



Poultry breeding in Bulgaria in 2025

The number of laying hens increases by 4.4% compared to 31st December 2024 to 4.584 million at the end of 2025. Parent flocks and pullets increase by 22.0% and 16.5% compared to 2024 to 1.078 million parents and 1.708 million pullets. Compared to 2024, the total number of laying hens and pullets increases by 9.3% to 7.371 million (table 1).

The number of poultry farms raising laying hens and growing pullets decreases and at the end of 2025 is 11 898 , which is 9.1% less than 2024. (Table 2).

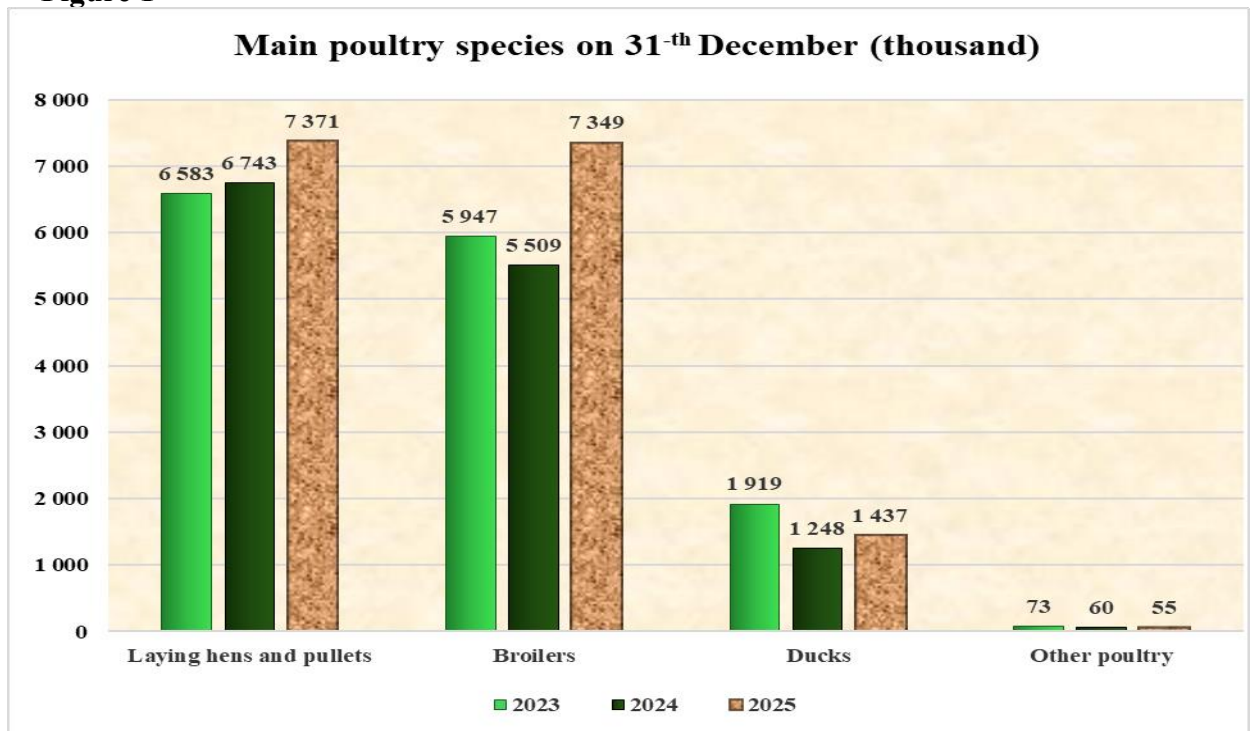
The number of broilers as of 31.12.2025 is 33.4% higher than in 2024 (Table 3). In 2025, 60.7 million broilers are slaughtered (+12.0%) and 113.0 thousand tons of meat are produced - 17.0% more than in 2024.

The number of turkeys decreases to 5.6 thousand. Ducks are 1 437 thousand (+15.0%) and in 2025 only 6.0 million ducks are slaughtered - 15.9% less.

The total number of poultry increases to 16.2 million or +19.6% compared to 31st December 2024.

28.4% more eggs are produced than in 2024, or a total of 1.510 billion eggs. Of these, 1.488 billion are from hens (+28.6%), with eggs for consumption increasing 35.8% and the production of hatching eggs decreasing 4.9%.

Figure 1



Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Agrostatics Department, Poultry breeding in Bulgaria

**Main poultry species in Bulgaria on 31st December 2025
by statistical regions (NUTS2)**

Table 1 (thousand)

Statistical region	Hens and Pullets	Broilers	Chickens total	Turkeys	Ducks	Other poultry	Total poultry	Change 2025/2024
Bulgaria	7 370.7	7 349.2	14 719.9	5.7	1 436.6	49.3	16 211.5	19.6%
<i>Severna and Yugoiztochna Bulgaria</i>	<i>5 871.4</i>	<i>7 346.4</i>	<i>13 217.8</i>	<i>3.8</i>	<i>664.0</i>	<i>19.1</i>	<i>13 904.7</i>	<i>22.0%</i>
Severozapaden	c	c	1 276.4	1.3	132.7	2.4	1 412.8	59.1%
Severen tsentralen	2 097.7	4 189.1	6 286.8	c	c	2.8	6 471.8	3.9%
Severoiztochen	1 838.1	890.7	2 728.8	c	c	0.8	2 801.0	-6.7%
Yugoiztochen	c	c	2 925.8	1.4	278.8	13.1	3 219.1	150.7%
<i>Yuzhna and Yuzhna centralna Bulgaria</i>	<i>1 499.3</i>	<i>2.8</i>	<i>1 502.1</i>	<i>1.9</i>	<i>772.6</i>	<i>30.2</i>	<i>2 306.8</i>	<i>6.8%</i>
Yugozapaden	c	c	346.4	1.1	2.2	26.0	375.7	12.2%
Yuzhen tsentralen	c	c	1 155.7	0.8	770.4	4.2	1 931.1	5.9%
Change 2025/2024	9.3%	33.4%	20.1%	-34.5%	15.1%	-3.5%	19.6%	

c - confidential data

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Agrostatics Department, Poultry breeding in Bulgaria in 2025

At the end of 2025, farms with laying hens and pullets are 9.1% less than in 2024, and the number of hens increases 9.3%. A decrease is observed in small farms with up to 100 birds per farm (-9.2%), and the number of poultry in them increases 3.0% (table 2). Farms with 100 thousand and more hens and pullets are 18 (+12.5%), and the number of poultry in them is 5 352 thousand (+17.5%).

The number of laying hens on 31st December 2025 is 4 584 thousand - 4.4% more than in 2024, laying hens in parent flocks are 1 078 thousand (+22.0%). The number of pullets at the end of 2025 is 1 708 thousand, an increase by 16.5% compared to 2024.

Laying turkeys and young turkeys are 4.6 thousand - 9.4% less than in 2024. The number of turkeys for fattening is significantly reduced as of 31.12.2025.

The number of laying ducks and young ducks is 104.2 thousand (-24.2%) at the end of 2025.

In 2025, a decrease of 5.9% is observed in quails. The number of laying quail hens increases by 15.0% to almost 43.0 thousand.

Table 2

Laying hens and pullet farms according to the number of poultry on 31st December 2025

Number of poultry per farm	Farms		Laying hens and pullets	
	(Number)	Change 2025/2024	(Thousand)	Change 2025/2024
1 ÷ 99	11 737	-9.2%	203	3.0%
100 ÷ 9 999	93	-7.9%	138	-15.3%
10 000 ÷ 99 999	50	6.4%	1 678	-8.2%
100 000 and more	18	12.5%	5 352	17.5%
Total:	11 898	-9.1%	7 371	9.3%

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Agrostatics Department, Poultry breeding in Bulgaria

Farms with broilers for fattening as of 31st December 2025 increase almost thrice compared to 2024. The most serious increase is the increase in farms with up to 100 broilers for fattening (Table 3). The number of farms with 10 thousand and more broilers for meat is 89 – 4.3% less compared to the end of 2024, and the poultry raised in them amounts to 7 296 thousand (+33.5%) or 99.3% of all broilers in the country are raised in large farms.

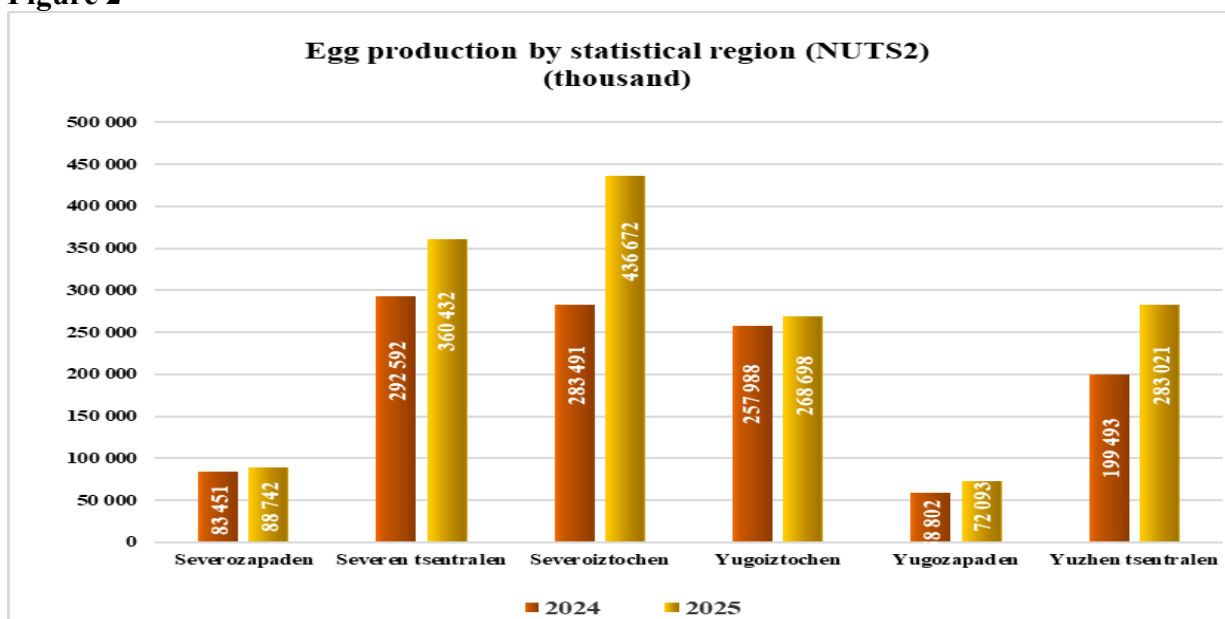
Table 3**Broiler farms by number of poultry per farm on 31st December 2024**

Number broilers per farm	Farms		Broilers	
	(Number)	Change 2025/2024	(Thousand)	Change 2025/2024
1 ÷ 199	309	518.0%	3	200.0%
200 ÷ 9 999	12	20.0%	51	15.9%
10 000 ÷ 99 999	75	-6.3%	2 641	0.3%
100 000 and more	14	7.7%	4 655	64.4%
Total:	410	168.0%	7 349	33.4%

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Agrostatistics Department, Poultry breeding in Bulgaria

Production of eggs in 2025

Eggs produced in Bulgaria in 2025 are 1 509 657 thousand or 28.4% more than in the previous year. Hen eggs are 1 487 858 thousand (+28.6%), of which 1 292 644 thousand are eggs for consumption (35.8% more than in 2024), and breeding eggs are 195 214 thousand, 4.9% less.

Figure 2

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Agrostatistics Department, Poultry breeding in Bulgaria

Hen eggs account for 98.6% of all eggs produced in 2025, quail eggs for 0.53% and duck eggs for 0.9%. Eggs for consumption from all bird species account for 86.2% of the total egg production. Quail eggs produced are 8.1 million, which is 9.5% more than in 2024. Duck eggs are 13.6 million (+22.2%).

Table 4**Production of eggs in 2025 by statistical regions (thousand)**

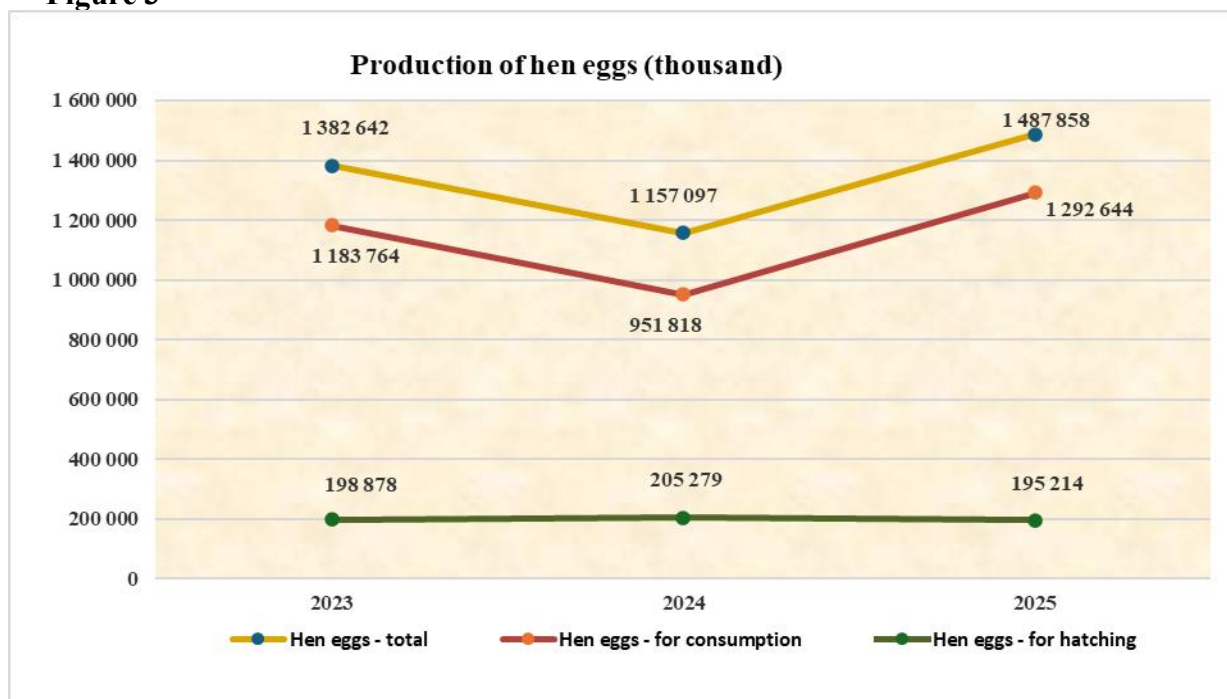
Statistical regions	Eggs from hens		Eggs from other poultry	Total
	Total	of which for human consumption		
Bulgaria	1 487 858	1 292 644	21 799	1 509 657
<i>Severna and Yugoiztochna Bulgaria</i>	<i>1 140 675</i>	<i>953 044</i>	<i>13 868</i>	<i>1 154 543</i>
Severozapaden	88 337	81 152	404	88 741
Severen tsentralen	356 626	244 913	3 806	360 432
Severoiztochen	436 645	405 101	27	436 672
Yugoiztochen	259 067	221 878	9 631	268 698
<i>Yuzhna and Yuzhna centralna Bulgaria</i>	<i>347 183</i>	<i>339 600</i>	<i>7 931</i>	<i>355 114</i>
Yugozapaden	67 719	60 223	4 374	72 093
Yuzhen tsentralen	279 464	279 377	3 557	283 021

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Agrostatistics Department, Poultry breeding in Bulgaria

Severoiztochen region has the largest share in egg production (28.9%), followed by the Severen tsentralen region – with 23.9% and Yuzhen tsentralen region – with 18.7% of the total egg production. Severoiztochen takes also the first place in the production of hen eggs for consumption with 31.3%, followed by Yuzhen tsentralen region – with 21.6% and Severen tsentralen region – with 18.9%. Of the 208 692 thousand hatching eggs produced, 93.5% are hen eggs and 6.4% are duck eggs. The largest number of hatching eggs is produced in Severen tsentralen region (55.2%) and Yugoiztochen region – 21.1% of the total production.

Production of hen eggs

Figure 3



Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Agrostatistics Department, Poultry breeding in Bulgaria

The total weight of eggs produced in 2025 is 91 336 tons, or an increase of 27% compared to 2024. The average weight of chicken eggs is 60.6 grams, quail eggs - 12.8 grams, and duck eggs - 77.2 grams.

Table 5

Weight of eggs produced in 2025

Type of eggs	Total eggs	Average egg weight	Total egg weight
	(thousand)	(grams)	(tons)
From hens	1 487 858	60.6	90 169
incl. for hatching	195 214		
- for meat	183 768		
- for laying hens	9 568		
- mixed	1 878		
From turkeys	123	80.3	10
From ducks	13 566	77.2	1 048
From geese	29	151.2	4
From quails	8 076	12.8	103
From ostriches	1	1 515.5	1.5
From guinea fowl	4	40.0	0.2
Total eggs:	1 509 657	///	91 336

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Agrostatistics Department, Poultry breeding in Bulgaria 2025

Poultry meat production in 2025

The number of slaughtered poultry in 2025 is 69.8 million, and the meat produced is over 137 thousand tons - an increase of 9.3% compared to 2024.

According to preliminary data, poultry meat produced in slaughterhouses in 2025 is 10.6% more than in 2024, with meat from hens and broilers increasing by 17.3% and duck meat decreasing by 18.8%.

Table 6

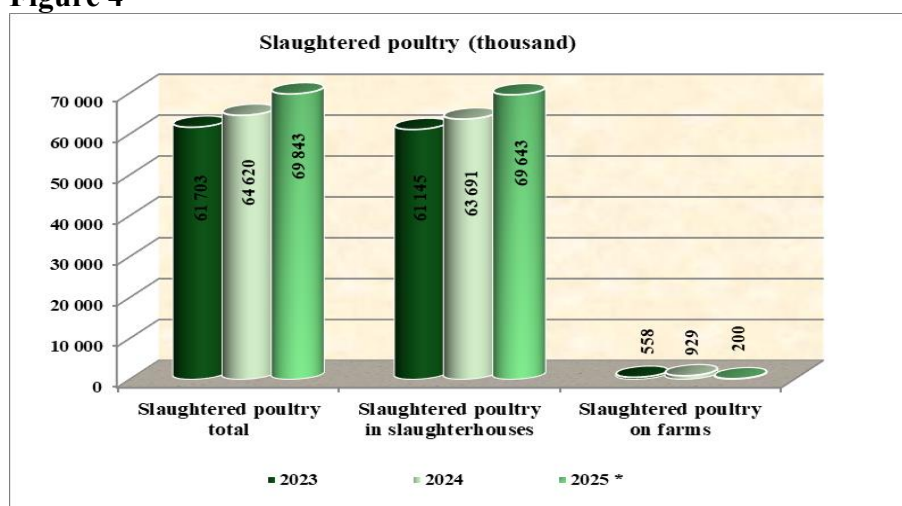
Poultry meat production on farms in 2025

Poultry species	Slaughtered poultry on farms	Total live weight	Carcass weight
	(thousand)	(tons)	(tons)
Chicken	178	418	314
Ducks	15	45	29
Other poultry	7	37	25
Total	200	500	368

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Agrostatics Department, Poultry breeding in Bulgaria 2025

78.5% fewer poultry are slaughtered on farms, and the meat produced is 78.8% less compared to 2024.

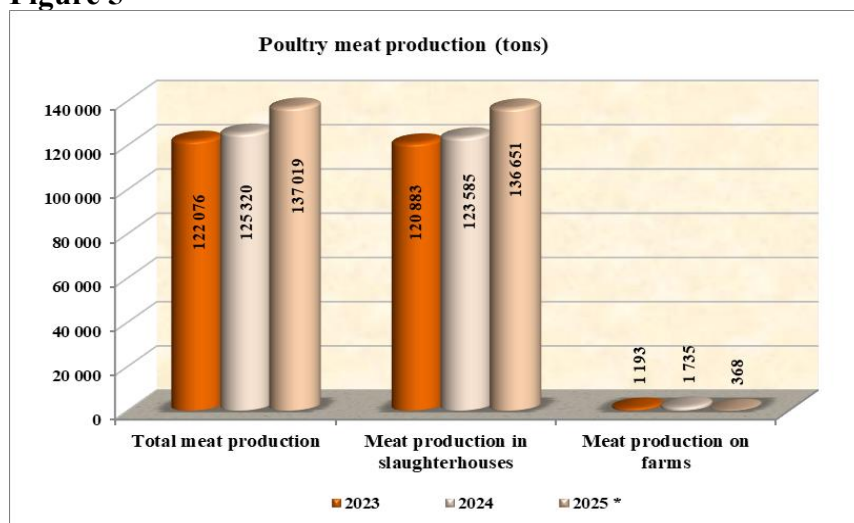
Figure 4



* - preliminary data

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Agrostatics Department

Figure 5



* - preliminary data

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Agrostatics Department

Activity of hatcheries in Bulgaria - 2025

Table 7

Poultry species	Hatcheries (number)	Eggs placed for incubation (thousand)	Chicks hatched (thousand)	Share of total number of eggs placed (%)
Hens, of which:	67	112 112	87 234	89.1%
– for meat	17	103 556	83 646	82.3%
– for laying hens	43	7 867	3 081	6.3%
– mixed	16	689	507	0.5%
Turkeys	17	4	3	0.0%
Ducks	15	13 618	6 989	10.8%
Other poultry	17	55	33	0.0%
Total	87	125 789	94 259	100.0%

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Agrostistics Department, Poultry breeding in Bulgaria 2025

The eggs placed for incubation are 125.8 million, of which 89.1% are from hens. 103.6 million eggs (82.3% of all eggs) are placed for the production of broilers, 7.9 million eggs for the production of laying hens and 13.6 million eggs for ducklings. Over 94 million one-day-old chicks are utilized in 2025, of which 83.6 million are chicks from specialized hybrids for meat production, 7.0 million ducklings mainly for the production of fatty liver and 3.1 million sexed female chickens for laying.

Table 8

Main poultry species in Bulgaria on 31st December

Year	(thousand)						
	Laying hens and Pullets	Broilers	Chickens total	Turkeys	Ducks	Other poultry	Poultry total
2015	6 980	7 278	14 258	28	1 229	85	15 600
2016	7 158	5 290	12 448	32	1 128	92	13 700
2017	6 898	5 966	12 864	30	1 666	196	14 756
2018	6 951	6 921	13 872	35	1 408	204	15 519
2019	7 107	6 635	13 742	23	1 573	227	15 565
2020	7 062	5 349	12 411	21	1 360	172	13 964
2021	6 659	5 517	12 176	16	1 889	87	14 168
2022	7 139	6 673	13 812	8	1 627	60	15 507
2023	6 583	5 947	12 530	15	1 919	58	14 522
2024	6 743	5 509	12 252	9	1 248	51	13 560
2025	7 371	7 349	14 720	6	1 437	49	16 212

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Agrostistics Department, Poultry breeding in Bulgaria 2025

METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

The purpose of the survey is to determine:

- Poultry number by type and species on 31st December, raised in poultry farms (hens, ducks, turkeys, geese, quails, ostriches and guinea fowls);
- Production of eggs for human consumption and for hatching by type – for laying hens, for meat or mixed;
- Distribution of cull laying hens and poultry for fattening – submitted for slaughtering in slaughterhouses, slaughtered on farms, sale of live poultry;
- Activity of hatcheries – the number of eggs placed for hatching and chicks utilized.

The survey information is used for analyses and programs in the sector and for informed decision-making in the implementation of agrarian policy in poultry farming. The statistical survey is conducted in accordance with the National Statistical Program. The results of the conducted survey correspond to the requirements of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 2023/2745 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2022/2379 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards animal production statistics.

Scope of the survey: The results cover the number of poultry by species – hens, broilers, turkeys, ducks, geese, etc., raised in poultry farms of different size located in the country, and the production of egg.

Definitions for eggs, chicks and domestic poultry by species, within the scope in statistics:

1. **Eggs for hatching** – poultry eggs falling within subheadings 040711 and 040719 of the Combined Nomenclature intended for the production of chicks, classified by species, category and type and identified in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 617/2008, produced in the Community or imported from third countries.

2. **Chicks** –live farmyard poultry, the weight of which does not exceeds 185 grams, either produced in the Community or imported from third countries and falling within subheadings 0105 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 of the Combined Nomenclature, of the following categories:

a) **Utility chicks:** chicks of one of the following types:

- Chicks for meat (table type chicks): chicks intended to be fattened and slaughtered before reaching sexual maturity;
- Laying chicks: chicks intended to be raised for the production of eggs for consumption;
- Dual-purpose chicks (mixed): chicks intended either for laying or for meat (mixed).

b) **Parent stock chicks:** chicks intended for the production of eggs for utility chickens.

3. **Hatchery** – an establishment for incubating eggs, hatching and supplying chicks.

4. Poultry species:

- Roosters, hens, chickens (*Gallus gallus*);
- Turkeys (*Meleagris spp.*);
- Ducks (*Anas spp.*, *Cairina moschata*);
- Geese (*Anser anser domesticus*);
- Guinea fowls (*Numida meleagris domesticus*);
- Other poultry: ostriches, quails.

The survey questionnaire includes farm administrative information, number of poultry on 31st December, production of eggs, submitted fattened poultry for slaughter in slaughterhouses and slaughtering on the farm, eggs placed for hatching and chicks in 2025.

Confidentiality – the national confidentiality rules are defined in the Statistics Act. According to Art. 25 individual statistical data as well as statistical information that summarizes data for less than three statistical units or for an aggregate in which the relative share of the value of a surveyed parameter of one unit is over 85 percent of the total value of this parameter for all units of the population cannot be disclosed or provided. Individual data obtained for the purposes of statistical survey cannot be used as evidence before executive and judicial authorities.

Accessibility and transparency – the data on number of poultry, production of eggs, meat production and activity of hatcheries is available to users on the Ministry of Agriculture and Food website:

<http://www.mzh.government.bg/bg/statistika-i-analizi/izsledvane-zhivotnovdstvo/danni/>, according to the deadlines established in the National Statistical Program.

The sample of poultry farms for surveying covers 1 448 poultry farms and is developed on the basis of the Agricultural census'2020 results. New holdings established after 2020 are added to the survey list. Farms rearing at least 100 laying hens or at least 200 broilers or at least 100 other poultry (turkeys + geese + ducks + other poultry) or at least 1 ostrich are surveyed exhaustively.

The survey is carried out by experts on agricultural statistics in the regional offices and the municipal Agriculture Services at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

The statistical regions cited in the publication are in accordance with the requirements of the general classification of territorial units for statistical purposes applied in the European Union (NUTS), according to Regulation (EU) No. 31/2011.

Statistical regions, on NUTS 2 level, are as follows:

- **Severozapaden:** Vidin, Vratsa, Montana, Lovech, Pleven;
- **Severen tsentralen:** Veliko Tarnovo, Gabrovo, Ruse, Silistra, Razgrad;
- **Severoiztochen:** Varna, Dobrich, Targovishte, Shoumen;
- **Yugoiztochen:** Burgas, Sliven, Stara Zagora, Yambol;
- **Yugozapaden:** Blagoevgrad, Kyustendil, Pernik, Sofia-cap., Sofia region;
- **Yuzhen tsentralen:** Kardzhali, Pazardzhik, Plovdiv, Smolyan, Haskovo.

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