



# 2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

## Poultry and Egg Production

**More than 50 percent of the total value of U.S. poultry and egg sales comes from the top 6 states:**

1. Georgia
2. North Carolina
3. Arkansas
4. Alabama
5. Mississippi
6. Texas

U.S. Department of Agriculture

National Agricultural Statistics Service



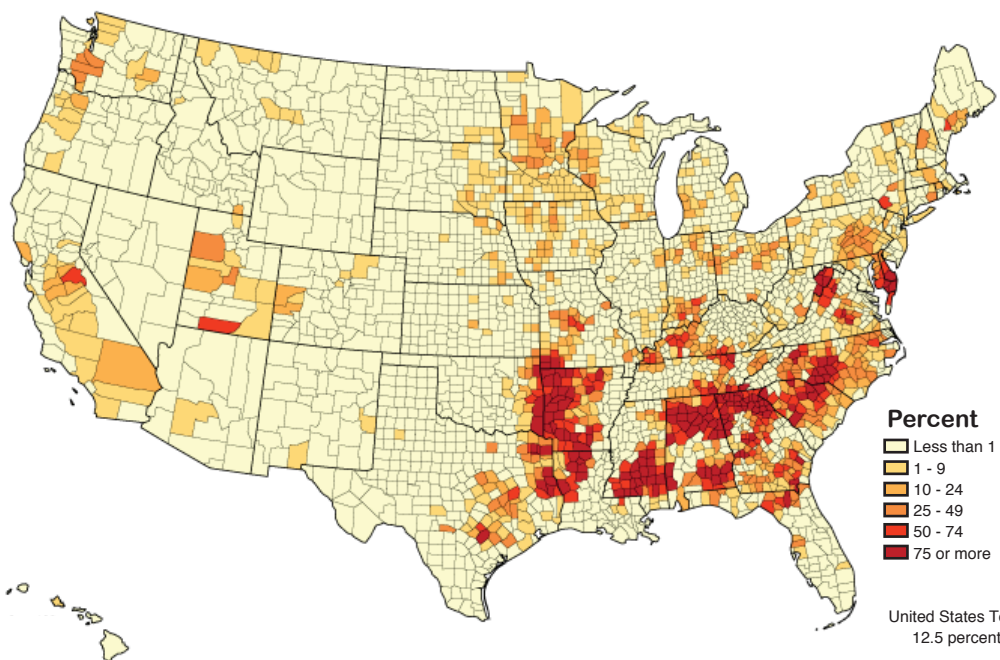
### Poultry Sales

The 2007 Census of Agriculture shows that poultry and egg value of production is rising in the United States. During 2007, U.S. sales of poultry and eggs totaled \$37 billion, an increase of \$13.1 billion, or 55 percent, from 2002. Total sales of poultry and eggs accounted for 12 percent of all agricultural products sold in the United States during 2007.

Sales of poultry and eggs are heavily concentrated in the Southeast. The largest increases in sales were seen in North Carolina (+\$1.7 billion), Georgia (+\$1.46 billion) and Arkansas (+\$1.09 billion). Sussex County in Delaware was the largest single county in terms of poultry and egg sales during 2007, with \$707 million, or 1.9 percent of the total U.S. value.



**Value of Poultry and Eggs Sold as Percent of Total Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold, 2007 Census of Agriculture**



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***In 2007 there were 64,570 farms in the United States that specialized in poultry and egg production and 148,911 operations that sold poultry and eggs.***

## Production Expenses

Establishments classified as primarily poultry and egg operations\* spent \$29.4 billion to produce poultry products during 2007, an increase of 11.8 billion, or 67 percent, from 2002. The steepest increases in cost were for other expenses (animal health cost, marketing, etc.), up 221 percent, and cash rent, up 178.9 percent. Total production expenses per poultry farm increased over \$61,000 from 2002 to 2007.

|  | 2007           | 2002           | % Change |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------|
| <b>Total Farms</b>                                       | 145,615        | 98,315         | +48      |
| <b>Total Production Expenses</b>                         | \$29.4 billion | \$17.6 billion | +67      |
| Average per Farm   | \$455,256      | \$393,433      | +16      |
| Feed Purchased   | \$17.1 billion | \$10.4 billion | +65      |
| Livestock (Purchased or Leased)                          | \$5.5 billion  | \$3.2 billion  | +73      |
| All Other Expenses (Animal Health Cost, Marketing, etc.) | \$2.4 billion  | \$.74 billion  | +221     |
| Labor (Hired and Contract)                               | \$.99 billion  | \$.82 billion  | +21      |
| Supplies, Repairs and Maintenance                        | \$.71 billion  | \$.63 billion  | +13      |

*\* The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) categorizes farms by the commodities which constitute a majority of the sales of the operation. Production expenses and producer characteristics are from operations classified primarily as poultry and egg farms. These operations accounted for 98.1 percent of the total poultry and egg inventory on Dec. 31, 2007.*

# Poultry and Egg Production

## Producer Characteristics

The 2007 Census shows significant changes in the characteristics of U.S. poultry producers. The number of female producers in the United States increased 3.9 percent from 2002. Women now account for 19.1 percent of all poultry producers. Additionally, the average age of poultry producers increased from 52 to 53. Operators under the age of 45 decreased 5 percent from 2002, while those 65 years and older increased 3 percent.

Poultry producers were much more likely to derive income from non-farm sources in 2007 than in 2002. A little more than half of them now list their primary occupation as farming. As a result, 63 percent of poultry producers derive less than 25 percent of their total income from farming while less than 10 percent obtain all of their income from farming.

|                                       | 2007     | 2002     |
|---------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| <b>Sex of Operator</b>                |          |          |
| Male                                  | 80.9%    | 84.8%    |
| Female                                | 19.1%    | 15.2%    |
| <b>Age of Operator</b>                |          |          |
| Under 45 Years                        | 24.6%    | 29.5%    |
| 45 to 64 Years                        | 57.5%    | 56.0%    |
| 65 Years and Older                    | 17.9%    | 14.5%    |
| Average Age                           | 53 years | 52 years |
| <b>Primary Occupation</b>             |          |          |
| Farming                               | 51.6%    | 68.7%    |
| Other                                 | 48.4%    | 31.3%    |
| <b>Percent of Income from Farming</b> |          |          |
| Less than 25%                         | 63.4%    | 40.3%    |
| 25% to 49%                            | 5.9%     | 8.7%     |
| 50% to 74%                            | 10.2%    | 15.9%    |
| 75% to 99%                            | 10.6%    | 15.2%    |
| 100%                                  | 9.9%     | 19.9%    |



**For more information:**

[www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

[www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov)

**Agricultural Statistics Hotline**  
**(800) 727-9540**

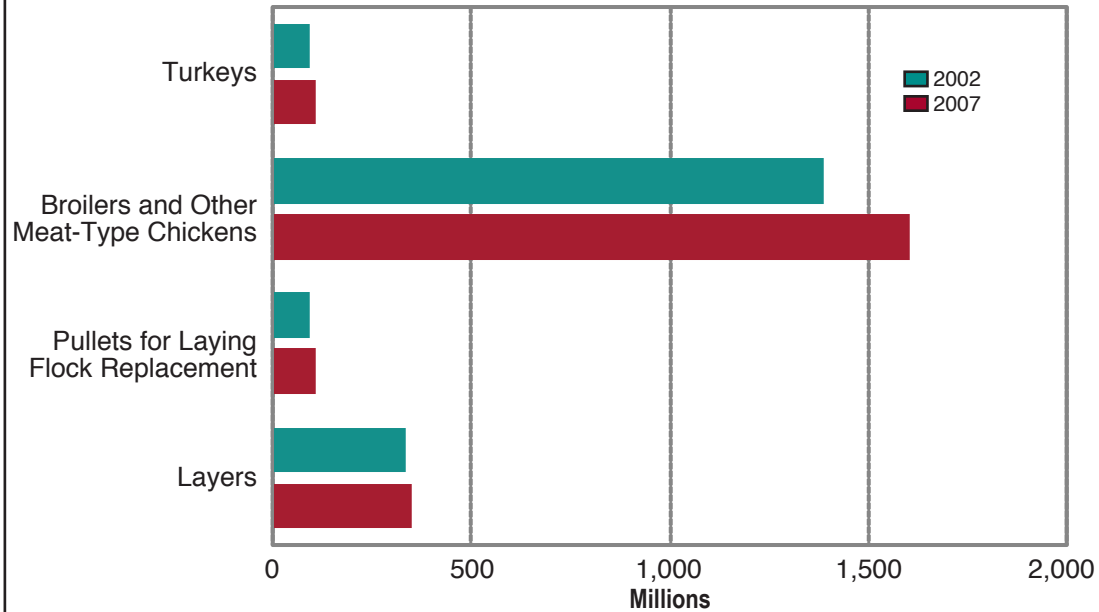
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## Inventory of Poultry and Egg Production

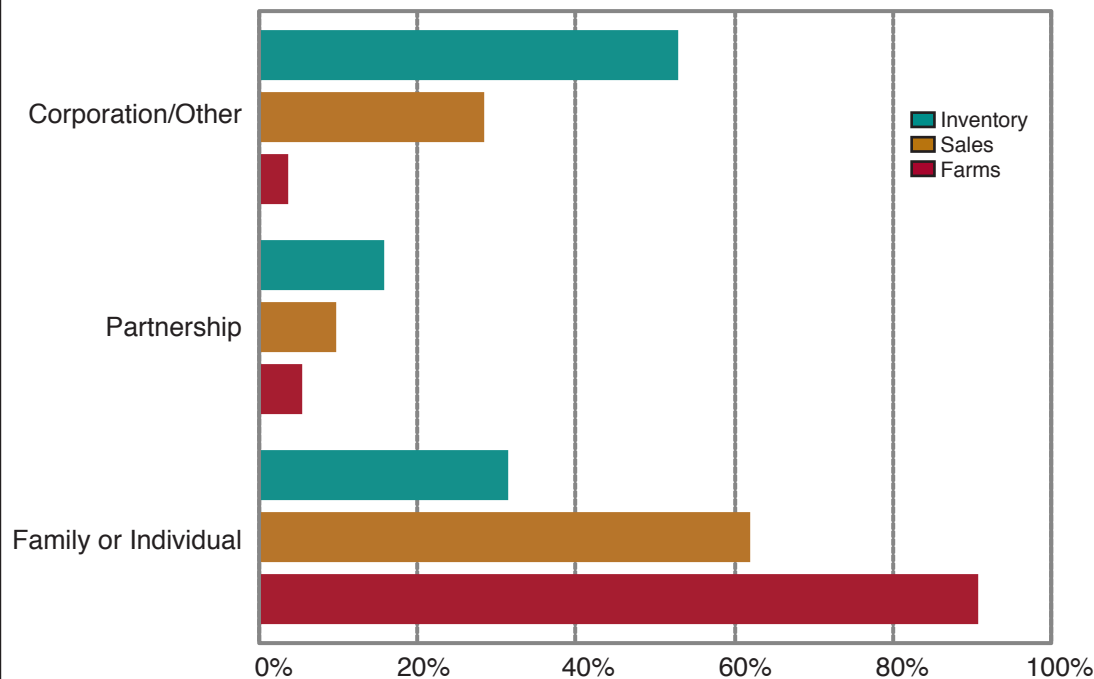
Census results show a general increase in poultry inventory between 2002 and 2007. The largest increase was in the number of broilers and other meat-type chickens, up 213 million.

Looking at industry concentration by the type of organization, poultry and egg inventory is highly concentrated. Although family farms make up more than 90 percent of all poultry operations, they account for only 31 percent of inventory and 61.9 percent of sales. In contrast, corporations make up only 3.7 percent of all poultry operations, but account for more than 52 percent of inventory and 28 percent of sales.

Poultry Inventory, 2007 and 2002



Poultry and Egg Farms, Inventory and Sales by Type of Operation



## Poultry and Egg Production