



EGGS

Production

December table egg production totaled 688 million dozen, up 4 percent from December 2017. On January 1, the number of birds in the table egg flock was 332 million, up 3 percent compared to a year earlier. Egg-type hatching egg production was 98 million eggs, up 3 percent from a year ago. There were 1.09 billion broiler-type hatching eggs produced in December, up 3 percent from last year.

The broiler-type laying flock on January 1 was 58.7 million hens, up 2 percent from 2018. Shell eggs broken totaled 206 million dozen during December 2018, up 9 percent from December a year ago, and 4 percent above the 198 million broken in November.

Price

Table egg prices in January showed no consistent pattern. January prices began at 124 cents/dozen, fell to 100 cents and closed the month back up at 134 cents/dozen (New York Grade A large wholesale). Breaking stock prices were much less volatile in January, but their trend was similar. Prices opened in January at 44.5 cents/dozen, fell to 38.5 cents, and ended back up at 43.5 cents/dozen.

International Trade

Domestic exports of shell eggs in December totaled 17 million dozen with a value of \$36 million, a decline of 4 percent in volume and 3 percent in value compared with 2017 and an increase of 2 percent in volume but a drop in value of 11 percent compared with November. For the year 2018, shell egg exports were up 5 percent in volume and 12 percent in value compared with 2017.

December egg products exports were valued at \$12 million, 10 percent below last year and 11 percent below November. Egg products exports for 2018 were down 9 percent compared with 2017. The top five destinations for exports in December were Mexico, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan and Jamaica.

TURKEY

Production

December turkey production was 559 million pounds on a ready-to-cook basis. Daily production was down 5 percent compared with November, and down 2 percent compared with last December. December poults placed were 4 percent above 2017 and the number of eggs in incubators on January 1 was 9 percent above January 2018.

Cold storage holdings of turkey and turkey products on December 31 were up 9 percent from November and down 4 percent compared with December. Inventories of whole hens were up 12 percent monthly and down 4 percent from 2017, while toms were up 3 percent on the month, and down 13 percent on the year. White meat stocks were 7 percent higher than November, and 5 percent more than 2017, while dark meat supplies, were up 13 and 8 percent, respectively.

Price

Both whole frozen hens and toms closed the month of January at 83 cents/lb., 4 percent above January 2017, and up from a December average of 79 cents/lb. Boneless/skinless (B/S) breast meat closed January at 209 cents/lb., down 2 cents from December and up from 155 cents/lb. in 2018. B/S thigh meat traded at 123 at the close of January, down 8 cents from December and down 1 cent from last year. At the close of January, tom drumsticks traded at 68 cents/lb., down 2 cents from December and 5 cents higher than in 2017.

International Trade

The U.S. exported 22.1 thousand metric tons of turkey products in December valued at \$49 million. This was a decrease of 7 percent in volume and 5 percent in value compared with 2017 and a respective decrease of 11 and 12 percent compared with November. Compared with 2017, exports for all of 2018 were lower by 2 percent in volume but up 2 percent in value. In December, our five largest export destinations were Mexico, Japan, Canada, The Bahamas and Hong Kong.

Production

Broiler production in December totaled 4.3 billion pounds on a ready-to-cook basis. Daily production was down 2 percent compared with November, and down 3 percent compared with December 2017. Average dressed weights in December were down 1 percent from the previous month and down 1 percent from last year. Trends in eggs in incubators and in chick placements indicate that production will be up slightly in the weeks ahead. For the four weeks ending January 28, eggs set were up 2 percent and chick placements were up 1 percent.

Total cold storage stocks of chicken and chicken products at the end of December were down slightly compared with November, but up 6 percent compared with December 2017. Whole broilers inventories were down slightly month-to-month but up 48 percent year-to-year. White meat products added 1 percent to November's total, and less than 1 percent to the volume last year. Overall stocks of dark meat, however, fell 19 percent from November and 29 percent from 2017. Leg quarters in cold storage were down 12 percent month-over-month and 41 percent year-over-year. Inventories of wings were down 13 percent compared with November but up 17 from last December

Price

The National composite price for whole broilers, fell steadily through January, losing 13 cents/lb. to close the month at 92 cents/lb. slightly higher than last year. Boneless/skinless (B/S) breast meat rose through the month, gaining 7 cents to close at 104 cents/lb., 3 percent above 2017. B/S thigh meat held steady and closed down 1 cent at 116 cents/lb., 20 percent more yearly. Leg quarter prices gained 3 cents to end at 31 cents/lb., a yearly rise of 15 percent. Drumsticks lost 4 cents, falling to 33 cents/lb., but remained up 12 percent from last year. Wings jumped 34 cents to 191 cents/lb., still 9 percent below 2017.

International Trade

Broiler exports in December totaled 263 thousand metric tons, valued at \$228 million. This was 2 percent increase in volume and a 12 percent decline in value relative November, and loss of 7 percent in volume and 10 percent in value from 2017. For all of 2018, exports were up 4 percent in volume and fractionally up in value compared to last year. Mexico, Canada, Taiwan, Cuba and Hong Kong were the five largest importers of U.S. turkey products in December.

Production

December commercial beef production, at 2.12 billion pounds, was 2 percent below 2017, and was down 9 percent compared to November with one less production day. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.58 million head, even with last December and 8 percent below the month before. The average live weight was down 12 pounds from the previous year, at 1,368 pounds. January to December 2018 commercial beef production increased 3 percent from 2017. December veal production was down 2 percent from 2017, at 6.5 million pounds, and was 3 percent below the November output. Calf slaughter was up 16 percent from 2017, totaling 53,600 head, but was down 3 percent monthly. The average live weight was 210 pounds, 35 pounds less than last year. Total 2018 veal production rose 2 percent from 2017. Cold storage beef at the end of December was up 2 percent from the prior year, but down 4 percent from November 2018. Boneless beef stocks increased 4 percent from 2017 but fell 2 percent from the previous month. Beef cuts in freezers were down 18 percent on a monthly basis, and down 20 percent year-over-year. Frozen veal stocks were 50 percent lower than 2017 and were down 10 percent from November.

Price

Live cattle prices (FOB, steers and heifers) saw only slight changes in January and ended the month back to the starting price of \$122 per cwt, 4 percent higher than the January 2018 closing price. The beef cutout also initially lost some value but also ended back to the starting price of \$216 per cwt, up 3 percent from the year before. The 90 percent lean boneless beef price gained steadily in January, rising \$11 to \$207 per cwt, down 6 percent from 2018. The 50 percent lean trim prices started the month up \$5 per cwt from the end of December, but lost steam through the month to end at \$58 per cwt, 34 percent below last year. Non-packer owned veal carcasses fell \$1 to \$309 per cwt, while packer owned veal carcasses held steady at \$306 per cwt, down 4 percent and up 1 percent from 2018, respectively. The veal cutout average continued to hold at \$395 per cwt, down 7 percent from last year.

International Trade

Compared to December 2017, beef and veal exports (including variety meats) fell slightly percent to 113 thousand MT but the export value added 4 percent to \$700 million. The export volume and value were down by under 1 percent and 1 percent from November, respectively. Total 2018 exports were 7 percent higher than in 2017, and the value rose by 15 percent. South Korea, Japan and Hong Kong were our largest export markets in December. Year-over-year beef import volumes were up 2 percent to 76 thousand MT and were up 3 percent in value to \$420 million. Compared to November, beef import volume and value were down 3 and 5 percent, respectively. Total import volumes in 2018 were slightly lower in volume but up 7 percent value from 2017. Canada, Mexico and Australia were the largest importers of beef to the U.S.

Production

December pork production was down slightly from 2017 at 2.23 billion pounds, and down 5 percent from November 2018. Hog slaughter was down slightly compared to last year at 10.5 million head and lost 5 percent on a monthly basis. The average live weight was steady on a year-over-year basis, at 286 pounds. Total pork production for 2018 increased 3 percent from 2017. The total inventory of frozen pork was down 2 percent from the end of November, but up 3 percent from last year. Picnic supplies were 13 percent lower than the preceding month, and 28 percent below 2017. Total hams in cold storage fell 17 percent month over month but rose 18 percent yearly. Compared to November, total loin stocks were down 3 percent, rib stocks were 4 percent higher, and inventories of butts were 7 percent lower. On a year-over-year basis, loins and ribs were down 8 and 10 percent, respectively, while butts were up 33 percent. Pork trimmings in cold storage added 15 percent on a monthly basis, and 27 percent yearly. Stocks of pork bellies were 13 percent higher than last month and up 121 percent from last year.

Price

The negotiated carcass price for barrows and gilts held steady through most of January but lost \$2 to end at \$68 per cwt, 17 percent below 2018. The pork cutout value also tracked at \$70 per cwt through the month, and closed at \$68 per cwt, 18 percent less than 2018. Trimmed, bone-in hams, 23-27 pounds bounced around a bit before closing up \$8 at \$53 per cwt, 17 percent below the 2018 price. Picnic meat combos, cushion out, fluctuated between \$55 and \$60 per cwt before spiking to \$78 per cwt, down 6 percent year-over-year. Following seasonal patterns, pork trim, 72 percent lean added \$12, closing the month at \$58 per cwt, down 20 percent from 2018. Pork belly primal values took an early seasonal decline, falling \$15 through the month to \$115 per cwt, 23 percent below last year.

International Trade

Pork exports in December (including variety meats) were down 4 percent from 2017 to 204 thousand MT, and the value was 11 percent lower at \$496 million. Pork export volume increased 1 percent from November, while the value lost 1 percent. Cumulative 2018 export volume was down 1 percent from last year, with value down 3 percent. The largest overseas markets for U.S. pork were Japan, Mexico and Canada. December pork imports were down 12 percent in volume to 37 thousand MT and shed 11 percent in value to \$126 million. Import volumes were 2 percent lower and value fell 4 percent from November. Total yearly pork imports were down 7 percent in volume and in value from 2017. The countries of Canada, Poland and Italy imported the largest volumes of pork to the U.S.

Production

December lamb and mutton production gained 3 percent year-over-year and month-over-month at 13.2 million pounds. Sheep slaughter totaled 201,800 head, 7 percent above last year and up very slightly from the previous month. The average live weight was 131 pounds, 5 pounds below December 2017. Total commercial lamb production in 2018 added 5 percent to the 2017 volume. Cold storage of lamb and mutton in December was down 4 percent from November but was up 36 percent from December 2017.

Price

After closing December up slightly, for negotiated live slaughter lamb prices January saw very limited changes, and ended down \$2 to \$133 per cwt, up 1 percent from the prior year. The lamb cutout gyrated up and down through the month, but lost \$10 at \$381 cwt, 7 percent higher than in 2018. Leg of lamb, trotter-off prices followed a similar pattern, shedding \$18 to \$364 per cwt, 2 percent above the prior year's price. Boneless lamb shoulder prices bounced between \$520 and \$560 per cwt, with a final price of \$524, 4 percent below last year.

International Trade

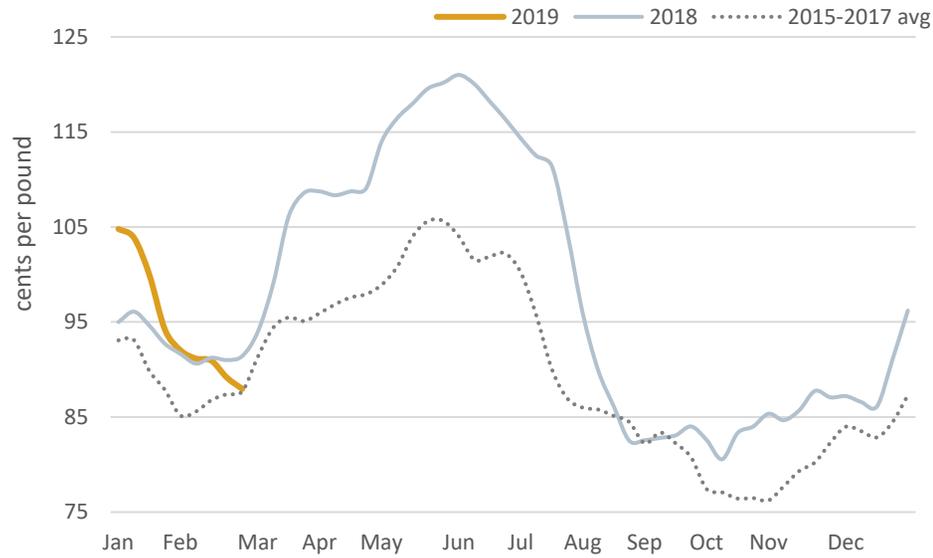
December lamb exports fell 40 percent from 2017 levels at 138 MT and decreased 23 percent in value to \$1.0 million. Compared to November, export volume lost 40 percent and the value lost 30 percent. Total 2018 exports were down 1 percent in volume and down 4 percent in value compared to 2017. Netherlands Antilles, The Bahamas and Mexico were the largest export markets of U.S. lamb and mutton. Lamb imports in December were up 6 percent from 2017 at 8.5 thousand MT, and the value of imports was up 18 percent to \$84 million. On a monthly basis, the import volume and value increased 6 and 8 percent, respectively. The total 2018 import volume was 9 percent higher than in 2017, and the value was up 13 percent. Australia, New Zealand and Mexico were the largest sources of imports.

Questions, comments, or suggestions for articles?

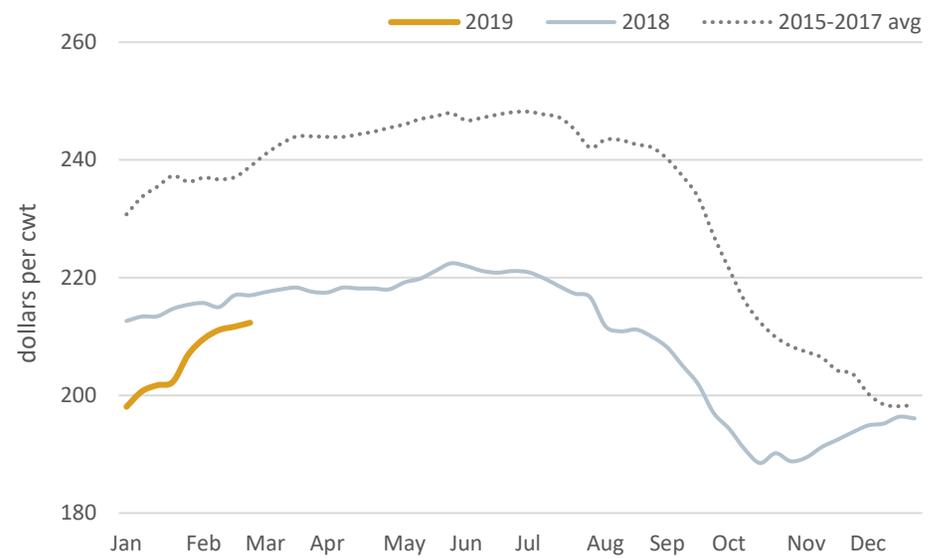
Contact Sherry.Wise@ams.usda.gov.

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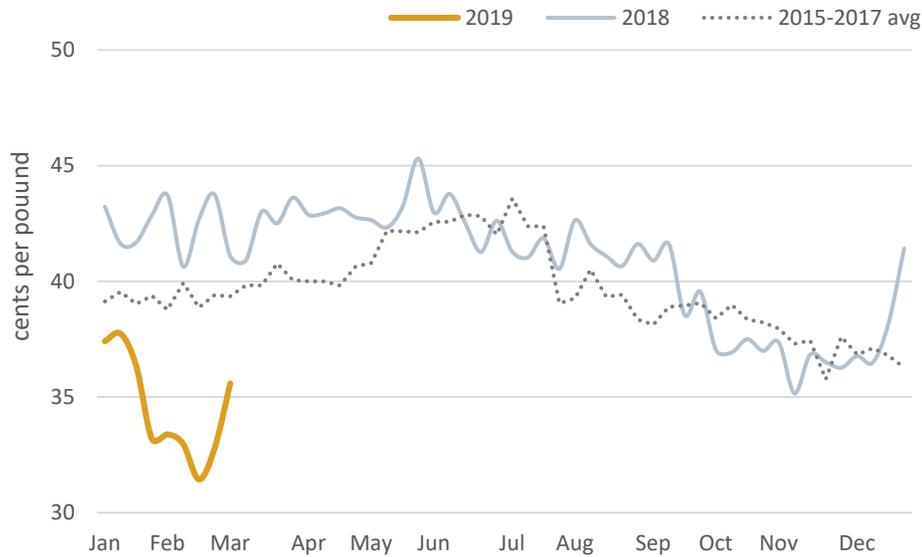
Wkly Whole Ready-to-Cook Broiler/Fryer Prices



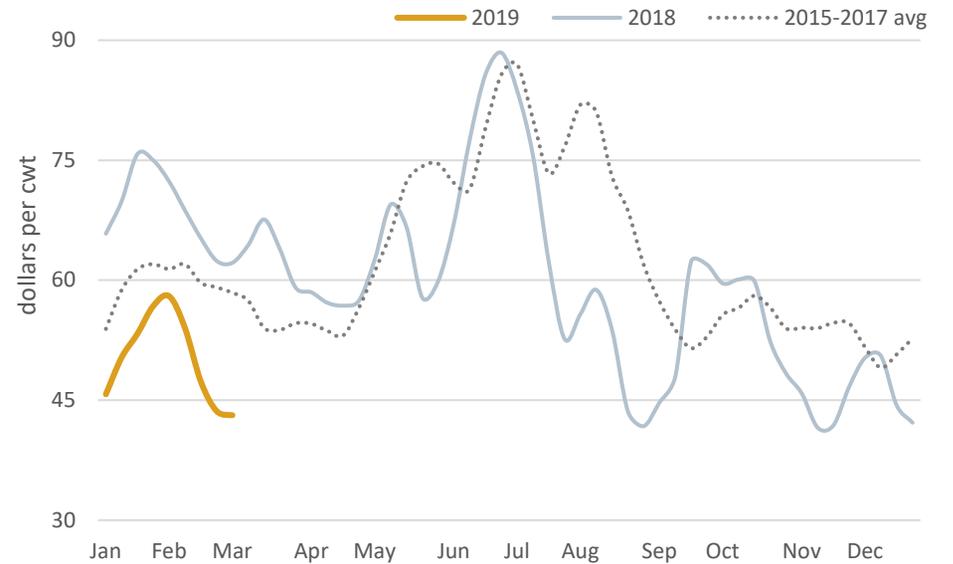
Fresh Boneless Beef, 90% Lean



Northeast Chicken Drumstick Prices



Wkly Bnls Pork Trimmings, Fresh 72% Combo



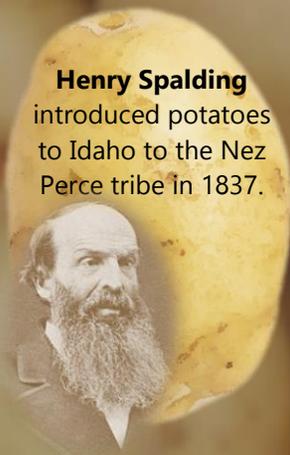


Potato Month

National



Idaho is the top potato producing state with **31%** of production in 2017.



Henry Spalding introduced potatoes to Idaho to the Nez Perce tribe in 1837.



Thomas Jefferson popularized the potato in the U.S. by introducing them done in the "French style"

WHITE



Popularly known as the Irish potato or the Kennebec, the most common variety, originated in Maine.

Primarily used for potato chip processing and for making French fries as it holds up well to frying. Accounted for **21%** of the 2017 U.S. crop, about **9** billion pound, most used for processing. Whites only made up **6%** of retail marketings in 2018 with an average ad price of **\$2.60** per 5-pound bag.

RED



Pontiac is the most common variety, developed in the 1930's. Low starch so they hold together when cooked and are great in potato salad. Grown predominately in North Dakota and Minnesota, accounted for **7%** of the 2017 harvest, about **3.1** billion pounds. Second most popular potato marketed at retail in 2018 with **29%** of marketings. Most popular in 5-pound bags with an average ad price of **\$3.05**/bag.

YELLOW

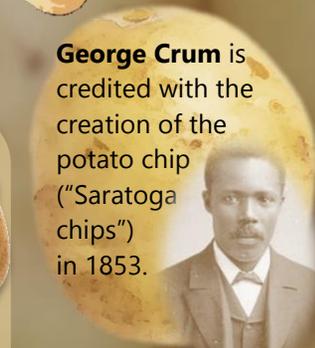


Yukon Gold is most common variety grown. Accounted for **3%** of U.S. production in 2017, about **1.3** billion pounds. Most are grown in Colorado and Oregon. A popular variety in retail outlets with **19%** of potato marketings in 2018 with an average ad price of **\$3.28** per 5-pound bag. Developed in Canada in the 1960's by Dr. Gary Johnston. A good all-purpose potato.

RUSSET



The "French Fry" potato developed from the work of Luther Burbank in the 1870's. The most popular potato grown in the U.S., making up **69%** of the 2017 harvest. Best for baking. Also, the most popular potato in retail markets with **47%** of 2018 features. About half are marketed in 5-pound bags at an average ad price of **\$2.50** per bag in 2018. In 2017, the U.S. produced **30.5** billion pounds.



George Crum is credited with the creation of the potato chip ("Saratoga chips") in 1853.



The potato originated in the Andes region of South America with the Incas and was brought to Europe in the 1500's by the Spanish.



Mr. Potato Head was first sold in May 1952 by Hasbro. The original version only had parts – you supplied the potato.