



EGGS

Production

Table egg production in January was 686 million dozen, 5 percent above last January. Broiler-type hatching egg production in January was up 3 percent compared to 2018. There were 1.09 billion broiler-type hatching eggs produced. Egg-type hatching egg production was 90 million eggs, up 12 percent from last year. Shell eggs broken totaled 211 million dozen during January, up 8 percent from January a year ago, and 3 percent above the 206 million dozen broken in December.

The number of table-egg layers in the national flock on February 1 was up 3 percent compared to 2018 at 331 million birds. Hatching egg layers for the table egg flock were up 2 percent compared with last year at 62 million birds, and the broiler-type hatching egg flock was up 2 percent at 59 million birds. The number of pullets added during January for all types of egg production was up 8 percent year-over-year.

Price

Egg prices fell sharply in February, dropping 33 cents to close the month at 101 cents for on dozen Large Grade A eggs in the New York wholesale market, 43 percent below 2018. Breaking stock prices also plunged in February shedding 34 cents/dozen and ending the month at 101 cents/dozen for an equivalent year over year loss of 43 percent

International Trade

Total U.S. shell egg exports in January totaled 14.1 million dozen with a value of \$36 million. This was a decline in volume of 11 percent and a fall of 12 percent in value compared with December. It is also a loss in volume of 13 percent and a loss of 17 percent in value compared with January 2017.

Egg products exports in January were valued at \$10.2 million, 12 percent below December and down 17 percent from last January. Mexico, Canada, Japan, Hong Kong and New Zealand were the five largest importers of U.S. eggs and egg products in January.

TURKEY

Production

The United States produced 511 million pounds of turkey on a ready-to-cook basis in January. Daily production was up 3 percent compared with December and down 2 percent compared with last January. Average dressed weights were up a little less than 1 percent for the month and 2 percent for the year. Eggs in incubators on the first of February were down 1 percent from last year, and poult placements in the month of January were down 8 percent year-over-year.

As of January 31, total turkey stocks in cold storage were 4 percent above the January 2018 level. Compared to December, total turkey stocks were up 29 percent. Whole frozen birds were up 5 percent yearly, with hens up 20 percent and toms down 8 percent. White meat stocks were up 8 percent year-over-year, while dark meat stocks were up 26 percent.

Price

Whole frozen hens added 2 cents in February 85 cents/lb. while whole frozen toms fell 1 cent to 82 cents/lb., with gains of 9 and 3 percent, respectively, from last year. Boneless/skinless (B/S) breast prices lost 11 cents from January, falling to 198 cents/lb. a gain of 28 percent over last year. B/S thigh meat decreased 3 cents to 123 cents/lb., 5 percent below 2018 and tom drumsticks closed at 66 cents/lb., a loss in February of 2 cents, and 5 percent lower than last year.

International Trade

In January, the United States exported 21 thousand metric tons of turkey products with a value of \$45 million. In volume, this was 7 percent below December and in value it was down 8 percent lower. Compared with January 2018, exports were down 8 percent in volume and 7 percent in value. The top five destinations for exports of turkey in January were Mexico, Japan, Canada, Chile and Benin.

Production

Chicken production totaled 3.71 billion pounds on a ready-to-cook basis in January. Daily production was down 5 percent from December and 2 percent from January 2018. Dressed weights in January were 1 percent higher than in December and down slightly year-over-year. For the four weeks ending March 2, eggs set were up 2 percent and chicks placed were up 1 percent compared with the same period last year.

Total stocks of chicken in cold storage on January 31 were down 3 percent from the end of December and down 3 percent from January 2018. The year-over-year decline was driven by chicken breasts, down 6 percent yearly (and down slightly monthly), and leg quarters, down 35 year-over-year (7 percent monthly). Whole broilers were 35 percent above last January's levels, but down 2 percent from the prior month. Drumstick stocks were up 43 percent compared with last January and down 1 percent compared with December, with thigh meat up 16 and 25 percent, respectively. Wing inventories were up 5 percent from last year and down 22 percent on the year.

Price

Whole broiler prices continued their descent through February, losing 4 cents/lb. to close the month at 88 cents per pound, 4 percent below 2018's closing price. Boneless/skinless (B/S) breast prices began the month at 104 cents/lb., added 4 cents through most of the month, only to return to the starting price, down 13 percent from last year. Leg quarter prices remained steady through most of the month, but in the last week of February the price level jumped 3 cents to 34 cents/lb. 9 percent higher than in 2018. B/S thigh meat edged up 1 cent to 117 cents/lb., up 17 percent from 2018, with drumsticks remaining steady at 33 cents/lb., a gain of 9 percent from last year. Wing prices closed the month down 17 cents at 177 cents per pound, a yearly loss of 18 percent.

International Trade

January exports of chicken and chicken products totaled 263 thousand metric tons valued at \$232 million. This is a slight decrease in volume and but a 2 percent increase in value compared with December. Year-over-year, this represents a 6 percent increase in volume but a decrease of 6 percent in value compared with last year. In January, our five largest export destinations for chicken were Mexico, Canada, Cuba, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

Production

January 2019 beef production added 1 percent to last year's production for a total of 2.31 billion pounds and added 9 percent to the output in December 2018. Cattle slaughter numbers totaled 2.83 million head, up 3 percent from last January and 10 percent to the prior month. The average live weight was down 13 pounds from last year, at 1,363 pounds. Veal production in January 2019 was 6.6 million pounds, unchanged on a yearly basis but up 2 percent monthly. Calf slaughter volume equaled 53,800 head, 10 percent more than January 2018 and slightly higher than December. The average live weight was 22 pounds lower than last year, at 213 pounds.

Total beef in cold storage was up 3 percent compared with the end of December 2018, and up 2 percent compared with last January. Stocks of boneless beef were up 3 percent on the month and 8 percent on the year, while beef cuts were down 2 percent month-over-month and lost 24 percent year-over-year. Veal stocks in freezers were up 5 percent on a monthly basis but down 57 percent yearly.

Price

Live cattle prices (FOB, steers and heifers) saw slow but steady growth in February, ending up \$4 to \$127 per cwt, 3 percent higher than the February 2018 closing price. The beef cutout value inched up to close \$3 higher at \$221 per cwt, 1 percent below last year. The 90 percent lean boneless beef price gained \$5 through the month, closing at \$212 per cwt, 2 percent below 2018. 50 percent lean trim prices added \$13 per cwt to \$71 per cwt, 17 percent below last year. Packer-owned veal carcasses fell \$1 in February to \$305 per cwt, while non-packer owned veal carcasses remained at \$305 per cwt, with carcass values up 2 percent and down 2 percent, respectively from 2018. The veal cutout average remained at \$395 per cwt, down 6 percent from last year.

International Trade

Compared to 2018, January 2019 beef and veal exports (including variety meats) were down 1 percent to 105 thousand MT while the export value increased 3 percent to \$624 million. The export volume and value were down by 7 and 8 percent, respectively, from December. Japan, South Korea and Mexico were our largest export markets in January 2018. Year-over-year beef import volumes for January were up 3 percent to 91 thousand MT and were up 4 percent in value to \$505 million. Compared to December, beef import volume and value were both 20 percent higher. Canada, Australia and Mexico were the largest importers of beef to the U.S. in the first month of 2019.

Production

Pork production was at a record high level for the month of January at 2.37 billion pounds, 4 percent above 2018 and 6 percent higher than December. Hog slaughter totaled 11 million head, 3 percent above January 2018 and 5 percent higher monthly. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from last year, at 288 pounds.

January 2019 stocks of pork in cold storage were up 11 percent compared with December but down 3 percent compared with last January. Ham inventories were up 54 percent month-over-month and down 5 percent year-over-year. Belly inventories were up 27 percent for the month and 23 percent for the year. Rib stocks rose 2 percent compared with December and 11 percent compared with last January. Pork trimmings in freezers were down 3 percent on both a monthly and yearly basis.

Price

The negotiated carcass price for barrows and gilts fell \$5 in February 2019, ending at \$47 per cwt, 26 percent below February 2018. The pork cutout value lost \$7 through February, ending the month at \$71 per cwt, 23 percent below 2018. Trimmed, bone-in hams, 23-27 pounds prices lost \$6 in February at \$46 per cwt, 29 percent below the 2018 price. Picnic meat combos, cushion out, fell \$26 through the month, ending at \$49 per cwt, 37 percent more than the year before. Pork trim, 72 percent lean steadily lost a total of \$15, closing the month at \$43 per cwt, 31 percent lower than 2019. Pork belly primal values were down 18 percent compared to 2018, with a loss of \$13 to close at \$102 per cwt.

International Trade

Pork exports (including variety meats) in January 2019 were down 1 percent from 2018 to 19 thousand MT, and the value was down 10 percent at \$464 million. Pork export volume fell 4 percent from December, with value falling 7 percent monthly. The largest overseas markets for U.S. pork were Japan, Mexico and Canada. Compared to last year, January pork imports were 9 percent lower in volume at 38 thousand MT, and down 9 percent in value at \$130 million. Import volume increased 4 percent from December and value rose 3 percent. The countries of Canada, Poland and Italy imported the largest volumes of pork to the U.S. in January 2019.

Production

January lamb and mutton production, at 12.5 million pounds, was 2 percent above the January 2018 production but 5 percent below the December 2018 production. Sheep slaughter totaled 186,800 head, 6 percent above last year but down 7 percent monthly. The average live weight was 134 pounds, down 8 pounds from January a year ago. Lamb stocks were up 43 percent from the prior year and up 5 percent from the month before.

Price

The negotiated live slaughter lamb price added \$10, ending the month at \$141 per cwt, 2 percent above the price in 2018. The lamb cutout shed \$9 over the month, falling to \$372 per cwt, 10 percent higher than in 2018. Leg of lamb, trotter-off prices lost \$2 to close at \$361 per cwt, 1 percent above the February 2018 price. Boneless lamb shoulder prices ended up \$25 per cwt at \$549, up 2 percent from last year.

International Trade

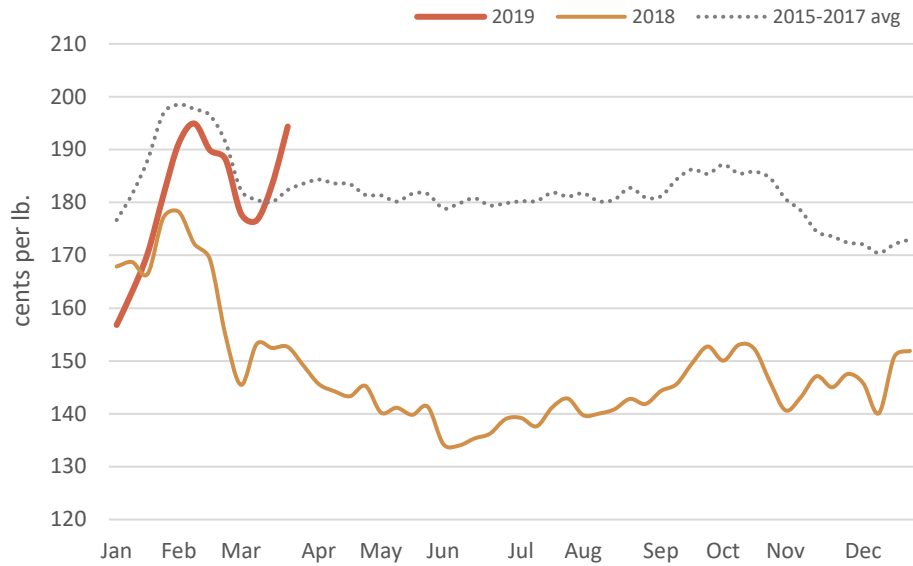
January 2019 lamb exports nearly doubled (up 91 percent) percent from the 2018 level to 246 MT, rising 49 percent in value to \$1.2 million. Compared to December, export volume was 79 percent higher and the export value added 14 percent. The Bahamas, United Arab Emirates and Trinidad/Tobago were the largest export markets for U.S. lamb and mutton in January. Lamb imports in the first month of 2019 were up 12 percent from 2018 at 12 thousand MT, and the value of imports was up 41 percent to \$110 million. Compared to December 2018, the import volume and value increased 37 and 32 percent, respectively. Canada, Australia and Mexico were the largest sources of lamb and mutton imports to the US in January 2019.

Questions, comments, or suggestions for articles?

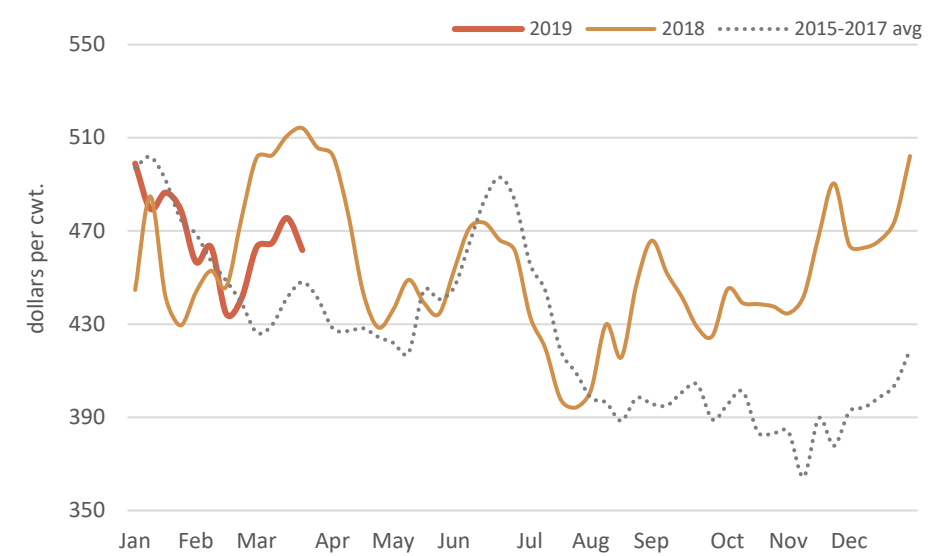
Contact Sherry.Wise@ams.usda.gov.

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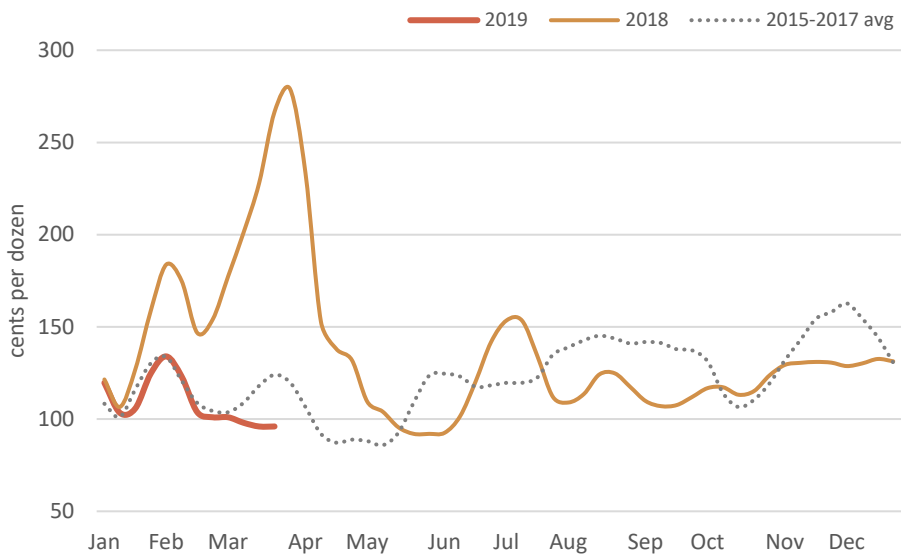
Northeast Chicken Wing Prices



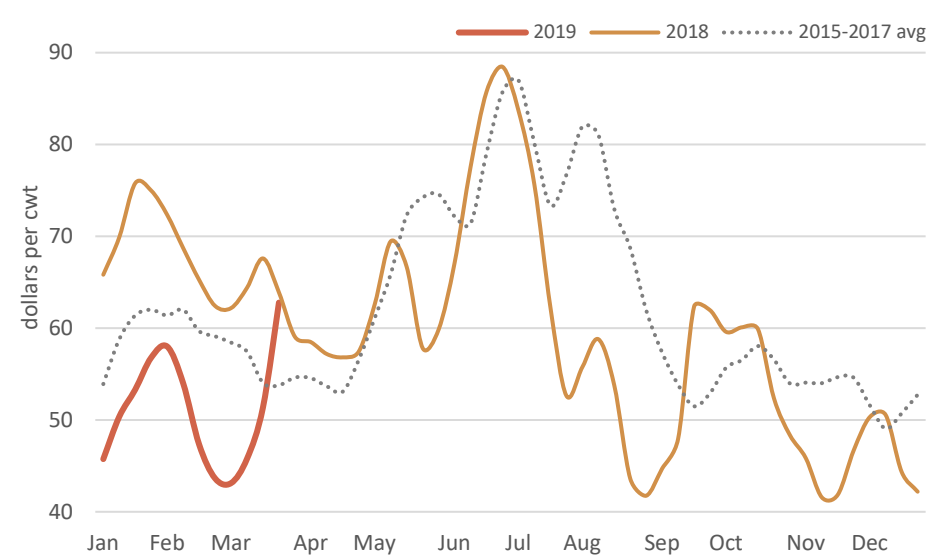
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Weekly New York Shell Egg Prices



Wkly Bnl Pork Trimmings, Fresh 72% Combo



Wing madness

Sports fans love their chicken wings, one of the most popular finger foods for major sporting events. During the recent Super Bowl, the most significant wing demand event of the year, fans consumed an estimated **1.4 billion** wing portions, about **14 wing** portions per game viewer.

The love of chicken wings is not limited by sport and demand carries into the annual NCAA Basketball Tournament, aka March Madness. During the 3-week event, from the first tip-off to the final buzzer, fans will consume an estimated **2.3 billion** wing portions, about **14 wing** portions per tournament viewer.

Demand for chicken wings rises in the fall as tailgating kicks off, peaks at Super Bowl time, and rises once again during the NCAA basketball tournament.



In 2018, the U.S. produced about **15.4 billion** whole chicken wings from **8.8 billion** young chickens.

The first NCAA men's basketball tournament was played in March 1939 (8 teams). The U. of Oregon defeated Ohio State 46-33.

The term "March Madness" was coined by Henry V. Porter in an essay that appeared in the Illinois High School Athlete in March of 1939.

Basketball Ides of March
"For basketball beckons, "Come!" A sharp-shooting mite is king tonight. The Madness of March is running."



In 1985, the NCAA tournament expanded to 64-teams, its current format. Before this, wing demand would drop off after the Super Bowl. Following a Supreme Court ruling limiting NCAA control of television rights, a rapid expansion of televised college games occurred, supported by the emerging cable television industry. To feed this increased game viewership, entrepreneurs moved to translate Super Bowl wing demand to the college basketball tournament and March Madness wing demand was born.