



## EGGS

### Production

Table egg production in November was 620 million dozen, 12 percent higher than last November. Broiler-type hatching egg production was unchanged compared to 2015. There were 1.01 billion broiler-type hatching eggs produced. Egg-type hatching egg production was 81 million eggs, 3 percent below last year. Shell eggs broken totaled 195 million dozen during November, up 22 percent from November a year ago, but 2 percent below the 199 million dozen broken in October. The number of table-egg layers in the national flock on December 1 was up 8 percent compared to 2015. Hatching egg layers for the table egg flock were down 1 percent compared with last year, and the broiler-type hatching egg flock was 2 percent below last year. The number of pullets added during November for all types of egg production was down 4 percent year-over-year.

### Price

Table egg prices rose counter-cyclically during most of December, but gave up much of those gains in the last week of the month. The price of one dozen large Grade A eggs in the New York wholesale market began December at 68 cents/dozen and rose steadily to 135 cents/dozen by the mid-month. Prices remained there until after Christmas, when they began falling, ending the month at 109 cents/dozen and falling further to 75 cents/dozen by the end of the first week of January. Breaking stock prices also rallied in December. Prices began the month at 18 cents/dozen, where they had been since mid-November, but began rising the second week of the month, and in less than two weeks reached 32 cents/dozen, where it stayed through the end of the month.

### International Trade

Shell egg exports in November totaled 9.8 million dozen with a value of \$9.6 million, down 11 percent in both volume and value compared with October and up 13 percent in volume but down 33 percent in value compared with November 2015. Through November, shell egg exports were down 15 percent in volume and down 38 percent in value compared with 2015. November exports of egg products were valued at \$12.6 million, 9 percent above October and double the total in November 2015. For the first 11 months of 2016, the value of egg products exports was 11 percent below 2015 totals. In November, our five largest export destinations were Mexico, Canada, Japan, Hong Kong, and Brazil.

## TURKEY

### Production

The U.S. produced 512 million pounds of turkey in November on a ready-to-cook basis. Daily production was down 1 percent compared to October but up 4 percent compared to last November, when the industry was still recovering from the outbreak of HPAI in the spring. Production in early 2017 should be up significantly compared with 2016. Poult placements between August and November were up more than 7 percent compared with 2015. However, compared with the 2012 – 2014 average for the same period, which was before the HPAI disruption, growth should be more moderate: placements were up only 2 percent. Turkey stocks in cold storage at the end of November were 25 percent above levels seen in November 2015, when the industry was still recovering from HPAI. However, compared with average inventories for the years 2012 – 2014, total inventories were down 2 percent. Whole bird inventories were down 8 percent from the 3-year average, with hens even with the average and toms down 16 percent. White meat stocks were down 5 percent compared with the average, while dark meat stocks were up 27 percent.

### Price

Whole turkey prices fell seasonally in December while parts prices were mixed. Frozen whole hens fell 6 percent during the month to 103 cents/lb. and whole toms fell 4 percent to 105 cents/lb. Boneless/skinless (B/S) breast meat continued the slide that began in November, falling 13 percent to 165 cents/lb. by the end of December. Dark meat saw modest increases. B/S thigh meat rose 3 percent to 134 cents/lb. by month's end and tom drumsticks also rose 3 percent to 54 cents/lb.

### International Trade

November turkey exports totaled 23 metric tons with a value of \$58.6 million. This represents a drop of 3 percent in volume and an increase of 3 percent in value compared with October and an increase of 17 percent in volume and 11 percent in value compared with November 2015. Through November, total exports for the year were up 7 percent in volume and 1 percent in value compared with the same period in 2015. Mexico, Japan, Canada, Hong Kong, and Panama were the five largest importers of U.S. turkey products in November.

### Production

Total U.S. broiler production in November was 3.33 billion pounds on a ready-to-cook basis. Daily production fell 2 percent compared to October but rose 1 percent compared to November 2015. Average dressed weights continue to hold steady. Weights were even with October and up less than 1 percent from last year. Production in early 2017 will be moderate; both eggs set and chicks placed for the 4 weeks ending December 31 were up 2 percent compared to the same period in 2015.

Total chicken stocks held in cold storage on November 30 grew by 2 percent compared to the end of October, but were 10 percent below levels seen in November, 2015. Whole broiler levels, in contrast, were 9 percent below October but 44 percent above last year. White meat supplies were up 9 percent on the month but unchanged from a year ago. Overall dark meat supplies were even with October, but 22 percent lower than last year. Leg quarter inventories fell 2 percent month-over-month and were down 11 percent year-over-year. Thighs and thigh meat were up 8 percent compared with October but down 30 percent compared with last November. Wing inventories were little changed; down 1 percent from last month and up 3 percent from last year.

### Price

Wholesale chicken prices, for the most part, held steady or rose slightly in December. The national composite price for whole broilers dipped slightly in mid-month as consumers shifted to turkey for the holiday meal, but ended the month up almost 2 percent at 85 cents/lb. Boneless/skinless (B/S) breast meat, which had fallen 37 percent in value between the end of August and the end of November, stabilized during December, and rose almost 2 percent to 98 cents/lb. by month's end. B/S thigh meat, which has been trading at a premium to B/S breast meat for most of the last three months, fell 11 percent during December and closed at 99 cents/lb., only 1 cent above breast meat. Leg quarter prices fell most of the month, but started strengthening late, and at the end of December, were up 1 percent at 24 cents/lb. Drumstick prices were up 3 percent for the month and ended at 39 cents/lb., while wings rose 1 percent to 189 cents/lb.

### International Trade

Exports of chicken products in November totaled 251 thousand metric tons valued at \$235 million. November's exports were down 2 percent in volume and 1 percent in value compared with October's totals, but up 12 percent in volume and 10 percent in value compared with last November, when some countries were still limiting shipments of U.S. poultry products due to concerns about HPAI. For the first 11 months of 2016, chicken exports were up 3 percent in volume but down 7 percent in value compared to 2015. The top five destinations for exports in November were Mexico, Canada, Hong Kong, Iraq, and Guatemala.

### Production

With one additional weekday, November 2016 beef production was 16 percent above 2015 and 2 percent above October at 2.24 billion pounds, a record high for the month of November. Cattle slaughter was also up 16 percent from 2016, and up 1 percent from October for a total of 2.67 million head. The average live weight was down 8 pounds from last year, at 1,384 pounds. January to November 2016 commercial beef production was 6 percent over the 2015 volume. Despite the added workday, veal production was down 6 percent from last year, to 6.7 million pounds, 2 percent higher than the month before. At 47,300 head, calf slaughter rose 22 percent from November 2015 but was 2 percent lower than October. The average live weight was down 67 pounds from last year, at 243 pounds. Year to date veal output was down 8 percent from 2015. Cold storage beef at the end of November was down slightly from October, but up 4 percent from November 2015. Boneless beef stocks were down less than 1 percent from the month before, but up 5 percent from 2015. Beef cuts in freezers were 3 percent lower than last month and 2 percent lower than last year. Frozen veal stocks were down 36 percent month over month, and up 15 percent on a yearly basis.

### Price

Live cattle prices (FOB, steers and heifers) showed the usual December pattern of dipping early in the month, but ending up, with a net increase of roughly \$4 per cwt to \$118 per cwt, 12 percent below last year. The beef cutout value rose steadily through the month, ending up \$12 per cwt to \$202 per cwt, 3 percent below the 2015 value. The 90 percent lean boneless beef price rose slowly but ended gaining \$4 to close at \$195 per cwt, slightly above the 2015 price. However 50 percent lean trim prices lost \$7, ending at \$39 per cwt, 1 percent above the 2015 level. Packer-owned veal carcasses fell \$3 to \$304 per cwt, and non-packer owned veal carcasses fell \$7 to \$305 per cwt, both prices 31 percent below 2015. The veal cutout average lost \$20 at the start of December to \$463 per cwt, where it held through the month, 21 percent below the 2015 value.

### International Trade

Compared to November 2015, beef and veal exports (including variety meats) increased 20 percent to 115 thousand MT and the export value rose 19 percent to \$619 million. The export volume and value were up 9 and 11 percent from October, respectively. 2016 exports for the year to date are 10 percent higher than in 2015, but the value is down 1 percent. Japan, South Korea and Hong Kong were our largest export markets in November. Year-over-year beef import volumes were up 11 percent to 75 thousand MT, and were down 5 percent in value to \$379 million. Compared to October, beef imports were down 7 percent and value was down 6 percent. Total yearly imports for 2016 so far were 10 percent lower in volume and 21 percent lower in value than in 2015. Canada, Mexico and Australia were the largest importers of beef to the U.S.

### Production

An additional operating day pushed pork production to 2.24 billion pounds, up 8 percent from last year and 2 percent from October, a record high for the month of November. Hog slaughter totaled 10.6 million head, up 9 percent from 2015 and 2 percent from last month. The average live weight was down 2 pounds from the previous year, at 283 pounds. Accumulated pork production for 2015 was up 2 percent over the previous year. The total inventory of frozen pork was down 13 percent from the end of October, and down 7 percent from 2015. Picnic supplies were 20 percent lower than the preceding month, and 18 percent below the year before. Total hams in cold storage were down 45 percent monthly and down 3 percent yearly. Compared to October, total loin stocks were 13 percent higher, rib stocks were 10 percent higher, and inventories of butts were 13 percent higher. Year-over-year, loins and ribs were both down 7 percent, while butts were up 16 percent. Pork trimmings in cold storage were up 11 percent on a monthly basis, and down 5 percent yearly. Stocks of pork bellies were down 13 percent from last month and down 7 percent from last year.

### Price

The negotiated carcass price for barrows and gilts rebounded, ending December up \$7 per cwt to \$52 per cwt, up 8 percent from 2015. The pork cutout value added \$8 through the month to \$82 per cwt, 16 percent above the 2015 value. Trimmed, bone-in hams, 23-27 pounds gained \$4 through mid-month, but closed down \$4 from November's end at \$68 per cwt, up 35 percent from 2015. Picnic meat combos, cushion out, rose \$3, closing at \$78 per cwt, 36 percent above last year. Pork trim, 72 percent lean added \$10 to \$57 per cwt, up 65 percent from the 2015 value. Pork belly primals gained \$17 to end at \$115 per cwt, up 13 percent yearly.

### International Trade

Pork exports in November (including variety meats) were up 24 percent from 2015 to 221 thousand MT, and the value was up 30 percent to \$567 million. Pork export volume was up 12 percent, and the value was up 13 percent from October. For 2016 to date, the total export volume was up 7 percent and 5 percent in value from last year. The largest overseas markets for U.S. pork were Japan, Mexico and Canada. Compared to 2015, November pork imports were down 2 percent in volume to 44 thousand MT and down in value 1 percent to \$141 million. The volume of pork imports rose 8 percent from October, and 3 percent in value. Year-to-date measures showed pork import volumes down 2 percent, but the value was up 1 percent from 2015. The countries of Canada, Italy and Poland imported the largest volumes of pork to the U.S.

### Production

Lamb and mutton production was 12.1 million pounds in November, up 3 percent from 2015 with one more operating day, and up 3 percent from October. Sheep slaughter totaled 184,900 head, 2 percent above both last year and last month. The average live weight was 131 pounds, 1 pound over November a year ago. The total volume of lamb and mutton produced in 2016 so far was down slightly from 2015. Cold storage of lamb and mutton in November were 26 percent below October supplies and were down 51 percent from last year.

### Price

After softening in mid-December, negotiated live slaughter lamb prices added \$2 to \$141 per cwt, down 2 percent from 2015. The lamb cutout gained \$2, to \$355 cwt, 3 percent below the 2015 value. Leg of lamb, trotter off prices rose \$1 to also close at \$354 per cwt, 2 percent below the 2015 price. Boneless lamb shoulder prices lost \$2 per cwt, to \$570, up 3 percent from last year.

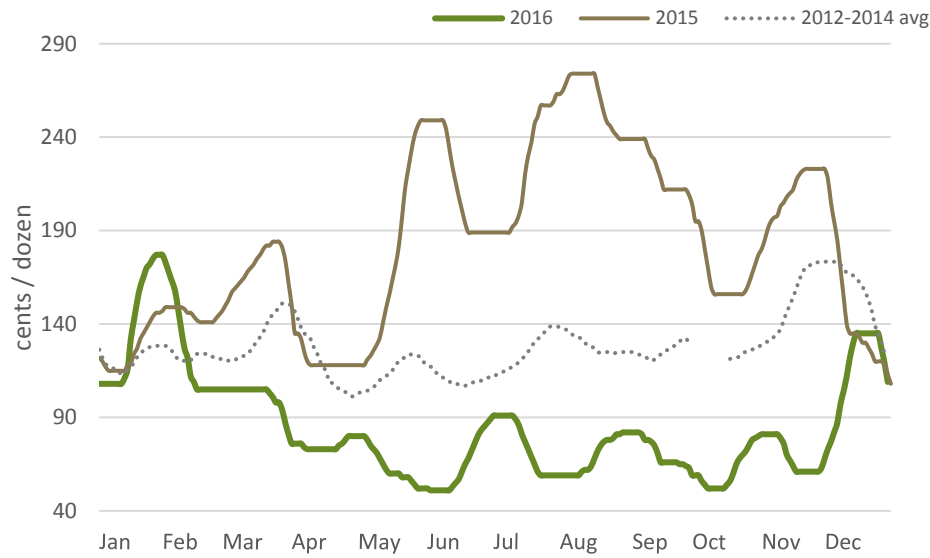
### International Trade

November lamb exports were up 115 percent from 2015 levels to 325 MT, and up 78 percent in value to \$1.5 million. Compared to October, export volume was up 45 percent and the value was up 48 percent. Total exports for 2016 are higher by 19 percent in volume and 12 percent in value compared to 2015. Mexico, Vietnam and the Leeward-Windward Islands were the largest export markets of lamb and mutton. U.S. lamb imports in November were up 13 percent from 2015 to 8 thousand MT, with the value of imports up 18 percent to \$63 million. The import volume and value were up 37 and 39 percent, respectively, from October. For 2016 to date, import volumes are higher by 3 percent but down 1 percent in value from 2015. Australia, New Zealand and Chile were the largest sources of imports.

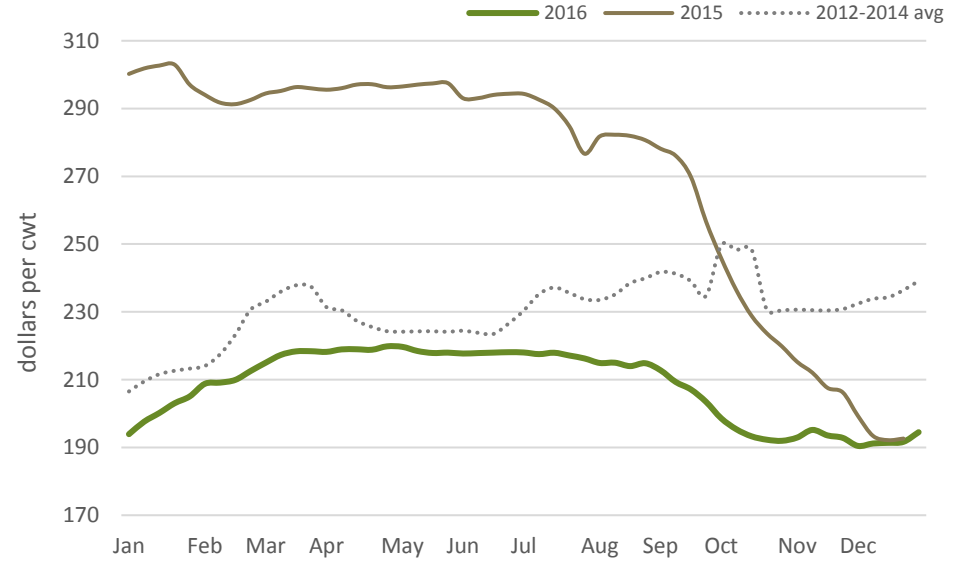
Questions, comments, or suggestions for articles? Contact [Lawrence.Haller@ams.usda.gov](mailto:Lawrence.Haller@ams.usda.gov) or [Sherry.Wise@ams.usda.gov](mailto:Sherry.Wise@ams.usda.gov).

*In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.*

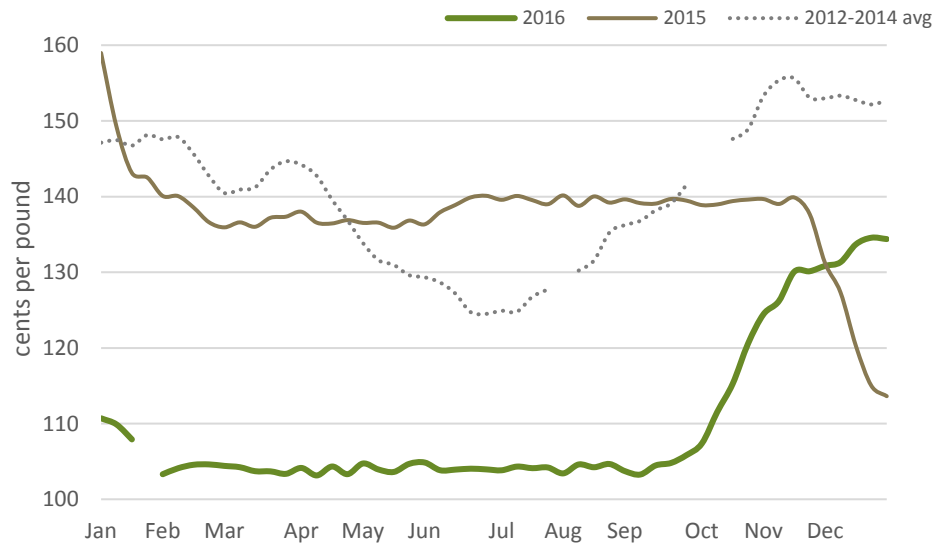
New York shell egg price (Grade A large - wholesale)



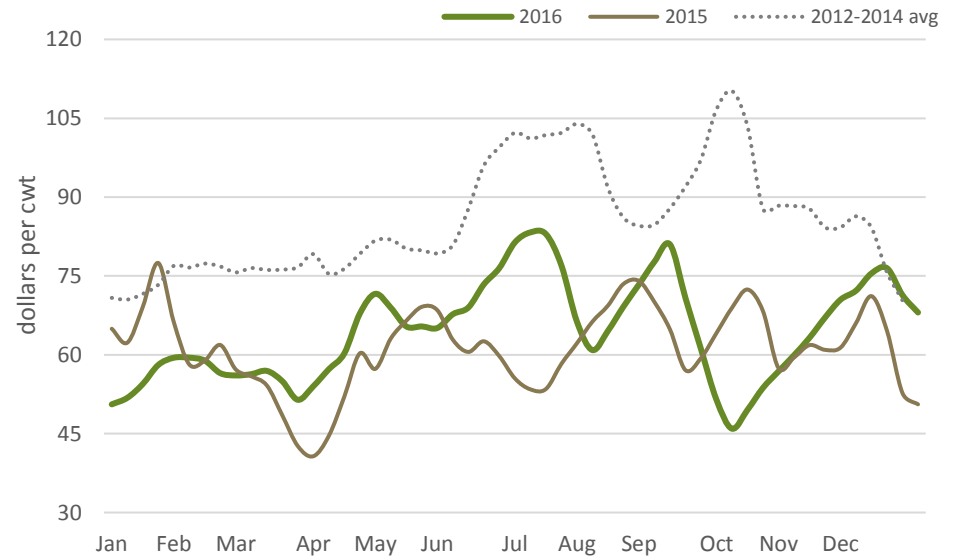
Fresh Boneless Beef, 90% Lean



Fresh boneless/skinless turkey thighs



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





# Very Superstitious

There are many customs and superstitions believed to bring good luck for the New Year involving certain foods.

Here are a few of the more popular:

**1 Sauerkraut** - It is believed that eating Sauerkraut will bring blessings and wealth for the new year (ever wonder why they call money “cabbage”?). This German custom is popular in the Midwest, particularly when combined with fresh pork. **Wisconsin** is the top producer of cabbage for sauerkraut. The US consumed **322,400,000** lbs. of sauerkraut in 2015.

**2 Bacon** - Pork is considered by many to be the luckiest of all foods to eat on New Year's Day. Bacon is used to make **Hoppin' John**, a traditional dish in the South made with black-eyed peas and rice. During the recent holiday season, the US marketed **265,000,000** lbs. of bacon.

**3 Grapes** - A Spanish tradition, popular in the Southwest as, “las doce uvas de la suerte,” (the twelve grapes of luck), where 12 grapes signifying the months of the year are eaten at the stroke of midnight. Watch out for those months having a sour grape! **California**, with **124,000** acres, is the top table grape producer.

**4 Lentils** - Dating back to Roman times and still popular among Italian-Americans, lentils, due to their coin-like shape, represent luck and prosperity. Buon Anno! **Montana** is the biggest US producer with **46%** of the 2015 crop of **528,000,000** lbs.

**5 Long Noodles** - In Japan, long noodles made from buckwheat flour (Toshikoshi soba) and signifying a long life – if eaten without breaking the noodle! Buckwheat production in the US is concentrated in the Northern Plains with more than **70,000** acres devoted to raising the crop.

**6 Pork** - Pigs are considered to be very lucky as they are rotund (prosperity) and “root” forward with their noses (progress) as opposed to poultry that scratch backwards. Combined with sauerkraut, pork, especially boneless loins, form one of the most popular New Year's traditions. **Iowa** is the top pork producing state, providing **27%** of total 2015 US pork production.

**7 Black-Eyed Peas** - imported from West Africa, and brought to the US by enslaved Africans, black-eyed peas (beans) are said to symbolize coins, and a hope for financial prosperity. A staple of the popular New Year's Southern dish, Hoppin' John. **Texas** produces two-thirds of the US crop of **56,500,000** lbs. in 2015.

**8 Greens** - Popular in the South, greens (mainly collards) serve the same role as cabbage in other parts of the country and symbolize money. Usually cooked with pork for flavoring and served alongside Hoppin' John and cornbread, symbolizing gold. Over two-thirds of collards are grown in **Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina**, in that order. The US harvested **12,500** acres in 2012.