



EGG & POULTRY NATIONAL WEEKLY REVIEW

THURSDAY
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U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Marketing Service Poultry Programs Market News Branch

NATIONAL EGG REVIEW



Prices began the week unchanged for the larger sizes and unchanged to lower on the lighter weights, however during the period, prices were unchanged to sharply lower on all sizes. The market tone was steady to weak, mostly weak. Demand was usually moderate to good, occasionally light, and best movement was noted where holiday feature activity stimulated consumer buying interest. Supplies were generally adequate to ample, although occasional closeness on larger sizes was reported. Many dealers exercised caution approaching the weekend as post-holiday demand is expected to diminish significantly. Breaking stock prices were slightly lower. Trading and demand very light for the adequate to instances ample offerings. Most breakers were out of the market and bidding lower price levels when additional product was offered. Finished product demand was only fair. Trade sentiment mixed, about steady to barely steady. Light type hen offerings were fully sufficient for current processor needs. Trade sentiment steady.

PRICES TO RETAILERS, SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, GRADE A AND US GRADE A WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED STORE DOOR OR WAREHOUSE, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	EXTRA LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM
NORTHEAST CITIES			
Boston (Brown)	99-104	90-95	65-70
New York	68-70	65-68	50-53
Philadelphia	66-81	64-79	49-57
SOUTHERN CITIES			
Atlanta (1) (2)	73-74	71.5-73	48-49
Jackson (1)	81-82	80-81	57-58
Major Louisiana Cities (1)	78-93	77-91	54-68
MIDWEST CITIES			
Chicago	63-68	62-67	42-47
Detroit (2)	67-70	66-69	45-49
Major Ohio Cities (2)	68-73	67-71	44-50
Major Wisconsin Cities	71-78	69-76	47-54
WESTERN CITIES			
Houston (1)	86-88	85	62-63
California(Grade AA)(1)(3)	107	101	83

- (1) - Prices reported weekly
- (2) - Delivered Warehouse
- (3) - Reported Invoice prices

SHELL EGGS-12 METRO AREA FOR WEEK ENDING 26-Mar-99
AVERAGE PRICES ON SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, GRADE A LARGE OR BETTER, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED STORE DOOR, CENTS PER DOZEN.

REGIONS	EX LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM
NORTHEAST	81.26	78.88	58.50
SOUTHERN	79.15	77.83	58.44
MIDWEST	71.24	70.00	51.18
WESTERN	99.27	95.55	79.80
TWELVE METRO AREAS	85.25	82.74	64.56

COMPUTED FROM SIMPLE WEEKLY AVERAGES WEIGHTED BY METROPOLITAN AREA POPULATIONS

IOWA-MINNESOTA-WISCONSIN PRICES PAID TO PRODUCERS FOR LOOSE EGGS AT FARM, CASES EXCHANGED, GRADE YIELD BASIS, CENTS PER DOZEN

	03-30-99	03-23-99	03-31-98
Large	50-52	50-52	56-58
Medium	27-29	30-32	36-38

WEEKLY SHELL EGG INVENTORY REPORT- AM Mar. 29, 1999
STOCKS ON HAND AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING 1/
(30 DOZEN CASES-IN THOUSANDS)

		NO		SO		5-Area	
		Northeast	CENT	SO	Atl	Pacific	
Jumbo	Curr Wk	10.8	12.1	5.8	12.9	10.5	52.1
	Change	0.4	-0.9	1.1	2.0	0.5	6%
Ex Lge	Curr Wk	30.1	19.5	9.0	26.2	16.9	101.7
	Change	-5.7	-6.7	0.6	-5.2	-1.1	-15%
Large	Curr Wk	50.6	74.4	56.8	75.0	122.6	379.4
	Change	-20.4	-23.7	-11.4	0.6	-19.1	-16%
Medium	Curr Wk	14.8	21.5	12.1	14.6	18.9	81.9
	Change	-2.4	-9.1	-4.9	-3.7	-1.3	-21%
Small	Curr Wk	4.8	3.6	3.4	2.5	11.3	25.6
	Change	-0.2	0.0	-0.7	-0.2	-2.1	-11%
Misc	Curr Wk	5.6	14.5	11.1	6.9	5.8	43.9
	Change	-0.3	-0.2	0.5	0.6	0.1	2%
Ungraded	Curr Wk	31.8	37.2	8.3	35.0	54.7	167.0
	Change	-13.6	-17.4	0.3	-2.9	4.1	-15%
Total	Curr Wk	148.5	182.8	106.5	173.1	240.7	851.6
	Change	-22%	-24%	-12%	-5%	-7%	-14%

TOTAL	Number of Cases	Percent Change	Number of Cooperators
Shell Egg	851.6	-14%	165
Shell Egg Breaking Stock	369.0	-3%	38
Total Shell Egg	1220.6	-11%	203

1/Information is supplied by a universe of 165 cooperators who normally have stocks on hand each Monday A.M. and is on the basis of matched plants reporting in both the current and previous weeks. Sample does not represent total U.S. inventory but includes eggs packed for export when in cooperator's coolers.

No valid comparison can be made with year ago or previous months' figures due to changes in number of plants surveyed, holidays falling in different weeks or changes in size of plant operations.

EGGS PROCESSED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION

WEEK ENDING 27-Mar-99

(LBS IN THOUSANDS)

(EXCLUDES INGREDIENTS)

	CASES BROKEN	LIQUID WHOLE	LIQUID WHITE	LIQUID YOLK	DRIED	INED.
CW	1,025,454	24,113	9,665	5,122	2,434	3,152
PW	1,025,677	24,614	9,617	5,168	2,368	3,461
LY	988,055	22,743	9,802	5,432	2,257	3,260
% PW	0	-2	0	-1	3	-9
% LY	4	6	-1	-6	8	-3
1999	12,401,613	284,554	121,190	67,239	30,654	39,055
1998	12,144,387	269,542	125,659	70,716	31,901	39,576

AVERAGE YIELD PER CASE -

CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK	LAST YEAR
41.01	41.79	41.74

COMMERCIAL EGG MOVEMENT REPORT FOR W/E 27-Mar-99

(RECEIPTS FROM PRODUCERS)

REGIONS	CASES (IN THOUS)	PERCENT CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS WEEK	LAST YEAR
N. ATLANTIC	270.8	-1	2
E.N. CENTRAL	479.8	4	10
W.N. CENTRAL	241.6	8	8
S. ATLANTIC	221.5	5	0
S. CENTRAL	78.4	-10	2
WEST	222.3	-1	-12
TOTAL	1514.4	2	2
MATCHED PLANTS REPORTING		100	99

**Broiler Eggs Set in
15 Selected States****Broiler Chicks Placed in
15 Selected States**

STATE	Broiler Eggs Set in 15 Selected States		Broiler Chicks Placed in 15 Selected States	
	Mar 20	Mar 27 Thousand	Mar 20	Mar 27
AL	*26,680	26,720	*20,009	20,355
AR	*30,115	30,501	*25,494	24,299
DE	*4,807	4,522	*4,929	4,590
FL	2,941	3,037	2,617	2,319
GA	*31,511	31,916	*25,787	25,197
MD	8,991	8,932	*6,644	6,893
MS	18,237	18,196	14,821	15,413
NC	18,392	17,973	13,709	13,893
PA	*3,878	3,450	*2,839	2,813
SC	4,834	4,885	*3,874	3,868
TX	13,653	13,825	10,399	10,661
VA	6,618	6,805	5,633	5,604
CA, TN, & WV	11,464	11,477	*9,445	9,677
15 State Total	*182,121	182,239	*146,200	145,582
Previous Year	174,274	175,033	142,823	141,754
Pct. of Prev.	105	104	102	103

*REVISED

BASED ON THE PRELIMINARY CHICK PLACEMENTS, THE NUMBER OF FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING DURING THE WEEK ENDING 08-May-99 IS ESTIMATED AT 154.2 MILLION HEAD. THIS COMPARES TO 154.5 MILLION HEAD THE PREVIOUS WEEK AND TO 150.5 MILLION HEAD THE SAME WEEK A YEAR AGO, WHEN THE SLAUGHTER WAS 150.4 MILLION HEAD AND THE 12-CITY WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE WAS 58.59 CENTS PER POUND.

TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES- WEEKLY WTD AVG PRICES
(CNTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING WEEK OF 03/25/99-03/31/99

	SE		NE		MW		LOADS
	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	
GNR W 1	49.67	48.80	51.63	53.25	53.25	47.50	48.50
GNR W 2	—	47.00	46.50	—	—	49.67	10.00
GNR W 3	—	—	—	31.00	27.00	32.50	7.00
GL W XL	—	63.00	60.00	61.67	45.00	—	9.50
GL W LG	—	63.00	59.20	60.80	45.52	—	20.75
GL W MD	—	32.92	27.00	30.00	32.50	31.00	19.25
GL W SM	—	—	25.25	26.29	24.00	—	9.00
NRBS - 48	—	—	—	—	—	32.00	1.50

MOVEMENT OF EGGS INTO RETAIL CHANNELS W/E 27-Mar-99

SELECTED CONSUMING CENTERS	CW THOUSANDS	PW THOUSANDS	PERCENT PW	CHG LY
ATLANTA	30.9	33.3	-7	0
BOSTON	6.3	6.2	2	-51
CHICAGO	75.7	65.8	15	25
DETROIT	45.7	41.1	11	61
KANSAS CITY	0.1	0.1	0	0
LOS ANGELES	124.7	82.3	52	31
NEW ORLEANS	16.4	12.2	34	41
NEW YORK	44.9	50.0	-10	-3
ST. LOUIS	1.8	1.9	-5	-10
SAN FRANCISCO	22.1	21.3	4	4
TOTAL	368.6	314.2	17	19
4 WK MVG AVG	315.2			

LIVE TURKEYS SLAUGHTERED WEEK ENDING 20-Mar-99

	FRYER- ROASTERS	YOUNG TURKEYS	OLD BANDED	TOTAL
	THOUSANDS			
HEAD	0	4,614	30	4,644
AVGWT	0.00	25.97	27.50	25.98
LAST WEEK	0	5,294	20	5,314
SAME WEEK YR AGO	0	5,789	17	5,806
AVGWT	0.00	24.94(A)	28.82	24.95
TO-DATE/1999	0	50,386(A)	327	50,713
TO-DATE/1998	8	56,853(A)	435	57,296

(A) Includes 167,000 young banded breeders in 1999 and 215,000 in 1998.

NUMBER OF TURKEYS SLTRD IN FEDERALLY INSP PLANTSBY GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS WEEK ENDING 20-Mar-99
(PRELIMINARY) (RELEASED 12:00 NOON CENTRAL TIME)

	---YOUNG TURKEYS---		FRYER	OLD	TOTAL	TKY
	THOUSAND	PW AVG	RSTR	BAND	HEAD	AVG
	HEAD	% CHG WT	---THOUSAND	HEAD---	WT	
N EAST	941	-6 21.72	(A)	(A)	953	21.76
S ATL	818	-46 31.33	NONE	NONE	818	31.35
N CENT	1,997	10 28.93	(A)	(A)	2,010	28.91
S CENT	401	-33 15.84	NONE	NONE	401	15.84
WEST	457	19 21.03	(A)	(A)	462	21.17
U.S.TOTAL	4,614(B)	-13 25.97	0	30	4,644	25.98
TO DATE						
1999	50,386(B)		0	327	50,713	
TO DATE						
1998	56,853(B)		8	435	57,296	

(A) Not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.
(B) Number of young banded breeder turks included: for the week 0 for the year 167,000; last year to date 215,000.

LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION

WEEK ENDING 27-Mar-99 (PRELIMINARY)

	YOUNG CHICKENS	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS	DUCKS
-----THOUSANDS-----					
HEAD	148,122(A)	2,026	1,398	3,424	445
AVGWT	5.11	3.25	7.89	5.14	6.85
LAST WEEK	148,775	2,125	1,381	3,506	435
YR AGO	145,831	2,083	1,205	3,288	446
AVGWT	4.86	3.47	7.76	5.04	6.64
TO-DATE/1999	1,800,918	25,734	15,953	41,687	5,574
TO-DATE/1998	1,741,686	23,812	15,064	38,876	5,449

(A) The estimated number of fryers available for marketing based on the 2-week revised average chick placements 6 to 7 weeks earlier was 147.7 million head. Estimated U.S. slaughter for this period 149.9 million head or 2.2 million head more than or 101 percent of estimated fryers available.

ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER

UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING 03-Apr-99

CLASS	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK
	04/03/99 (1)	03/27/99
----- THOUSAND HEAD -----		
BRO-FRY	148,286 (2)	149,586
LT HENS	2,264	2,060
HVY HENS	1,477	1,549
CHECK TOTAL	152,027	153,195

(1) ESTIMATED

(2) The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 3-Apr-99 is 148.8 million head compared to 147.6 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 150.1 million head or 1.3 million more than estimated available. For week of 10-Apr-99 the estimated available is 150.4 million head.

ESTIMATED U.S. SLAUGHTER COMPARED TO ESTIMATED FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING.

WEEK ENDING	MILLION HEAD SLAUGHTERED	MILLION HEAD AVAILABLE	PCT	AVG WT
FEBRUARY 20	149.4	152.6	98	4.90
27	151.3	151.2	100	5.03
MARCH 6	151.4	150.6	101	4.94
13	152.2	150.2	101	4.98
20	150.6	148.5	101	5.06
27	149.9	147.7	101	5.11
YEAR TO DATE	1,822.7	1,792.9	102	
APRIL 3		148.8		
10		150.4		

12-CITY COMPOSITE WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICES FOR RTC BROILER/FRYERS

	Change from			
	29-Mar-99	22-Mar-99	22-Mar-99	30-Mar-99
	54.52	-2.34	56.86	58.80
NUMBER OF LOADS	599			

READY-TO-COOK POULTRY BROILER/FRYERS

FINAL REPORT OF PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR TRUCKLOT SALES OF READY-TO-COOK ICE PACKED AND CO2 PACKED B/F TO BE DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS WEEK OF 3/29-4/3/99.

	U.S. GRADE A		COMPOSITE	
	MAJ	WTD AVG	LDS	WTD AVG
Chicago	45.00-48.00	47.30	44	49.37
Los Angeles	63.00	62.03	76	61.04
New York	43.00-49.00	48.20	50	49.98

WHOLE YOUNG TURKEYS, FROZEN 1/, CONSUMER SIZES, COMMODITY PACK OR EQUIVALENT, US GRADE A, CENTS PER LB, DELIVERED (MINIMUM 10,000 LB LOTS)

	OFFERS	SALES	WTD AVG	LBS (000)
CURRENT SHIPMENTS 2/				
8-16 LB HENS				
EASTERN REGION 3/	61-62.5	61	61.00	160
CENTRAL REGION 4/	60-61	-	-	-
WESTERN REGION 5/	61-62	-	-	-
16-24 LB TOMS				
EASTERN REGION	61-62	-	-	-
CENTRAL REGION	60-61	60.5	60.50	20
WESTERN REGION	61-62	-	-	-

1/ May include product stored at temperatures in range of 1 to 25 degrees F. 2/ Includes product priced for shipment within 14 days. 3/ Includes product with 3 percent broth basting. 4/ Includes product with 3-6 percent broth basting. 5/ Includes products with 6 percent broth basting.

WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS-SELECTED STGE CENTERS (INCL GOVT STOCKS) (IN THOUSANDS)

	FREGS LBS	TURKS LBS	POP LBS
AM 29-Mar-99	2,285	131,082	84,351
AM 1-Mar-99	2,629	119,554	82,349
CHG	-344	11,528	2,002
PCT CHG	-13	10	2

HEN MARKETS

Cents Per Pound, Generally for slaughter the following week.

HEAVY TYPE			
3/29/99	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD. AVG
Southeast Heavy	15-22(1)	15-18.5	17.92
Southeast Heavy	TFEWR(2)		
South Central Heavy	17-22(1)	18-19	18.92
LIGHT TYPE			
3/26/99			
Eastern Light	0-2(1)	.5-75	
Eastern Light	TFEWR(2)		
So. Central Light	TFEWR(2)		
No. Central Light	TFEWR(1)		
No. Central Light	1.5-2(2)	2	

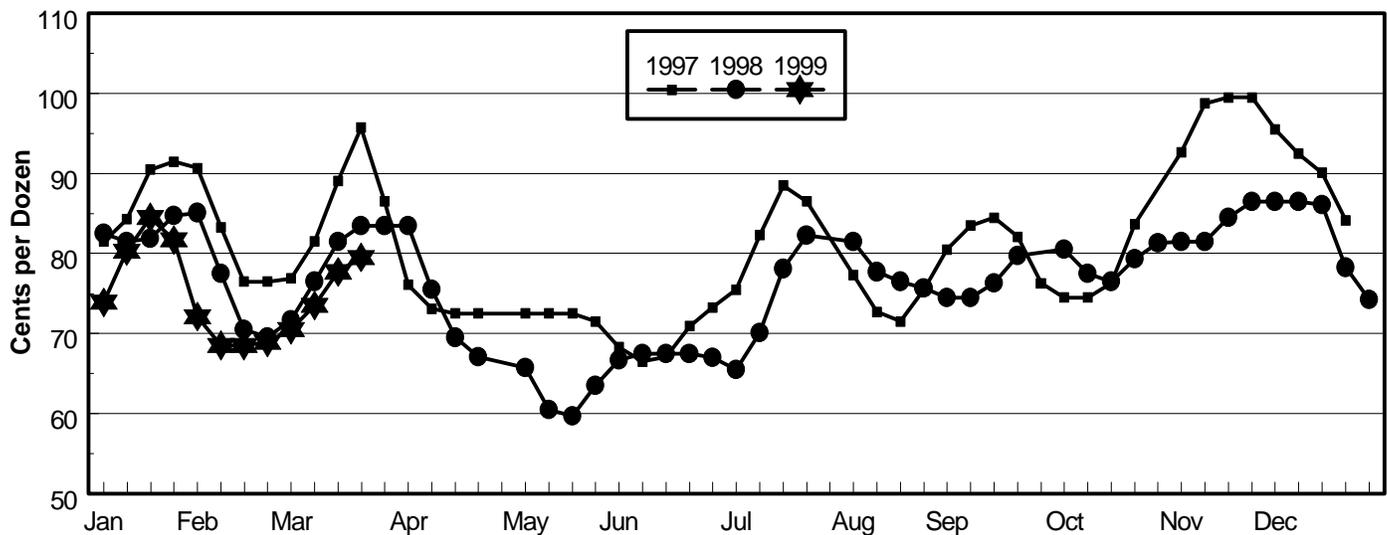
(1) At Farm Buyer Loading

(2) At Farm Producer Loading

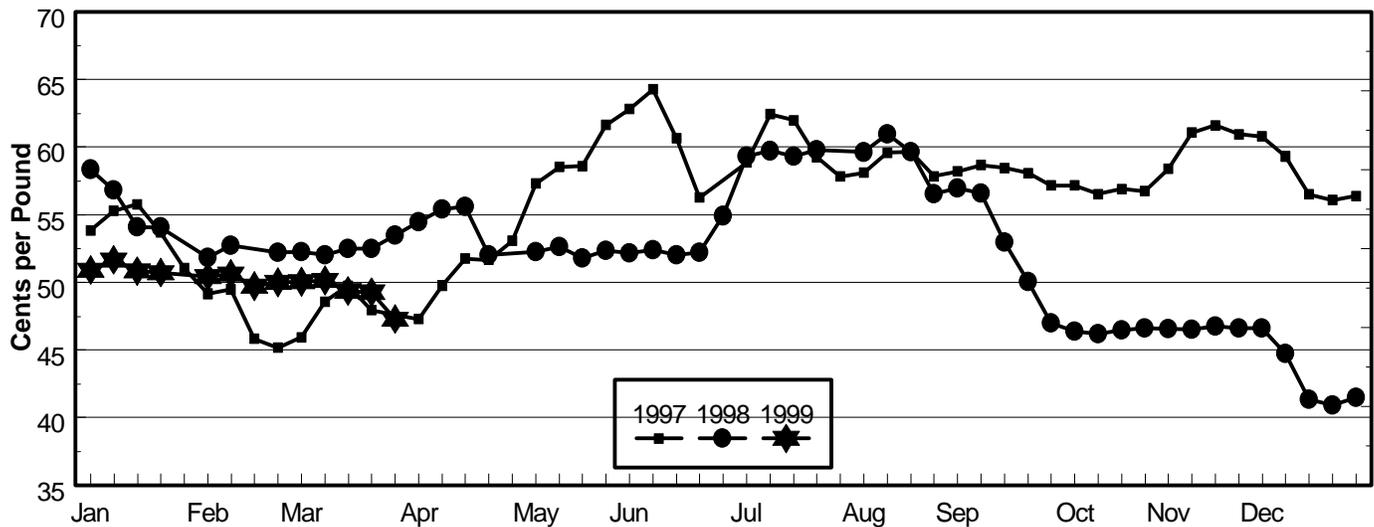
USDA, AMS, POULTRY PROGRAMS. POULTRY MARKET NEWS OFFICES

Washington, DC	Voice	(202)720-6911	Grover T. Hunter
	Fax	(202)720-2403	(Chief)
Atlanta, GA	Voice	(404)562-5850	Johnny Freeman
	Fax	(404)562-5875	(Officer-In-Charge)
	Recorded	(404)562-5856	
Jackson, MS	Voice	(601)965-4662	Gary Brown
	Fax	(601)965-4661	(Officer-In-Charge)
Des Moines, IA	Voice	(515)284-4471	Mary L. Adkins
	Fax	(515)284-4468	(Officer-In-Charge)
	Recorded	(515)284-4545	
Bell, CA	Voice	(323)269-4154	Jim Derby
	Fax	(323)269-5926	(Officer-In-Charge)
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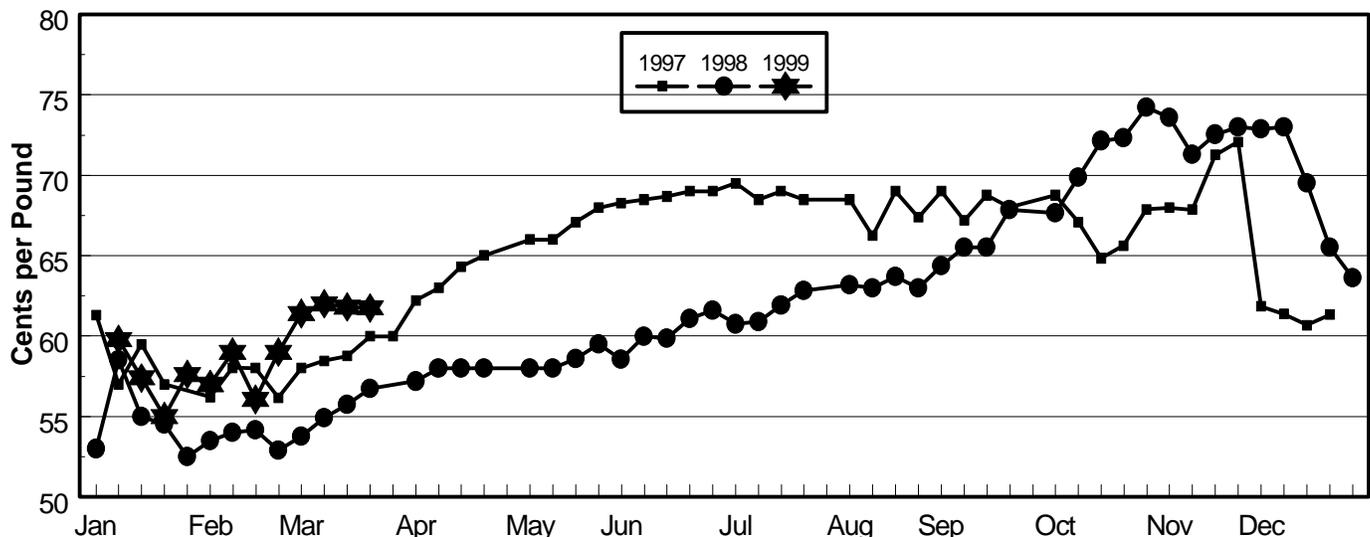
New York Large Egg Weekly Average Price, 1997, 1998, 1999



Chicago Broiler/Fryer Final Weighted Average Prices, US Grade A, 1997, 1998, 1999



Eastern Region Weekly Average Prices for 8-16 LB Hen Turkeys, 1997, 1998, 1999



Note: Some weeks' averages are based on offers only.