



23 January 2014

United Kingdom Poultry and Poultry Meat Statistics – November and December 2013

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Key points

This release shows the latest monthly information on poultry outputs, including hatchery, slaughtering and production statistics. The key results for **December 2013** are given below:

- UK broiler chick placings were 0.7 per cent higher than December 2012 at 72 million birds and UK turkey placings were 23 per cent lower at 0.8 million birds.
- UK broiler slaughterings were 2.8 per cent higher than December 2012 at 67 million birds. UK turkey slaughterings were 6.0 per cent lower at 1.9 million birds.
- UK poultry meat production was 127 thousand tonnes, 2.2 per cent higher than in December 2012.

This release will be updated at 09:30 on 27 February 2014. Additional time series are available to download at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/poultry-and-poultry-meat-statistics>

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Section 1: Commentary

The number of eggs set (incubated) each month indicates how many chicks will be available for placing into poultry systems in future months (hen eggs take around 21 days to hatch, turkey eggs take around 28 days). Once hatched, the chicks are then placed for further growth so the placing figures give an indication of future poultry meat and egg production.

Broiler chick and turkey poult placings are strongly affected by consumer demand for turkeys around Christmas time. Clear peaks (of turkey placings) and troughs (of broiler placings) are seen in the average weekly figures in the months running up to Christmas (Figs 2.1 and 2.2). This translates into equivalent high/low levels in the slaughtering volumes over the Christmas period (Figs 3.1 and 3.2).

The overall trend for the past few years has been a gradual increase in the volume of broilers produced in the UK whereas the volume of turkeys produced has remained fairly stable.

Section 2: United Kingdom Hatcheries data – placings and eggs set

Tables 2.1 and 2.3 show the number of eggs set and chicks placed by United Kingdom hatcheries. The surveys are run according to statistical, rather than calendar months, so the number of weeks in each statistical month is specified. Longer time series are available at the web link on the front page.

Table 2.1: Number of eggs set by United Kingdom Hatcheries

	millions		
	October 2013 5 weeks	November 2013 4 weeks	December 2013 4 weeks
Commercial broilers (a)	102.3	86.4	85.6
Broiler breeders (a) (b)	5.5	4.4	4.5
Turkeys (c)	1.6	1.3	1.3
Commercial layers (c)	9.7	7.8	7.5

(a) Includes eggs set to produce chicks for placing outside the UK

(b) Includes Broiler parents and grandparents

(c) Only includes eggs set for commercial stock, including those for placing outside the UK

Table 2.2 shows the average weekly eggs set for the last thirteen months. The monthly figures are affected by the number of weeks in the statistical month. To get a clearer measure of trends, weekly averages are calculated by dividing the number of eggs set in each month by the number of weeks in the statistical month.

Table 2.2: Average weekly number of eggs set by United Kingdom Hatcheries

	millions												
	2012		2013										
	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Commercial broilers (a)	21.5	21.9	21.8	21.7	21.8	22.1	22.2	21.8	21.6	21.8	20.5	21.6	21.4
Broiler breeders (a) (b)	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1
Turkeys (c)	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Commercial layers (c)	1.5	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.6	1.9	2.2	1.9	2.0	1.9

(a) Includes eggs set to produce chicks for placing outside the UK

(b) Includes Broiler parents and grandparents

(c) Only includes eggs set for commercial stock, including those for placing outside the UK

Table 2.3: Chicks and poults placed in the United Kingdom by United Kingdom Hatcheries

	millions		
	October 2013	November 2013	December 2013
	5 weeks	4 weeks	4 weeks
Commercial broilers (a)	90.6	68.6	72.3
Broiler female parents (b)	0.7	0.5	0.5
Turkey poults (c)	1.1	0.7	0.8
Commercial layers	3.8	2.9	2.3

(a) Includes 'by-product' chicks

(b) Includes imported female parent chicks. Excludes grandparent chicks and 'by-product' chicks

(c) Includes female breeder poults only

Table 2.4 shows the average weekly placings for the last thirteen months. As in Table 2.2, this removes the effect of using statistical months to give a clear picture of trends over time. Longer term trends can be seen in Figures 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3, following these tables.

Table 2.4: Average weekly numbers of chicks and poults placed in the United Kingdom by United Kingdom Hatcheries

	millions												
	2012		2013										
	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Commercial broilers (a)	18.0	18.1	18.2	18.3	18.0	18.4	18.4	18.5	18.1	18.3	18.1	17.1	18.1
Broiler female parents (b)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Turkey poults (c)	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.2
Commercial layers	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.6

(a) Includes 'by-product' chicks

(b) Includes imported female parent chicks. Excludes grandparent chicks and 'by-product' chicks

(c) Female breeder poults only

Figure 2.1: Average weekly commercial broiler chicks placed in the United Kingdom by United Kingdom Hatcheries

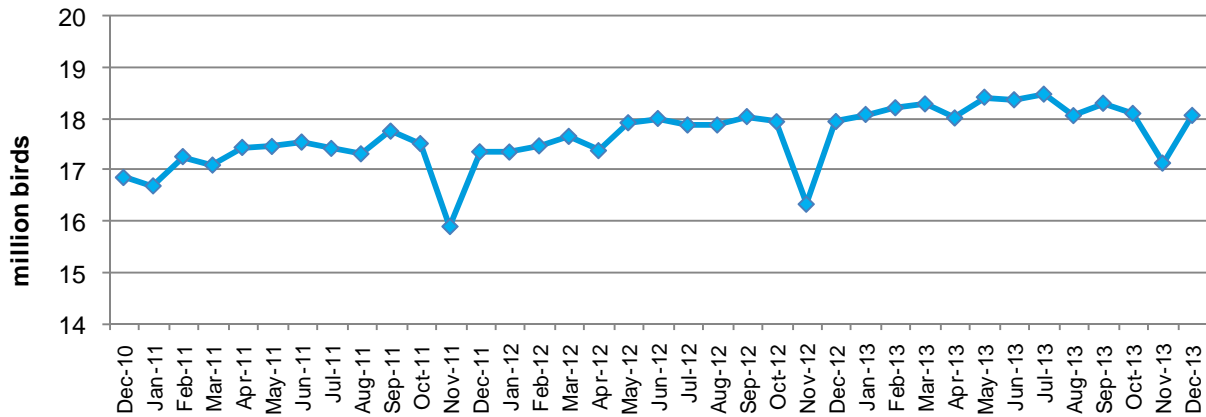


Figure 2.2: Average weekly turkey poults placed in the United Kingdom by United Kingdom Hatcheries

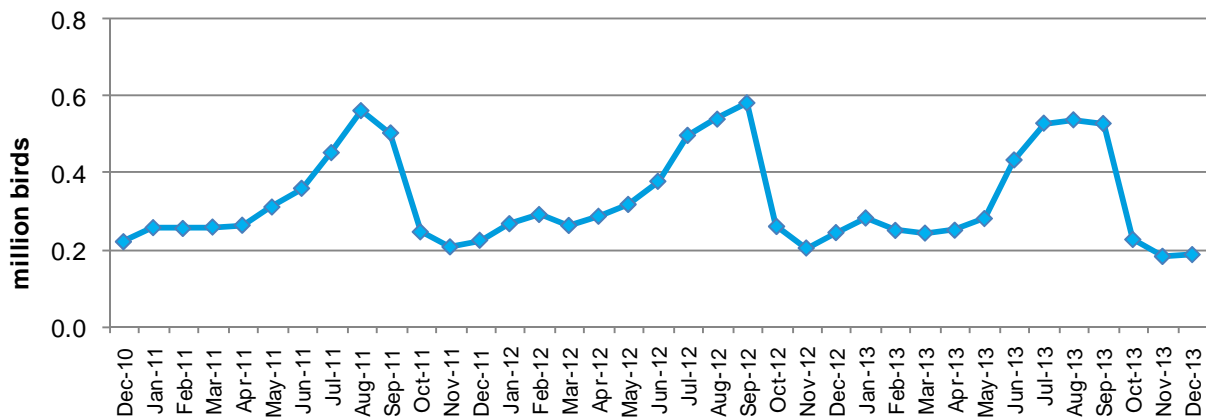
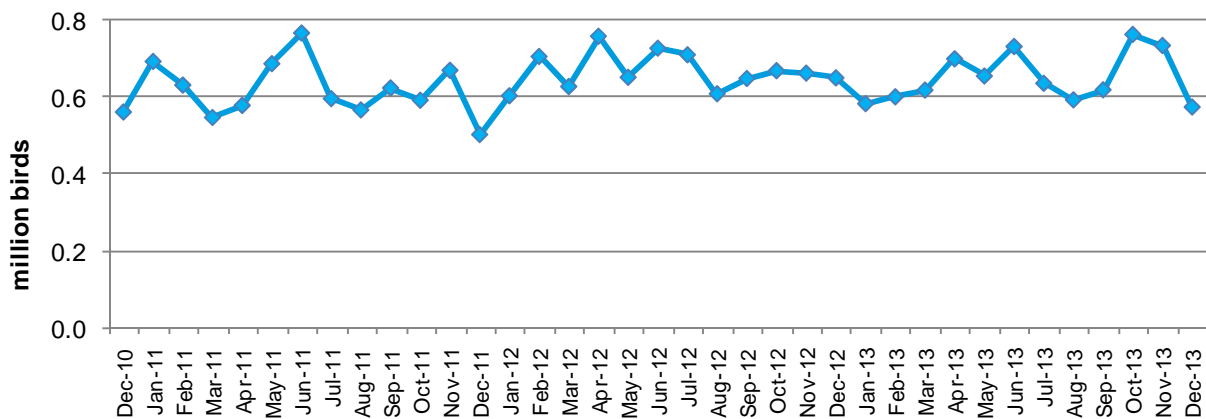


Figure 2.3: Average weekly commercial layer chicks placed in the United Kingdom by United Kingdom Hatcheries



Section 3: United Kingdom poultry slaughterings - numbers slaughtered, average weights and poultry meat production

Tables 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 below show the estimated number of poultry slaughtered, average liveweights of poultry and poultry meat production in the United Kingdom.

Table 3.1: Number of poultry slaughtered in the United Kingdom

	million birds		
	October 2013	November 2013	December 2013
	5 weeks	4 weeks	4 weeks
Broilers	87.4	69.5	67.4
Boiling Fowl (a)	4.0	3.3	3.5
Turkeys	2.4	2.1	1.9

(a) Includes spent commercial layer hens, spent layer breeders and spent broiler breeder hens

Table 3.2: Average liveweights per bird at point of slaughter in England & Wales

	kilograms												
	2012		2013										
	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Broilers	2.19	2.22	2.21	2.21	2.24	2.25	2.27	2.25	2.25	2.26	2.24	2.23	2.22
Boiling fowls	2.09	2.21	2.07	2.12	2.21	2.16	2.17	2.06	2.34	2.18	2.23	2.27	2.21
Turkeys	9.19	15.09	14.17	13.12	12.91	13.23	13.42	13.66	13.11	12.69	14.28	10.92	9.22

Table 3.3: United Kingdom poultrymeat production (a,b)

	thousand tonnes carcase weight		
	October 2013	November 2013	December 2013
	5 weeks	4 weeks	4 weeks
Broilers	135.0	107.2	103.4
Boiling Fowl	4.9	4.2	4.3
Turkeys	29.3	16.9	16.6
Ducks	3.0	2.5	2.7
Total	172.2	130.8	126.9

(a) Converted to whole bird equivalent carcase weight net of offal

(b) Excludes other poultry types, e.g. geese

Table 3.4 shows the average weekly slaughterings for the last thirteen months. As in Section 2, this removes the effect of using statistical months to give a clear picture of trends over time. Longer term trends can be seen in Figures 3.1 and 3.2 following this table.

Table 3.4: Average weekly numbers of poultry slaughtered in the United Kingdom million birds

	2012	2013											
	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Broilers	16.4	16.6	17.3	17.4	17.5	17.4	17.5	17.7	17.7	17.5	17.5	17.4	16.8
Boiling Fowl (a)	1.0	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.9
Turkeys	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.5

(a) Includes spent commercial layer hens, spent layer breeders and spent broiler breeder hens

Figure 3.1: United Kingdom average weekly numbers of broilers slaughtered

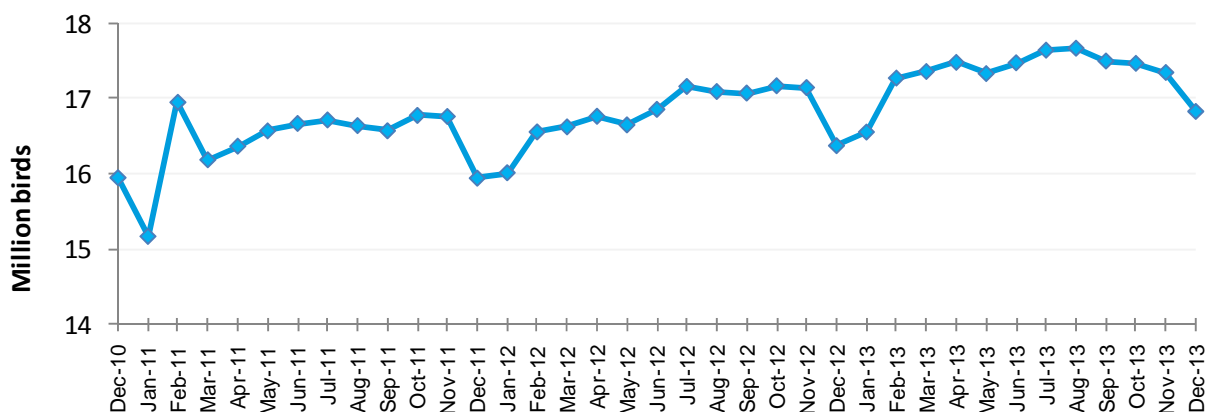
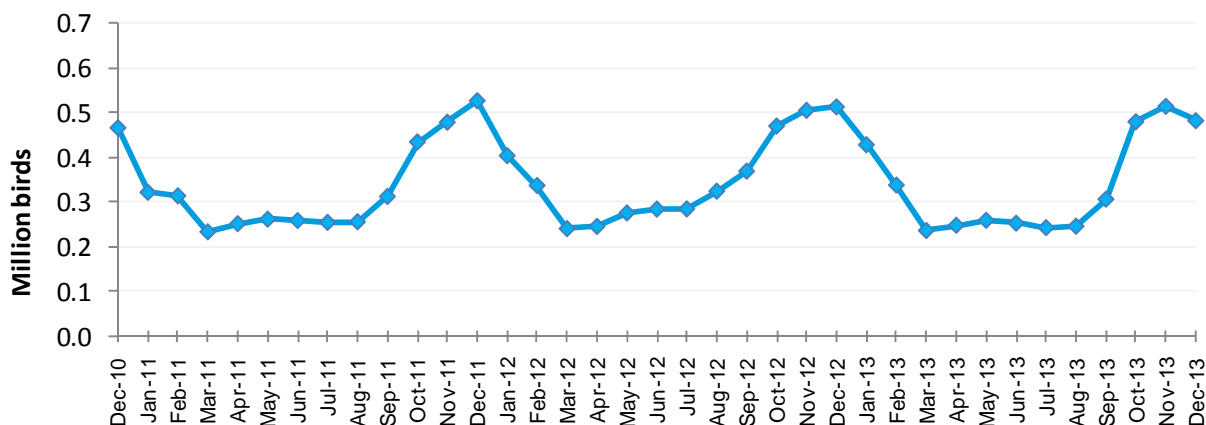


Figure 3.2: United Kingdom average weekly numbers of turkeys slaughtered



Methodology notes and revisions policy:

1. The information in this notice is used by the UK government and the EU as evidence for assessing market conditions and evaluating agricultural policy. The hatchery statistics are required by the EU under Regulations (EC) No 617/2008 and 1234/2007. The poultry slaughtering and weight statistics are also required monthly under EU regulation 1165/2008. Other users include the food and farming industry, academia and the general public. Contact details are available on the front page of this notice, for you to send feedback or ask questions about the information provided.
2. Defra runs a monthly survey of registered England and Wales hatcheries. It is a statutory survey of 42 respondents that collects information on the number of eggs set and the chicks placed by hatcheries. The response rate is typically 100%. Similar surveys are run by the Rural & Environment Research and Analysis Directorate (RERAD) for Scotland and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) for Northern Ireland.
3. Poultry slaughterings and poultry meat production statistics are estimated from the number of chicks placed by hatcheries and day old chick imports using industry advice on life-spans and mortality. Average liveweights for each type of poultry are obtained from Defra's monthly survey of England and Wales poultry slaughterhouses. This is a sample survey of large poultry slaughterhouses, around 26 respondents. Similar surveys are run in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Meat production is calculated from the estimated number of birds slaughtered and the average liveweights. The liveweight is converted to carcass weight using industry advice on conversion factors.
4. Survey data are subject to a variety of validation checks which identify inconsistencies in the data. All data are cleaned prior to publication in discussion with the survey respondents.

Revisions

5. Figures in this release are provisional and subject to revision. We will provide information about any revisions we make to previously published information in this statistics release and the associated datasets. Revisions could occur for various reasons, including:
 - a. if we have not received survey data from respondents we make an estimate based on their previous returns. These estimates are replaced with actual survey data when it is received.
 - b. survey respondents occasionally supply amended figures for previous periods.
 - c. we may also revise the methodology used to raise the survey data to give UK totals.

This month minor revisions have been made to the production data from March 2013, the slaughter data from July 2013 and the hatchery data from September 2013, for the reasons given above.