

Virginia Poultry Industry Facts and Figures 2009

Poultry Tops Virginia Agricultural Sectors

Virginia's poultry and egg industries have a major economic impact.

6 poultry processing companies employ about 10,000 people

- Cargill
- George's Foods
- Pilgrim's Pride Corporation
- Perdue Farms
- Tyson Foods
- Virginia Poultry Growers Cooperative, Inc.
- Every processing job creates 7.2 jobs outside of the poultry industry.

Supports livelihood of nearly 1,100 farm families

- More than 280 turkey farms
- More than 780 chicken farms

Contributed \$833,652,000 to Virginia's economy in 2009

- Broiler chickens - \$550,228,000
- Turkeys - \$215,424,000
- Eggs - \$68,723,000

In 2009, Virginia farmers produced:

- 240,800,000 broiler chickens (ranks 9th nationally)
- 1,204,000,000 pounds produced
- 17,000,000 turkeys (ranks 5th nationally)
- 448,800,000 pounds produced
- 741,000,000 eggs (ranks 29th nationally)

The Shenandoah Valley is Virginia's top poultry producing region.

- Approximately 550 chicken farms
- Approximately 280 turkey farms
- Approximately \$80,000,000 in grower pay
- 6 poultry processing companies (Cargill, George's Foods, Pilgrim's Pride Corporation, Perdue Farms, Tyson Foods and Virginia Poultry Growers Cooperative, Inc) employ more than 6,000 people.
- Indirectly supports approximately 43,200 related jobs outside of the poultry industry, many within the Shenandoah Valley
- 5 poultry company feed mills produce more than 1,500,000 tons of poultry feed annually

- Nearly 12,000 rail cars deliver about 1,300,000 tons of feed ingredients (soybean meal and corn) to the Valley annually.
- 8 poultry processing plants
- Rockingham County is the nation's second-largest turkey producing county.

Virginia's poultry industry is helping to meet growing nutritional needs in the U.S. and around the world.

- Per capita U.S. poultry meat consumption has risen from 34 pounds in 1960 to 100 pounds today.
- The United States exports about 15 percent of chicken and about 10 percent of turkey produced in the nation.
- Significant chicken export markets include Russia, China/Hong Kong, Mexico, Japan and Korea.
- Significant turkey export markets include Mexico, Russia, South Korea, China/Hong Kong, and the Caribbean.