



EGGS

Production

Table egg production in April was 702 million dozen, 4 percent above last April. Broiler-type hatching egg production in April was up 2 percent compared to 2018. There were 1.11 billion broiler-type hatching eggs produced. Egg-type hatching egg production was 90 million eggs, 7 percent higher than last year. Shell eggs broken totaled 205 million dozen during April, up 10 percent from April a year ago, and up 7 percent from the 191 million dozen broken in March.

The number of table-egg layers in the national flock on May 1 was up 3 percent compared to 2018 at 341 million birds. Hatching egg layers for the table egg flock fell slightly over last year to 63 million birds, and the broiler-type hatching egg flock increased slightly to 59 million birds. The number of pullets added during April for all types of egg production was down 3 percent year-over-year at 28 million.

Price

Egg prices lost 11 cents to close the month at 56 cents for one dozen Large Grade A eggs in the New York wholesale market, 49 percent lower than 2018. Breaking stock prices dropped 10 cents/dozen to close at 17 cents/dozen, for a year-over-year loss of 74 percent.

International Trade

U.S. shell egg exports in April totaled 20 million dozen with a value of \$38 million. This was an increase in volume of 4 percent and a fall of 7 percent in value compared with March. It is also a gain in volume of 20 percent with value down 4 percent compared with April 2018. Egg product exports in April were valued at \$9 million, 19 percent below March and down 24 percent from last year.

Cumulative yearly exports of shell eggs and egg products are up 8 and down 21 percent in volume, respectively, and down 1 and 23 percent, respectively, in value. Mexico, Canada, Hong Kong, Brazil and Japan were the five largest importers of U.S. eggs and egg products in April.

TURKEY

Production

The United States produced 481 million pounds of turkey on a ready-to-cook basis in April. Daily production was up 2 percent compared with March and down 3 percent compared with last April. Average dressed weights were up 1 percent for the month and 9 percent for the year. Eggs in incubators on the first of May were up 2 percent from last year, and poult placements in the month of April were down 5 percent, year-over-year.

As of April 30 total turkey stocks in cold storage were 5 percent below the April 2018 level. Compared to March, total turkey stocks were slightly higher. Whole frozen birds were 8 percent lower yearly, with hens down 5 percent and toms down 10 percent. White meat stocks were up 9 percent year-over-year, while dark meat stocks were down 10 percent.

Price

Whole frozen hens ended up 2 cents to 86 cents/lb., while whole frozen toms also added 2 cents, and ended at 84 cents/lb., both 6 percent higher than last year. Boneless/skinless (B/S) breast prices held steady 207 cents/lb., 12 percent higher yearly. B/S thigh meat also rose 21 cents to 144 cents/lb., 12 percent above 2018, and tom drumsticks closed up 3 cents at 68 cents/lb., 12 percent above last year.

International Trade

In April, the United States exported 25 thousand metric tons of turkey products with a value of \$52 million. This volume was 4 percent higher than March and the value was 2 percent higher. Compared with April 2018, exports were up 8 percent in volume and down slightly in value. Total 2019 exports to date are lower than for the same period in 2018 by 1 percent in volume and 6 percent in value. The top five destinations for exports of turkey in April were Mexico, Benin, Canada, South Africa and Japan.

Production

Chicken production totaled 3.59 billion pounds on a ready-to-cook basis in April. Daily production was down 5 percent from March and down 6 percent from April 2018, with dressed weights 5 percent lower than March and 3 percent lower than April. For the four weeks ending May 30, eggs set were up 1.5 percent and chicks placed were up 1.8 percent compared with the same period last year.

Total stocks of chicken in cold storage on April 30 were 870 million pounds, up 3 percent from the end of March 2019 but down 3 percent from April 2018. Whole broilers remain high on a yearly basis (up 24 percent) but were down 9 percent monthly. Thighs in cold storage also remain high, up 29 percent year-over year, and up 3 percent monthly, while drumstick supplies were up 39 percent yearly but down 3 percent monthly. Breasts in freezers were 9 percent lower yearly but up 3 percent from the month before. Cold storage of wings was lower than 2018 by 13 percent, and down 1 percent monthly. Leg quarters remain down 27 percent from last year and were down 10 percent monthly.

Price

Whole broiler prices followed the seasonal pattern during the first half of May, but in the second half lost its previous gains to close the month back at 100 cents per pound, 17 percent below the 2018 price. Boneless/skinless (B/S) breast prices lost ground all through the month, following last year's pattern, but not the historical pattern, ending down 13 cents to close the month at 114 cents/lb., 4 percent below last year. Leg quarter prices added 4 cents to 47 cents/lb., 22 percent higher than in 2018. B/S thigh meat increased 6 cents to 125 cents/lb., 8 percent more than 2018. Drumsticks closed up 5 cents at 41 cents/lb., 4 percent below last year. Wing prices fell through the month, accelerating the loss in the latter portion of May, down 13 cents to 186 cents per pound, still 38 percent above 2018.

International Trade

April exports of chicken and chicken products totaled 247 thousand metric tons valued at \$246 million. This is a decrease in volume of 8 percent and a 3 percent decrease in value compared with March. Year-over-year, this represents a 7 percent decrease in volume and a 13 percent decrease in value. Year-to-date exports of chicken are down 1 percent in volume and down 10 percent in value. In April, our five largest export destinations for chicken were Mexico, Canada, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Guatemala.

Production

With one additional day of operation, April 2019 beef production, was up 7 percent from last year, and up 7 percent monthly at 2.26 billion pounds. Cattle slaughter numbers totaled 2.83 million head, up 7.7 percent on both a monthly and a yearly basis. The average live weight was down 11 pounds from last year, at 1,328 pounds. Beef production for the year-to-date is up 1 percent from 2018. Veal production in April 2019 was 6.0 million pounds, down 2 percent on a yearly basis but down 6 percent monthly. Calf slaughter volume equaled 42,800 head, 6 percent lower than the month before and flat yearly. The average live weight was 4 pounds lower than last year, at 221 pounds. Accumulated veal production was down 1 percent from last year.

Total beef in cold storage was down 5 percent compared with the end of March 2018, and down 9 percent compared with last April. Stocks of boneless beef were 6 percent lower monthly and down 9 percent yearly, while beef cuts were up 14 percent month-over-month and down 6 percent year-over-year. Veal stocks in freezers rose to 19 percent over the prior month but were down 73 percent yearly.

Price

Live cattle prices (FOB, steers and heifers) steadily lost ground in May, falling from \$127 to \$116 per cwt, 16 percent lower than the May 2018 closing price. The beef cutout value dropped \$10, to finish the month at \$223 per cwt, 2 percent below last year. The 90 percent lean boneless beef price slowly added \$3 through May to close at \$224 per cwt, 1 percent above 2018. 50 percent lean trim prices fell \$3 per cwt to \$87 per cwt, 5 percent above last year. Packer-owned veal carcasses lost \$1 to \$309 per cwt, down slightly from 2018, while non-packer owned veal carcasses fell \$3 to \$303 per cwt, down slightly from 2018. The veal cutout average remained at \$395 per cwt, down 6 percent from last year.

International Trade

Compared to 2018, April 2019 beef and veal exports (including variety meats) were down 5 percent to 105 thousand MT while the export value fell slightly to \$674 million. The export volume and value were down by 2 and 1 percent, respectively, from March. Total exports for 2019 were 4 percent lower in volume, and 1 percent lower in value than 2018. South Korea, Japan and Mexico were our largest export markets in April 2018. Year-over-year beef import volumes for April were up 18 percent to 98 thousand MT and were up 19 percent in value to \$553 million. Compared to March, beef import volume and value were up 1 and less than 1 percent, respectively. Year-to-date beef imports are 7 percent higher relative to 2018, with value up 8 percent. Australia, Canada and Mexico were the largest importers of beef to the U.S. in the first month of 2019.

Production

Pork production for April was yet another monthly record-breaking 2.27 billion pounds, up 6 from 2018, and down 1 percent from March. Hog slaughter totaled 10.7 million head, up 6 percent from April 2018 and down 1 percent monthly. The average live weight was equal to last years at 287 pounds. For 2019 so far, pork production was up 4 percent yearly.

April 2019 stocks of pork in cold storage were up 2 percent March and down 2 percent from last year. Ham inventories increased 17 percent month-over-month and 8 percent year-over-year. Belly inventories were up 4 percent monthly and down 5 percent from last year. Boneless loin stocks lost 2 percent to last month's inventory and 10 percent for the year. Pork trimmings in freezers fell 13 percent monthly and 16 percent yearly.

Price

The negotiated carcass price for barrows and gilts held fairly close to the \$80 per cwt level through May 2019, but had a loss of \$4 near the end, finishing the month at \$76 per cwt, 19 percent above 2018. The pork cutout value was slightly more variable but closed the month down \$2 at \$84 per cwt, up 9 percent from 2018. Trimmed, bone-in hams, 23-27 pounds prices had a strong gain of \$8, closing at \$82 per cwt, 31 percent above the 2018 price. Picnic meat combos, cushion out, ended the month down \$4 to \$95 per cwt, 22 percent above the prior year price. Pork trim, 72 percent lean also had some variability, but finished the month unchanged at \$86 per cwt, up 44 percent from 2018. Pork belly primal values shed nearly \$30 through the month, to \$115 per cwt, 3 percent below 2018.

International Trade

Pork exports (including variety meats) in April 2019 were down 6 percent from 2018 to 211 thousand MT, and the value was down 8 percent at \$506 million. Pork export volume and value gained 3 percent each from March. The year-to-date volume of pork exports was down 6 percent and the value down 13 percent. The largest overseas markets for U.S. pork were Japan, Mexico and South Korea. Compared to last year, April pork imports were 17 percent lower in volume at 36 thousand MT, and down 13 percent in value to \$128 million. Import volume and value were down from March by 14 and 8 percent, respectively. Total imports for 2019 so far were 10 percent lower in volume and 10 percent lower in value. The countries of Canada, Poland and Italy imported the largest volumes of pork to the U.S. in April 2019.

Production

April lamb and mutton production, at 15.2 million pounds, was 23 percent above the April 2018 production (with one less slaughter day) and 17 percent above March's production. Sheep slaughter totaled 235,700 head, 30 percent above last year and up 24 percent monthly. The average live weight was 129 pounds, down 3 pounds from April a year ago. Lamb and mutton production for the year so far was down 5 percent year over year. Lamb stocks increased to 20 percent above the prior year and were up 32 percent monthly.

Price

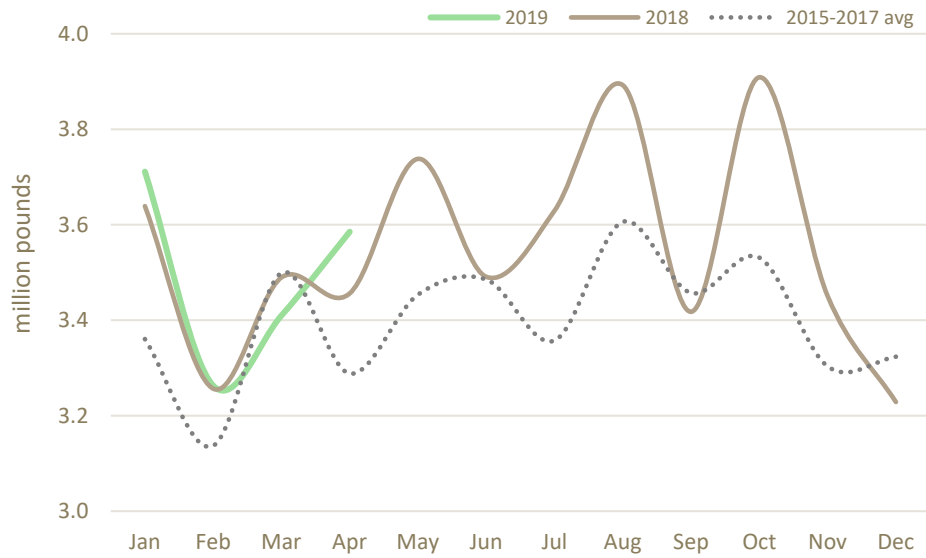
The negotiated live slaughter lamb price bounced between \$154 and \$158 per cwt through May, closing up \$5 at \$158 per cwt, 3 percent below 2018. The lamb cutout also had ups and downs through May, ending \$8 higher at \$392 per cwt, 5 percent higher than in 2018. Leg of lamb, trotter-off prices increased through the month, gaining \$15 to close at \$386 per cwt, 6 percent above the 2018 price. From the start to the middle of May, boneless lamb shoulder prices jumped more than \$60 per cwt, but the second half of the month shed most of the gains, ending up \$3 to \$538 per cwt, 2 percent below last year.

International Trade

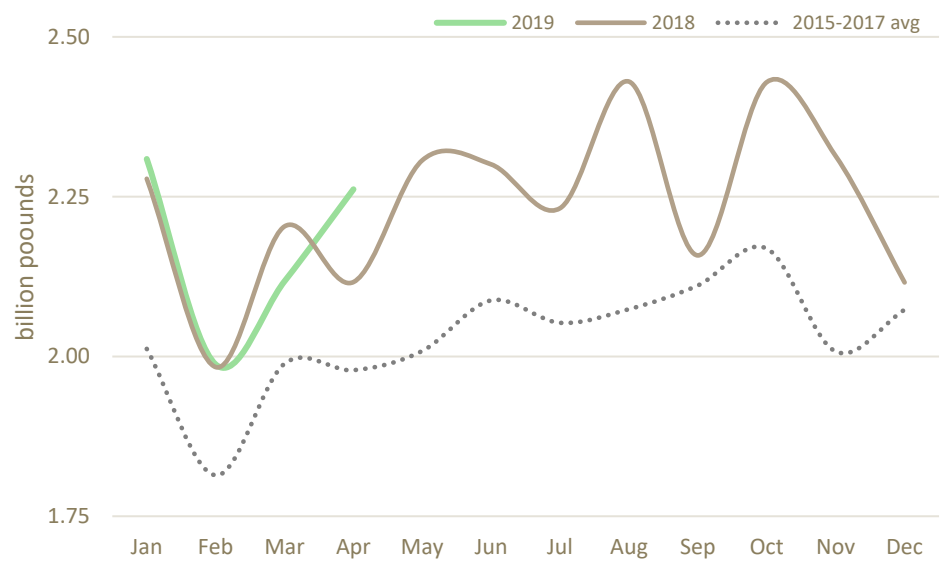
April 2019 lamb exports fell 8 percent from the 2018 level to 167 MT but rose 17 percent in value to \$1.3 million. Compared to March, export volume was 4 percent lower while the export value held steady. Total lamb export volume for 2019 to date was 17 percent higher than 2018, at a value which was 19 percent higher. Panama, The Bahamas and Canada were the largest export markets for U.S. lamb and mutton in April. Lamb imports in April 2019 were up 36 percent from 2018 at 12 thousand MT, while the value of imports was up 55 percent to \$109 million. Compared to March, the import volume and value fell 1 and 2 percent, respectively. Cumulative imports were up 1 percent and the value was up 32 percent. Australia, New Zealand and Chile were the largest sources of lamb and mutton imports to the US in April 2019.

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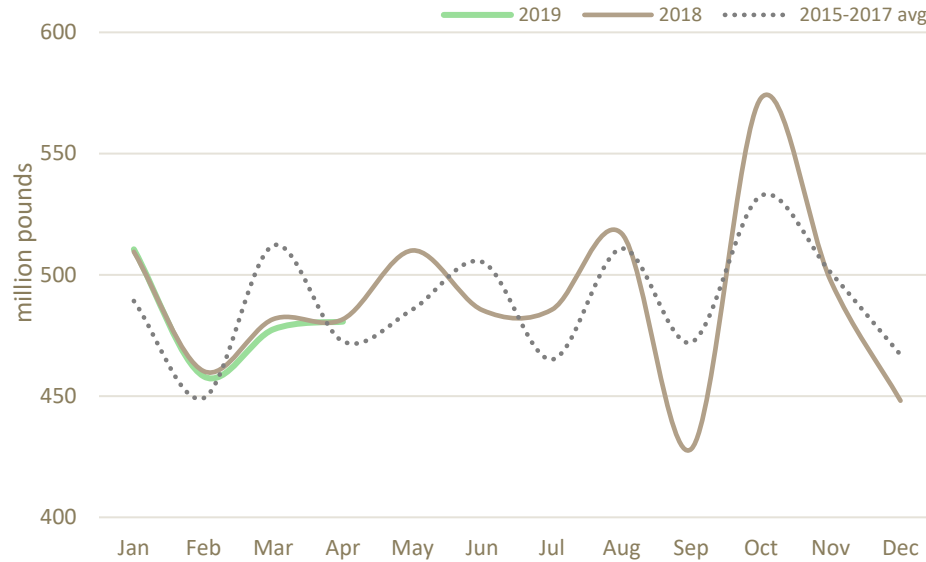
Ready-to-Cook Chicken Production



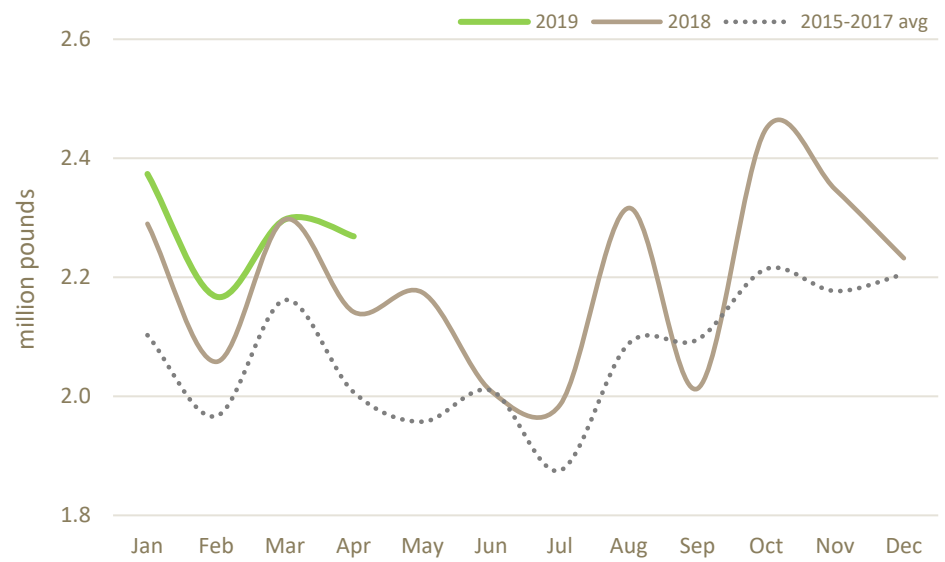
Monthly Commercial Beef Production



Ready-to-Cook Turkey Production



Monthly Commercial Pork Production



Iced Tea Month



Americans drink over 3 billion gallons of Iced Tea each year!

Americans like their iced tea either sweetened or unsweetened. Sweet tea (aka "tea") is widely associated with the South while unsweetened ("black") is popular in the North.

Junius Smith successfully grew tea in South Carolina in 1848

The only large-scale commercial tea plantation in the U.S., the Charleston Tea Plantation, is located on Wadmalaw Island.

Black tea, the base for iced tea, is the most consumed tea in the US.

China is the world's top producer of tea followed by India.

All true teas come from the *Camelia sinensis* plant.

On December 16, 1773, Colonists protesting the Stamp Act threw 342 chests of tea into Boston Harbor - The Boston Tea Party

Iced tea was popularized during the 1904 World's Fair

The popularity of Iced Tea paralleled the development of refrigeration.

In 2018, 48% of black tea used in the U.S. was imported from Argentina

75% of global tea production is black

In the early 1900's, teaspoons and tall glasses were developed specifically for iced tea drinking.

Tea bags were invented in 1908 in U.S. by Thomas Sullivan.

The oldest known recipe for sweet tea comes from Virginia in 1877.

Black tea is fermented, which blackens the leaves and causes the formation of caffeine and tannins.