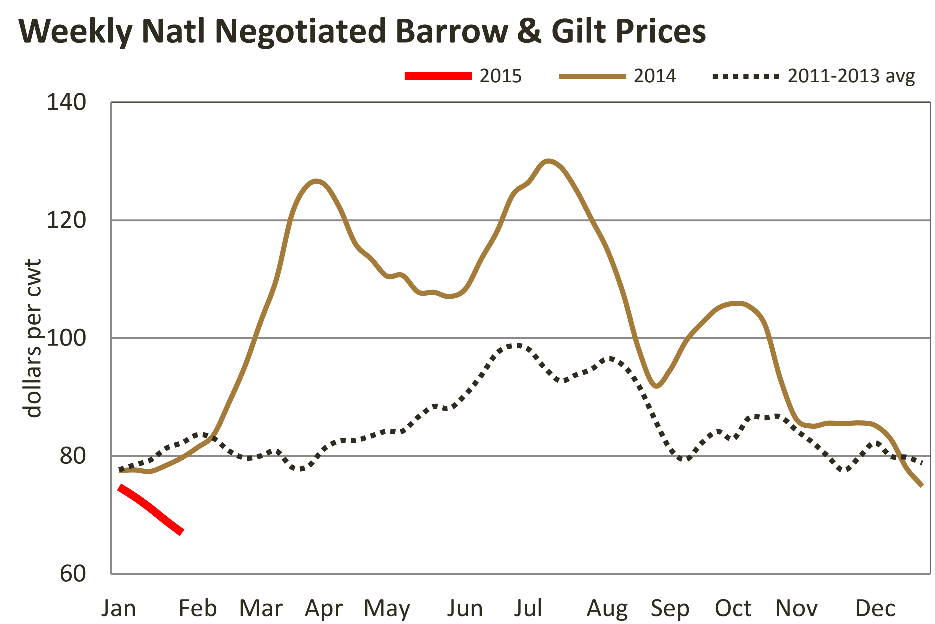
The U.S. exported 32 thousand metric tons of turkey products in December valued at $66 million. This was 3 percent lower in volume and 10 percent lower in value compared to November, but 32 percent higher in volume and 24 percent higher in value than December 2013. Annual exports in 2014 were 6 percent higher in volume and 11 percent higher in value than in 2013. The five largest export markets for turkey products were Mexico, China, Canada, Panama, and the Dominican republic.

Questions, comments, or suggestions for articles? Contact Lawrence.Haller@ams.usda.gov or Sherry.Wise@ams.usda.gov.


Chicken Wings - Northeast Market
2015
2014
2011-2013 avg
cents per pound
220
200
180
160
140
120
100
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec


Weekly Negotiated Slaughter Cattle Prices
2015
2014
2011-2013 avg
dollars per cwt
180
160
140
120
100
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec


Turkey Eggs in Incubators
2015
2014
2011-2013 avg
Eggs in incubators (thousands)
30,000
29,000
28,000
27,000
26,000
25,000
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec


Weekly Natl Negotiated Barrow & Gilt Prices
2015
2014
2011-2013 avg
dollars per cwt
140
120
100
80
60
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec

Game-day Favorites!

2,765

Steer Hides used to make the footballs for the 2014 NFL Season.

$303,642

Total Raw Hide Value

28,300,000,000

Chicken wing portions produced in 2014

1,300,000,000

Chicken wing portions marketed during Super Bowl XLIX

4.2

Chicken wings per U.S. citizen.

2,575,000,000

Pork rib bones produced in 2014

104,000,000

Pork rib bones marketed during Super Bowl XLIX

.3

Pork rib bones per U.S. citizen.

Source: USDA, AMS Agricultural Analytics; NASS; Wilson Sporting Goods, Co.