

GENERAL EXPLANATIONS Continued

\$2,500 and over increased from \$3.9 billion in 1969 to \$6.1 billion in 1974. These farms accounted for 97 percent of the total poultry sales, as compared to 95 percent in 1969.

Hens and pullets of laying age—The number of farms with sales of \$2,500 and over having hens and pullets of laying age decreased from 280,007 in 1969 to 198,577 in 1974 or 29.1 percent. This decrease has been the result of the discontinuance of small laying-hen enterprises. Farms reporting 1 to 99 hens decreased from 166,626 to 144,911 or 13.0 percent. Farms reporting 100 to 399 hens decreased 53.8 percent. Even with the substantial decrease in the number of farms having small flocks, they still accounted for a very large proportion of the farms reporting laying hens. Flocks of 1 to 99 hens accounted for 73 percent of the total farms reporting hens, while an additional 17 percent were in the 100-to-399 size group. These two groups with small flocks, representing 90 percent of the farms reporting hens and pullets of laying age, had only 4 percent of the total hens and pullets on hand.

The number of hens and pullets of laying age on farms with sales of \$2,500 and over decreased from 291 million in 1969 to 281 million in 1974. Flocks of 20,000 or more have increased from 3,142 in 1969 to 3,278 in 1974. Flocks of this size represented 67.7 percent of the hens and pullets of laying age on hand in 1974 as compared with 52.4 percent in 1969.

The 354 farms with 100,000 or more hens and pullets had over 30 percent of the total in 1974. There were 327 flocks of this size in 1969, which accounted for 21 percent of the total reported (tables 27 and 28).

Approximately 3,700 farms with sales of \$2,500 and over sold 135 million pullets 3 months old or older in 1974. The 1,382 farms selling 30,000 pullets and over accounted for 77.1 percent of the total number of pullets sold. These pullets, which are replacements for laying flocks, are usually raised on specialized pullet-growing farms under

Table 27. Hens and Pullets of Laying Age—Inventory by Number Per Farm: 1974 and 1969

Farms With Sales of \$2,500 and Over	Farms				Inventory			
	1974		1969		1974		1969	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Number (1,000)	Percent	Number (1,000)	Percent
Farms.....	198,577	100.0	280,007	100.0	280,646	100.0	290,901	100.0
Hens and pullets per farm:								
1 to 99.....	144,911	73.0	166,626	59.5	4,245	1.5	5,333	1.8
100 to 399.....	33,738	17.0	72,964	26.1	5,977	2.1	13,499	4.6
400 to 1,599.....	7,628	3.8	21,534	7.7	5,040	1.8	13,808	4.7
1,600 to 3,199.....	1,353	.7	3,640	1.3	3,202	1.1	8,171	2.9
3,200 to 9,999.....	4,267	2.1	8,044	2.9	26,921	9.7	46,382	16.0
10,000 to 19,999.....	3,402	1.7	4,057	1.4	45,187	16.1	51,176	17.6
20,000 to 49,999.....	2,365	1.2	2,246	.8	67,398	24.0	59,828	20.6
50,000 to 99,999.....	559	.3	569	.2	36,864	13.1	32,720	11.2
100,000 and over.....	354	.2	327	.1	85,812	30.6	59,984	20.6

contract. Pullets raised on farms for replacement on that farm are not reported as sold.

Broilers—The production of broilers used to be located in the Delmarva Peninsula, which included Delaware and parts of Maryland and Virginia. The center has since moved south to the South Atlantic States of Georgia and North Carolina and the South Central States of Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Texas. Now more than three-fourths of all broilers are produced in the South (table 29).

Since 1959, the broiler industry also has been experiencing substantial growth. From 1959 to 1974, the number of broilers sold increased 59 percent from 1.4 billion to 2.4 billion. This past and future potential growth may be attributed primarily to the technical efficiencies gained in production and processing. The broiler industry is highly integrated—with production contracts and ownership linkage of successive stages of production processing and marketing—which contributes to these efficiencies.

The increase in the number of broilers sold from 1959 to 1974 is:

	Farms	Broilers sold (million)
1974 ¹	34,340	2,519
1969 ¹	33,753	2,381
1964	35,128	1,915
1959	42,185	1,419

¹ Abnormal farms not included.

In 1974, 9,300 farms accounted for 70 percent of all broilers. Farms reporting between 60,000 and 99,999 decreased

Table 28. Pullets—Sales by Number Sold Per Farm: 1974

Farms	Farms		Pullets sold	
	Total	Per-cent	Number (1,000)	Per-cent
Farms.....	3,697	100.0	134,613	100.0
Pullets sold per farm:				
1 to 1,999.....	311	8.4	92	.1
2,000 to 3,999.....	72	1.9	218	.2
4,000 to 7,999.....	272	7.4	1,637	1.2
8,000 to 15,999.....	703	19.0	8,119	6.0
16,000 to 29,999.....	957	25.9	20,725	15.4
30,000 to 59,999.....	825	22.3	33,436	24.8
60,000 to 99,999.....	327	8.8	23,614	17.5
100,000 and over.....	230	6.2	46,772	34.7

Table 29. Broilers—Sales for Leading States: 1974

	Farms	Broilers sold (1,000)	Per-cent
United States, total.	34,340	2,518,513	100.0
Arkansas.....	4,352	437,193	17.4
Georgia.....	3,794	355,956	14.1
Alabama.....	3,839	337,189	13.4
North Carolina.....	2,520	225,566	9.0
Mississippi.....	1,519	178,823	7.1
Maryland.....	1,365	154,578	6.1
Texas.....	1,375	146,502	5.8
Delaware.....	1,021	124,448	4.9
Other States.....	14,555	558,258	22.2

9 percent from 1969 to 1974; the number of broilers sold on these places also decreased 9 percent. Since 1969, farms with sales of 100,000 broilers or more have increased 22 percent, averaging 189,000 broilers per farm (table 30).

Turkeys

The turkey industry has experienced an increase in the number of turkeys sold since 1969 compared to previous years. The number of farms with sales of \$2,500 and over reporting turkeys in 1974 decreased about 19 percent, while the number of turkeys sold from these