



EGGS

Production

September table egg production totaled 646 million dozen, up 4 percent from September 2017. On October 1, the number of birds in the table egg flock was 386 million, up 3 percent compared to a year earlier. Egg-type hatching egg production was 87.2 million eggs, up 13 percent from a year earlier. There were 1.11 billion broiler-type hatching eggs produced in September, up 2 percent from last year. The broiler-type laying flock on October 1 was 57.3 million hens, 1 percent above October 2017. Shell eggs broken totaled 204 million dozen during September, up 11 percent from September a year ago but down 4 percent from the 213 million broken in August. Pullets for all egg-types added to flocks in September were up 9 percent year-over-year.

Price

The price of one dozen Grade A Large eggs in the New York wholesale market began the month at 114 cents/dozen and rose fairly steadily through the month to 124 cents/dozen, 17 cents above the price in 2017. Prices firmed as the month closed, buoyed by the approaching Thanksgiving baking demand season as marketers sought to build supplies to cover commitments supporting retail feature activity. Breaking stock prices held steady at 57 cents/dozen, throughout the month. This is 17 cents below the price in 2017. Competition from carton business for the coming Thanksgiving holiday season led to price firming as the month closed.

International Trade

Exports of shell eggs in September totaled 17.6 million dozen valued at \$39.4 million. This was a decrease of 5 percent in volume and an increase of 8 percent in value compared with August and an increase of 3 percent in volume and an increase of 11 percent in value compared with September 2017. Through September 2018 exports were up 4 percent in volume and up 14 percent in value compared with 2017. The U.S. exported \$6.9 million of egg products in September, 49 percent below August and 24 percent below last September. For the first nine months of 2018, the value of egg products exports were 26 percent below the same period in 2017. Mexico, Canada, Hong Kong, Brazil and Japan were the five largest importers of U.S. eggs and egg products in September.

TURKEY

Production

September turkey production totaled 425 million pounds on a ready-to-cook basis. For September, daily production was 18 percent below August and 9 percent below last September. With 3 fewer slaughter days than August and 1 less than September. Dressed weights were down 5 percent from August and 4 percent from last year. Eggs in incubators totaled 28.4 million on October 1, 1 percent more than in 2017, and 4 percent more than September 1. Poults placed were up slightly from year-earlier levels. But were down 11 percent from the month before, at 21 million net poults.

Total turkey holdings on September 30 were down 1 percent from September 2017 and down 7 percent from August. Total holdings of whole frozen birds were down 4 percent monthly unchanged yearly, while whole toms were up 7 percent and whole hens were down 8 percent compared with last September. Stocks of white meat were down 14 percent year-over-year, while stocks of dark meat were up 68 percent.

Price

Whole frozen hen prices were unchanged overall in October, ending the month at 84 cents/lb, while whole frozen toms saw a 2-cent decrease to 81 cents/lb. The hen price is 4 cents below the same time last year and 40 cents below the 2014 – 2016 average for the end of October. B/S breast meat prices lost 1 cent during October to close at 210 cents/lb. B/S thigh meat lost 2 cents to end the month at 128 cents/lb. Tom drumsticks lost 1 percent to 69 cents/lb.

International Trade

U.S. turkey exports in September totaled 21 thousand metric tons valued at \$47 million. Exports in September were down 25 percent in volume and 22 percent in value compared with August and were down 6 percent in volume and 5 percent in value compared with last September. For the first nine months of the year, exports were down 2 percent in volume and up 3 percent in value compared with 2017. The top five destinations for exports of turkey in September were Mexico, Hong Kong, Japan, Chile and Canada.

Production

In September, the U.S. produced 3.4 billion pounds of chicken on a ready-to-cook basis. Daily production in September was 2 percent below the revised August volume but 3 percent above September 2017. The average live weight of young chickens was 6.3 pounds, 1 percent more than last year and slightly below August.

Total stocks of chicken in cold storage on September 30 were up 4 percent compared with the end of August and up 17 percent compared to September 2017. Whole broiler supplies were 3 percent above August but 6 percent below last year. Breasts and breast meat stocks were up 2 percent month-over-month and up 4 percent year-over-year.

Dark meat supplies were up 5 percent on the month and 1 percent on the year, with leg quarter holdings down 18 percent from August and up 7 percent from last September. Thighs and thigh meat stocks were down 1 percent month-over-month and up 31 percent year-over-year. Drumstick holdings were up 8 percent compared with August and up 76 percent compared with September 2017. Inventories of wings were up 8 percent on the month and up 57 percent on the year.

Price

The National composite price for whole broilers ended the month up 2 cents at 85 cents/lb. Most parts prices declined in October. Boneless/skinless (B/S) breast prices fell 7 percent during the month to close at 88 cents/lb. Leg quarter prices fell 7 cents to 30 cents/lb. B/S thigh meat prices held steady through the month at 116 cents/lb. Drumsticks lost 3 cents to 37 cents/lb. Wings lost 7 cents to 146 cents/lb.

International Trade

The United States exported 262 thousand metric tons of chicken products in September with a value of \$246 million. September's export volume was 7 percent below August and 12 percent lower in value and was 11 percent higher in volume than September 2017 but 6 percent lower in value. Through September, exports for 2018 were up 4 percent in volume and value compared with the same period in 2017. In September, our five largest export destinations for chicken were Mexico, Canada, Angola, Cuba and The Philippines.

Production

In September 2.16 billion pounds of beef were produced, 3 percent below September 2017 (with 1 less production day) and down 11 percent from August. Cattle slaughter totaled about 2.62 million head, down 3 percent from last September and 12 percent from August. The average live weight was down 1 pound from last year, at 1,358 pounds. Total beef production for the first nine months of 2018 grew 3 percent from last year. September veal production was down 2 percent from last year at 6.0 million pounds, and down 8 percent from August. 48,600 head of calves were slaughtered in August, an 11 percent increase from 2017. The average live weight was down 26 pounds from last year, at 215 pounds. Year-to-date veal production was 1 percent higher than in 2017.

Total beef in cold storage increased 1 percent from August and added 3 percent to the volume in 2017. Boneless beef stocks increased 1 percent on both a month-over-month and year-over-year basis. Frozen beef cut inventories gained 10 percent monthly and 16 percent yearly. The volume of veal in cold storage was down 3 percent from August but slightly higher than in 2017, at a record high inventory level.

Price

Live cattle prices (FOB, steers and heifers) broke its hold at the \$111 barrier by the end of October to close at \$114 per cwt, 3 percent below the prior year value. In the first half of the month, the beef cutout value took back the \$7 lost in September, returning to \$212 per cwt, and remaining 5 percent higher than 2017. The 90 percent lean boneless beef wholesale price lost another \$7, down to \$190 per cwt, again 11 percent below the year before. The 50 percent lean trim price gained \$10 in October rising to \$55 per cwt, 17 percent below than last year. Non-packer owned veal carcass held steady through the month at \$307 per cwt, while packer-owned veal carcasses, added \$3 and closing at \$30 per cwt, both 8 percent below 2017. The veal cutout average held steady at \$395 per cwt, 7 percent below last year's value.

International Trade

Compared to September 2017, beef and veal exports (including variety meats) increased 6 percent to 110 thousand MT, and the export value rose 11 percent to \$687 million. The export volume and value were down 8 and 9 percent, respectively, from August. Cumulative beef exports were higher in volume by 9 percent relative to 2017, and value was 18 percent higher. Japan, South Korea and Mexico were our largest export markets in September. Year-over-year beef import volumes were 2 percent higher at 86 thousand MT, and 6 percent higher in value at \$462 million. Compared to August, beef imports and value were 11 and 12 percent lower, respectively. Year-to-date beef and veal imports were slightly lower while import values were up 8 percent from last year. Canada, Australia and Mexico were the largest sources of imported beef to the U.S.

Production

September pork production totaled 2.01 billion pounds, a decline of 7 percent from last year and 13 percent below August. Total hog slaughter was 9.65 million head, down 6 percent from last year and 13 percent below the month before. The average live weight was 2 pounds lower than last year at 278 pounds. Accumulated pork production for January-September 2018 was 3 percent higher than last year.

Frozen pork supplies at the end of September were 1 percent higher than in August, down 5 percent from 2017. Stocks of pork bellies were down 13 percent monthly but were up 45 percent from last year. Picnics in cold storage fell 6 percent monthly and 4 percent yearly. Ham inventories were up 5 percent from August, and down 8 percent from last year. Rib holdings added 7 percent from the prior month but fell 5 percent on a yearly basis, while loin supplies rose 10 percent from August but fell 2 percent from 2017. Pork trimmings in cold storage were 9 percent lower monthly but up 11 percent yearly.

Price

After gains in September, the negotiated carcass price for barrows and gilts gave back \$5, to close October at \$58 per cwt, 12 percent below 2017. The pork cutout value lost \$2 through October, closing the month at \$78 per cwt, up 1 percent from last year. Trimmed, bone-in hams, 23-27 pounds continued its up and down pattern, dropping last month's \$11 gain, and returning to \$52 per cwt, 28 percent lower yearly. The picnic meat combos cushion out price added another \$5 in October, to \$79 per cwt, 3 percent below 2017. Pork trim, 72 percent lean lost half of the gain in September, ending October down \$10 to \$52 per cwt, down 13 percent from 2017. Pork belly primals rose \$22 to end at \$139 per cwt, 41 percent above 2017.

International Trade

Pork exports in September (including variety meats) were down 2 percent from 2017 at 175 thousand MT, and the value was 8 percent lower at \$441 million. Pork export volume was down 2 percent from August and the value was down 4 percent. For 2018 so far, pork exports are up from 2017 by 1 percent in volume and are down slightly in value. The largest overseas markets for U.S. pork were Japan, Mexico and Canada. Compared to 2017, the September pork import volume fell 16 percent to 35 thousand MT, and value lost 14 percent to \$123 million. The volume of pork imports lost 6 percent relative to August, and the value was down 5 percent. Year-to-date pork import volume and value were down 4 and 7 percent, respectively. The countries of Canada, Poland and Italy imported the largest volumes of pork to the U.S.

Production

September production of lamb and mutton was 11.4 million pounds, 2 percent higher than 2017, but down 15 percent from August. Sheep slaughter was 172,700 head, down 2 percent from last year and lower by 16 percent from August. The average live weight was up 4 pounds from 2017 at 132 pounds. Total 2018 commercial lamb and mutton production was 5 percent higher than 2017. Lamb and mutton stocks were 1 percent higher monthly and up 20 percent year-over-year.

Price

The seasonal trend of falling negotiated live slaughter lamb prices subsided in October, leaving the price the same as at the start of the month, at \$136 per cwt, 4 percent less than in 2017. The lamb cutout value also stayed relatively flat, ending down only \$3 at \$378, 3 percent below the value a year ago. Leg of lamb, trotter-off values saw some growth in October, adding \$12 to close at \$368 per cwt, up 1 percent from 2017. The wholesale price of boneless square-cut lamb shoulders closed the month up just 1 from the 2018 average to date of \$555 per cwt, 11 percent below last year.

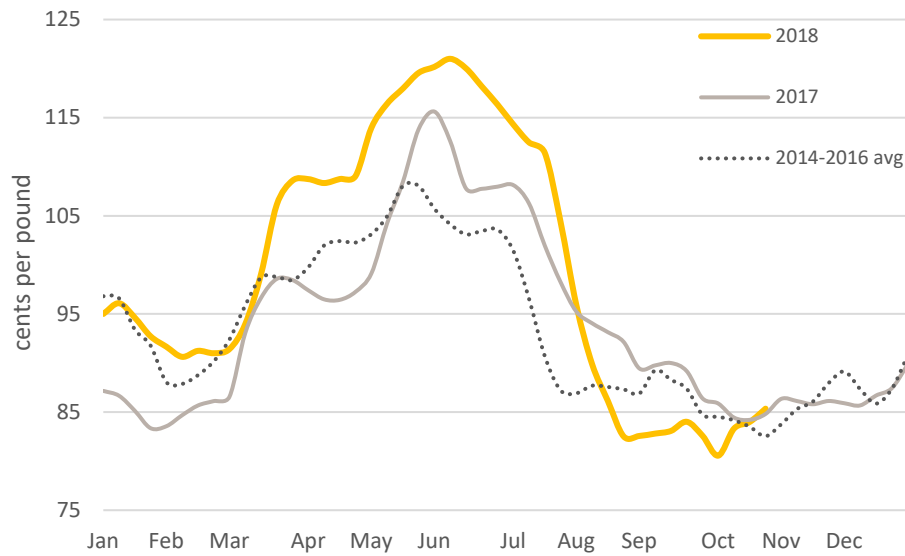
International Trade

September lamb exports were down 53 percent from 2017 at 128 MT, and down 55 percent in value to \$0.69 million. Compared to August, export volume was down 11 percent and the value was down 18 percent. Year-to-date exports of lamb added 4 percent in volume but lost 5 percent in value over this period in 2017. The Bahamas, Mexico and Canada were the largest export markets for lamb and mutton. U.S. lamb imports in August were up 9 percent from 2017 at 8 thousand MT, though the value was down slightly at \$59 million. The September import volume and value were down 24 and 22 percent, respectively. 2018 total lamb imports were up 10 percent in volume and 14 percent in value from last year. Australia, New Zealand and Iceland were the largest sources of imports.

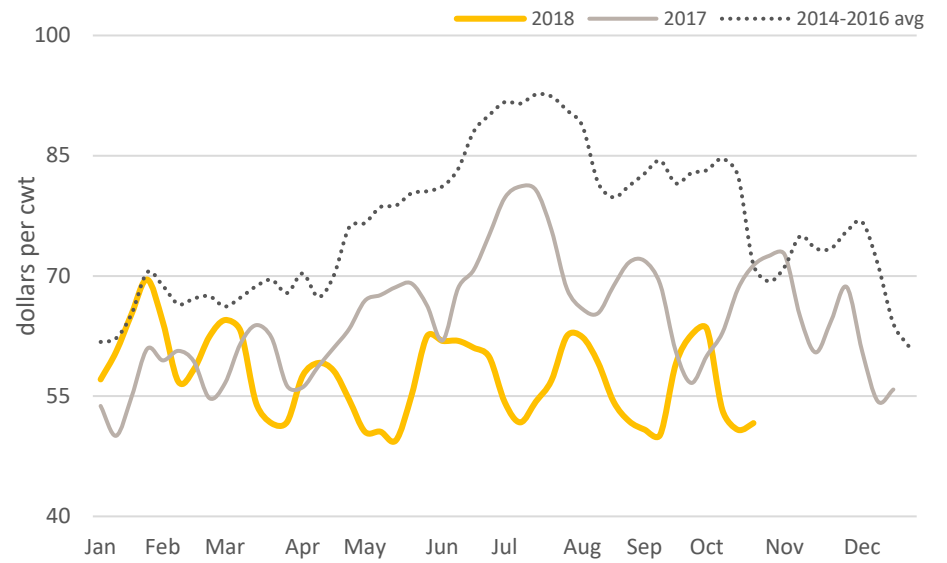
Questions, comments, or suggestions for articles?
Contact Sherry.Wise@ams.usda.gov.

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.

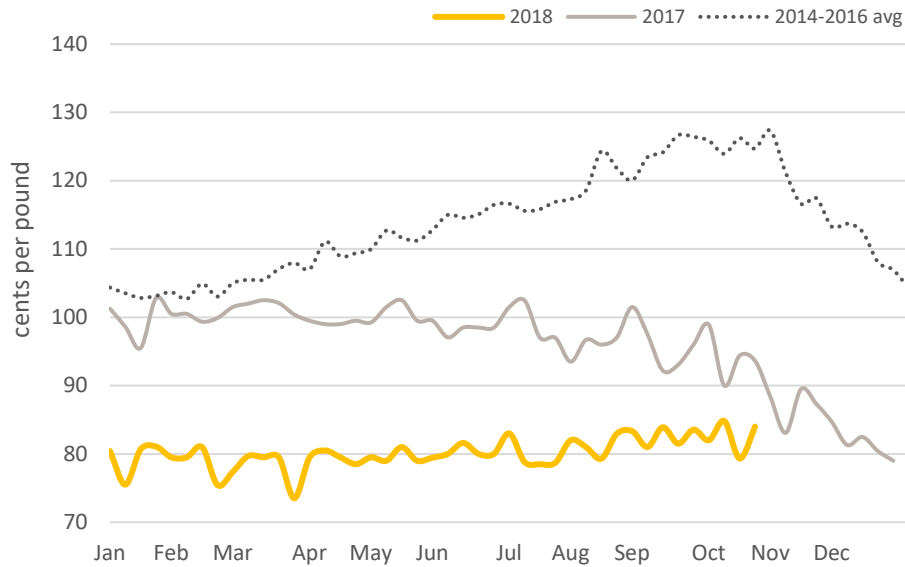
Whole broilers (National composite price)



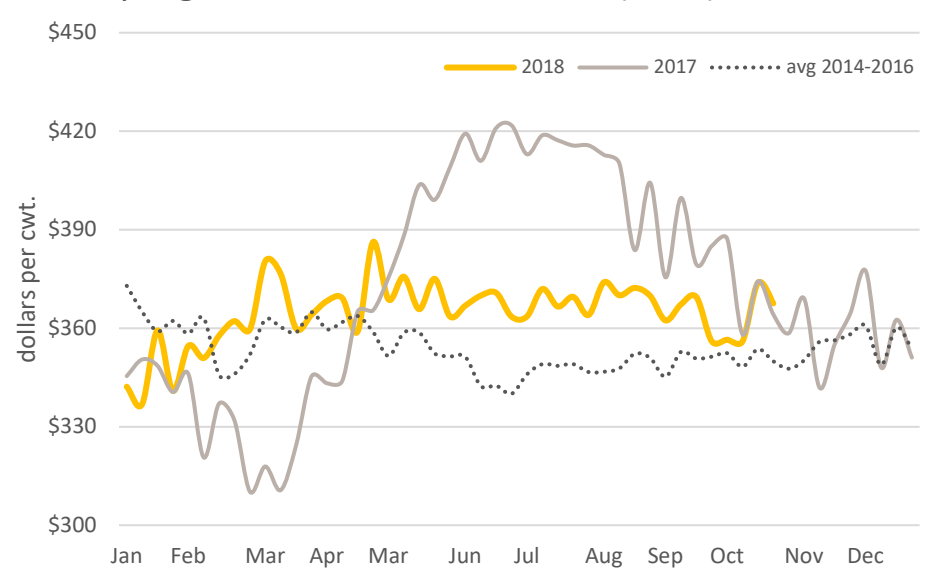
Ham, Bone-in, Trimmed 23-27#, Trim Spec 1



National Frozen Hen Turkeys



Weekly Leg of Lamb, Trotter Off, Prices (233A)



Winter Squash

Harvested when mature in the Fall and can be stored over the Winter. Usually cooked before eaten.

The word "squash" comes from the Narragansett Indian word "askutasquash."

The U.S. doesn't export much squash. In 2017, we imported 974 million pounds, 94% from Mexico. 38% of these were imported from Sep-Dec.

Butternut

Originated in the U.S. Modern version was created by amateur breeder Charles A. Leggett around 1940. 2018 average price per pound at retail = \$0.93

Hubbard

James J. H. Gregory of Marblehead, MA introduced the Hubbard squash to the American market in 1854. He got his seeds from Mrs. Elizabeth Hubbard.

Pumpkin

Originated in Mexico. The most popular squash in the U.S. marketed for Halloween for Jack-o-Lantern's (\$3.93 each in 2018) or pie types for Autumn baking (\$0.90 per pound in 2018).

In 2017, the U.S. exported 46 million pounds of fresh pumpkins, 63% to Canada and 34% to Japan. We imported 63 million pounds, 47% from Canada and 45% from Costa Rica.

Spaghetti

Originated in China. Brought to the U.S. in 1936 where it was grown in Victory Gardens. 2018 average price per pound at retail = \$0.96

Acorn

Native to the Americas and also known as Pepper Squash. Nearly 90% of annual marketings occur Sep 1-Nov 1. 2018 average price per pound at retail = \$0.93