

Table 6.—PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF FARMS REPORTING CHICKENS ON HAND, BY SIZE OF FLOCK, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND SELECTED GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS: 1930 TO 1954

Geographic division and size of flock ¹	Percent distribution of farms reporting chickens					
	1930	1935	1940	1945	1950	1954
United States	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Farms with—						
Under 50 chickens.....	54.9	58.4	58.6	49.6	56.8	54.2
50 to 99 chickens.....	22.1	22.3	21.4	22.0	19.2	17.3
100 to 199 chickens.....	16.0	13.8	14.3	17.8	15.2	14.3
200 to 399 chickens.....	6.7	4.4	4.6	8.4	6.7	10.0
400 chickens and over.....	1.3	1.1	1.2	2.2	2.1	4.3
400 to 799 chickens.....	(NA)	.8	.8	(NA)	1.4	2.9
800 to 1,599 chickens.....	(NA)	.2	.3	(NA)	.4	.8
1,600 to 3,199 chickens.....	(NA)	.1	.1	(NA)	.2	.4
3,200 chickens and over.....	(NA)	(Z)	(Z)	(NA)	.1	.2
New England	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Farms with—						
Under 50 chickens.....	66.8	70.0	65.0	63.4	58.8	53.3
50 to 99 chickens.....	16.3	13.5	12.4	12.6	11.7	13.5
100 to 199 chickens.....	8.6	7.5	8.2	8.6	8.5	8.3
200 to 399 chickens.....	4.9	4.7	6.4	5.5	7.3	6.8
400 chickens and over.....	3.5	4.4	8.0	9.9	13.7	18.1
400 to 799 chickens.....	(NA)	2.8	4.7	(NA)	6.1	6.0
800 to 1,599 chickens.....	(NA)	1.2	2.4	(NA)	4.5	5.4
1,600 to 3,199 chickens.....	(NA)	.3	.7	(NA)	2.1	4.3
3,200 chickens and over.....	(NA)	.1	.2	(NA)	1.0	2.5
East North Central	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Farms with—						
Under 50 chickens.....	31.4	35.8	38.9	31.1	36.1	29.9
50 to 99 chickens.....	33.3	31.4	30.5	26.3	26.1	21.6
100 to 199 chickens.....	27.1	24.8	23.8	29.3	26.8	26.5
200 to 399 chickens.....	7.2	6.9	6.0	11.3	9.3	16.9
400 chickens and over.....	1.0	1.0	.8	2.0	1.7	5.1
400 to 799 chickens.....	(NA)	.9	.7	(NA)	1.4	4.1
800 to 1,599 chickens.....	(NA)	.1	.1	(NA)	.2	.8
1,600 to 3,199 chickens.....	(NA)	(Z)	(Z)	(NA)	.1	.2
3,200 chickens and over.....	(NA)	(Z)	(Z)	(NA)	(Z)	(Z)
Pacific	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Farms with—						
Under 50 chickens.....	58.9	63.9	66.3	66.7	69.5	67.8
50 to 99 chickens.....	17.2	16.4	14.6	16.2	11.6	11.5
100 to 199 chickens.....	8.9	8.3	7.4	7.0	6.2	5.7
200 to 399 chickens.....	6.0	5.1	4.8	4.1	4.6	4.0
400 chickens and over.....	9.1	6.3	6.9	6.0	8.2	11.0
400 to 799 chickens.....	(NA)	3.5	3.7	(NA)	3.6	3.7
800 to 1,599 chickens.....	(NA)	2.0	2.2	(NA)	2.6	3.3
1,600 to 3,199 chickens.....	(NA)	.6	.8	(NA)	1.3	2.5
3,200 chickens and over.....	(NA)	.2	.2	(NA)	.6	1.4

NA Not available.

Z 0.05 percent or less.

¹ For 1954 and 1950, number of chickens on hand, 4 months old and over; for 1945 and 1940, over 4 months old; and for 1935 and 1930, over 3 months old.

In the South Atlantic States, 88 percent of the farms have flocks of less than 100 chickens and only 3 percent have flocks of 400 or more. This geographic division is mainly one of small farm flocks so that egg production is not important as a commercial farm enterprise.

Trend in size of flock.—During the last quarter century there has been a distinct trend toward larger laying flocks in all parts of the country. In 1930, 77 percent of the farms reported fewer than 100 chickens on hand; in 1954, 71 percent. Only 7 percent reported more than 200 or more chickens on hand in 1930, compared with 14.3 percent in 1954. In New England, this change has occurred at a more rapid rate than in the rest of the country. More than 83 percent of the farms in New England reported chickens in flocks of less than 100 in 1930 compared with 67 percent in 1954.

The number of farms with flocks of more than 400 increased rapidly over this 25-year period. Only 3.5 percent of the New England farms reported flocks of over 400 in 1930, compared with 18.1 percent in 1954. Moreover, in 1954, 6.8 percent of the farms reported flocks of more than 1,600 compared with less than 0.4 only 20 years earlier.

In the Pacific States the trend toward large flocks was not quite so pronounced as in New England. In the East North Central States the trend has not been so marked as in other areas.

Prices of eggs compared with prices of feed.—The price of eggs compared with the price of feed was more favorable during the 5-year period 1950–1954 than during the 5-year period 1940–1944. The ratio of the local market price of eggs to feed price was more favorable in 1954 than for any year since 1940.

The production of eggs is being concentrated on the larger specialized poultry farms.

In 1929, only 21 percent of the eggs sold were produced on farms with 400 or more chickens on hand; by 1954, 56 percent of all eggs sold came from farms with 400 or more chickens on hand and the 20,000 farms with 1,600 or more chickens on hand, produced 30

Table 7.—EGG-FEED PRICE RATIOS FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1940 TO 1954

Year	Ratio of cost of poultry egg-feed to local market price of eggs (pounds of feed)	Year	Ratio of cost of poultry egg-feed to local market price of eggs (pounds of feed)
1940.....	11.5	1948.....	11.4
1941.....	13.5	1949.....	13.2
1942.....	14.2	1950.....	10.3
1943.....	14.5	1951.....	12.0
1944.....	11.5	1952.....	10.0
1945.....	13.4	1953.....	12.3
1946.....	11.3	1954.....	9.4
1947.....	11.1		

Source: Agricultural Marketing Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Table 8.—NUMBER OF FARMS REPORTING AND DOZEN EGGS SOLD, BY SIZE OF FLOCK, FOR THE UNITED STATES: CENSUSES OF 1930 TO 1954

Size of flock ¹	Farms reporting eggs sold								Dozens of chicken eggs sold							
	Number				Percent distribution				Number				Percent distribution			
	1954 ²	1949	1939 ³	1929	1954 ²	1949	1939 ³	1929	1954 ²	1949	1939 ³	1929	1954 ²	1949	1939 ³	1929
Total	1,391,734	2,459,984	4,875,472	3,872,482	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	2,663,454,463	2,483,696,061	2,391,091,510	1,955,459,439	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Farms with—																
Under 400 chickens.....	1,248,347	2,372,761	4,815,757	3,804,346	89.7	96.5	98.8	98.2	1,158,590,290	1,654,706,249	1,931,925,392	1,539,716,822	43.5	66.6	80.8	78.7
400 chickens and over.....	143,387	87,223	59,715	68,136	10.3	3.5	1.2	1.8	1,604,864,173	828,989,812	459,166,118	415,742,617	56.5	33.4	19.2	21.3
400 to 799 chickens.....	94,444	58,197	42,413	(NA)	6.8	2.4	0.9	(NA)	409,333,605	282,984,008	195,208,689	(NA)	15.4	11.4	8.2	(NA)
800 to 1,599 chickens.....	28,924	18,650	12,785	(NA)	2.1	0.8	0.3	(NA)	305,753,883	212,265,553	136,891,980	(NA)	11.5	8.5	5.7	(NA)
1,600 to 3,199 chickens.....	12,924	7,495	3,589	(NA)	0.9	0.3	0.1	(NA)	322,290,945	176,558,654	77,885,434	(NA)	12.1	7.1	3.3	(NA)
3,200 chickens and over.....	7,095	2,881	928	(NA)	0.5	0.1	(Z)	(NA)	467,485,740	157,181,597	49,180,015	(NA)	17.6	6.3	2.1	(NA)
400 to 999 chickens.....	(NA)	(NA)	47,725	57,095	(NA)	(NA)	1.0	1.5	(NA)	(NA)	240,874,715	243,716,360	(NA)	(NA)	10.1	12.5
1,000 to 2,499 chickens.....	(NA)	(NA)	10,098	9,477	(NA)	(NA)	0.2	0.2	(NA)	(NA)	142,648,700	116,421,355	(NA)	(NA)	6.0	6.0
2,500 chickens and over.....	(NA)	(NA)	1,892	1,564	(NA)	(NA)	(Z)	(Z)	(NA)	(NA)	75,642,703	55,604,902	(NA)	(NA)	3.2	2.8

NA Not available.

Z 0.05 percent or less.

¹ For Censuses of 1954 and 1950, number of chickens on hand, 4 months old and over; for 1940, over 4 months old; and for 1930, over 3 months old.

² Data are for commercial farms only.

³ Data are for farms reporting and dozens of eggs produced.