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## EGGS

### Production

Table egg production in May was 613 million dozen, 6 percent higher than last May. Broiler-type hatching egg production in May was unchanged compared to 2015. There were 1.06 billion broiler-type hatching eggs produced. Egg-type hatching egg production was 100 million eggs, 22 percent above last year. Shell eggs broken totaled 197 million dozen during May, up 19 percent from May a year ago, and 5 percent above the 188 million broken in April. The number of table-egg layers in the national flock on June 1 was up 10 percent compared to 2015. Hatching egg layers for the table egg flock were up 22 percent compared with last year, and the broiler-type hatching egg flock was 2 percent below last year. The number of pullets added during May for all types of egg production was up 14 percent year-over-year.

### Price

The wholesale price of a dozen Grade A Large eggs in the New York market reached 51 cents/dozen the first week in June, the lowest price since 2006. Between mid-June and the end of the month, the price rose 78 percent, ending the month at 91 cents/dozen. Breaking stock prices registered their lowest values in at least 20 years at the beginning of June at 18 cents/dozen. A late month rally sent breaking stock prices up 56 percent, closing at 28 cents/dozen.

### International Trade

Shell egg exports in May totaled 8.5 million dozen valued at $8.8 million. Compared to April, this was a drop of 20 percent in volume and 18 percent in value, and represented a decline of 21 percent in volume and 18 percent in value compared to May 2015. For the first five months of 2016, exports of shell eggs were down 32 percent in volume and 41 percent in value compared with the same period in 2015.

May exports of egg products were valued at $8.0 million, up 2 percent from April but down 41 percent from last May. Through May, 2016 egg products exports were down 41 percent in value compared to 2015. The five most important destinations for shell eggs and egg products in May were Mexico, Canada, Japan, Hong Kong, and Jamaica.

## TURKEY

### Production

Turkey production in May was 496 million pounds on a ready-to-cook basis. Compared to April, daily production was up 3 percent. Compared to May 2015, when the effects of the HPAI outbreak were being fully felt, production was up 9 percent. Year-over-year average dressed weights were up a little more than 1 percent since in 2015 producers were pulling flocks forward due to uncertainty about the spread of HPAI. Producers appear to be increasing production in anticipation of the fall holidays; placements in May were up 7 percent and eggs in incubators on June 1 were up 10 percent compared to last year. Stocks of turkey products on May 31 were up 3 percent compared to 2015 levels. Whole bird holdings were down 14 percent, with hens down 18 percent and toms down 10 percent. White meat items were up 46 percent year-over-year, while dark meat items were up only 6 percent.

### Price

Whole hen prices generally follow a seasonal pattern of climbing steadily for most of the year to peak in late fall just prior to Thanksgiving. This year, hen prices began at much higher levels but have only showed a small increase, and at the end of June fell below prior-year level for the first time all year, closing at 116 cents/lb. Whole tom prices have been much more volatile this year and reached an all-time high at the end of June of 142 cents/lb. The price of boneless/skinless (B/S) breast meat appears to have found a floor in late May of 212 cents/lb.; at the end of June, B/S breast meat traded at 214 cents/lb. B/S thigh meat rose 8 cents through the month to end at 113 cents/lb. and tom drums fell 6 cents to 43 cents/lb.

### International Trade

Turkey exports in May totaled 21 thousand metric tons valued at $49 million, 1 percent above April in volume and 6 percent higher in value. Compared to last May, this was a 20 percent increase in volume and a 9 percent increase in value. Through May, 2016 exports have been 12 percent below last year in volume and 9 percent lower in value. The five largest export markets for turkey in May were Mexico, Hong Kong, Japan, Canada, and the Dominican Republic.

## CHICKEN

### Production

Total young chicken production in May was 3.46 billion pounds on a ready-to-cook basis. Daily production in May was 4 percent above April and 2 percent above May 2015, with the year-over-year increase mainly due to increases in dressed weights. For the four weeks ending July 2, both eggs set and chicks placed were even with the same period in 2015, so any increases in production will be driven by increases in dressed weights.

Total chicken holdings in cold storage on May 31 were unchanged from the end of April and up 9 percent from May 2015, in part due to a large increases in frozen hens. Total holdings of broiler products were up 5 percent on the year. There was a 13 percent drop in whole broiler holdings compared to April, but stocks were still 18 percent above year-prior levels. White meat holdings fell 2 percent on the month but were 25 percent above last May. Overall stocks of dark meat items were up a little under 2 percent for the month, but fell 22 percent year-over-year. This was driven primarily by leg quarter inventories, which were up 3 percent compared to April but down 31 percent compared to May 2015.

### Price

Whole broiler prices normally reach their annual highs in mid-Spring. This year, the peak appears to have occurred a bit later, with the national composite broiler price reaching a high of 99 cents/lb. during June, before falling to 94 cents/lb. by the end of the month. Parts prices were mixed in June. The price of boneless/skinless (B/S) breast meat climbed sharply in late June, reaching its highest weekly price of the year at 134 cents/lb. Dark meat prices generally rose during June, with most items reaching highs for the year. Leg quarter prices, however, appear to have peaked during the month at 31 cents/lb. before declining to 28 cents/lb. by month's end. B/S thigh meat rose a nickel during the month to 108 cents/lb. and drumsticks rose a penny to 43 cents/lb. Wings were essentially unchanged at 155 cents/lb.

### International Trade

The U.S. exported 255 thousand metric tons of chicken products in May with a value of $259 million. This was an increase of 4 percent in volume and 9 percent in value compared to April and a 2 percent decline in volume and a 9 percent decline in value compared to May 2015. For the first five months of 2016, exports were down 4 percent in volume and 19 percent in value, reflecting decreased trade due to import restrictions due to last year's HPAI outbreak. In May, the top five destinations for U.S. chicken were Mexico, Canada, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Iraq.

## BEEF/VEAL

### Production

Beef production, at 2.03 billion pounds, was 5 percent above the 2015 level and 3 percent above April's. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.51 million head, up 6 percent from May 2015 and up 4 percent monthly. The average live weight was up 1 pound from 2015, at 1,333 pounds. Accumulated beef production for the year so far was up 4 percent from 2015. Veal production in May was 6.0 million pounds, 9 percent below the 2015 volume and on par with April production. Calf slaughter was 35,500 head, up 7 percent from May 2015 and 2 percent above April 2016. The average live weight was down 49 pounds year over year, at 286 pounds. Veal production for 2016 to date was down 6 percent from 2015.

Total stocks of beef in freezers at the end of May were down 1 percent from April and down 6 percent from last May. Boneless beef storage was 2 percent lower than the month before, and was 6 percent lower than last year. Frozen inventories of beef cuts were up 4 percent on a monthly basis but down 7 percent yearly. Veal supplies in cold storage were 5 percent higher on a month-to-month basis, and 39 percent higher yearly.

### Price

Live cattle prices (FOB, steers and heifers) began the month at $129 per cwt, lost $9 through the month, but ended at $122, 19% below last year. The beef cutout value ticked up by mid-month, but closed down $16 at $210 per cwt, 17 percent below the 2015 value. The 90 percent lean boneless beef price held steady around $218 per cwt, 26 percent below the 2015 price. 50 percent lean trim jumped from $54 to $90 per cwt, by mid-June, closing at $88, 21 percent above the 2015 level. Packer-owned veal carcasses lost $12 to $328 per cwt, down 28 percent from 2015, while non-packer owned veal carcasses, fell $13 to close at $329 per cwt, 27 percent below 2015. The veal cutout average lost $7.50 to close at $523 per cwt, down 11 percent from 2015.

### International Trade

Compared to May 2015, beef and veal exports (including variety meats) rose 12 percent to 99.5 thousand MT while the export value fell 4 percent to $533 million. This volume is up 13 percent from April, and the value is up 11 percent. 2016 exports for the year to date are 3 percent higher than in 2015, but the value is down 11 percent. Japan, South Korea and Hong Kong were our largest export markets in May. Year-over-year beef import volumes were down 8 percent to 97 thousand MT, and were down 18 percent in value to $508 million. Compared to April, beef imports were up 2 percent, and slightly up in value. Total yearly imports for 2016 so far are 10 percent lower in volume and down 24 percent in value compared to 2015. Australia, New Zealand and Mexico were the largest importers of beef.

## PORK

### Production

May pork production was 1.95 billion pounds, up 5 percent yearly, and down 3 percent from last month. Hog slaughter, at 9.18 million head, was up 5 percent from May 2015 and down 3 percent from April. The average live weight was down 1 pound from last year to 283 pounds. Accumulated pork production for 2016 so far was up 1 percent from 2015. Pork supplies in cold storage were down 4 percent from April and down 6 percent from May 2015.

Bone-in picnics were 14 percent lower than ending inventory levels for April, and were down 9 percent from the previous year. Total hams in cold storage were up 11 percent on a monthly basis, and were down 9 percent year-over-year. Pork trimmings were slightly lower than in April and down 20 percent from the previous May. Pork belly stocks were 7 percent higher than last month and up 20 percent from the previous year.

### Price

The negotiated carcass price for barrows and gilts again added $6 through May, closing at $80 per cwt, 7 percent above the 2015 price. The pork cutout value rose $15 to $89 per cwt, up 7 percent from 2015. Trimmed, bone-in hams, 23-27 pounds, gained $16 to $81 per cwt, 47 percent above 2015. Picnic meat combos, cushion out, rebounded $6 to $83 per cwt, up 11 percent from last year's price. Pork trim, 72 percent lean increased nearly $9 per cwt, to $77, but lost $10 in the last week of June, still ending up 5 percent from 2015. Pork belly primals rose $28 to $132 per cwt, up 8 percent yearly.

### International Trade

Pork exports in May (including variety meats) were down 7 percent from 2015 to 195 thousand MT while the value was down 2 percent to $485 million. Pork export volume was up 6 percent, and the value up 7 percent from April 2016. For 2016, the total export volume was down 1 percent and up 7 percent in value from last year. The largest overseas markets for U.S. pork were Japan, Mexico and Canada.

Compared to 2015, May pork imports were up 8 percent in volume to 40.8 thousand MT, and were up 15 percent in value to $141 million. The volume of pork imports increased 8 percent from April, and was up 5 percent in value. Year-to-date measures showed pork import volume up 3 percent and value up 10 percent from 2015. Canada, Poland and Denmark were the largest importers of pork.

## LAMB

### Production

Lamb and mutton production in May was 13.0 million pounds, up 9 percent from 2015, and 2 percent above the April volume. Sheep slaughter totaled 185,300 head, 9 percent over last year and 2 percent more than last month. The average live weight was 140 pounds, 1 pound lower than 2015. Accumulated lamb and mutton production fell 1 percent from 2015. Lamb and mutton freezer stocks were 13 percent higher than the month before, and 17 percent higher than year earlier levels.

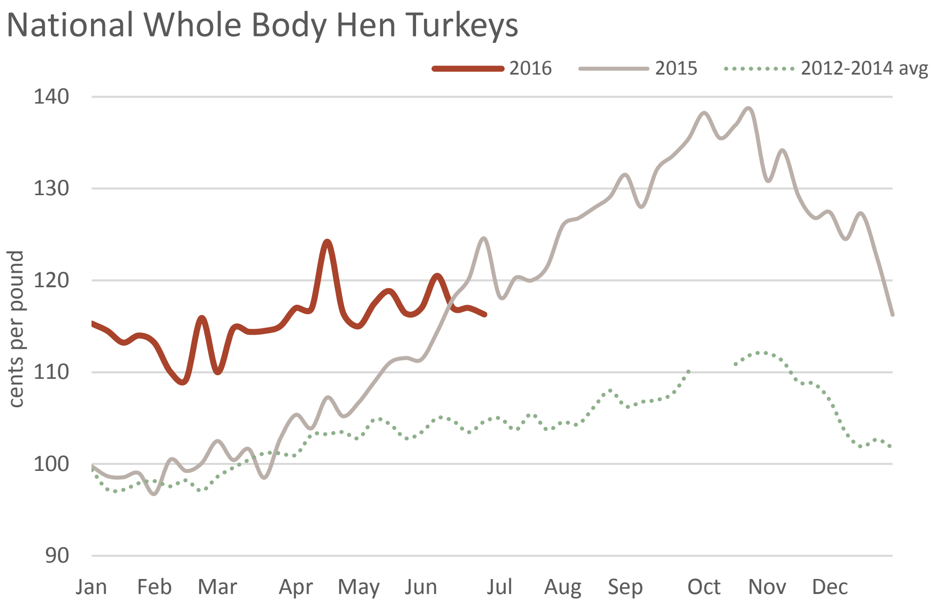
### Price

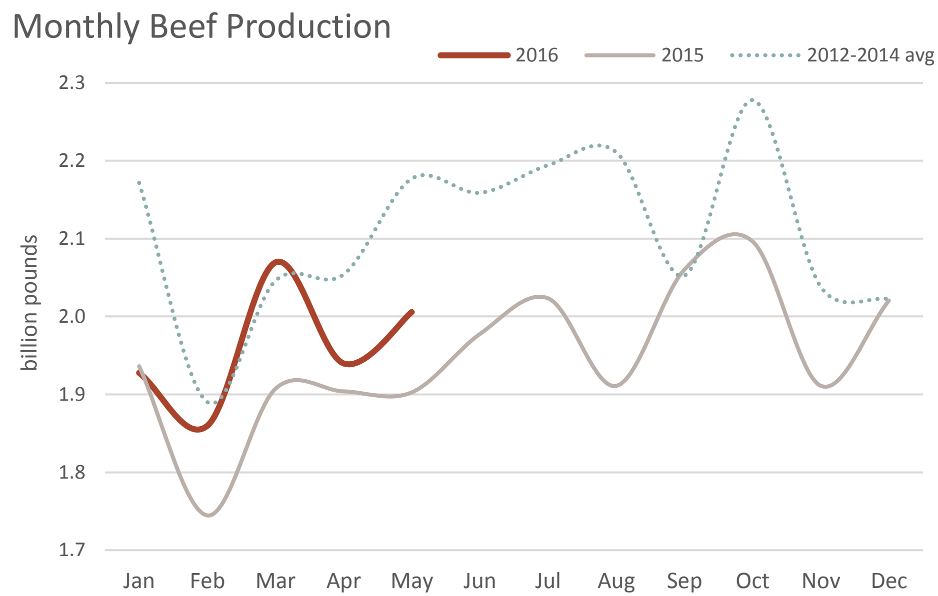
Negotiated live slaughter lamb saw a gain of $20 in June, to $160 per cwt, still 1 percent below the 2015 price. The lamb cutout lost $9, closing the month at $335 per cwt, down 7 percent from the 2015 value. Leg of lamb, trotter off prices declined $2, closing at $338 per cwt, 3 percent below the 2015 price. Boneless lamb shoulder prices lost $18 per cwt through June, in mid-month dropping $60 but regaining $20 to close at $537 per cwt, 2 percent below 2015 prices.

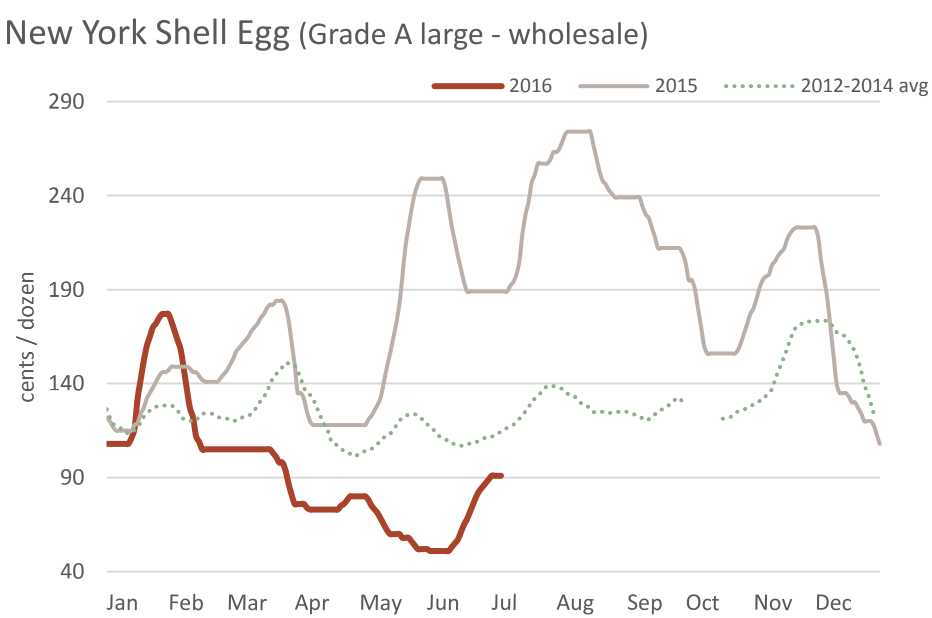
### International Trade

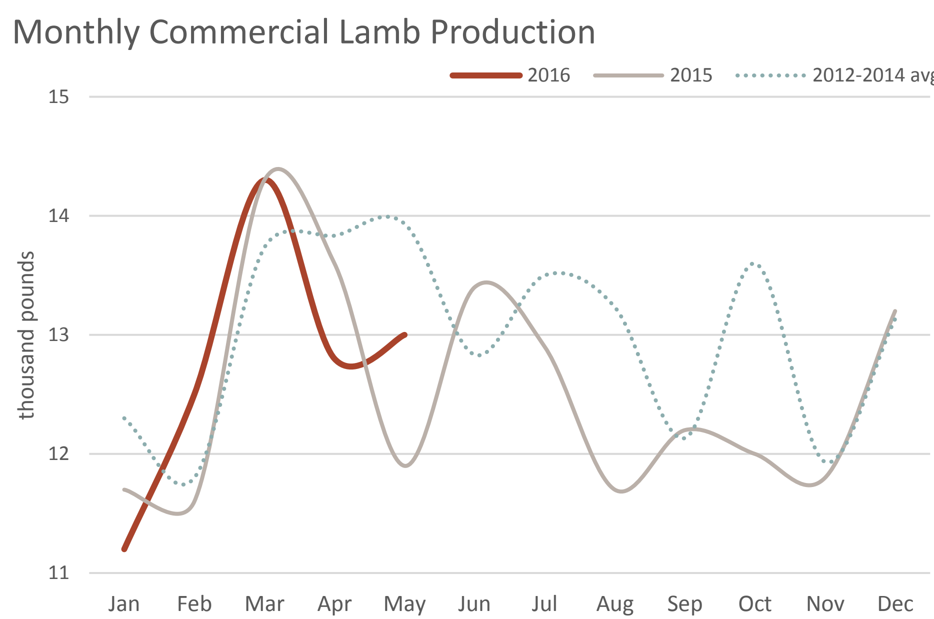
May lamb exports were down 35 percent from 2015 levels to 152 metric tons, and were up 16 percent in value to $1.1 million. Compared to April, export volume was down 8 percent but the value was up 1 percent. Total exports for 2016 are 3 percent lower in volume but 1 percent higher in value than in 2015. Mexico, Netherland Antilles and The Bahamas were the largest export markets of lamb and mutton. U.S. lamb imports in May were up 16 percent over 2015 at 7.8 thousand MT, with the value of imports up 14 percent to $56 million. Compared to April, the import volume was down 3 percent and the value of lamb imports rose 2 percent. For 2016 to date, imports are up 21 percent in volume and 9 percent in value over last year. Australia and New Zealand were the largest importers.

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


National Whole Body Hen Turkeys
2016
2015
2012-2014 avg
140
130
120
110
100
90
cents per pound
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec


Monthly Beef Production
2016
2015
2012-2014 avg
2.3
2.2
2.1
2.0
1.9
1.8
1.7
billion pounds
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec


New York Shell Egg (Grade A large - wholesale)
2016
2015
2012-2014 avg
290
240
190
140
90
40
cents / dozen
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec


Monthly Commercial Lamb Production
2016
2015
2012-2014 avg
15
14
13
12
11
thousand pounds
Jan
Feb
Mar
Apr
May
Jun
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec

# Rib Ticklers

$3.46/lb

Most popular in **Virginia**

## Baby Back Rib

*The upper portion of the rib cage between the back rib and the sternum. At least 8 ribs.*

The most popular pork rib cut accounting for 37% of all pork rib retail advertising during the Independence Day 2015 holiday weekend.

## Spare Rib

$2.34/lb

Most popular in **New Jersey**

*The lower portion (belly) of the rib cage between the back rib and the sternum. At least 11 ribs.*

The 2nd most popular pork rib cut accounting for 20% of all pork rib retail advertising during the Independence Day 2015 holiday weekend.

$2.86/lb

Most popular in **Maine**

## St. Louis Rib

*The spare rib minus the sternum and lower cartilages, ending in a rectangular shape. The cut off parts are marketed as “riblets” or “rib tips”.*

Accounted for 16% of all pork rib retail advertising during the Independence Day 2015 holiday weekend.

### Riblets

$1.43/lb

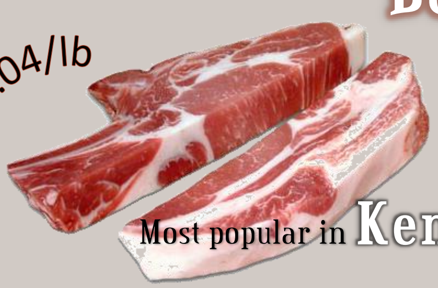
## Country Ribs

*Most commonly cut from the blade end of the pork loin near the shoulder. Include 3-6 ribs cut into equal portions and may be bone-in or boneless.*

Bone-in or boneless, country ribs are very popular, combined, accounting for 27% of all pork rib retail advertising during the Independence Day 2015 holiday weekend.

### Bone-in

$2.04/lb



Most popular in **Kentucky**

### Boneless

$2.71/lb

Most popular in **New Jersey**

*Source: USDA Agricultural Analytics; average sale price and preference data reflects the Independence Day 2015 market.*