Poultry and Egg Situation

Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

PES-299

September 1978

Table 1—Poultry and Egg Situation at a Glance

Item	Unit	1977				1978			
		April	May	June	July	April	May	June	July
		Eggs							
Farm production	Mil. doz.	445.9	455.7	433.4	441.1	459.1	472.4	448.5	453.3
Average number of layers on farms	Mil.	271.5	268.8	266.6	266.4	276.4	275.1	272.0	270.1
Rate of lay per layer	No.	19.7	20.3	19.5	19.9	19.9	20.6	19.8	20.1
Price received by farmers	Ct. per doz.	55.4	49.2	47.3	50.9	52.2	49.3	43.6	48.3
14 Metro areas price									
Grade A large	Ct. per doz.	63.3	56.1	57.5	63.1	59.0	54.6	51.3	61.5
Retail price (BLS)									
Grade A large	Ct. per doz.	81.2	75.4	68.7	80.9	79.4	74.7	70.6	([1])
Price paid for laying feed	Dol. per ton	163	166	162	153	154	155	157	155
Egg-feed price ratio	Pounds	6.8	5.9	5.8	6.7	6.8	6.4	5.6	6.2
Stocks, first of month:									
Shell	Thous. cases	40	42	34	39	37	36	25	30
Frozen	Mil. lb.	24.6	25.3	28.0	31.4	22.9	23.2	23.3	26.6
Replacement chicks hatched	Mil.	55.1	52.5	44.7	37.4	51.4	53.6	45.5	36.1
		Poultry							
Federally inspected slaughter, cert.									
Broilers	Mil. lb.	744.9	809.9	843.7	745.5	769.1	902.6	874.9	
Turkeys	Mil. lb.	78.9	110.0	176.5	189.6	80.8	129.3	189.5	
Price at farm, live weight									
Broilers	Ct. per lb.	24.2	24.1	24.9	25.9	28.1	27.2	30.2	32.8
Turkeys	Ct. per lb.	33.5	33.6	34.2	33.8	37.9	39.6	40.8	41.8
9-city wholesale broiler price	Ct. per lb.	41.4	42.2	43.3	44.3	46.1	46.1	50.7	50.8
Retail price (BLS)									
Broilers	Ct. per lb.	61.2	60.7	60.5	62.1	65.1	65.6	70.1	([1])
Turkeys	Ct. per lb.	68.2	72.2	72.3	72.7	80.6	80.6	82.2	([1])
Broiler-feed price	Dol. per ton	183	187	184	175	169	171	174	170
Broiler-feed price ratio	Pounds	2.6	2.6	2.7	3.0	3.3	3.2	3.5	3.9
Turkey-feed price	Dol. per lb.	195	200	196	188	183	184	186	186
Turkey-feed price ratio	Pounds	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.6	4.1	4.3	4.4	4.5
Stocks, first of month:									
Broilers, fryers, roasters	Mil. lb.	26.5	25.2	27.9	31.3	21.7	22.6	20.3	21.4
Turkeys	Mil. lb.	142.3	130.3	138.2	201.4	112.9	101.1	103.0	152.1
Total poultry	Mil. lb.	279.4	267.3	281.1	353.5	233.3	209.6	213.0	256.5
Average weekly placement of broiler chicks in 21 States	Mil.	71.8	72.1	71.2	67.0	74.7	76.8	76.8	73.2

[1] Discontinued in July, 1978.

In This Issue

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SUMMARY

Look for broiler and turkey production well above a year earlier during the balance of 1978 and into 1979. Spurred by continued high red meat prices, broiler and turkey prices will stay above last year in coming months. Egg output will be larger this summer but may only equal 1977 levels this fall. Egg prices this summer may about match those of a year ago before moving above year-earlier levels in the fall.

Egg output through June was up 3½ percent from a year ago as layer numbers averaged 2 percent higher and output per hen was up 1½ percent. However, fewer replacement pullets and increased culling of old birds relative to 1977 reduced the increase in layer numbers from 2½ percent on May 1 to only 1 percent on August 1. Layer numbers may drop below 1977 levels in coming months because of fewer replacement pullets than last year. However, reduced cullings of old layers could be offsetting, and layer numbers could remain above a year ago.

Egg prices have shown some large swings in recent months. Prices for Grade A cartoned large eggs in New York advanced 20 cents a dozen from early June to average 68 cents a dozen in late July. However, they slipped back to around 60 cents in early August. Prices are gaining again and, for the summer, may average near the 61.5 cents a dozen of a year ago. Fall prices will strengthen seasonally, averaging well above the 59 cents of October-December 1977.

Broiler meat output during the first 6 months of this year was 7 percent above 1977's record. Broiler marketings were up 5 percent and average weight gained was 2 percent higher. Broiler chick placements in recent months suggest that July-September production may be up 8 to 10 percent from a year earlier. Good profit margins this year and

The next issue of the *Poultry and Egg Situation* will be published in December.

favorable prospects may push the rate of increase above 10 percent this fall and into 1979.

The 9-city wholesale price for broilers during January-June averaged 3 cents above the 41.6 cents of a year ago despite the 7-percent gain in broiler output. Strong consumer demand for meats and smaller red meat supplies are expected to result in broiler prices averaging in the upper-40's during the summer. Prices will decline seasonally this fall and average in the low 40's, compared with a 38-cent average for the last quarter of 1977.

If red meat supplies are near a year earlier and consumers' incomes continue to rise, the expected 12-percent increase in broiler output during January-March 1979 would suggest a 9-city broiler price near the 42-cent average of the first quarter of 1978.

Turkey output was up 9 percent through June and likely will stay above last year's record. The rate of increase may drop to only 3 to 5 percent for July-December, with most of the gain coming from heavier marketing weights. However, second half turkey meat supplies may be about the same as a year earlier as smaller cold storage stocks offset the expected gain in production.

Turkey prices have been strong in 1978 and, with supplies in coming months expected to be no larger than last year, they will continue strong. New York prices for young turkeys, 8-16 pounds, likely will average in the upper 60-cents-a-pound range during the balance of 1978.

Prospects for turkeys in the first half of 1979 are favorable. Feed ingredients likely will be plentiful and costs may differ little from 1977. Turkey meat output in January-June 1979 is expected to be up substantially from a year earlier, and prices for young hen turkeys at New York will likely average below first half 1978 levels.

Poultry, Livestock, and Egg Production and changes from a year earlier

	1977				1978				1979	
	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III[1]	IV[1]	I[1]	II[1]
Broilers[2] (Mil. lb.)	2,156	2,399	2,424	2,248	2,327	2,547	2,645	2,515	2,600	
Percent change	+2	+4	+2	+3	+8	+6	+9	+12	+12	
Turkeys[2] (Mil. lb.)	210	365	672	645	228	400	705	670	275	
Percent change	+1	-1	-5	-3	+9	+10	+5	+4	+20	
Beef[3] (Mil. lb.)	6,287	6,158	6,321	6,220	6,104	5,936	6,000	5,900	5,900	
Percent change	-3	0	-4	-3	-3	-4	-5	-5	-3	
Pork[3] (Mil. lb.)	3,294	3,184	3,073	3,500	3,242	3,264	3,250	3,550	3,450	
Percent change	+11	+12	+2	-5	-2	+3	+6	+1	+6	
Total[4] (Mil. lbs.)	12,238	12,379	12,779	12,895	12,154	12,372	12,815	12,853	12,395	
Percent change	+1	+4	-2	-3	-1	0	0	0	+2	
Eggs (Mil. doz.)	1,324	1,335	1,330	1,414	1,373	1,380	1,360	1,410	1,370	
Percent change	-2	0	0	+5	+4	+3	+2	0	0	

Poultry, Livestock, and Egg Prices

	1977				1978				1979	
	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III[1]	IV[1]	I[1]	II[1]
Broilers, 9-city[5] (Cents/lb.)	40.9	42.3	42.4	37.6	41.8	47.6	46-48	40-42	41-43	
Turkeys, New York[6] (Cents/lb.)	50.2	51.5	53.1	61.3	60.2	61.4	67-69	66-68	60-62	
Choice Steers, Omaha (Dollars/100 lbs.)	37.9	40.8	40.5	42.4	45.8	55.1	53-55	52-54	55-57	
Barrows and Gilts 7-markets ($/cwt.)	39.1	40.9	43.8	41.4	47.4	47.8	47-49	45-47	44-46	
Eggs, New York[7] (Cents/dozen)	74.9	57.8	61.5	58.9	62.0	53.8	61-63	64-66	62-64	

[1] Forecast. [2] Federally inspected slaughter. [3] Commercial production. [4] Includes veal, lamb, and mutton. [5] Wholesale weighted average. [6] 8-16 lb, young hens. [7] Cartoned consumer Grade A large, sales to volume buyers.

POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION

FACTORS AFFECTING THE POULTRY INDUSTRY

The major factors affecting the poultry industry likely will remain favorable to producers in coming months. Reduced supplies and relatively high prices of red meats, along with continued gains in consumers' real income, will lend support to poultry and egg prices. The demand for turkeys and eggs will be seasonally strong during the rest of 1978, but the demand for broilers will ease seasonally. Production costs may not be significantly different from a year earlier if expected large corn and soybean crops materialize.

Consumers' Real Income Gains

The nation's total output of goods and services in current dollars during the first half of 1978 advanced at a rapid pace, but after adjustment for inflation, the annual rate of increase was only 3.6 percent. The growth rate may pick up a bit in the second half, so real growth may average around 3½ to 4 percent for all of 1978.

Consumers' real disposable income rose 3.4 percent (annual rate) in the second quarter, averaging 4.5 percent above a year earlier. Real disposable income per person has been running about 4 percent above a year earlier, reflecting both increases in wages and salaries and the rapid growth in employment. Some slowing to perhaps 3 to 3½ percent is likely in 1979.

Smaller Beef Output About Offset by Pork and Poultry

The first 6 months of 1978 showed a small decline in total meat supplies from 1977 levels and a change in the mix. Pork supplies were about the same as a year earlier, but 3 percent less commercial beef and sharp declines in veal, lamb, and mutton output caused over a 2-percent drop in total red meat output. Nearly all of the decline in red meats was offset by a 7-percent increase in combined broiler and turkey output. Of the total red meat and poultry output, beef and veal accounted for 50 percent, down from 52 percent a year earlier; broilers nearly 20 percent, up from 18.5; while pork at 26.5 and turkey at 2.5 percent, respectively, were up only slightly.

Beef and veal output is expected to stay 4-6 percent below the previous year during the balance of 1978 and the first half of 1979. Large inventories of cattle on feed and expected favorable feeding margins should keep fed marketings high. However, a drop in cow slaughter and increased holding of heifers for herd replacements is expected next year. Thus, beef production will drop again next year even if more fed cattle are slaughtered. Choice slaughter steers are expected to average in the low to mid-$50's during the second half of this year compared with about $41 per hundred pounds for July-December 1977.

Pork producers have been slow in expanding output. First half pork production was about the same as a year ago, but second half production may be up around 2 to 4 percent. Producers' farrowing intentions, as of June 1, suggest that the increase in output over year-earlier levels during the first half of 1979 will not exceed 5 to 6 percent. However, producers may exceed these intentions because profits have continued in hog raising.

Production Costs Ease

The costs of producing poultry and eggs crept upward during the first half of this year, although they generally stayed below year-earlier levels. Production costs will likely show a small decline this fall but average near a year earlier.

Corn prices held relatively stable during the spring but weakened in July with prospects for a large 1978 feed grain crop. Prices for No. 2 yellow corn at Chicago averaged around $2.50 a bushel during April-June. Prices dropped to $2.08 in early August but recovered to $2.25 by late in the month. Farmers have been given more flexibility in the marketplace under current Government programs, and may shore up sagging feed grain prices this fall.

The corn crop, as of August 1, was forecast at 6.5 billion bushels—2 percent above last year's record harvest—with a production range of 6.1 to 6.9 billion depending on crop development. The expected gain in the 1978 corn harvest coupled with larger beginning stocks will result in record supplies for the 1978/79 season (October-September). Crop prospects are also good in other countries and may result in a small drop in next season's U.S. corn exports from the estimated 52 million short tons for the current marketing year. However, the outlook is favorable for further gains in domestic use of feed grains as poultry production, cattle feeding, and hog production continue to expand.

Farmers increased acreage planted to soybeans this year by 9 percent to around 64 million acres. As of August 1, the 1978 soybean crop was forecast at 1.8 billion bushels—up 3 percent from the 1977 crop—with a production range of 1.7 to 1.9 billion. Stocks of soybeans on September 1, the beginning of the 1978/79 marketing year, were estimated to be up 20 to 25 million bushels from last year's very low level of 103 million bushels. This stock level, combined with increased production, would provide around a 4-percent increase in total soybean supplies for the 1978/79 season.

Despite larger supplies and probable increase in domestic crushing, soybean meal prices in the next 12 months may average slightly above a year earlier, reflecting tighter world supplies.

EGGS

Egg production will be above year-earlier levels this summer but may only match 1977 in the fall. Egg prices will rise seasonally in coming months and average above 1977 levels this fall.

Output Gains Reduced Again

Egg production began the year 5 percent above a year earlier, but increased culling of old hens, fewer available replacement pullets, and unfavorable weather conditions reduced the gain to only 2 percent in March. However, higher than expected profits in the first quarter caused producers to reduce their cullings of old hens in April-May, and output rose to almost 4 percent above 1977 levels. The increased output caused egg prices to drop below a year earlier and below the cost of producing and marketing eggs. Thus, producers again increased their cullings and production dropped to less than 3 percent above a year earlier in July.

Layers on farms and eggs produced

Calendar quarters	Number of layers		Eggs per layer		Eggs produced	
	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978
	Mil.		*No.*		*Mil. doz.*	
I	276	282	57.6	58.5	1,324.3	1,373.2
II	269	275	59.6	60.3	1,335.0	1,380.0
III	271		58.8		1,329.9	
IV	285		59.6		1,413.8	
Annual .	275		235.6		5,403.1	

Fall Output May Only Match 1977

Egg production will likely be about 2 percent above a year earlier this summer but is expected to slip to near 1977 levels in the fall. Layer numbers on August 1 were 1 percent above a year earlier and the rate of lay was up 1½ percent. Output per hen will likely continue above 1977 during most of the remainder of 1978. However, the margin of increase is expected to narrow this fall because the rate of lay was up almost 2 percent in the fall of 1977. Layer numbers in coming months will depend on producers' cullings of old hens.

The hatch of egg-type chicks and placement of broiler-type pullets in hatchery supply flocks indicate there will be fewer replacement pullets than a year earlier through October before showing a small increase in November-December. However, the fewer replacement pullets in coming months could be offset by reduced slaughter of old hens. The slaughter of old birds was up in June-July but weekly reports indicate August's slaughter has again dropped below 1977 levels.

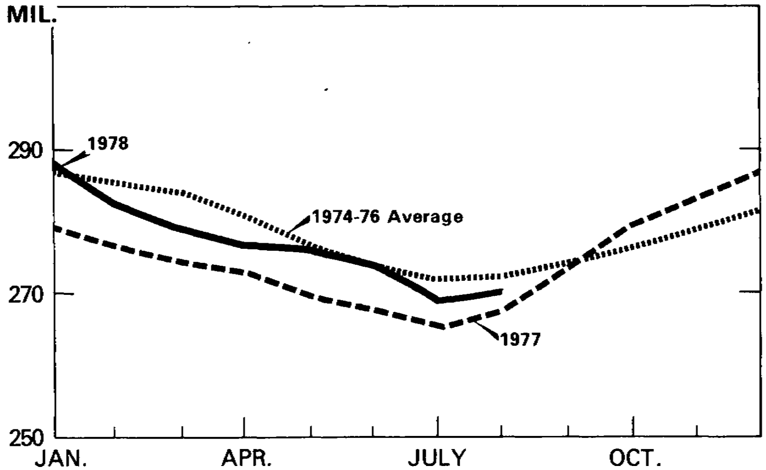
Table 2—Egg-type chick hatchery operations

Month	Hatch			Eggs in incubators first of month change from year earlier	
	1976	1977	1978	1977	1978
	Thou.			*Pct.*	
January	35,844	40,338	36,751	12	-11
February	39,637	40,893	37,123	12	-14
March	50,055	51,265	46,992	1	-5
April	51,482	55,133	51,401	8	-6
May	48,233	52,452	53,600	11	2
June	42,351	44,700	45,510	4	8
July	38,609	37,412	36,119	-1	1
August	38,257	37,821		0	1
September ...	37,721	37,394		-5	
October	37,039	37,559		-6	
November ...	36,305	34,470		-5	
December ...	36,647	32,476		-9	

Early 1979 Prospects

Layer numbers in early 1979 will depend not only on producers' cullings of old birds in coming months but also in 1979. The number of pullets in the laying flock in the first quarter will likely show a small increase from a year earlier due mainly to more broiler-type pullets going into hatchery supply flocks. The slaughter of hens through federally inspected plants was well above a year earlier in January-March 1978. If slaughter in early 1979 is below 1978 levels, the laying flock will likely be above first quarter 1978. Output per hen in early

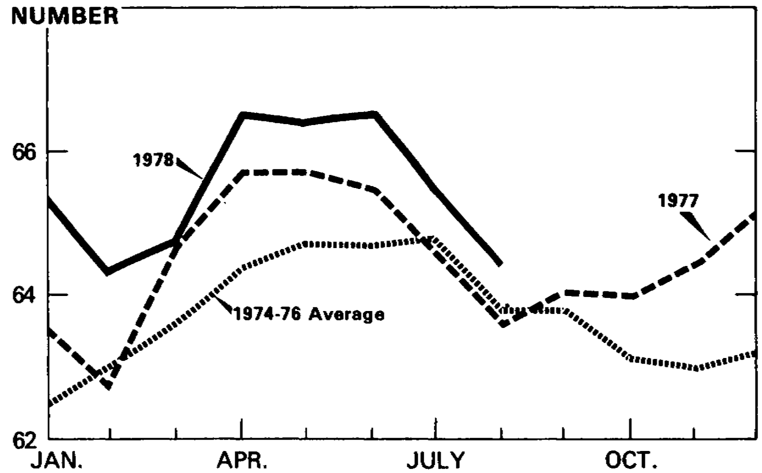
U.S. FLOCK SIZE*



*NUMBER OF LAYERS ON HAND, FIRST OF MONTH.

USDA NEG. ESCS 619-78(9)

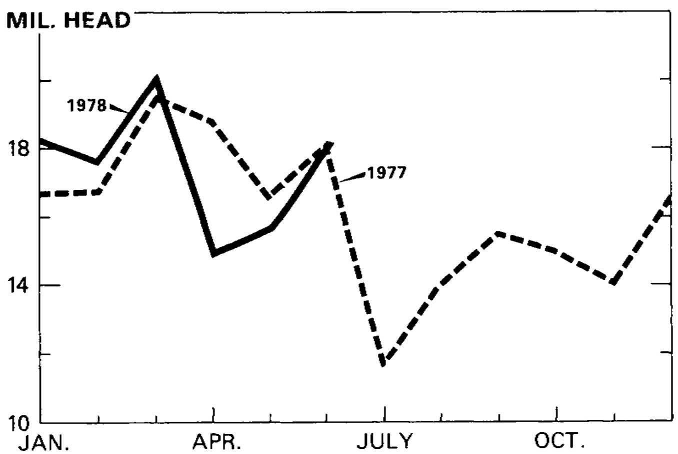
RATE OF LAY*



*EGGS PER 100 LAYERS, FIRST OF MONTH.

USDA NEG. ESCS 620-78(9)

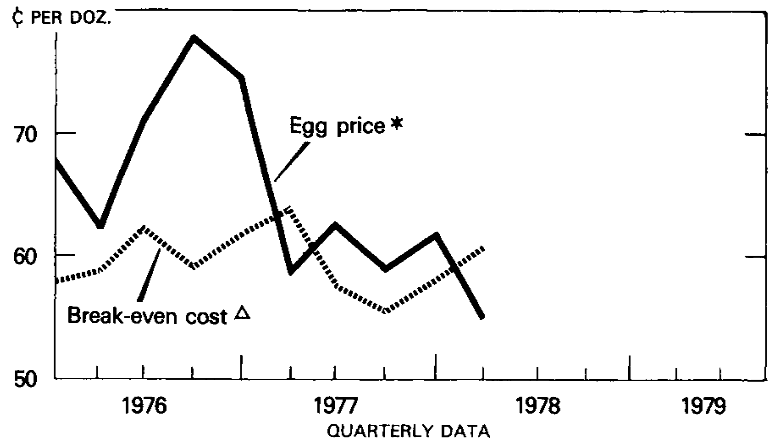
MATURE CHICKEN SLAUGHTER*



*FOWL FROM BREEDER AND MARKET EGG FLOCKS.

USDA NEG ESCS 621-78(9)

EGGS
BREAK-EVEN COST AND MARKET PRICE



* 14 AREA METRO PRICE. △ ESTIMATED U.S. BREAK-EVEN COST.

USDA NEG. ESCS 2809-78 (9)

Table 3—Force moltings and light-type hen slaughter, 1976-78

Month	Forced molt layers[1]						Light-type hens slaughtered under federal inspection		
	Being molted			Molt completed					
	1976	1977	1978	1976	1977	1978	1976	1977	1978
	Percent			*Percent*			*Thousand*		
January	2.2	3.2	2.4	16.0	15.1	13.6	14,928	14,076	15,804
February	3.6	3.4	3.7	14.5	14.4	11.9	13,680	14,519	15,232
March	3.3	3.9	3.8	12.1	13.8	12.7	14,119	16,758	17,620
April	3.2	2.7	3.3	13.2	12.5	12.1	16,918	16,587	12,969
May	4.7	5.1	4.9	13.0	11.8	10.6	10,445	14,160	13,378
June	6.6	5.5	4.9	13.5	11.3	11.9	11,589	15,361	15,738
July	4.3	4.1	5.0	14.4	13.3	12.0	11,732	10,163	
August	4.7	3.6	4.5	15.4	14.3	13.7	11,393	11,976	
September	3.5	3.2		13.9	14.4		11,488	12,861	
October	3.6	4.6		15.0	13.9		11,850	12,525	
November	4.6	3.8		14.9	14.7		10.451	11,837	
December	3.3	3.0		15.9	15.4		12,346	13,990	

[1] Percent of hens and pullets of laying age in 17 selected states.

1979 is expected to be above 1978 levels but an older flock will likely keep the increase well below the 2-percent gain in the first quarter of 1978.

Egg Prices Showing Large Swings

Egg prices have shown large swings since Easter. The price of Grade A cartoned large eggs in New York averaged 67 cents a dozen in late March but dropped to 52 cents by late April. Prices rose to 56 cents a dozen in mid-May but dropped to 48 cents in early June. Egg prices then showed a steady gain to 68 cents a dozen in late July. However, prices again weakened, averaging 61 cents in mid-August. This was still about 3 cents above a year earlier.

In coming months, egg prices are expected to rise seasonally and average above a year earlier this fall. Cartoned egg prices in New York during July-September are expected to average in the low 60's compared with 61.5 cents a dozen in the third quarter of 1977. If output equals 1977 levels this fall, egg prices will not drop contraseasonally from the third quarter as they did last year. Egg prices in October-December are expected to average in the mid-60-cents-a-dozen range, well above the 59-cent average of last fall. Early 1979 egg prices will likely continue above a year earlier.

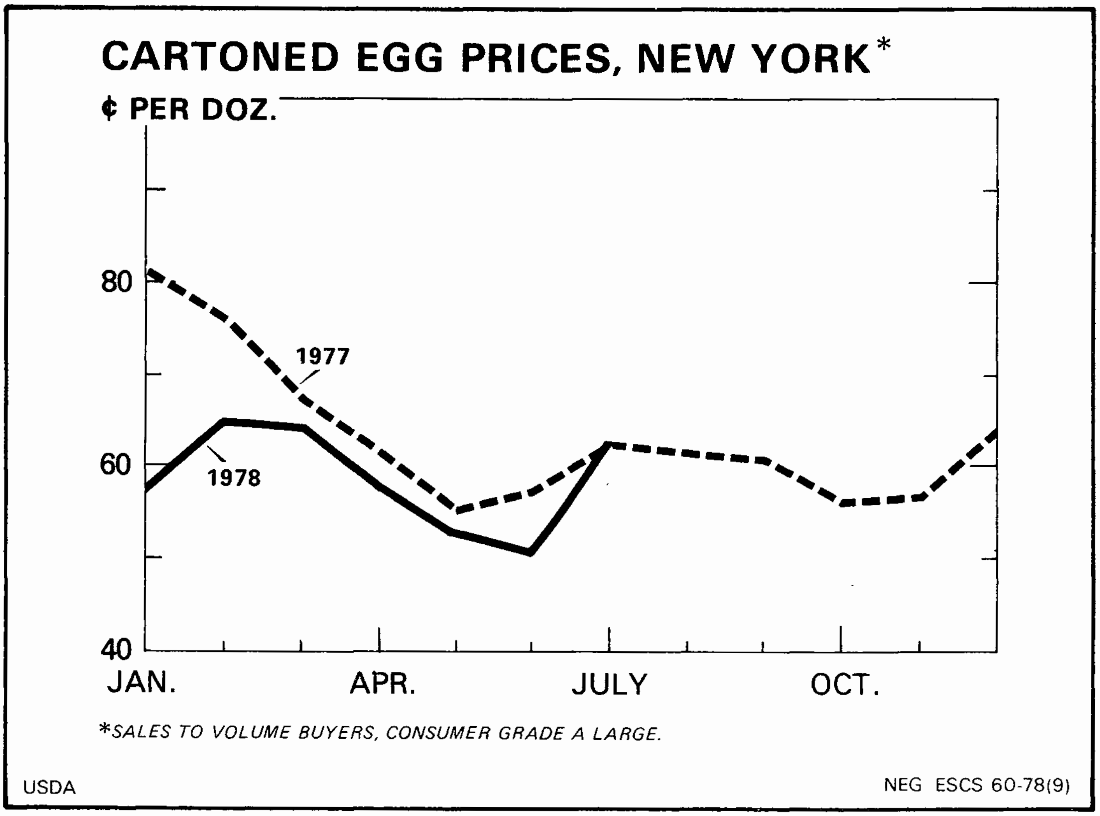
Egg Consumption Up

Per capita consumption of shell eggs and the shell equivalent of egg products totaled 136.1 eggs in January-June 1978, 2.7 eggs per person or 2 percent above a year earlier. Egg production in January-June was 3½ percent above a year earlier, and military purchases and shipments to American territories were below 1977 levels. However, smaller imports, sharply higher exports, increased hatching use, and a larger population resulted in per capita egg consumption showing a smaller increase than production.

Table 4—Egg prices, 1977-78

Month & year	E.M.E.C. quotes on market values[1]		Received by producers United States[2]	Cartoned Grade A large New York[3]
	East	Midwest		
	Cents			
1977				
January	68.8	68.1	65.1	81.0
February	63.2	62.8	66.2	76.2
March	56.6	56.2	58.8	67.4
April	48.7	47.6	55.3	61.4
May	45.3	45.1	49.1	55.0
June	48.0	48.0	46.8	57.0
July	52.7	52.0	50.7	62.4
August	50.7	50.4	51.5	61.4
September	48.0	46.5	52.6	60.8
October	46.2	45.2	47.3	56.0
November	44.6	44.6	51.3	56.6
December	54.4	54.1	53.6	64.0
1978				
January	44.6	43.7	49.4	57.2
February	54.2	52.8	55.1	64.9
March	53.0	52.3	55.4	64.0
April	46.4	45.0	52.2	57.9
May	43.3	42.3	49.3	52.9
June	41.2	40.0	43.6	50.6
July	53.2	52.2	48.3	62.8
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				

[1] Average of weekly price quotations for No. 1 nest run eggs by the Egg Market Evaluation Committee. Does not necessarily represent prices at which eggs are traded in the market. [2] Average of all eggs sold by farmers including hatching eggs and eggs sold at retail. [3] Sales to volume buyers, store door delivery, consumer Grade A large.



Imports of shell eggs and egg products totaled 4.7 million dozen in January-June, 34 percent below a year earlier. Imports were running well above 1977 levels through May, but imports this June were only 111,000 dozen, compared with 4.8 million dozen in June 1977.

Exports of eggs and egg products in January-June totaled 57 million dozen (shell egg equivalent), over double what it was a year earlier. Shell egg exports were up 37 percent to 26 million dozen. Egg products exports at 31 million cases (shell equivalent) were almost five times as large. Much of the increase in egg products was yolks other than dried—16.4 million pounds in 1978 compared with 5.1 million pounds in January-June 1977. Japan imported most of the yolks and accounted for most of the increase.

Shipments of shell eggs and egg products to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands in January-June 1978 at 10 million dozen (shell equivalent) were about a fourth below a year earlier. Shell egg shipments slipped 8 percent to 9.2 million dozen. However, the sharp decline was in egg products, which totaled about 940,000 dozen (shell equivalent) in the first half of 1978, compared with 3.7 million dozen a year earlier.

Hatching egg use is running above a year earlier, primarily because of the expansion in the broiler industry. Hatching use in January-June totaled around 231 million dozen or 8.4 percent of total egg production. Hatching use in the first half of 1977 was smaller but accounted for the same percentage of total production. During January-June 1978, egg-type hatch was down 5 percent but the much larger broiler-type hatch was up 6 percent. Hatching egg use will continue above a year earlier during the remainder of 1978 as the broiler industry continues to expand.

Shell Egg Breakings Ease; Stocks Down

Eggs broken under Federal inspection in January-June 1978 totaled 345 million dozen, 2 percent above a year earlier. However, most of the gain came early in the year and second quarter breakings were down slightly from 1977. In addition, weekly reports indicate commercial breakings in July and early August were below 1977 levels.

Cold storage stocks of frozen egg products continue to run below a year earlier. On August 1, stocks of frozen egg products totaled 28.0 million

Table 5—Total eggs: Supply and utilization, 1976-78

Year and quarters	Supply				Utilization					
							Domestic disappearance			
	Production	Imports[1]	Beginning stocks[1]	Total supply	Ending stocks[1]	Exports and shipments[1]	Eggs used for hatching	Military[1]	Civilian[1] Total	Civilian[1] Per capita
	Million dozen									*Number*
1976										
I	1,352.1	(2)	28.2	1,380.3	23.1	15.2	104.6	13.1	1,224.3	69.2
II	1,337.1	.1	23.1	1,360.3	23.6	15.9	108.1	10.8	1,201.9	67.8
III	1,334.7	1.4	23.6	1,359.7	23.3	18.0	96.4	9.3	1,212.7	68.2
IV	1,352.6	1.0	23.3	1,376.9	20.7	16.2	97.4	12.2	1,230.4	69.1
1977										
I	1,324.3	1.1	20.7	1,346.1	19.9	16.1	109.8	7.6	1,192.7	66.9
II	1,335.0	6.0	19.9	1,360.9	25.0	23.2	113.4	10.9	1,188.4	66.5
III	1,329.9	6.9	25.0	1,361.8	27.1	26.7	100.7	10.0	1,197.3	66.9
IV	1,413.8	.2	27.1	1,441.1	23.7	24.6	103.4	7.8	1,281.6	71.4
1978										
I	1,373.2	1.4	23.7	1,398.3	18.5	37.4	111.2	6.6	1,224.6	68.1
II	1,380.0	3.3	18.5	1,401.8	21.1	29.9	120.0	7.0	1,223.8	68.0
III										
IV										

[1] Shell eggs and the approximate shell-egg equivalent of egg products. [2] Less than 100,000 dozen.

Table 6—Shell eggs broken and egg products produced under federal inspection, 1977-78

Period[1]	Shell eggs broken	Egg products produced[2] Liquid[3]	Frozen	Dried
	Thou. doz.	*Thou. lbs.*	*Thou. lbs.*	*Thou. lbs.*
1977				
Dec. 19-Jan. 15	41,440	23,638	22,606	4,225
Jan. 16-Feb. 12	41,678	25,598	21,842	4,588
Feb. 13-Mar. 12	47,126	29,246	23,375	5,725
Mar. 13-Apr. 9	48,514	29,798	24,759	5,263
Apr. 10-May 7	56,549	33,807	29,849	6,518
May 8-June 4	60,437	35,012	31,644	7,001
June 5-July 2	63,793	35,114	34,044	7,688
July 3-July 30	58,114	31,106	30,533	6,349
July 31-Aug. 27	55,842	31,932	26,739	5,979
Aug. 28-Sept. 30	67,236	38,286	32,030	6,693
Oct. 1-Nov. 5	66,346	37,841	34,438	6,999
Nov. 6-Dec. 3	49,725	27,184	27,330	4,994
Dec. 4-Dec. 31	47,960	25,973	26,340	5,026
1978				
Jan. 1-Jan. 28	48,855	27,867	25,652	5,506
Jan. 29-Feb. 25	47,627	29,218	24,983	5,144
Feb. 26-Mar. 25	45,341	28,348	23,021	4,000
Mar. 26-Apr. 22	51,948	30,904	26,605	5,501
Apr. 23-May 20	56,547	34,437	28,328	6,651
May 21-June 17	62,978	35,587	33,768	7,827
June 18-July 15	60,032	33,971	29,953	6,775

[1] Weeks in 1976 and 1977. [2] Includes ingredients added. [3] Liquid egg product produced for immediate consumption and for processing.

pounds, compared with 35.1 million pounds on July 1, 1977. The reduced cold storage means that breakers will likely have to operate near 1977 levels in coming months in order to meet current demand for their products.

BROILERS

Broiler production will continue to exceed year-earlier levels during the balance of 1978 and into 1979. Output may be up at least 10 percent during the next 12 months. At the same time, lower beef supplies and strong red meat prices likely will hold broiler prices above the previous year.

Broiler Producers Continue To Expand

The rate of gain in broiler meat output eased in the second quarter of this year but is now increasing. July-December output is expected to exceed last year's record 4,672 million pounds, ready-to-cook, by nearly 500 million pounds. Output at this level would be about a third above the like period of 1974, reflecting the continuous upward trend since August 1975.

Broiler meat production in federally inspected plants through June this year totaled 4,874 million pounds, 319 million above a year ago. The increase

Table 7— Broiler supply and prices

Year and quarters	Federally inspected slaughter				Total production RTC[1]	Per capita consumption	Prices	
	Number	Av. wt.	Live weight pounds	Certified RTC wt.			Farm	9-city
	Mil.	*Lbs.*	*Mil. lbs.*	*Mil. lbs.*	*Mil. lbs.*	*Lbs.*	*Cts/lbs.*	*Cts./lb.*
1976								
I	765	3.82	2,922	2,116	2,136	9.7	24.6	42.2
II	843	3.78	3,189	2,314	2,335	10.4	24.1	41.7
III	865	3.79	3,277	2,372	2,392	10.6	23.9	41.5
, IV	780	3.87	3,020	2,185	2,205	9.7	19.9	35.5
Year	3,253	3,81	12,408	8,987	9,067	40.4	23.1	40.2
1977								
,I	782	3.82	2,985	2,156	2,201	9.8	23.5	40.9
II	869	3.80	3,305	2,399	2,447	10.8	24.4	42.3
III	884	3.78	3,340	2,424	2,474	10.9	24.6	42.4
IV	798	3.90	3,110	2,248	2,296	10.2	21.4	37.6
Year	3,334	3,82	12,741	9,227	9,418	41.7	23.6	40.8
1978								
I	831	3.88	3,226	2,327	2,375	10.5	24.0	41.8
II	909	3.87	3,519	2,547	2,599	11.5	28.5	47.6
III								
IV								
Year								

[1] Total production equals federally inspected slaughter plus other slaughter minus cut-up and further processing condemnations.

above in the spring because of a smaller increase in available hatching eggs for spring marketings was due to more broilers being marketed at a heavier weight. There were 5 percent more birds marketed, and the average live marketing weight gained nearly 2 percent to 3.88 pounds.

Broiler output was up 8 percent from 1977 levels in the first quarter but slipped to only 6 percent than first quarter marketings. However, in recent months the margin of increase in available hatching eggs over 1977 levels has widened. The hatch of broiler-type chicks was only 3 percent above 1977 levels in March but was up 9 percent in July.

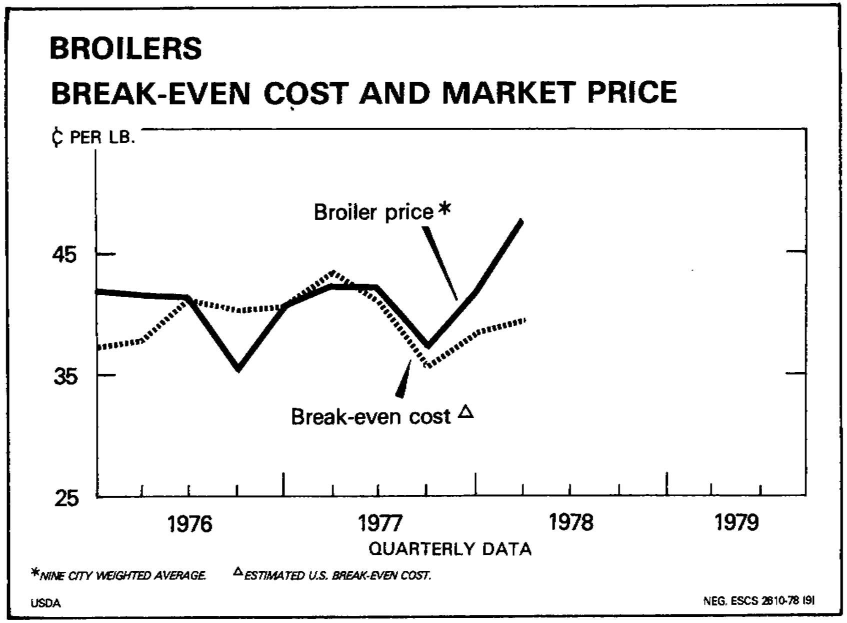
The increased availability of hatching eggs in recent months has resulted from the sharp increase in pullet chicks placed in hatchery supply flocks in late 1977 and early 1978. Cumulative placements of pullet chicks 7-14 months earlier indicate the hatchery supply flock will continue to grow in coming months. Pullet chick placements indicate the hatchery supply flock was 4 percent above a year earlier in July, but it will be up 12 to 14 percent in early 1979. Thus, there likely will be an adequate supply of hatching eggs available for a substantial increase in broiler production during the balance of 1978 and well into 1979.

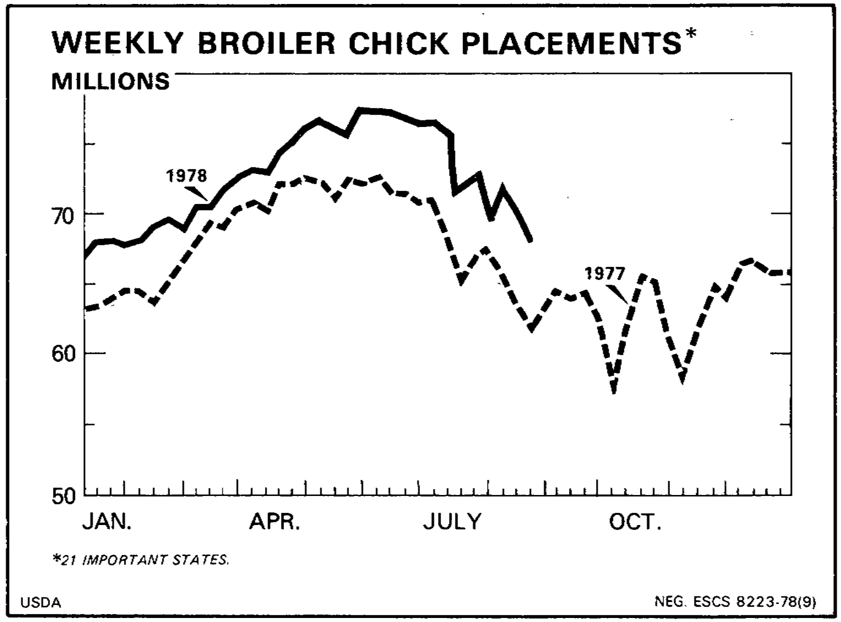
Table 8— Broiler chicks hatched and pullet chicks placed in hatchery flocks

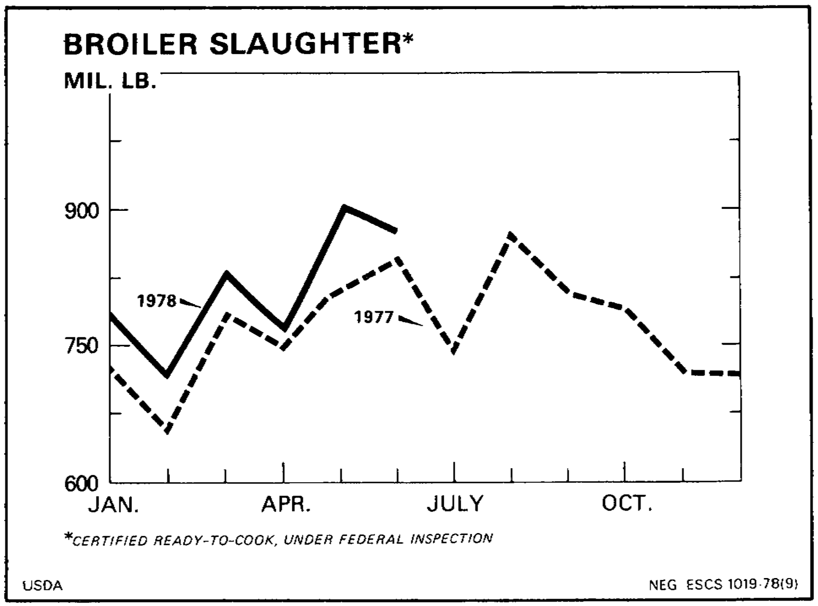
	Broiler-type chicks hatched			Pullet chicks placed in broiler hatchery supply flocks					
				Monthly placements			Cummulative placements 7-14 months earlier		
	1976	1977	1978	1976	1977	1978	1977	1978	1979
	Million			*Thousand*			*Thousand*		
January	278.6	294.3	313.0	2,423	2,585	2,687	21,487	21,934	24,824
February	268.2	272.4	288.9	2,556	2,419	2,751	21,978	22,282	25,198
March	309.5	323.2	332.3	2,907	2,919	3,309	22,435	22,353	
April	310.6	324.6	337.9	3,104	3,275	3,629	22,596	22,469	
May	321.1	337.4	360.5	3,164	3,025	3,532	22,708	23,063	
June	309.2	320.1	346.7	2,648	2,730	3,201	22,235	22,846	
July	303.9	310.6	338.5	2,797	2,782	3,076	21,678	22,584	
August	295.9	294.7		2,836	2,618		21,099	22,246	
September	271.9	280.0		2,584	2,701		20,870	22,267	
October	268.2	290.9		2,668	3,013		20,992	22,794	
November	267.9	282.2		2,434	2,702		21,431	23,805	
December	283.0	306.3		2,547	3,013		21,872	24,636	

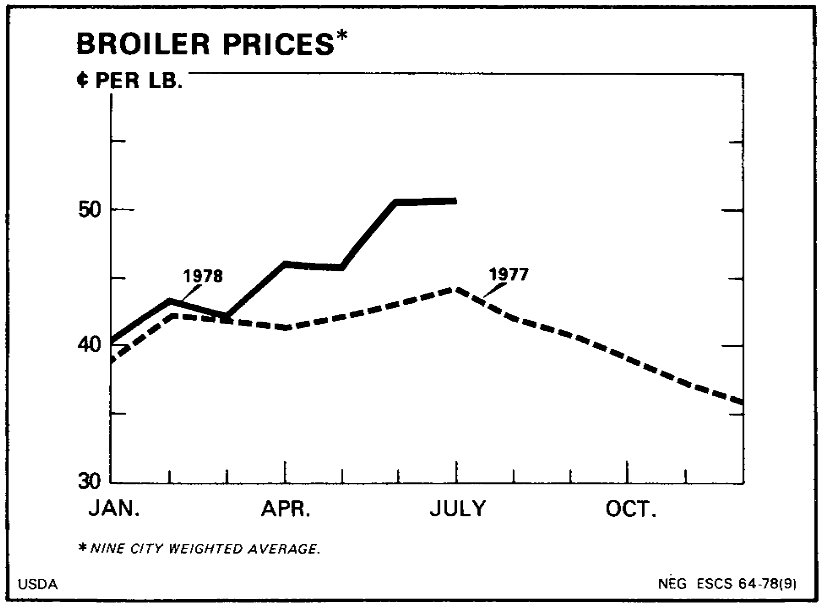
Table 9—Broiler: Eggs set and broiler chicks placed weekly in 21 commercial broiler producing States, 1975-78

Week ending Saturday	Eggs set 1975-76	Eggs set 1976-77	Eggs set 1977-78	Percent of previous year	Chicks placed 1975-76	Chicks placed 1976-77	Chicks placed 1977-78	Percent of previous year
	Thousand			*Percent*	*Thousand*			*Percent*
November								
27	72,321	74,888	81,729	109	58,348	60,965	64,008	105
December								
4	68,101	74,337	82,489	111	59,517	61,886	66,475	107
11	72,353	75,818	82,889	109	59,394	61,474	66,748	109
18	73,231	77,249	83,576	108	59,170	61,040	65,874	108
25	72,752	77,035	83,249	108	56,368	60,857	66,077	109
January								
1	73,593	78,181	84,096	108	59,128	62,103	66,146	107
8	74,074	78,855	84,911	108	59,961	63,278	67,167	106
15	74,905	78,526	84,828	108	59,716	63,400	67,971	107
22	75,253	77,721	85,761	110	60,608	64,108	68,093	106
29	74,205	79,282	86,314	109	61,168	64,570	67,669	105
February								
5	76,270	81,246	85,618	105	61,397	64,384	68,341	106
12	78,697	82,917	86,134	104	62,089	63,704	69,242	109
19	80,029	84,084	87,545	104	60,489	65,301	69,461	106
26	80,988	84,543	87,041	103	62,870	66,828	68,886	103
March								
5	81,478	85,611	88,868	104	64,639	68,154	70,621	104
12	81,792	85,994	89,170	104	65,667	69,266	70,653	102
19	82,119	85,770	89,865	105	66,944	69,182	71,655	104
26	82,832	87,004	91,270	105	67,168	70,298	72,551	103
April								
2	83,405	87,804	92,619	105	67,449	70,744	73,246	104
9	83,261	88,007	93,761	107	68,039	70,293	72,992	104
16	83,073	88,101	94,701	107	68,560	72,090	74,365	103
23	82,134	86,079	94,409	110	68,729	72,219	75,365	103
30	83,482	87,322	94,469	108	68,869	72,519		
May								
7	83,402	87,675	95,367	109	68,369	72,251	76,926	106
14	83,302	88,170	95,652	108	67,075	71,130	76,168	107
21	83,767	87,316	94,915	109	68,461	72,464	75,799	105
28	83,815	86,791	94,622	109	68,729	72,335	77,506	107
June								
4	83,331	86,629	94,799	109	68,662	72,560	77,415	107
11	83,105	87,095	94,990	109	68,899	71,150	77,383	109
18	81,278	84,877	91,790	108	69,152	71,461	76,732	107
25	77,495	80,751	90,083	112	68,412	70,762	76,532	108
July								
2	80,098	83,014	92,745	112	68,363	71,132	76,616	108
9	80,641	84,070	94,163	112	66,538	68,712	75,354	110
16	79,981	83,548	91,268	109	62,977	65,004	71,497	110
23	79,317	80,638	89,798	111	65,615	66,866	72,888	109
30	78,625	78,740	89,502	114	65,670	67,368	71,984	107
August								
6	77,629	79,283	88,745	112	65,182	65,949	69,796	106
13	76,895	80,185	88,302	110	64,446	63,608	68,166	107
20	76,602	79,871	87,352	109	63,535	61,854	68,196	110
27	77,723	80,123			63,297	63,454		
September								
3	73,964	78,113			62,768	64,570		
10	65,270	72,281			62,389	64,009		
17	71,768	77,483			63,517	64,526		
24	76,254	81,462			60,550	62,943		
October								
1	73,645	80,737			52,917	57,463		
7	64,939	76,316			58,163	61,550		
14	67,252	73,052			62,280	65,494		
21	73,567	77,022			60,217	64,994		
28	76,581	80,743			53,091	61,223		
November								
5	74,739	79,144			54,404	58,588		
12	75,892	82,427			60,157	61,857		
19	74,933	82,537			62,816	64,880		
	4,026,158	4,246,467			3,292,938	3,439,180		


BROILERS
BREAK-EVEN COST AND MARKET PRICE
¢ PER LB.
45
35
25
Broiler price *
Break-even cost △
1976
1977
1978
1979
QUARTERLY DATA
*NINE CITY WEIGHTED AVERAGE.
△ESTIMATED U.S. BREAK-EVEN COST.
USDA
NEG. ESCS 2810-78 (9)


WEEKLY BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS*
MILLIONS
70
60
50
1978
1977
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*21 IMPORTANT STATES.
USDA
NEG. ESCS 8223-78(9)


BROILER SLAUGHTER*
MIL. LB.
900
750
600
1978
1977
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*CERTIFIED READY-TO-COOK, UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION
USDA
NEG ESCS 1019-78(9)


BROILER PRICES*
¢ PER LB.
50
40
30
1978
1977
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*NINE CITY WEIGHTED AVERAGE.
USDA
NEG ESCS 64-78(9)

Production is expected to show further expansion in late 1978 and 1979. The economics of broiler production favor a sharp expansion in 1979. Profit margins have been very encouraging to producers in 1978, and prospects are for continued strong competing meat prices and large grain and soybean crops for harvest this fall. However, expansion in 1979 may be limited by the availability of facilities, such as hatcheries, and growout facilities, and by processing plant capacities.

Broiler Prices Well Above 1977

Broiler prices likely peaked for the year during the week of July 10 when the 9-city wholesale prices averaged 56.7 cents a pound, 10 cents above the comparable week of 1977. Prices normally peak during July, but the rise this year was much more pronounced than usual. Part of the price increase was caused by the extreme hot weather over much of the main producing areas. Industry reports indicated higher than usual mortality and slower growth of broilers.

After reaching the high, prices dropped 12 cents by the end of the month, and for all of July averaged about 51 cents a pound. This was still 7 cents above July 1977. Prices weakened in August to the low 40's but are expected to strengthen before the usual decline in the fall. Third quarter prices are expected to average 4 to 6 cents above the 42 cents for July-September 1977. Fall prices will decline seasonally, but higher than year-earlier red meat prices and gains in consumer incomes are expected to more than offset the price-depressing effects of increased broiler production. The expected result—October-December broiler prices averaging around 2 to 4 cents above the 38 cents a pound of a year earlier.

Broiler Prospects for January-March 1979

Prospects point to continued favorable conditions for broiler producers in early 1979. Consumer demand for broiler meat will be boosted by higher beef prices and higher consumer disposable incomes. In addition, feed ingredient supplies should be large.

Consumers' real income likely will continue to gain during the first quarter of 1979 and run well above early 1978 levels when real income lagged as a result of the coal strike and weather disruptions.

Competing meat supplies in the first quarter of 1979 may be about the same as a year earlier. Beef supplies are expected to be down 2 to 4 percent, but increased pork production will be largely offsetting. Turkey production will be up substantially, but reduced stocks may mean only a small increase in total supplies from a year earlier. Beef prices will be sharply above January-March 1978, but pork prices may show a small decline.

Broiler production costs next winter may not differ significantly from January-March 1978. If the corn and soybean crops develop about as expected, corn prices will likely average near year-earlier levels. Soybean meal prices could be near current levels but a little higher in early 1979 than in early 1978.

Table 10—Estimated 1st quarter 1979 broiler price/consumption relationships[1]

Domestic civilian per capita consumption: Pounds	Domestic civilian per capita consumption: Percent change from year earlier	Estimated 9-city wholesale broiler price
		Cents per lb.
12.0	+15	40-42
11.5	+10	42-44
11.0	+5	44-46
10.5	0	[2] 46-48
10.0	-5	48-50
9.5	-10	50-52
9.0	-15	52-54

[1] Based on historical relationships. [2] The estimated 46-48 cents per pound is based on prospective conditions for competing meats and general economic activity and assumes no change from a year earlier in per capita consumption of broilers.

The price other than the base 46-48 cents per pound were estimated by assuming the same conditions for competing meats and economic activity as under the base but various changes from a year earlier in the per capita consumption of broilers.

Assuming total red meat supplies and consumers' incomes turn out about as expected during January-March next year and broiler output increases about 12 percent from a year earlier, the 9-city broiler price likely will average about the same as the 41.8 cents of January-March 1978. But if broiler output is held to near 1977 levels, past relationships indicate that prices would average around 4 to 6 cents above last year.

Disappearance at Record Levels

Consumption, exports, and shipments of young chicken meat (primarily broilers) during January-June were all above year-ago levels. Consumption of young chickens totaled 22 pounds per person, up nearly 1½ pounds. This jump in use reflects the sharp increase in broiler output this year and the relatively high red meat prices.

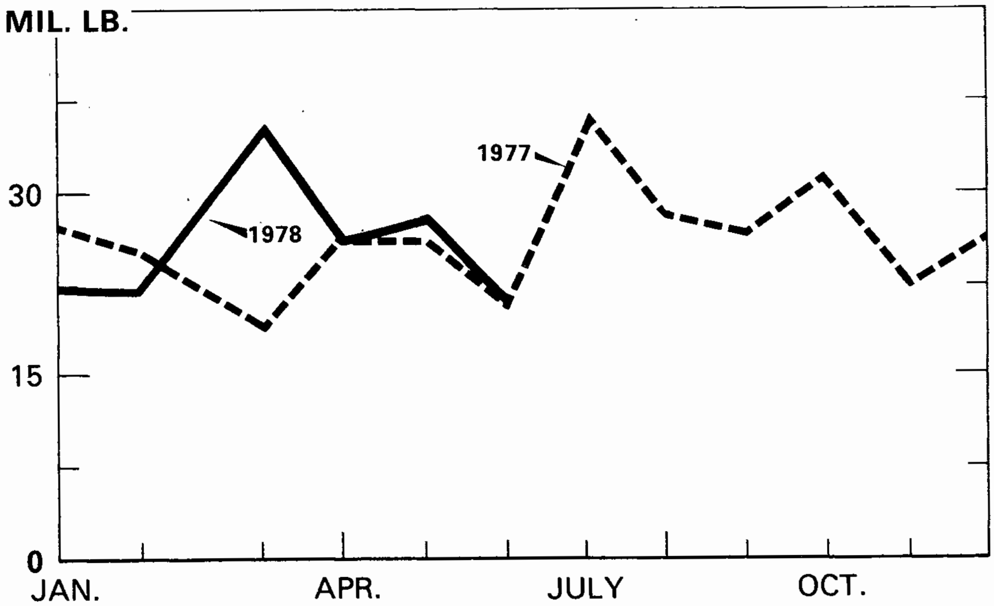
U.S. exports of young chicken meat through June this year totaled 153 million pounds, up 7 percent from the high level of a year ago. Exports of whole young chicken at 49 million pounds was about the same as in 1977, while cut-up chicken gained 11 percent to 104 million pounds. Most of

Table 11—Young chicken supply and utilization, 1977-78

Year	Production[1]	Beginning stocks	Total supply	End stocks	Exports and shipments	Military	Civilian disappearance	Per capita
	Million pounds							*Pounds*
1977:								
January	728.7	32.9	761.6	27.4	38.6	1.3	694.3	3.24
February	673.1	27.4	700.5	24.6	36.7	1.7	637.5	2.98
March	799.2	24.6	823.8	26.5	31.6	2.9	762.8	3.56
April	760.0	26.5	786.5	25.2	36.0	2.8	722.5	3.37
May	826.3	25.2	851.5	27.9	38.1	2.0	783.5	3.65
June	861.0	27.9	888.9	31.3	32.0	3.4	822.2	3.83
July	761.0	31.3	792.3	30.3	46.3	.4	715.3	3.33
August	888.5	30.3	918.8	29.6	41.4	.3	847.5	3.94
September	824.7	29.6	854.3	30.7	39.1	.1	784.4	3.65
October	791.5	30.7	822.2	31.2	34.8	2.0	754.2	3.50
November	735.0	31.2	766.2	33.3	25.6	2.1	705.2	3.27
December	769.1	33.3	802.4	29.4	41.4	2.7	728.9	3.38
1978:								
January	797.8	29.4	827.2	27.5	36.0	2.2	761.5	3.53
February	730.7	27.5	758.1	21.8	32.7	2.1	701.6	3.25
March	847.0	21.8	868.8	21.7	46.1	3.1	797.9	3.70
April	784.9	21.7	806.6	22.6	33.2	2.7	748.1	3.46
May	921.5	22.6	944.1	19.8	36.3	3.4	884.6	4.09
June	893.1	19.8	912.9	21.4	31.1	2.9	857.5	3.96

[1] Total monthly production is estimated by multiplying the monthly federally inspected slaughter by the ratio of the annual total production to the annual federally inspected slaughter. The ratio used in 1978 is the same as the one in 1977.

BROILER EXPORTS*



*READY-TO-COOK WEIGHT.

USDA NEG. ESCS 2707-78(9)

the increased exports went to the Far East, with Japan the leading importer at 31 million pounds.

Other leading importers of U.S. chicken meat were Hong Kong, Venezuela, and Singapore, in that order. Exports to West Germany, Egypt, and the Caribbean countries were up, but substantial declines occurred in other EC-9 countries and to the Mideast.

In addition to these exports, 62 million pounds of young chicken were shipped to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands during the first 6 months of 1978. This was about 8 million pounds below the same period of 1977.

USDA Purchases Young Chickens

On July 10, USDA announced the start of the 1978/79 purchase program for young chicken to be used in the school lunch and other domestic food programs. The first purchases were made on July 26. Through August 16, purchases totaled 12.6 million pounds of fresh frozen cut-up chicken at a cost of $7 million and 720,000 pounds of cooked frozen cut-up chicken at a cost of $663,000. Purchases in 1977 were started in early August.

TURKEYS

Turkey meat output for the second half of this year likely will be above year-earlier levels, but total supplies are not expected to be much different than a year ago. However, turkey prices will average sharply higher than in 1977.

Turkey Output Gains Ease

Turkey meat production will increase seasonally during the second half of this year but the rate of increase will decline from the first half. Turkey output in federally inspected slaughter plants through June totaled 627 million pounds, ready-to-cook, up 9 percent from January-June 1977. The increase came from a gain of more than 5 percent in the number of turkeys marketed and a 3-percent heavier marketing weight.

The increased weights this year were largely caused by the producers' continued shift to fewer light breed turkeys. During January-June, producers marketed 30 percent fewer fryer-roaster turkeys. They accounted for 8 percent of all turkeys marketed during this period, compared with 12 percent last year and 15 percent in 1976.

Turkey poult production during March-June was slightly below the same months of 1977. Production of heavy breeds was up 3 percent while light breeds declined 45 percent. This suggests that the number of turkeys marketed during the rest of 1978 may be about the same as the previous year but that marketing weights will stay higher. Thus, turkey output this summer and fall may average 3 to 5 percent above the same months of 1977.

Excellent profit margins this year coupled with prospects for continued high red meat prices and adequate feed supplies will result in a sharp increase in poult production for first half 1979 turkey marketings. The beginning of this increase showed up in the 19-percent increase in eggs in incubators on August 1. Another indication of producers' plans to raise more turkeys is the 39-per-

Table 12—Turkey supply and consumption

	Federally inspected slaughter				Total production RTC[1]	Per capita consumption
	Number	Av. wt.	Live wt. lb.	Certified RTC wt.		
	Mil.	*Lbs.*	*Mil. lbs.*	*Mil. lbs.*	*Mil. lbs.*	*Lbs.*
1976						
I	14.7	17.93	263.2	206.6	217.8	1.2
II	27.1	17.20	465.2	368.5	388.7	1.5
III	49.6	18.06	895.1	710.4	750.1	2.1
IV	43.0	19.49	839.2	664.5	701.9	4.4
Year	134.3	18.33	2,462.6	1,950.1	2,058.5	9.2
1977						
I	15.0	17.90	267.7	209.5	222.4	1.3
II	26.3	17.58	462.2	365.4	388.3	1.4
III	46.2	18.35	847.2	672.2	714.8	2.3
IV	40.8	19.96	815.3	645.3	686.4	4.2
Year	128.3	18.65	2,392.4	1,892.5	2,011.9	9.2
1978						
I	15.3	18.84	289.2	227.8	242.0	1.3
II	28.1	17.96	504.3	399.6	424.1	1.7
III						
IV						
Year						

[1] Total production equals federally inspected slaughter plus other slaughter minus cut-up further processing condemnations.

Table 13—Turkey hatchery operations, United States, 1977-78

	Poults hatched						Eggs in incubator first of month change from prev. year		
	Light breeds		Heavy breeds		Total		Light	Heavy	Total
	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978	1978	1978	1978
	Thousand						*Percent*		
January	1,224	499	9,572	11,307	10,796	11,806	-61	15	6
February	1,085	610	11,613	13,124	12,698	13,734	-44	12	7
March	1,306	652	16,773	17,421	18,079	18,073	-48	3	-1
April	1,319	703	18,142	18,411	19,461	19,114	-46	1	-2
May	1,391	799	19,320	19,858	20,711	20,657	-42	3	0
June	1,211	720	17,613	18,099	18,824	18,819	-39	4	1
July	1,356	701	14,077	14,328	15,433	15,029	-48	3	-2
August	1,055		7,089		8,144		-29	26	19
September	380		4,169		4,549				
October	683		4,530		5,213				
November	632		5,371		6,003				
December	712		7,760		8,472				

cent increase in turkeys in flocks tested for pullorum-typhoid by official State agencies during April-July.

Turkey Consumption Up; Stocks Lower

Disappearance of turkey meat outpaced production during January-June 1978. Turkey consumption increased by nearly a half-pound per person from the 3.0 pounds during January-June 1977. Larger consumption coupled with gains in exports and shipments resulted in lower than year-earlier cold storage stocks.

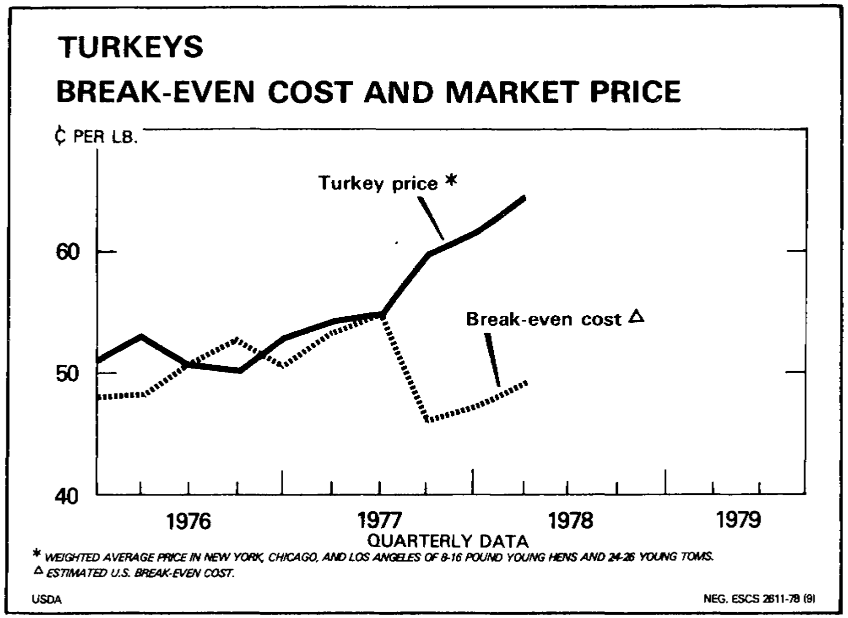
Stocks on January 1, 1978, totaled 168 million pounds, 35 million below the beginning of 1977. On July 1, stocks were 49 million below 1977's 201 million pounds despite the 9-percent gain in turkey output during the first 6 months of 1978.

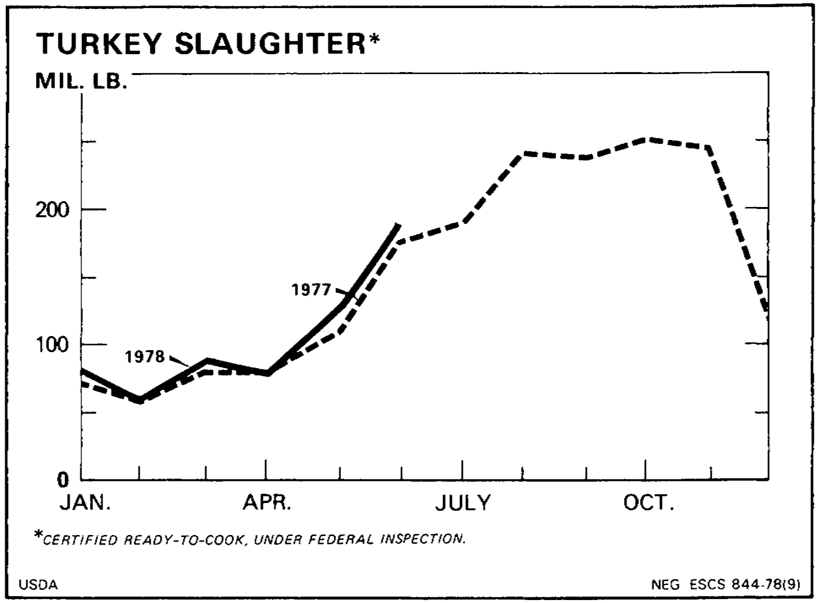
Total turkey supplies during the second half of this year likely will about match those of July-December 1978. If per capita consumption of turkey meat in the second half of 1978 equals the 6.5 pounds of a year earlier, cold storage stocks on January 1, 1979, would be expected to total around 165 million pounds. However, each one-tenth of a

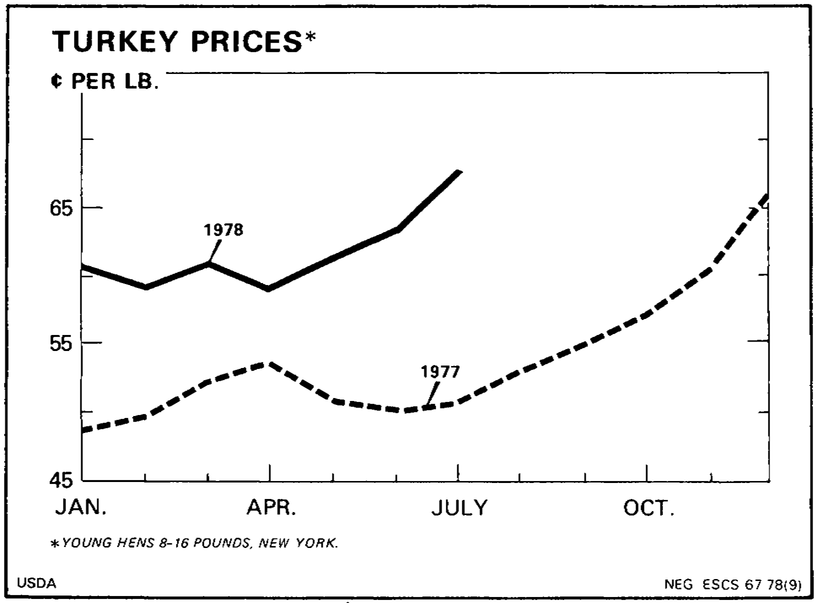
Table 14—Turkey: Supply and utilization, 1977-78

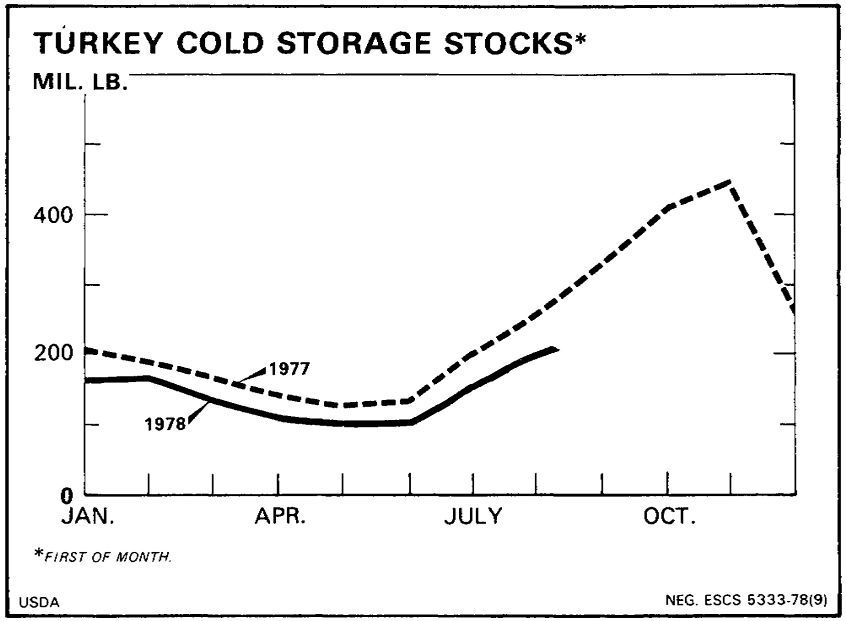
Year	Production[1]	Beginning stocks	Total supply	Ending stocks	Exports and shipments	Military	Civilian disappearance	Per capita
	Million pounds						*Pounds*	*Number*
1977:								
January	74.8	203.4	278.2	190.3	3.0	1.0	83.9	.39
February	62.3	190.3	252.6	167.8	3.5	.2	81.1	.38
March	85.3	167.8	253.1	142.3	2.1	.9	107.8	.50
April	83.8	142.3	226.1	130.3	2.5	1.1	92.2	.43
May	116.9	130.3	247.2	138.2	4.0	.4	104.6	.49
June	187.6	138.2	325.8	201.4	5.2	1.3	117.9	.55
July	201.6	201.4	403.0	253.6	5.2	([2])	144.2	.67
August	259.9	253.6	513.5	329.9	7.2	.1	176.3	.82
September	253.4	329.9	583.3	409.3	6.9	.2	166.9	.78
October	266.2	409.3	675.5	444.5	4.7	3.5	222.8	1.04
November	262.5	444.5	707.0	269.4	5.6	.8	431.2	2.00
December	157.6	269.4	427.0	167.9	6.3	1.7	251.1	1.16
1978:								
January	86.9	167.9	254.8	168.3	4.5	2.4	79.6	.37
February	63.3	168.3	231.6	136.6	3.7	.7	90.6	.42
March	91.7	136.6	228.3	112.9	6.6	.1	108.8	.50
April	85.8	112.9	198.7	101.1	4.6	.3	92.7	.43
May	137.2	101.1	238.3	103.6	2.3	.9	131.5	.61
June	201.1	103.6	304.7	152.1	3.4	.8	148.4	.69

[1] Total monthly production is estimated by multiplying the monthly federally inspected slaughter by the ratio of the annual total production to the annual federally inspected slaughter. The ratio used in 1978 is the same as the one in 1977. [2] Less than 100,000 pounds.


TURKEYS
BREAK-EVEN COST AND MARKET PRICE
¢ PER LB.
Turkey price *
Break-even cost △
60
50
40
1976
1977
1978
1979
QUARTERLY DATA
* WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE IN NEW YORK, CHICAGO, AND LOS ANGELES OF 8-16 POUND YOUNG HENS AND 24-26 YOUNG TOMS.
△ ESTIMATED U.S. BREAK-EVEN COST.
USDA
NEG. ESCS 2611-78 (9)


TURKEY SLAUGHTER*
MIL. LB.
200
100
0
1977
1978
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*CERTIFIED READY-TO-COOK, UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION.
USDA
NEG ESCS 844-78(9)


TURKEY PRICES*
¢ PER LB.
65
55
45
1978
1977
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*YOUNG HENS 8-16 POUNDS, NEW YORK.
USDA
NEG ESCS 67 78(9)


TURKEY COLD STORAGE STOCKS*
MIL. LB.
400
200
0
1977
1978
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*FIRST OF MONTH.
USDA
NEG. ESCS 5333-78(9)

pound increase in per capita use would reduce prospective cold storage stocks on January 1, 1979 by 25 million pounds.

Turkey Prices Stay Strong

The strength in turkey prices in the first half of this year likely will continue in coming months. Despite a 9-percent gain in turkey output, the New York wholesale price for 8-16 pound young hen turkeys averaged nearly 61 cents a pound. This was 10 cents a pound above a year ago. Prices have strengthened further in recent months, averaging 68 cents a pound in July, 17 cents above July 1977.

Turkey prices

Calendar	Liveweight	New York, wholesale, frozen f.o.b. or equivalent		
		Young hens 8-16 lbs.	Young toms 14-20 lbs.	Young toms 24-26 lbs.
	Cents per pound			
1977				
I	32.7	50.2	51.4	55.6
II	33.8	51.5	51.7	58.8
III	34.0	53.1	52.6	57.2
IV	38.6	61.3	59.8	59.9
Year	35.5	54.0	53.8	57.9
1978				
I	37.6	60.2	59.0	62.2
II	39.4	61.4	61.0	68.5
III				
IV				
Year				

Prices during the balance of 1978 are expected to stay in the upper 60-cents-a-pound range. They will be bolstered by reduced cold storage stocks and higher than year-earlier red meat prices. However, substantially larger broiler supplies may restrain further rises in turkey prices.

USDA Announces Turkey Purchase Program

On August 3, USDA announced plans to buy young turkeys and turkey rolls to be used in school lunch and other domestic food programs. Specifications for whole turkeys and turkey rolls will be similar to those of last year except that the use of a metal detection device will be required in the fabrication of turkey rolls.

USDA through August 16 had purchased 1 million pounds of ready-to-cook young turkeys and 1.2 million pounds of cooked turkey rolls, the equivalent of about 2.9 million pounds of ready-to-cook carcass turkey. Purchases were made at a cost of $739,000 for the young turkey and $1.3 billion for the turkey rolls. In 1977, purchases began in July.

First Half Exports Up

Exports of turkey meat this year are running well above the low levels of a year earlier. Through June, exports were up 21 percent from the previous year, totaling 24 million pounds. However, this was still well below the 33 million pounds exported during the first half of 1976. All of the gain this year was in cut-up turkeys which gained 28 percent while whole bird turkeys declined a tenth. Turkey exports fell off in recent months as domestic prices of turkeys rose. With prices expected to continue relatively high, exports of turkey during the balance of 1978 likely will lag year-earlier levels.

Shipments of turkey to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands (U.S. territories) through June this year totaled 1.1 million pounds. This compares with 434,000 pounds during January-June 1978.

Turkey Prospects for January-June 1979

Economic conditions appear favorable for turkey production during the first half of next year. Prospects point to large grain and soybean meal crops to be harvested this fall. If the large crops materialize, feed ingredient prices during January-June 1979 may not differ greatly from 1978. Growth in the general economy is expected to continue in 1979. Consumers' incomes likely will show significant gains over the relatively poor first quarter of 1978 but slower gains than in 1978 during the second quarter.

Table 15—Estimated 1st half 1979 turkey price/production relationships[1]

Total federally inspected slaughter of turkey		Estimated New York wholesale price for young hen turkeys[2]
Million pounds	Percent change from year earlier	
		Cents per pound
752	+20	56-58
721	+15	58-60
690	+10	60-62
659	+5	62-64
628	0	[3] 64-66
597	-5	66-68
566	-10	68-70
535	-15	70-72
504	-20	72-74

[1] Based on historical relationships. [2] Simple average for 8-16 pound young hen turkeys, f.o.b. dock or equivalent in carlots or trucklots, U.S. Grade A, frozen, ready-to-cook. [3] The estimated 64-66 cents per pound is based on prospective conditions for competing meats, general economic activity, and cold storage holdings of turkey meat and assumes no change from a year earlier in the federally inspected slaughter of turkey.

The prices, other than the base 64-66 cents per pound were estimated by assuming the same conditions as under the base for competing meats, economic activity, and cold storage holdings but various changes from a year earlier in the slaughter of turkey.

Total red meat supplies during the first half of 1979 may show little change from 1978 but chicken supplies will be sharply higher. Beef production will continue to drop and may be down 3 to 5 percent because of the liquidation of cattle herds the past 2 years. However, increased pork output may be largely offsetting. Broiler meat output will likely be around a tenth larger than first half 1978.

If competing meat supplies, consumers' disposable incomes, and beginning year cold storage turkey stocks turn out about as expected, January-June 1979 turkey output equal to first half 1978 would result in 8-16 pound young hen turkeys at New York averaging 3 to 5 cents above the 61 cents a pound of January-June 1978. A 20-percent increase in turkey output could push prices 3 to 5 cents below a year earlier.

EGGS AND POULTRY: ECONOMICAL SOURCES OF PROTEIN

Eggs and poultry meats are among the most economical of meats and meat alternates as sources of protein. And, according to USDA's Science and Education Administration (SEA), "One way to find good buys among meats and meat alternatives is to compare the cost of amounts in those that provide equal protein."

The table shows the amount of different meats and meat alternatives necessary to provide the 20 grams of protein and 3 ounces of cooked lean meat. Also shown, based on June 1978 retail prices, is the cost of 20 grams of protein from these and of 3 ounces of cooked lean meat.

Table 16—Costs of amounts of specified meats and meat alternatives to provide 3 ounces of cooked lean and 20 grams of protein at June 1978 prices

Food	Market unit	Retail price per market unit[1]	Portion of market unit to provide		Cost of amounts to provide	
			20 grams protein[2]	3 ounces of cooked lean	20 grams protein	3 ounces of cooked lean
		Cents			*Cents*	*Cents*
Dry beans	Lb.	52.2	0.24		13.	
Peanut butter	12 oz.	75.6	0.23		17.	
Eggs, large	Doz.	70.6	0.25		18.	
Beef liver	Lb.	87.6	0.24	0.27	21.	24.
Bread, white enriched	Lb.	37.8	0.51		19.	
Milk, whole fluid	Half. gal.	87.5	0.29		26.	
Chicken, whole, ready-to-cook	Lb.	70.1	0.37		26.	
Turkey, ready-to-cook	Lb.	82.2	0.35	0.40	29.	33.
Hamburger	Lb.	120.1	0.24	0.26	29.	31.
Bean soup, canned	11.25 oz.	31.0	0.98		30.	
Pork, picnic	Lb.	98.4	0.32	0.46	32.	45.
Chicken breasts	Lb.	129.2	0.25	0.35	33.	45.
Tuna, canned	6.5 oz.	80.0	0.44		36.	
American process cheese	8 oz.	94.2	0.38		36.	
Ham, whole	Lb.	139.6	0.29	0.35	40.	49.
Chuck roast of beef, bone in	Lb.	126.7	0.35	0.29	44.	49.
Liverwurst	8 oz.	83.2	0.60		50.	
Round beefsteak	Lb.	228.1	0.22	0.34	50.	78.
Pork loin roast	Lb.	158.3	0.33	0.50	53.	79.
Salami	8 oz.	107.4	0.50		54.	
Frankfurters	Lb.	149.6	0.36		54.	
Rump roast of beef, boned	Lb.	212.3	0.26	0.34	54.	72.
Ham, canned	Lb.	231.5	0.24	0.25	56.	58.
Sardines, canned	4 oz.	60.3	0.94		57.	54.
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen	Lb.	185.1	0.36	0.29	67.	
Bologna	8 oz.	97.4	0.73		71.	
Pork chops, center cut	Lb.	204.2	0.35	0.45	71.	92.
Haddock, fillet, frozen	Lb.	203.9	0.35	0.29	72.	59.
Sirloin beefsteak	Lb.	256.4	0.28	0.43	72.	110.
Rib roast of beef	Lb.	229.2	0.33	0.45	75.	103.
Veal cutlets	Lb.	368.9	0.21	0.25	79.	92.
Pork sausage	Lb.	168.1	0.52		87.	
Bacon, sliced	Lb.	188.8	0.52		99.	161.
Porterhouse beefsteaks	Lb.	309.8	0.34	0.52	104.	176.
Lamb chops, loin	Lb.	382.4	0.31	0.46	117.	

[1] Average retail prices in U.S. cities, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. [2] One-third of the daily amount recommended for a 20-year-old man.

Source: Science and Education Administration.

Twenty grams of protein supply one-third of the recommended daily allowance for a 20-year-old man. And a 3-ounce serving of cooked lean meat from chicken, turkey, beef, veal, pork, lamb, or fish provides 20 grams or more of protein.

SEA home economists point out that well over a serving of some meats and alternatives is required to provide the 20 grams of protein. For example, an average of 10 slices of bacon, 3½ frankfurters, 3 eggs, or 4 tablespoons of peanut butter are required. Of course, these foods are often served with other sources of protein. Bread and other grain products, such as pasta and rice, are often used with smaller amounts of eggs, poultry, red meats, fish, or cheese as main dishes. The high quality protein in eggs, poultry and red meats, and cheese enhances the lower quality of protein in cereal products.

Based on June 1978 retail prices, only dry beans and peanut butter provide a more economical source of high quality protein than eggs. Chicken and turkey are near the top of the list for the most economical meat buys. The cost of 20 grams of protein from beef liver and hamburger was slightly below that for chicken and turkey.

The part of a market unit required to provide a 3-ounce serving of cooked lean meat or 20 grams of protein are shown for each meat and meat alternate for which costs were compared. Thus, to figure the cost using a different price, multiply the price of the food by the part of market unit shown.

Table 17—Estimated costs and returns for market eggs[1]

Calendar quarters	Production costs all eggs		Wholesale, cartoned Grade A large eggs		Net returns[2 3]
	Feed[2]	Total[2]	Total costs[2 3]	14 metro areas price[2]	
	Cents per dozen				
Annual average[2]					
1972	17.3	28.9	43.3	40.5	-2.8
1973	29.2	41.7	58.1	64.3	6.2
1974	31.0	45.4	63.5	63.0	-0.4
1975	29.0	43.5	61.8	62.9	1.0
1976[4]	28.2	41.2	59.6	69.9	10.2
1977[4]	27.1	40.6	59.6	63.8	4.1
1976[4]					
I	26.5	39.5	57.9	67.7	9.8
II	27.4	40.4	58.8	62.5	3.7
III	31.0	44.0	62.4	71.2	8.8
IV	28.0	41.0	59.4	77.9	18.5
1977[4]					
I	29.3	42.8	61.8	74.4	12.7
II	31.4	44.9	63.9	58.9	-5.0
III	25.1	38.6	57.6	62.7	5.1
IV	23.1	36.6	55.6	59.4	3.8
1978[4 5]					
I	25.2	38.9	58.1	61.9	3.9
II	27.9	41.6	60.8	55.0	-5.7

[1] Estimated by computerized formula. [2] Weighted by monthly egg production less estimated eggs used for hatching. [3] Based on farm cost converted to wholesale market values for Grade A large eggs. [4] 1976-78 cost and net return estimates have been revised due to changes in the method of calculation. [5] Preliminary.

Table 18—Estimated costs and returns for broilers[1]

Calendar quarters	Production costs liveweight		Wholesale ready-to-cook		Net returns[2 3]
	Feed[2]	Total[2]	Total costs[2 3]	9-city weighted average price[2]	
	Cents per pound				
Annual average[2]					
1972	9.0	14.3	28.2	28.2	-0.1
1973	16.4	22.2	39.8	42.4	2.6
1974	15.8	22.0	40.1	38.0	-2.0
1975	15.1	21.3	39.4	45.2	5.8
1976[4]	14.8	21.0	39.2	40.2	1.0
1977[4]	15.3	21.6	40.3	40.9	0.6
1976[4]					
I	13.4	19.6	37.4	42.1	4.7
II	13.8	20.0	37.9	41.7	3.9
III	16.2	22.4	41.2	41.5	0.2
IV	15.5	21.7	40.3	35.5	-4.8
1977[4]					
I	15.6	21.9	40.7	40.9	0.3
II	17.5	23.8	43.3	42.4	-0.9
III	15.9	22.2	41.1	42.3	1.2
IV	12.0	18.3	35.8	37.6	1.8
1978[4 5]					
I	13.7	20.0	38.4	41.8	3.4
II	14.5	20.8	39.5	47.7	8.2

[1] Estimated by computerized formula. [2] Weighted by monthly broiler slaughter. [3] Based on farm cost converted to wholesale market values for ready-to-cook broilers. [4] 1976-78 cost and net return estimates have been revised due to changes in the method of calculation. [5] Preliminary.

Table 19—Estimated costs and returns for turkeys[1]

Calendar quarters	Production costs liveweight		Wholesale ready-to-cook		Net returns[2 3 5]
	Feed[2]	Total[2]	Total costs[2 3]	3-city composite price[2 4]	
	Cents per pound				
Annual average[2]					
1972	13.5	20.5	34.1	35.8	1.7
1973	25.6	33.1	50.6	64.2	13.6
1974	22.5	30.7	48.8	45.6	-3.2
1975	22.1	30.7	49.4	55.1	5.8
1976[5]	22.3	31.3	50.7	51.0	0.3
1977[5]	22.5	31.5	51.2	56.2	5.1
1976[5]					
I	20.1	29.1	48.0	50.9	2.9
II	20.3	29.3	48.2	52.9	4.7
III	22.4	31.4	50.9	50.8	-0.0
IV	23.9	32.9	52.8	50.2	-2.5
1977[5]					
I	22.0	31.0	50.6	52.9	2.3
II	24.3	33.3	53.4	54.4	1.0
III	25.5	34.5	54.9	54.9	0.0
IV	18.5	27.5	46.2	59.8	13.6
1978[5 6]					
I	19.1	28.1	47.2	61.5	14.3
II	20.7	29.7	49.2	64.5	15.2

[1] Estimated by computerized formula. [2] Weighted by monthly turkey slaughter. [3] Based on farm cost converted to wholesale market values. [4] Weighted average of 8-16 young hens and 24-26 pound young toms in New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles. [5] 1976-78 cost and net return estimates have been revised due to changes in the method of calculation. [6] Preliminary.

Table 20— Prices and price spreads for eggs and frying chickens, for selected cities and 10-city average

Item	Grade A large eggs			U.S. grade A fryers		
	April 1978	May 1978	June 1978	April 1978	May 1978	June 1978
	Cents per dozen			*Cents per pound*		
10-city Average prices						
Farm price	46.2	40.3	35.2	36.3	34.4	39.8
Price to retailer	64.0	58.3	53.9	48.5	48.5	53.8
Retail price	79.1	76.5	71.1	66.5	66.6	71.5
Price spreads						
Farm to consumer	32.9	36.2	35.9	30.2	32.2	31.7
Farm to retailer	17.8	18.0	18.7	12.2	14.1	14.0
Retail	15.1	18.2	17.2	18.0	18.1	17.7
New York Prices						
Farm price	46.7	38.3	35.0	34.8	32.3	40.0
Price to retailer	60.0	52.0	48.0	47.0	45.0	52.0
Retail price	85.2	83.0	79.3	71.0	70.5	80.1
Price Spreads						
Farm to consumer	38.5	44.7	44.3	36.2	38.2	40.1
Farm to retailer	13.3	13.7	13.0	12.2	12.7	12.0
retail	25.2	31.0	31.3	24.0	25.5	28.1
Boston prices						
Farm price	46.0	42.9	37.2	34.8	32.1	40.3
Price to retailer	59.0	57.0	51.0	45.5	48.5	54.5
retail price	86.8	86.8	80.2	72.7	74.7	78.8
Price spreads						
Farm to consumer	40.8	43.9	43.0	37.9	42.6	38.5
Farm to retailer	13.0	14.1	13.8	10.7	16.4	14.2
Retail	27.8	29.8	29.2	27.2	26.2	24.3
Chicago prices						
Farm price	45.7	37.5	33.9	35.0	32.6	38.0
Price to retailer	64.0	55.0	48.5	47.0	46.8	52.0
Retail price	81.9	77.6	69.9	63.9	55.1	61.8
Price spreads						
Farm to consumer	36.2	40.1	36.0	28.9	22.5	23.8
Farm to retailer	18.3	17.5	14.6	12.0	14.2	14.0
Retail	17.9	22.6	21.4	16.9	8.3	9.8
St. Louis prices						
Farm price	43.5	43.1	34.2	36.8	34.7	39.4
Price to retailer	66.0	57.0	50.0	45.5	45.3	51.5
Retail price	75.6	72.4	66.0	63.6	61.4	64.2
Price spreads						
Farm to consumer	32.1	29.3	31.8	26.8	26.7	24.8
Farm to retailer	22.5	13.9	15.8	8.7	10.6	12.1
Retail	9.6	15.4	16.0	18.1	16.1	12.7
San Francisco prices						
Farm price	43.0	45.0	38.0	39.1	37.9	41.5
Price to retailer	60.3	62.3	58.3	61.0	56.5	60.5
Retail price	73.2	72.2	69.2	72.1	75.9	74.4
Price spreads						
Farm to consumer	30.2	27.2	31.2	33.0	38.0	32.9
Farm to retailer	17.3	17.3	20.3	21.9	18.6	19.0
Retail	12.9	9.9	10.9	11.1	19.4	13.9
Atlanta prices						
Farm price	45.7	34.0	31.5	34.4	32.0	37.7
Price to retailer	65.3	57.0	49.5	45.8	43.3	49.0
Retail price	71.0	72.6	66.4	59.1	64.1	69.5
Price spreads						
Farm to consumer	25.3	38.6	34.9	24.7	32.1	31.8
Farm to retailer	19.6	23.0	18.0	11.4	11.3	11.3
Retail	5.7	15.6	16.9	13.3	20.8	20.5

CHANGES IN CONCENTRATION AND PROCESSING PLANT SIZES IN THE POULTRY AND EGG INDUSTRIES

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ABSTRACT: Since 1972 the poultry and egg processing industries have continued their trends toward greater concentrations in market shares. Market shares for the 20 largest firms increased from 43 to 55 percent for broilers between 1972 and 1977; from 72 to 86 percent for turkeys between 1972 and 1977; and from 56 to 58 percent for eggs broken from 1972 to 1975. The major increases in concentration were the result of both plant acquisitions and increases in processing plant volumes. Ownership of these firms varied somewhat since 1972. Numbers of processing plants declined for all three commodities, while numbers of the largest plants increased for young chickens and turkeys.

KEYWORDS: Poultry, eggs, processing, concentration, firms, plants.

Concentration

The market shares held by the 4, 8 and 20 largest firms are shown in table 1 for young chickens, turkeys, and eggs broken. Another measure of concentration, the numbers of firms accounting for specific proportions of total output, is presented in table 2.

Information in these tables is based on federally inspected slaughter plants and egg breaking plants. Federally inspected plants accounted for over 98 percent of the young chickens and over 93 percent of the turkeys slaughtered in 1977. All eggs broken for shipment in interstate, intrastate, and foreign commerce were federally inspected.

Concentration in young chicken processing has increased considerably since 1972. The 20 largest firms increased their market share from 43 to 55 percent. The four and eight largest firms increased their shares only slightly. The number of plants owned by the eight largest firms increased by nine and the number owned by the next twelve increased by six (table 1). The increase in concentration shown by the top 20 firms was thus the result of both plant acquisitions and a substantial increase in the average volume of many processing plants. For the top eight firms, acquisitions played the more important role in maintaining their shares. Acquisitions in late 1977, and growth in average plant volume, should increase these shares somewhat in the near future.

The total number of federally inspected firms slaughtering young chickens declined over 25 per-

Table 1—Share of Federally inspected young chickens and turkeys slaughtered and eggs broken by the 4, 8, and 20 largest firms, and numbers of plants operated by these firms, selected years

Commodity and year	Share of Federal inspection		
	4 largest firms	8 largest firms	20 largest firms
	Percent		
Young chickens[1]			
1972	17	29	43
1976	19	31	55
1977	20	33	55
Turkeys[1]			
1972	32	46	72
1976	35	54	81
1977	37	58	86
Eggs broken			
1972	16	29	56
1975	18	31	58
	Plants operated		
	Number		
Young chickens[1]			
1972	25	47	80
1976	26	47	91
1977	26	56	95
Turkeys[1]			
1972	23	32	49
1976	26	37	50
1977	23	37	51
Eggs broken			
1972	6	14	40
1975	9	17	43

[1] Firms owning plants slaughtering any young chickens or turkeys.

cent from 1972 to 1977. Half of that decline was in small firms accounting for the last 20 percent of total output (table 2).

Concentration in turkey processing also increased substantially from 1972 to 1977 (table 1). The 20 largest firms increased their shares from 72 percent in 1972 to 86 percent in 1977. Most of this increase was accounted for by the eight largest firms, whose shares increased from 46 to 58 percent of the total volume. The increase in shares was accompanied by a net increase of only two plants owned by the top twenty firms. The top four firms gained no plants but increased plant volumes to raise their share. The next four firms relied solely on acquisitions to increase their share, as average plant output actually declined slightly. The next twelve firms lost three plants and increased average volume to gain in share.

Turkey processing firms declined over 30 percent in number from 1972 to 1977. Almost two-thirds of that decline occurred in the number of small firms processing the last five percent of the turkeys (table 2).

Table 2—Number of Federally inspected young chicken, turkey, and egg breaking firms accounting for specified proportions of output, selected years

Percent of output	Young chickens[1]			Turkeys[1]			Eggs broken	
	1972	1976	1977	1972	1976	1977	1972	1975
	Number							
30	10	8	8	4	4	4	9	8
50	27	17	16	9	7	7	17	16
70	57	35	35	19	14	13	32	29
80	78	50	49	26	19	17	44	39
90	104	70	68	38	28	24	63	55
95	123	86	84	48	36	30	79	68
100	227	174	169	163	114	113	131	116

[1]Firms owning plants slaughtering any young chickens or turkeys.

A slight increase in concentration in egg breaking occurred from 1972 to 1975. The top four firms owned three more plants in 1975 than in 1972 (table 1). Most of the decline in plant numbers was in plants accounting for small shares of total volume (table 2).

Table 3—Number of young chicken slaughtering plants under Federal inspection and annual volumes slaughtered, by size of plant and region, 1972, 1976, and 1977[1]

Year and region	Plants in size group by annual volume (lbs.)				Annual volume by size group (lbs.)[2]			
	Under 16,000,000	16,000,000-51,999,999	52,000,000-and over	Total plants	Under 16,000,000	16,000,000-51,999,999	52,000,000 and over	Total volume
	Number				*Million pounds liveweight*			
1972								
NA	10	6	7	23	34	170	449	652
ENC	8	4	0	12	23	100	0	123
WNC	9	5	(3)	14	29	171	(3)	200
SA	4	34	[3]41	79	37	1,269	[3]3,238	4,543
SC	13	49	[4]41	103	102	1,886	[4]3,186	5,175
W	12	5	(4)	17	63	116	(4)	179
Total	56	103	89	248	288	3,712	6,873	10,872
1976								
NA	7	7	7	21	25	197	498	720
ENC	3	3	0	6	19	118	0	137
WNC	6	4	(3)	10	22	139	(3)	161
SA	(5)	24	[3]47	71	(5)	948	[3]4,202	5,151
SC	[5]5	41	[4]49	95	[5]52	1,582	[4]4,282	5,916
W	21	9	(4)	30	61	214	(4)	274
Total	42	88	103	233	180	3,199	8,982	12,360
1977								
NA	15	5	7	27	52	163	524	738
ENC	4	3	0	7	5	119	0	124
WNC	7	3	[6]3	13	38	113	[6]493	643
SA	3	24	45	72	23	909	4,284	5,217
SC	7	39	48	94	87	1,480	3,998	5,565
W	20	9	(6)	29	56	228	(6)	284
Total	56	83	103	242	262	3,012	9,298	12,571

[1]Plants slaughtering predominantly young chickens. [2]Totals may not add due to rounging. [3]South Atlantic and West North Central regions combined to avoid disclosure at individual plants. [4]Western and South Central regions combined to avoid disclosure of individual plants. [5]South Atlantic and South Central regions combined to avoid disclosure of individual plants. [6]Western and West North Central regions combined to avoid disclosure of individual plants.

Total Federally inspected slaughter was, in millions of pounds: 1972: 10,975; 1976: 12,438; 1977: 12,754.

Data published in a trade journal[1] on the largest egg production companies suggest the 4, 8, and 20 largest firms currently own 9, 14, and 22 percent, respectively, of the table egg layers in the United States. These were estimated for a market egg layer base of 244 million birds. Estimates for 1974-75[2] showed the 4, 8, and 20 largest firms with 8, 12, and 18 percent, respectively, of the layers. Despite the difference in data sources, this suggests there has been some increase in concentration in recent years.

[1]Poultry Tribune, Top 34 Egg Production Companies Have 25 Percent of Nation's Layers, Mount Morris, Ill., Watt Publishing Co., Feb. 1978.

[2]G.B. Rogers, The Market Egg Industry-Future Structure and Forward Planning, Paper, Missouri Egg Day, Columbia, Mo., March 16, 1977, p. 6a.

Numbers and Sizes of Processing Plants

Substantial economies of scale exist in poultry and egg processing. But comparison of numbers of plants and volumes processed under Federal inspection provide inconclusive evidence of the extent to which such economies of scale in processing dominate firm decisions. The coverage of plants under Federal inspection has been affected by legislative and regulatory actions. Many poultry plants process more than one market class and, thus, for young chickens in particular, numbers of plants processing small volumes can vary widely from year to year. Volumes per plant are also affected by year to year changes in industry output, and marketing influences often override processing cost considerations.

While there have been some year-to-year fluctuations in the numbers of federally inspected plants

Table 4—Number of turkey slaughtering plants under Federal inspection and annual volumes slaughtered, by size of plant and region, 1972, 1976, and 1977[1]

	Plants in size group by annual volume (lbs.)				Annual volume by size group (lbs.)[2]			
	Under 16,000,000	16,000,000-51,999,999	52,000,000 and over	Total plants	Under 16,000,000	16,000,000-51,999,999	52,000,000 and over	Total volume
	Number				*Million pounds liveweight*			
1972:								
NA	16	0	0	16	40	0	0	40
ENC	13	5	([3])	18	36	143	([3])	179
WNC	12	22	0	34	104	670	0	774
SA	([4])	6	([3])	6	([4])	170	([3])	170
SC	[4]8	5	[3]5	18	[4]33	140	[3]348	520
W	14	12	0	26	111	388	0	499
Total	63	50	5	118	324	1,510	348	2,182
1976:								
NA	23	([5])	0	23	41	([5])	0	41
ENC	6	[5]7	([6])	13	3	[5]179	([6])	182
WNC	6	22	([6])	28	32	715	([6])	746
SA	([4])	4	3	7	([4])	148	215	364
SC	[4]3	5	[6]4	12	[4]13	173	[6]245	430
W	15	8	3	26	71	251	179	502
Total	53	46	10	109	159	1,466	639	2,264
1977:								
NA	21	([5])	0	21	24	([5])	0	24
ENC	[3]8	[5]8	([7])	25	[3]4	[5]189	([7])	193
WNC	7	17	3	27	69	535	178	783
SA	([3])	5	3	8	([3])	165	213	379
SC	([3])	5	[7]3	8	([3])	156	[7]189	345
W	12	7	3	22	51	228	200	478
Total	48	42	12	102	148	1,274	781	2,203

[1]Plants slaughtering predominantly turkeys. [2]Totals may not add due to rounding. [3]East North Central, South Atlantic, and South Central regions combined to avoid disclosure of individual plants. [4]South Atlantic and South Central regions combined to avoid disclosure of individual plants. [5]North Atlantic and East North Central regions combined to avoid disclosure of individual plants. [6]East North Central, West North Central, and South Central regions combined to avoid disclosure of individual plants. [7]East North Central and South Central regions combined to avoid disclosure of individual plants.

Total Federally inspected slaughter was, in millions of pounds: 1972: 2,280; 1976: 2,463; 1977: 2,394.

slaughtering young chickens, total numbers of plants have tended to stabilize. With volume of output trending upward, average volume per plant has risen since 1972 (table 3). Large plants have accounted for an increasing share of total slaughter, and volume per plant has risen. Volume per plant in small and medium-sized plants has not changed much, and numbers of medium-sized plants have declined. Average volume per plant is highest in the South where the bulk of the Nation's broilers are produced.

The number of plants slaughtering turkeys under Federal inspection declined from 1972 to 1977 (table 4). Average volume per plant increased somewhat. Small and medium plants declined in numbers and total volume. The number of large plants increased and their total volume more than doubled. Average volume per plant is highest in commercial turkey areas of the Midwest, South, and West.

Egg breaking plants under Federal inspection declined in numbers in all size categories from 1972 to 1975 (table 5). The proportions of total volume handled by each size group remained about the same. Average volume per plant is highest in the Midwest, followed by the South.

Table 5—Number of egg breaking plants under Federal inspection and annual volumes of eggs broken, by plant size and region, 1972 and 1975

Year and region	Plants in size group by annual volume (cases)					Annual volume by size group (cases)[1]				
	Under 30,000	30,000-149,999	150,000-449,999	450,000 and over	Total plants	Under 30,000	30,000-149,999	150,000-449,999	450,000 and over	Total plants
	Number					*1,000 cases*				
1972:										
NA	9	12	4	([2])	25	98	1,001	892	([2])	1,992
ENC	4	22	6	[2]3	35	41	1,575	1,518	[2]1,863	4,996
WNC	4	3	13	4	24	33	261	3,194	2,627	6,114
SA	4	7	6	([2])	17	39	508	1,133	([2])	1,680
SC	([3])	3	5	[3]4	12	([3])	295	1,335	[3]2,104	3,733
W	[3]24	11	5	([3])	40	[3]249	948	1,273	([3])	2,471
Total	45	58	39	11	153	461	4,587	9,346	6,594	20,987
1975:										
NA	8	11	3	([2])	22	88	922	733	([2])	1,743
ENC	0	9	6	[2]3	18	45	629	1,742	[2]1,694	4,110
WNC	4	12	11	4	31	0	950	2,552	2,070	5,571
SA	4	6	3	([2])	13	39	578	765	([2])	1,383
SC	4	3	5	[3]3	15	46	218	1,451	[3]1,553	3,269
W	23	13	4	([3])	40	233	1,072	1,051	([3])	2,356
Total	43	54	32	10	139	452	4,367	8,295	5,317	18,431

[1] Totals may not add due to rounding. Cases are 30 dozen eggs. [2] North Atlantic, East North Central, and South Atlantic regions combined to avoid disclosure of individual plants. [3] South Central and Western regions combined to avoid disclosure of individual plants.

Table 21—Selected poultry and egg statistics*

Item	Data in	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Tables 1.—Eggs: Production and disposition														
Number of layers:														
First of month														
1976	Mil.	279.9	279.6	278.0	274.9	270.3	269.1	268.0	268.1	271.9	273.8	276.3	279.7	
1977	Mil.	279.8	276.8	274.5	273.3	269.6	267.9	265.4	267.5	273.8	280.0	283.9	286.6	
1978	Mil.	287.8	282.9	279.8	276.8	276.1	274.1	269.8	270.4					
Average for month														
1976	Mil.	279.8	278.8	276.4	272.6	269.7	268.6	268.1	270.0	272.8	275.0	278.0	279.7	274.1
1977	Mil.	278.3	275.6	273.9	271.5	268.8	266.6	266.4	270.6	276.9	282.0	285.3	287.2	275.3
1978	Mil.	285.4	281.3	278.3	276.4	275.1	272.0	270.1						
Eggs per 100 layers:														
First of month														
1976	No.	63.3	63.7	64.2	65.1	65.2	65.1	65.5	64.4	64.1	63.7	63.4	63.6	
1977	No.	63.5	62.7	64.6	65.7	65.7	65.4	64.6	63.6	64.0	63.9	64.4	65.1	
1978	No.	65.3	64.3	64.7	66.5	66.4	66.5	65.4	64.5					
Average for month														
1976	No.	1,970	1,855	2,005	1,954	2,020	1,962	2,016	1,994	1,917	1,971	1,906	1,970	23,540
1977	No.	1,956	1,782	2,021	1,971	2,034	1,951	1,987	1,978	1,919	1,989	1,945	2,023	23,556
1978	No.	2,009	1,807	2,035	1,993	2,061	1,979	2,014						
Monthly egg production														
1976	Mil. doz.	459.2	430.9	461.9	443.9	454.1	439.1	450.3	448.6	435.8	451.8	441.4	459.3	5,376
1977	Mil. doz.	453.7	409.3	461.3	445.9	455.7	433.4	441.1	446.2	442.7	467.4	462.3	484.1	5,403
1978	Mil. doz.	477.8	423.6	471.8	459.1	472.4	448.5	453.3						
Eggs used for hatching														
1976	Mil. doz.	31.3	36.5	36.8	37.5	35.7	34.8	34.0	31.5	31.0	30.9	32.5	34.0	407
1977	Mil. doz.	32.2	38.5	39.1	40.1	37.5	35.8	34.2	32.7	33.8	32.6	34.9	36.0	427
1978	Mil. doz.	33.1	38.5	39.6	42.1	39.9	38.1							
Eggs broken commercially														
1976	Mil. doz.	37.8	37.6	51.6	50.7	47.1	56.0	52.6	52.6	53.4	52.6	52.2	47.7	592
1977	Mil. doz.	43.9	45.6	56.3	57.0	65.0	70.1	61.3	64.2	58.8	54.8	56.0	53.2	686
1978	Mil. doz.	53.9	47.1	53.8	53.1	65.6	71.4							
Cold Storage stocks:														
Frozen egg products														
1976	Mil. lbs.	36.3	31.7	28.7	29.4	29.7	28.9	30.1	31.6	31.0	28.7	28.9	25.5	
1977	Mil. lbs.	26.1	26.9	24.9	24.6	25.3	28.0	31.4	35.1	35.4	33.7	33.4	31.2	
1978	Mil. lbs.	29.7	28.1	25.7	22.9	23.2	22.5	26.6	28.0					
Shell eggs														
1976	Mil. doz.	.7	.4	.6	.8	.8	.7	.7	1.0	1.4	1.5	1.0	.8	
1977	Mil. doz.	.8	.8	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.5	
1978	Mil. doz.	1.2	1.5	1.2	1.1	1.1	.9	.9	.9					
Shell equivalent all eggs[1]														
1976	Mil. doz.	28.2	24.5	22.4	23.1	23.3	22.6	23.6	25.1	24.9	23.3	22.9	20.1	
1977	Mil. doz.	20.7	21.2	20.2	19.9	20.5	22.3	25.0	27.8	28.3	27.1	26.9	25.2	
1978	Mil. doz.	23.7	22.8	20.7	18.5	18.7	18.0	21.1	22.1					
Exports:														
Shell eggs														
1976	Mil. doz.	1.7	2.5	2.4	2.6	2.2	2.2	2.5	2.2	2.7	2.5	3.6	2.7	30
1977	Mil. doz.	2.5	2.1	3.6	2.9	3.6	4.2	4.4	4.3	5.1	5.2	5.3	4.9	48
1978	Mil. doz.	7.1	2.6	4.6	3.5	5.2	3.1							
Shell equivalent all eggs[1]														
1976	Mil. doz.	2.1	2.9	2.7	3.0	2.9	2.8	3.5	2.8	4.0	3.0	4.1	3.7	37
1977	Mil. doz.	3.1	2.5	4.4	3.9	5.7	6.1	6.4	6.4	7.6	6.5	6.7	7.5	67
1978	Mil. doz.	11.8	8.1	11.8	8.5	9.7	7.1							
Per capita consumption:														
Shell eggs														
1976	No.	21.7	19.6	20.5	19.6	20.5	19.2	20.1	20.1	19.3	20.3	19.5	20.8	241
1977	No.	20.9	17.9	20.1	19.1	19.3	18.0	19.1	19.0	19.0	20.8	20.3	21.4	235
1978	No.	21.1	18.5	20.6	19.8	20.1	18.4							
All eggs[1]														
1976	No.	24.0	21.9	23.3	22.4	23.2	22.2	22.9	23.0	22.3	23.2	22.5	23.4	274
1977	No.	23.2	20.5	23.2	22.1	22.7	21.7	22.2	22.5	22.2	23.7	23.4	24.3	272
1978	No.	23.9	20.9	23.3	22.5	23.5	22.0							
Table 2.—Eggs: Prices for shell eggs and egg products,														
Shell eggs (price per dozen):														
Received by farmers, U.S.[2] [3]														
1976	Cents	61.2	58.5	53.5	52.7	54.7	53.3	55.1	60.0	61.4	60.3	65.5	69.8	59.7
1977	Cents	66.1	65.5	58.9	55.4	49.2	47.3	50.9	51.6	52.3	47.8	51.2	53.6	54.2
1978	Cents	49.4	55.1	55.4	52.2	49.3	43.6	48.3						
Midwest cities, large eggs, paid by first receivers[4]														
1976	Cents	72.8	66.2	60.8	59.9	62.3	61.1	65.8	71.4	72.1	70.2	76.0	81.6	68.4
1977	Cents	78.5	75.4	67.0	62.6	55.1	54.6	61.6	60.9	61.7	55.6	57.8	62.7	62.8
1978	Cents	57.2	65.0	64.1	58.1	53.4	50.6							

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 21—Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Table 2.—Eggs: Prices for shell eggs and egg products—Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Price to volume buyers, cartoned Grade A large[5]														
14-metro areas														
1976	Cents	73.30	67.42	62.40	62.05	63.27	62.30	67.38	72.22	63.52	71.44	76.66	82.52	69.54
1977	Cents	78.98	76.61	67.99	63.28	56.09	57.52	63.07	62.67	62.49	56.33	58.44	63.34	63.90
1978	Cents	57.86	64.05	64.31	59.04	54.62	51.34	61.48						
New York														
1976	Cents	73.90	67.21	63.04	62.14	63.54	63.61	68.20	73.30	73.96	72.41	78.82	83.87	70.33
1977	Cents	81.04	76.25	67.39	61.38	55.05	57.00	62.35	61.35	60.81	56.05	56.57	64.05	63.27
1978	Cents	57.15	64.94	64.00	57.90	52.86	50.62	62.75						
Chicago														
1976	Cents	70.90	64.16	59.54	58.55	60.70	60.86	65.45	70.55	72.81	70.55	76.69	82.26	67.75
1977	Cents	78.74	75.55	67.50	62.45	55.69	57.00	62.75	59.33	59.29	53.68	55.05	61.52	62.38
1978	Cents	55.19	62.84	62.04	56.95	52.00	49.29	61.15						
Los Angeles, Grade AA														
1976	Cents	75.33	69.00	66.96	66.36	65.75	66.04	69.86	75.00	74.57	68.97	73.67	78.42	70.83
1977	Cents	78.29	76.47	70.13	67.29	61.05	64.00	66.50	69.00	68.30	60.68	65.10	65.62	67.70
1978	Cents	60.14	62.74	66.43	61.00	60.41	53.40							
Eggs in retail stores (Index)[6]														
1976	1967=100	182.8	184.9	160.4	159.4	154.5	152.6	164.1	175.7	182.3	179.4	178.7	193.8	172.4
1977	1967=100	197.9	207.9	179.5	166.0	152.8	141.0	163.6	166.2	166.6	154.5	157.9	148.6	166.9
1978	1967=100	168.9	161.7	165.3	160.3	152.1	143.4							
Egg products (price per lb.):														
Frozen, New York—Philadelphia[7]														
Whole, light colored														
1976	Cents	41.31	42.75	42.56	40.52	41.84	42.64	43.83	47.86	52.50	52.06	54.02	54.50	46.20
1977	Cents	50.48	48.28	45.46	41.61	41.11	39.53	38.56	37.19	37.08	36.14	37.50	35.03	40.66
1978	Cents	33.12	34.29	35.89	37.50	37.91	36.50	37.79						
Whites														
1976	Cents	22.31	22.59	22.58	21.92	23.88	25.56	26.97	28.75	31.75	32.37	34.28	34.00	27.25
1977	Cents	32.31	32.16	31.03	30.19	30.69	29.75	28.76	27.17	26.47	25.39	25.97	25.06	28.75
1978	Cents	24.50	25.57	27.00	28.34	29.47	27.41	28.29						
Yolks, sugared														
1976	Cents	67.42	67.78	67.50	65.46	66.07	67.40	69.28	76.22	83.34	83.43	84.16	82.02	73.34
1977	Cents	79.20	76.62	71.78	65.50	64.11	63.00	63.19	62.50	63.03	61.75	62.53	59.31	66.04
1978	Cents	55.16	54.96	54.83	55.59	55.75	54.03	54.86						
Dried, New York														
Whole														
1976	Dollars	1.58	1.58	1.57	1.54	1.61	1.66	([8])	2.04	2.31	2.29	2.27	2.18	([8])
1977	Dollars	2.04	2.00	([8])	1.64	1.65	1.63	1.62	1.55	1.52	1.46	1.51	1.43	([8])
1978	Dollars	1.37	1.38	1.44	1.50	1.53	1.47	1.51						
Yolks														
1976	Dollars	1.68	1.66	1.66	1.58	1.66	1.71	([8])	2.10	2.34	2.31	2.30	2.19	([8])
1977	Dollars	2.05	1.98	1.80	1.58	1.60	1.61	1.58	1.54	1.52	1.46	1.50	1.42	1.64
1978	Dollars	1.33	1.37	1.44	1.45	1.45	1.40	1.43						
Albumen, spray dried														
1976	Dollars	1.72	1.68	1.65	1.59	1.67	1.75	1.84	2.14	2.54	2.70	2.86	2.79	2.08
1977	Dollars	2.66	2.61	2.55	2.48	2.47	2.43	2.38	2.27	2.21	2.08	2.01	1.96	2.34
1978	Dollars	1.88	1.91	2.08	2.33	2.37	2.31	2.34						

Table 3.—Poultry: Slaughter in federally inspected plants

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Young chicken:														
Number inspected														
1976	Mil.	256.3	230.0	278.5	270.6	270.4	301.9	283.2	294.6	286.9	274.1	250.4	255.9	3,253
1977	Mil.	255.8	241.5	284.9	268.6	292.0	308.6	277.3	318.6	288.6	273.4	258.6	266.2	3,334
1978	Mil.	276.5	257.5	297.3	271.6	319.9	317.6							
Liveweight pounds														
1976	Mil. lbs.	985	874	1,064	1,023	1,027	1,138	1,059	1,112	1,106	1,061	967	993	12,408
1977	Mil. lbs.	989	913	1,083	1,028	1,115	1,162	1,029	1,199	1,111	1,068	997	1,045	12,741
1978	Mil. lbs.	1,084	993	1,149	1,066	1,245	1,209							
Certified ready-to-cook														
1976	Mil. lbs.	712.3	632.3	771.9	742.5	745.4	825.9	766.0	805.2	800.3	769.5	699.2	716.8	8,987
1977	Mil. lbs.	713.8	659.2	783.2	744.9	809.9	843.7	745.5	870.4	808.2	775.5	719.8	753.2	9,227
1978	Mil. lbs.	781.4	715.7	830.0	769.1	902.6	874.9							
Cut-up, ready-to-cook weight														
1976	Mil. lbs.	228.0	209.2	253.9	247.4	259.0	266.5	281.8	280.1	289.3	278.2	254.5	265.6	3,114
1977	Mil. lbs.	246.8	247.0	304.9	282.9	304.6	315.6	270.1	355.0	307.9	296.6	288.4	301.6	3,522
1978	Mil. lbs.	309.4	273.6	326.3	294.0	326.6	320.2							
Further processed, RTC weight														
1976	Mil. lbs.	51.8	47.5	55.6	53.6	52.2	61.0	54.4	56.3	54.0	54.3	50.0	52.8	643
1977	Mil. lbs.	50.5	52.9	66.5	58.3	53.1	67.8	59.8	65.8	60.3	60.4	61.0	59.9	716
1978	mil. lbs.	92.4	58.6	66.5	62.2	72.9	78.3							

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 21—Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Table 3.—Poultry: Slaughtered in federally inspected plants—Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Mature chicken:														
Number inspected														
1976	Mil.	17.1	15.9	16.9	18.9	12.5	14.3	14.0	13.8	14.7	14.4	12.6	15.0	180
1977	Mil.	16.6	16.7	19.5	18.8	16.6	18.0	11.6	14.0	15.5	15.0	14.0	16.5	193
1978	Mil.	18.1	17.6	20.1	14.9	15.7	18.2							
Liveweight pounds														
1976	Mil. lbs.	71.6	67.6	74.0	78.9	54.8	65.3	61.6	61.0	67.8	63.2	55.5	65.0	786
1977	Mil. lbs.	70.1	69.0	83.5	79.6	71.9	78.1	49.1	60.4	68.6	65.5	61.1	70.6	828
1978	Mil. lbs.	74.6	73.0	83.5	64.3	68.3	77.8							
Certified ready-to-cook														
1976	Mil. lbs.	44.1	42.2	46.4	48.9	34.4	41.1	38.6	38.0	42.6	39.6	34.9	40.4	491
1977	Mil. lbs.	43.6	42.6	51.5	48.6	44.3	48.3	30.4	37.5	42.6	40.7	38.0	44.0	512
1978	Mil. lbs.	46.0	45.2	51.5	39.7	42.3	47.6							
Cut-up, ready-to-cook weight														
1976	Mil lbs.	.7	.7	.8	.9	.8	.6	.6	.7	.7	.4	.5	.6	8
1977	Mil. lbs.	.7	.8	1.0	1.3	.8	.8	.7	.9	1.1	.8	.7	.9	10
1978	Mil. lbs.	.9	.4	.7	2.2	.9	.9							
Further processed, RTS weight														
1976	Mil. lbs.	43.2	39.6	44.7	40.0	36.8	32.3	26.9	35.5	32.3	33.8	34.0	36.8	436
1977	Mil. lbs.	37.8	38.5	43.1	39.5	35.9	33.1	22.4	35.7	32.4	34.8	31.4	33.4	418
1978	Mil. lbs.	38.5	38.5	39.9	36.5	40.8	39.1							
Turkeys:														
Fryers—Roasters														
Number inspected														
1976	Mil.	.9	.9	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.2	.7	13
1977	Mil.	.4	.8	1.1	.7	.8	1.0	.9	.9	.8	.7	.8	.5	9
1978	Mil.	.5	.5	.6	.4	.6	.7							
Liveweight pounds														
1976	Mil. lbs.	8.4	8.1	10.2	8.7	9.4	11.5	12.0	10.5	10.4	10.0	10.5	6.3	116
1977	Mil. lbs.	4.0	7.2	9.8	6.4	7.3	9.6	8.2	8.0	7.4	7.0	7.9	4.3	87
1978	Mil. lbs.	4.7	4.9	5.0	3.6	5.9	6.8							
Certified ready-to-cook														
1976	Mil. lbs.	6.5	6.4	8.1	6.9	7.5	9.2	9.5	8.3	8.2	7.9	8.2	5.0	92
1977	Mil. lbs.	3.2	5.8	7.8	5.1	5.8	7.6	6.5	6.3	5.8	5.5	6.2	3.4	69
1978	Mil. lbs.	3.7	3.9	4.0	2.9	4.7	5.3							
Young turkey														
Number inspected														
1976	Mil.	4.0	3.5	4.1	5.2	6.8	11.6	13.7	15.7	16.0	15.7	15.7	8.7	121
1977	Mil.	4.0	3.4	5.0	5.1	7.2	11.2	12.2	15.7	15.3	15.2	14.8	8.8	118
1978	Mil.	4.5	3.6	5.5	5.4	8.5	12.1							
Liveweight pounds														
1976	Mil. lbs.	88.2	69.3	74.5	91.4	124.0	214.1	252.3	293.2	306.6	312.9	318.4	179.8	2,325
1977	Mil. lbs.	84.8	66.2	90.7	92.9	130.6	208.8	227.1	297.9	291.6	308.9	303.0	183.3	2,286
1978	Mil. lbs.	98.8	70.3	103.3	97.4	155.4	228.1							
Certified ready-to-cook														
1976	Mil. lbs.	68.9	54.5	58.8	72.1	98.3	170.0	200.3	233.1	243.3	248.4	252.8	141.2	1,842
1977	Mil. lbs.	66.1	51.9	71.0	73.1	103.3	165.4	180.2	236.7	231.2	244.5	240.3	144.7	1,808
1978	Mil. lbs.	77.6	55.3	81.5	77.4	122.7	181.0							
Total turkey Number inspected														
1976	Mil.	4.9	4.4	5.4	6.2	7.8	13.0	15.3	17.0	17.2	16.8	16.9	9.4	134
1977	Mil.	4.5	4.3	6.1	5.8	8.0	12.5	13.3	16.7	16.2	15.9	15.7	9.3	128
1978	Mil.	5.0	4.2	6.1	5.8	9.3	13.0							
Liveweight pounds														
1976	Mil. lbs.	97.6	78.4	87.1	101.3	134.3	229.6	269.6	306.8	318.7	323.3	329.3	186.5	2,463
1977	Mil. lbs.	90.5	74.8	102.4	100.2	139.1	228.8	239.1	307.6	300.6	316.2	311.3	187.9	2,392
1978	Mil. lbs.	104.1	75.7	109.4	101.7	163.7	238.9							
Certified ready-to-cook														
1976	Mil. lbs.	76.3	61.7	68.6	79.9	106.5	182.2	213.9	243.8	252.8	256.6	261.5	146.4	1,950
1977	Mil. lbs.	70.5	58.7	80.3	78.9	110.0	176.5	189.6	244.4	238.2	250.3	246.8	148.2	1,892
1978	Mil. lbs.	81.8	59.7	86.3	80.8	129.3	189.5							
Cut-up, ready-to-cook weight														
1976	Mil. lbs.	30.2	25.3	26.2	24.2	26.6	35.9	31.9	42.7	40.3	39.6	35.0	29.2	387
1977	Mil. lbs.	29.0	27.6	32.5	27.7	28.6	39.0	37.2	46.7	41.9	40.0	41.0	35.1	426
1978	Mil. lbs.	32.8	30.4	35.8	32.4	40.8	37.3							
Further processed, RTC weight														
Whole bird[10]														
1976	Mil. lbs.	10.4	8.4	13.5	12.9	25.1	46.2	58.3	63.0	67.6	64.8	56.4	19.7	446
1977	Mil. lbs.	6.9	7.9	12.4	16.5	24.0	38.2	51.6	66.8	75.5	75.2	56.6	27.6	459
1978	Mil. lbs.	11.1	9.4	10.4	9.9	24.3	43.3							
Other														
1976	Mil. lbs.	37.5	36.0	41.0	36.2	43.9	51.7	55.3	62.0	64.5	69.2	62.6	47.9	608
1977	Mil. lbs.	43.3	42.9	56.8	44.1	50.8	62.4	59.2	67.3	65.8	67.9	61.4	43.5	665
1978	Mil. lbs.	45.2	44.2	53.4	42.5	53.2	62.1							

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 00—Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Item	Data in–	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Table 4.—Total poultry slaughter and commercial red meat production														
Total poultry slaughter, ready-to-cook weight[1]														
1976	Mil. lbs.	857	758	912	897	910	1,077	1,045	1,115	1,125	1,094	1,021	928	11,739
1977	Mil. lbs.	849	780	938	895	988	1,095	988	1,179	1,115	1,092	1,028	969	11,916
1978	Mil. lbs.	932	831	981	901	1,088	1,127							
Commercial red meat production, carcass weight														
1976	Mil. lbs.	3,267	2,907	3,515	3,109	2,928	3,150	3,048	3,350	3,467	3,497	3,453	3,367	39,059
1977	Mil. lbs.	3,237	3,084	3,551	3,195	3,122	3,298	2,925	3,404	3,354	3,345	3,416	3,241	39,172
1978	Mil. lbs.	3,214	3,044	3,341	2,079	3,268	3,078	2,882						
Table 5.—Poultry: Cold storage holdings and exports														
Cold storage holdings, first of month (ready-to-cook weight)														
Broilers, fryers, roasters														
1976	Mil. lbs.	22.3	20.2	19.7	19.4	19.1	17.4	20.0	25.6	27.4	24.3	24.3	29.1	
1977	Mil. lbs.	32.9	27.4	24.6	26.5	25.2	27.9	31.3	30.3	29.6	30.7	31.2	33.3	
1978	Mil. lbs.	29.4	27.5	21.8	21.7	22.6	19.8	21.4	22.5					
Total chicken														
1976	Mil. lbs.	114.7	106.5	103.5	104.9	114.3	108.0	119.2	135.0	143.9	143.5	144.5	147.4	
1977	Mil. lbs.	154.5	139.3	131.5	134.6	134.4	139.3	146.4	148.7	147.7	148.0	145.9	142.6	
1978	Mil. lbs.	138.6	133.2	124.2	118.9	107.2	108.0	102.9	109.9					
Turkey														
Whole bird														
1976	Mil. lbs.	146.8	138.4	115.1	95.4	74.9	82.5	136.7	214.0	314.0	395.2	446.5	241.4	
1977	Mil. lbs.	147.8	134.6	118.0	94.5	82.5	93.3	146.0	197.7	268.2	340.4	374.1	207.4	
1978	Mil. lbs.	108.9	107.2	86.2	66.7	59.2	65.1	104.2	152.9					
Other														
1976	Mil. lbs.	48.4	48.3	45.5	45.3	39.5	38.3	40.6	47.9	56.3	64.4	65.8	57.5	
1977	Mil. lbs.	55.6	55.7	49.8	47.8	47.8	44.9	55.4	55.9	61.7	68.8	70.4	62.0	
1978	Mil. lbs.	59.1	61.1	50.4	46.2	41.8	38.4	47.9	53.7					
Total turkey														
1976	Mil. lbs.	195.2	186.8	160.7	140.7	114.5	120.8	177.3	261.9	370.3	459.7	512.3	298.8	
1977	Mil. lbs.	203.4	190.3	167.8	142.3	130.3	138.2	201.4	253.6	329.9	409.3	444.5	269.4	
1978	Mil. lbs.	167.9	168.3	136.6	112.9	101.1	103.6	152.1	206.6					
Total poultry														
1976	Mil. lbs.	313.6	296.1	267.0	248.4	231.9	231.5	300.5	402.9	521.5	611.0	664.5	453.2	
1977	Mil. lbs.	362.8	334.6	302.8	279.4	267.3	281.1	353.2	409.2	481.1	566.4	602.3	419.9	
1978	Mil. lbs.	309.1	304.4	262.8	233.3	209.6	213.0	256.8	320.1					
Exports (ready-to-cook weight):														
Young chicken														
1976	Mil. lbs.	16.3	12.9	16.3	17.2	24.0	24.9	20.4	39.4	26.0	26.6	28.9	34.5	287
1977	Mil. lbs.	27.1	25.0	18.9	25.8	25.8	20.5	35.8	27.5	26.8	31.9	22.3	25.9	313
1978	Mil. lbs.	21.9	21.9	35.1	25.7	27.7	20.9							
Other chicken														
1976	Mil. lbs.	1.8	3.6	3.7	3.0	3.1	3.0	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.3	4.2	2.3	35
1977	Mil. lbs.	2.7	2.3	3.3	3.3	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.6	3.1	2.7	3.5	4.1	36
1978	Mil. lbs.	3.0	2.3	2.7	4.4	1.7	1.8							
Turkey														
1976	Mil. lbs.	5.1	6.0	7.7	4.0	3.9	6.3	4.1	4.5	4.9	6.3	6.3	6.2	65
1977	Mil. lbs.	2.9	3.3	2.1	2.4	3.9	5.0	5.2	6.9	6.1	4.4	5.5	6.0	54
1978	Mil. lbs.	4.3	3.6	6.1	4.4	2.2	3.3							
Table 6.—Poultry: Chicken and turkey prices														
Broilers:														
Liveweight, U.S. at farm[1,2]														
1976	Cents	24.2	25.2	24.4	23.5	24.6	24.3	25.4	23.8	22.8	20.6	19.4	19.7	23.2
1977	Cents	21.9	24.3	24.2	24.2	24.1	24.9	25.9	24.1	23.8	22.7	21.3	20.2	23.5
1978	Cents	22.8	24.3	24.8	28.1	27.2	30.2	32.8						
Wholesale weighted average, ready-to-cook weight[1,3]														
9-city average[1,4]														
1976	Cents	41.9	42.7	41.9	41.0	42.1	42.1	43.2	41.6	39.7	36.4	34.9	35.0	40.2
1977	Cents	38.8	42.1	41.9	41.4	42.2	43.3	44.3	42.0	40.9	39.2	37.3	36.2	40.8
1978	Cents	40.2	43.1	42.2	46.1	46.1	50.7	50.8						
New York														
1976	Cents	41.6	41.9	41.3	40.8	41.8	41.6	42.8	41.4	39.6	36.0	34.2	34.2	39.8
1977	Cents	38.0	40.7	41.1	41.0	41.8	43.7	43.8	41.6	40.3	38.8	36.0	35.5	40.2
1978	Cents	39.3	42.3	41.0	44.6	44.8	50.1	50.2						

*See footnote at end of table.

Table 21—Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Table 6.—Poultry: Chicken and turkey prices—Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Chicago (U.S. Grade A)														
1976	Cents	41.7	42.6	41.6	40.9	42.0	41.7	43.3	41.4	39.8	36.2	34.9	35.0	40.1
1977	Cents	38.7	41.4	42.0	41.1	41.8	42.7	43.8	41.9	40.6	38.8	36.9	35.9	40.5
1978	Cents	40.0	42.8	41.9	46.1	45.5	50.1	50.2						
Los Angeles														
1976	Cents	43.4	44.4	43.7	42.2	43.0	42.6	44.4	43.0	40.9	38.0	36.6	36.9	41.6
1977	Cents	40.7	42.9	43.3	42.5	43.9	43.8	45.7	43.6	42.8	41.4	38.9	38.6	42.3
1978	Cents	42.1	45.2	44.7	49.2	49.1	52.4	52.7						
Frying chicken in retail stores (Index)[6]														
1976	1967=100	168.0	162.2	160.5	160.4	157.0	163.9	165.3	160 4	157.0	149.8	143.7	143.5	157.6
1977	1967=100	144.2	155.1	161.8	161.4	160.2	159.6	163.9	163.8	162 3	159.3	157.7	152.2	158.5
1978	1967=100	157.6	161.6	166.4	171 7	172.9	184.6							
Turkeys.														
Liveweight, U.S. at farm[3]														
1976	Cents	33.4	32.1	32.9	31.8	32.1	31.2	31.1	31.1	30.7	30.7	31.1	33.5	31.8
1977	Cents	32.2	32.0	33.9	33 5	33.6	34.2	33.8	33.8	34.4	36.5	39.0	40.2	34.8
1978	Cents	38.0	37.1	37.8	37.9	39.6	40.8	41.8						
Wholesale, frozen, f.o.b. or equivalent, RTC weight[1,5]														
New York														
Hens, 8-16 pounds														
1976	Cents	47.1	49.1	51.7	48.2	48.9	47.6	49.5	48.1	48.0	47.8	48.4	50.6	48 7
1977	Cents	48.7	49 7	52.3	53.6	50.8	50.0	50.8	53.4	54.9	57.4	60.7	65.8	54.0
1978	Cents	60.5	59.2	60.9	59 2	61.3	63.6	67.8						
Toms, 14-20 pounds														
1976	Cents	46.8	46.1	49.8	49.4	50.8	47.8	48.5	47.9	46.8	46.9	49.6	54.0	48.7
1977	Cents	50 9	51.2	52.0	53.0	51.4	50 6	49.8	52.4	55.6	58.8	60.5	59.9	53.8
1978	Cents	57.6	59.9	59.6	59.1	60.7	63.4	65.6						
Toms, 24-26 pounds														
1976	Cents	52.4	50.7	53.7	54.6	60.0	56.3	56 3	55.4	51.3	51 6	51 6	55.0	54.1
1977	Cents	54.2	55.4	57.3	58.1	59.3	59.0	58.1	56.8	56.8	59.0	59.9	60.7	57.9
1978	Cents	61.8	62.1	62.8	65.3	68.9	71.4	70.0						
Chicago														
Hens, 8-16 pounds														
1976	Cents	46.4	48.4	51.0	47.4	48.2	46.9	48.6	47.6	47.1	47.1	47.6	49.8	48.0
1977	Cents	47.9	48.7	51.3	52.6	49.8	49.1	49.9	52.6	54.2	56.3	59.9	65.1	53.1
1978	Cents	60.2	58.2	60.4	58.3	60.2	62.8	([8])						
Toms, 14-20 pounds														
1976	Cents	46 7	45.0	49.1	48 4	49.8	47.6	47.8	47 3	46.3	46.1	48.4	53.1	48.0
1977	Cents	51.4	51.7	51.7	51.8	51.1	49.7	49.1	51.4	54.6	58.0	59.7	59.2	53.3
1978	Cents	58 7	59.0	58.9	59.1	([8])	62.6	65.2						
Toms, 24-26 pounds														
1976	Cents	52.8	50.6	52.8	53.6	59.7	59.2	49.8	54.6	50.7	50.8	50.7	54.1	53 3
1977	Cents	54.0	54.7	56.6	56.8	57.8	57.8	57.0	55.7	56.0	57.9	59.1	59.8	56.9
1978	Cents	61.0	61.4	62.1	([8])	([8])	([8])	69.0						
Paid at seller's dock frozen, ready-to-cook weight[1,6]														
New York														
Hens, 8-16 pounds														
1976	Cents	51.8	51.8	55.3	52.8	52.9	51.4	52.2	52.0	51.6	51.2	51.7	54.8	52.4
1977	Cents	51.9	52.6	55.4	56.6	54.4	53.9	53.9	56.8	57.5	60.3	64.2	70 1	57.3
1978	Cents	66.3	62.4	64.2	62.4	64 3	66.9	70.6						
Toms, heaviest weight quoted														
1976	Cents	69.0	69.0	69 7	70.0	70.6	71.0	71 0	71.0	71.0	71.0	72.8	73.0	70.8
1977	Cents	72.5	70.2	68.8	68.8	69.0	70.1	72.1	73.2	73.6	74.6	75.5	78.2	72.2
1978	Cents	78.5	78.5	78.9	79.0	82.2	86.1	86.8						
Chicago														
Hens, 8-16 pounds														
1976	Cents	51.2	50.0	53.5	51.1	50.8	50.2	51.0	50.4	49.7	49 7	50.4	52.9	50.9
1977	Cents	50.6	50.6	53.7	55.4	53 4	52.1	52.5	55.2	56.8	60.0	64.0	68.4	56.0
1978	Cents	64.7	61.6	63.8	61.2	64.1	66.2	69.4						
Toms, heaviest weight quoted														
1976	Cents	68.0	68.0	67.8	68.4	69.4	70.0	70.0	69.6	69.7	70.0	70.2	70.5	69.3
1977	Cents	70.5	68.3	67.0	66.9	67 7	69.2	70 1	71.8	72.5	72.5	73.1	74.7	70.4
1978	Cents	76.0	76.2	76.2	76.8	80.4	83.4	83.6						
Poultry														
Retail price index														
1976	1967=100	164 5	159.8	157.7	158.0	155.3	160.7	161.9	158.2	155.1	149.2	144.5	144.0	155.7
1977	1967=100	144.5	152.9	158.3	157.7	157.6	157.6	161.2	161.1	160.3	158.5	157.4	153.6	156.7
1978	1967=100	158.0	161.3	165.4	169.8	171.4	181.9							

*See footnote at end of table.

Table 21—Selected poultry and egg statistics*

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Table 7.—Prices paid for feed ingredients and poultry feed, and product-feed price ratios														
Corn, Chicago No. 2 yellow (price per bushel)														
1976	Dollars	2.62	2.70	2.68	2.68	2.84	2.96	2.96	2.87	2.77	2.49	2.33	2.44	2.70
1977	Dollars	2.53	2.54	2.52	2.50	2.41	2.27	2.05	1.78	1.80	1.84	2.14	2.19	2.21
1978	Dollars	2.19	2.21	2.36	2.51	2.57	2.51	2.28						
Soybean meal, 49-50 percent, Decatur, Ill. (per ton, bulk)														
1976	Dollars	136	139	136	136	162	200	208	187	192	182	193	213	174
1977	Dollars	224	230	247	299	284	247	183	161	162	151	178	175	212
1978	Dollars	175	166	193	189	195	187	187						
Poultry feed (per ton, bulk)[3]:														
Laying														
1976	Dollars	143	143	144	144	146	156	162	157	159	154	151	153	151
1977	Dollars	156	161	161	163	166	162	153	143	138	135	141	145	156
1978	Dollars	147	146	149	154	155	157	155						
Broiler grower														
1976	Dollars	158	160	160	159	161	172	181	177	179	170	169	174	168
1977	Dollars	174	178	179	183	187	184	175	164	154	153	159	160	171
1978	Dollars	162	164	167	169	171	174	170						
Turkey grower														
1976	Dollars	165	165	165	162	165	178	187	181	181	176	177	179	174
1977	Dollars	182	186	188	195	200	196	188	176	172	168	175	177	184
1978	Dollars	177	177	179	183	184	186	186						
Product-feed price ratios:														
Egg[17]														
1976	Pounds	8.6	8.2	7.4	7.3	7.5	6.8	6.8	7.6	7.7	7.8	8.7	9.1	7.9
1977	Pounds	8.5	8.1	7.3	6.8	5.9	5.8	6.7	7.2	7.6	7.1	7.3	7.4	7.1
1978	Pounds	6.7	7.5	7.4	6.8	6.4	5.6	6.2						
Broiler[18]														
1976	Pounds	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.1	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.8
1977	Pounds	2.5	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.7	3.0	2.9	3.1	3.0	2.7	2.5	2.8
1978	Pounds	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.3	3.2	3.5	3.9						
Turkey[19]														
1976	Pounds	4.0	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.7
1977	Pounds	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.8	4.0	4.3	4.5	4.5	3.9
1978	Pounds	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.3	4.4	4.5						
Table 8.—USDA contracts to purchase chicken and turkey														
Young chicken (ready-to-cook wt.)														
1976	Mil. lbs.	7.6	7.3	8.4	---	---	---	---	4.5	5.2	3.3	6.2	4.6	47.1
1977	Mil. lbs.	4.9	6.4	4.4	---	---	---	---	6.5	6.3	8.4	13.2	11.4	62.1
1978	Mil. lbs.	9.6	12.7	3.5	---	---	---	3.2						
Canned boned chicken (RTC wt.)														
1976	Mil. lbs.	11.2	6.5	5.4	---	---	---	---	2.9	1.0	9.2	4.6	4.1	44.9
1977	Mil. lbs.	7.7	6.6	16.9	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	4.3	7.9	43.4
1978	Mil. lbs.	3.8	5.6	6.7	6.9	2.1	---	---						
Turkey (ready-to-cook wt.)[21]														
1976	Mil. lbs.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	10.5	20.7	20.7	8.9	3.4	64.3
1977	Mil. lbs.	6.2	7.2	---	---	---	---	5.8	16.6	14.3	3.9	10.3	9.0	73.4
1978	Mil. lbs.	9.6	6.8	8.0	---	---	---	---						
Canned boned turkey (RTC wt.)														
1976	Mil. lbs.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	2.8	.9	1.2	---	4.9
1977	Mil. lbs.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1978	Mil. lbs.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---						

[1] Shell eggs plus the shell egg equivalent of egg products. [2] All eggs, including hatching eggs and eggs sold at retail. [3] Price as of 15th of month. [4] Delivered f.o.b. buyer. [5] Delivered store door. [6] Reported by Bureau of Labor Statistics. [7] 30-pound containers, carlot or trucklot. [8] Insufficient price data. [9] Includes fryers-roasters, young turkeys, and old turkeys. [10] Whole carcass turkeys which have been injected, basted, marinated, etc. and packaged as such. [11] Includes federally inspected slaughter of all poultry plus other slaughter of chicken and turkey. [12] Price for month. [13] Trucklot sales of U.S. Grade A and plant grade, ice packed and CO2 chilled broilers delivered to major areas. [14] Computed by weighting the city averages by their metropolitan area populations. [15] U.S. Grade A, carlots or trucklots. [16] U.S. Grade A, less than carlots. [17] Pounds of laying feed equal in value to 1 dozen eggs. [18] Pounds of broiler grower equal in value to 1 pound of broiler liveweight. [19] Pounds of turkey grower equal in value to 1 pound of turkey liveweight.

LIST OF TABLES

OUTLOOK CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 13-16

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