

## TENNESSEE AGRI-INDUSTRY BRIEF: POULTRY FACT SHEET

Jamey Menard, Research Leader  
Agri-Industry Modeling & Analysis Group (AIM-AG)  
Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics

---



### BACKGROUND

Poultry is raised in practically all 95 counties in Tennessee. Broilers represent the largest segment of the poultry industry in Tennessee, followed by the egg industry. According to the 2022 Census of Agriculture<sup>1</sup>, broilers were raised in 89 of the 95 Tennessee counties and layers in 94 (see Figures 1 and 2) (USDA/NASS, 2024).

---

<sup>1</sup> Most recent county level data available.



**Poultry Broiler Inventory, Tennessee, 2022**



**Figure 1 Location of Broilers in Tennessee, 2022**  
Source: USDA/NASS, 2024



**Poultry Layer Inventory, Tennessee, 2022**



**Figure 2 Location of Layers in Tennessee, 2022**  
Source: USDA/NASS, 2024

## ECONOMICS

### CASH RECEIPTS

For Tennessee’s agricultural producers, 2023 cash receipts for broilers at \$794.4 million ranked third behind soybeans (\$991.3 million) and cattle and calves (\$876.7 million). Eggs ranked 11<sup>th</sup> at \$90.8 million. Compared to other states for 2023, Tennessee ranked 16<sup>th</sup> in cash receipts from broiler production and 33<sup>rd</sup> for eggs (USDA/ERS, 2025).

### MULTIPLIER EFFECTS

Accounting for all poultry and egg production for the state, and including multiplier effects, the industry in 2023 contributed an estimated \$1.3 billion in economic activity and comprised an estimated 3,718 individuals working part- or full-time in industries that support

poultry and egg farming with a labor income of \$163.8 million.<sup>2</sup> The 2023 economic activity and employment multipliers were 1.47 and 1.70, respectively. If poultry and egg production increased total industry output by \$1 million, the state’s economy would increase by an estimated \$0.47 million overall, and for each job supported in the same industry, an estimated 0.70 jobs would be supported in other industries. Poultry processing contributed an estimated \$5.9 billion in economic activity and was comprised of approximately 19,254 employees with a labor income of \$1.2 billion (IMPLAN Group, LLC, 2023).

**INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

International trade for Tennessee’s poultry meats and products in 2024 totaled \$98.2 million, with 29.5 percent of this export value going to Angola (Table 1). International trade for Tennessee’s eggs and products totaled \$1.7 million, with sales to France, Argentina, and China representing 89.1 percent of the purchases (USDA/FAS, 2025).<sup>3</sup>

**Table 1. Top 10 Destination Trade Countries from Tennessee’s Poultry Meats and Products, 2022**

<b>Partner</b>	<b>2024 Value</b>	<b>%</b>
Angola	\$28,995,000	29.5%
Mexico	\$17,721,000	18.0%
Gambia, The	\$8,095,000	8.2%
Philippines	\$7,532,000	7.7%
Taiwan	\$6,380,000	6.5%
Congo (Kinshasa)	\$4,861,000	5.0%
Costa Rica	\$4,094,000	4.2%
Columbia	\$2,370,000	2.4%
Ecuador	\$1,813,000	1.8%
Kuwait	\$1,754,000	1.8%
Other Countries	\$14,563,000	14.8%
<b>World</b>	<b>\$98,178,000</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

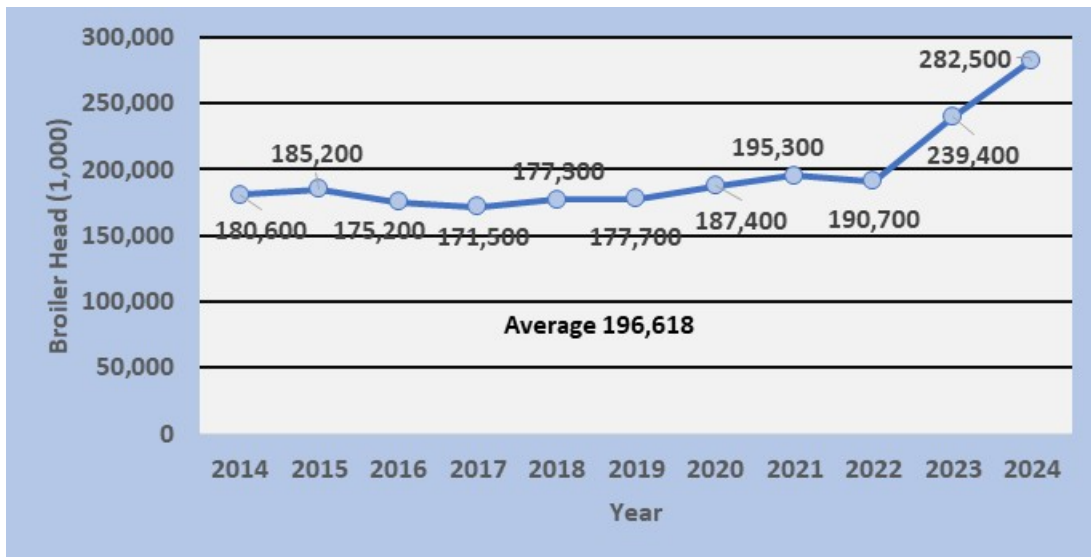
Source: USDA/FAS, 2025

<sup>2</sup>Calculations based on IMPLAN’s 2023 direct value of production for poultry and eggs of \$937.4 million, which includes on-farm consumption and is net of inventory changes. IMPLAN’s poultry and egg production corresponds to NAICS code 1123— establishments primarily engaged in breeding, hatching and raising poultry for meat or egg production (US Census Bureau, 2024).

<sup>3</sup>USDA/FAS state export data limitations for agricultural shipments: 1) origin of movement is not necessarily the transportation origin (inland state intermediaries shipping agricultural commodities down the Mississippi River to the port in New Orleans may report Louisiana as the state of origin of movement; thus, resulting in understating exports from agricultural states and overstating exports for others); and 2) consolidated shipments will reflect the state of origin where consolidated (USDA/FAS, 2025).

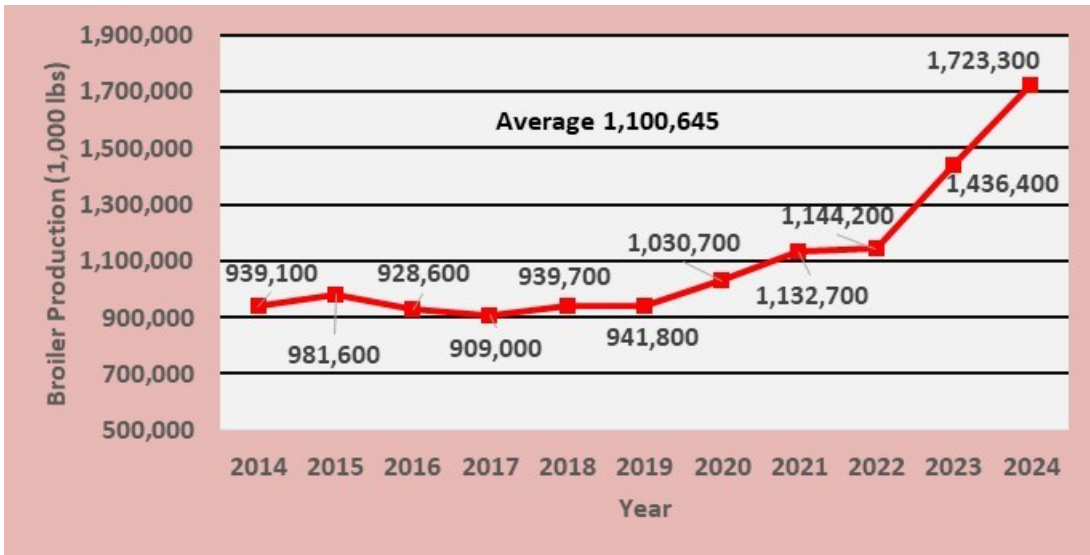
## BROILERS INVENTORY/PRODUCTION

Tennessee's inventory of broilers and production numbers from 2014 through 2024 are displayed in Figures 3 and 4. The average inventory of broilers was 196.7 million for that time frame, with average production of 1.1 billion pounds. The average value of production for that period was \$663.5 million. For 2024, Georgia had the largest inventory of broilers at 1.3 billion head, production (8.2 billion pounds), and value (\$5.8 billion), respectively. Tennessee's broiler inventory ranked 13<sup>th</sup>, whereas production and value of production ranked 15<sup>th</sup> (USDA/NASS, 2025b).



**Figure 3. Tennessee Broiler Inventory, 2014-2024**

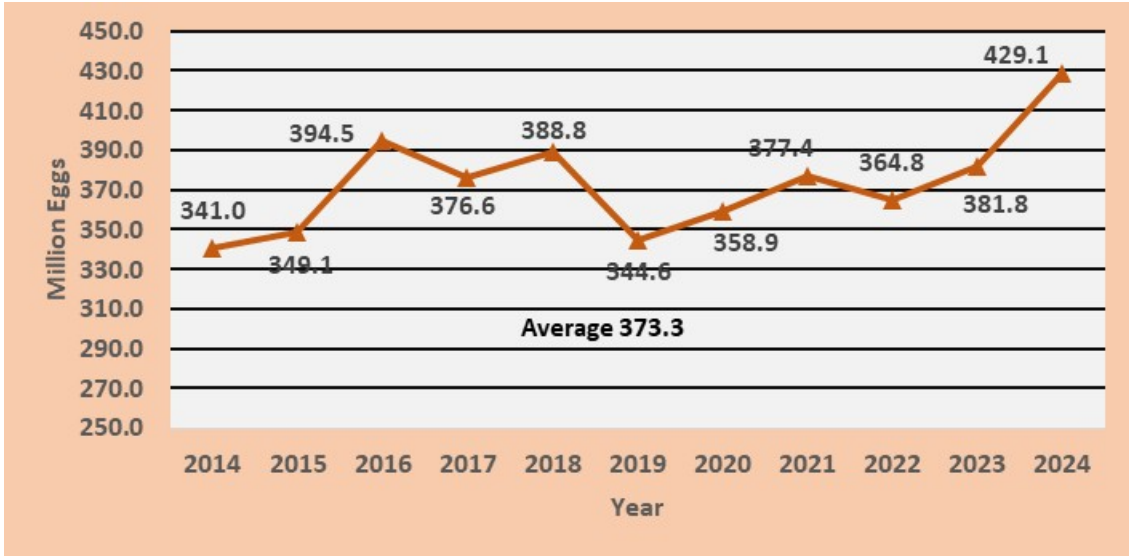
(Source: USDA/NASS, 2025b)



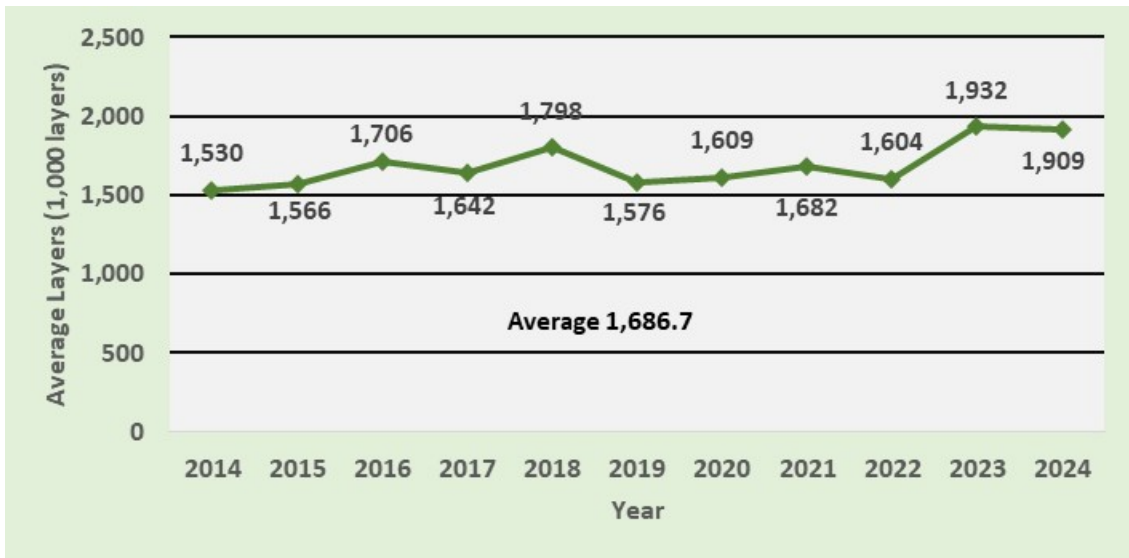
**Figure 4. Tennessee Broiler Production, 2014-2024**  
 (Source: USDA/NASS, 2025b)

### LAYERS INVENTORY/PRODUCTION

Tennessee's number of eggs produced and average number of layers from 2014 through 2024 are displayed in Figures 5 and 6. The average number of eggs was 373.3 million for that period, with an average of 1.7 million layers. The average value of production for that timeframe was \$73.4 million. For 2024, Iowa had the largest average inventory of layers and total egg production at 43.8 million and 13.4 billion eggs. Montana has the largest eggs per layer at 327. Tennessee was ranked 30<sup>th</sup> for average inventory of layers and total egg production and ranked 34<sup>th</sup> for eggs per layer at 225 (USDA/NASS, 2025a).



**Figure 5. Tennessee Egg Production, 2014-2024**  
 (Source: USDA/NASS, 2025a)



**Figure 6. Tennessee Average Layer Inventory, 2014-2024**  
 (Source: USDA/NASS, 2025a)

## POULTRY ISSUES SUGGESTED READING

### *POULTRY LITTER WASTE MANAGEMENT:*

Hawkins, S., and F. Walker. "Litter Land Application Management." W 796. Department of Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science, University of Tennessee Extension. Available at <https://utia.tennessee.edu/publications/wp-content/uploads/sites/269/2023/10/W796.pdf>.

Tabler, T., S. Hawkins, Y. Liang, T. Thornton, J. Moon. "Poultry Litter Management (Inside and Outside the House)." University of Tennessee Extension, Department of Animal Science. D247. <https://utia.tennessee.edu/publications/wp-content/uploads/sites/269/2025/01/D247.pdf>

## REFERENCES

IMPLAN Group LLC, IMPLAN System (2023 data), 16905 Northcross Dr., Suite 120, Huntersville, NC 28078. Available at [implan.com](https://www.implan.com).

U.S. Census Bureau, North American Industry Classification System. 2024. Available at [census.gov/naics](https://www.census.gov/naics).

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service (ERS). 2025. Data Files: U.S. and State-Level Farm Income and Wealth Statistics. "Annual Cash Receipts by Commodity, US and States, 2008-2025F." Available at [ers.usda.gov/data-products/farm-income-and-wealth-statistics/data-files-u-s-and-state-level-farm-income-and-wealth-statistics](https://ers.usda.gov/data-products/farm-income-and-wealth-statistics/data-files-u-s-and-state-level-farm-income-and-wealth-statistics).

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service. 2025. Global Agricultural Trade System. Available at [apps.fas.usda.gov/gats/ExpressQuery1.aspx](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/gats/ExpressQuery1.aspx).

U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS). 2024. "Tennessee State and County Data." 2022 Census of Agriculture Report. Volume 1, Geographic Area Series, Part 42. Available at [https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2022/#full\\_report](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2022/#full_report).

U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS). 2025a. Chicken and Eggs Annual Summary." Available at <https://usda.library.cornell.edu/concern/publications/1v53jw96n>.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS). 2025b. Poultry Production and Value. Available at [usda.library.cornell.edu/concern/publications/m039k491c](https://usda.library.cornell.edu/concern/publications/m039k491c).



The University of Tennessee is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution in the provision of its education and employment programs and services. All qualified applicants will receive equal consideration for employment and admission without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, physical or mental disability, genetic information, veteran status, and parental status.